

# IISc to map out 50-year climate change impact

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The IISc study will guide the Telangana government on impacts of climate change. It will focus on three major issues - availability of water, droughts and floods

HYDERABAD: With climate change posing as a major threat to the environment, the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru is all set to conduct an extensive study for the Telangana government to gauge impact of climate change in Telangana over the next 50 years.

The study, led by Professor Pradeep Majumdar of civil engineering department in collaboration with the Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS), will guide the state government on climate change and its impact on water availability and agriculture. While the scope of study is yet to be outlined, the IISc has held several discussions with the state government and largely focussed on three major aspects related to water resources – availability of water, drought and floods.

“We will prima facie look at how our water systems respond over the next two to three decades, especially Godavari and Krishna rivers. The focus will largely be on how the water availability will be affected in the near future. It need not be always that the water levels will go down. Precipitation may increase and water tables may improve,” said Majumdar.

The study, which will commence in April, is being conducted to meet the sustainable development goals set by the ministry of environment, forest and climate change.

“Once we project precipitation, we will convert it into a drought indicator and then see whether the frequency of drought is likely to increase in the next few decades. We will also study whether floods are likely to increase, it’s magnitude and frequency,” said Majumdar, adding that study on urban flooding can be started from Hyderabad.

Planned cropping patterns, how it's demand will appreciate in future, land cover, temperature patterns is also likely to be included as part of the study.

"We have all the historical data metrological and hydrological data, which will be provided to the team of researchers. So far, we had only conducted issue-based studies. This study will give an overall perspective to guide the state government on making various policy decisions," said Sheikh Meera, chief executive officer, TSDPS.

The team of researchers will study the data provided by the TSDPS and is likely to come up with a detailed outlook report within a year.

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