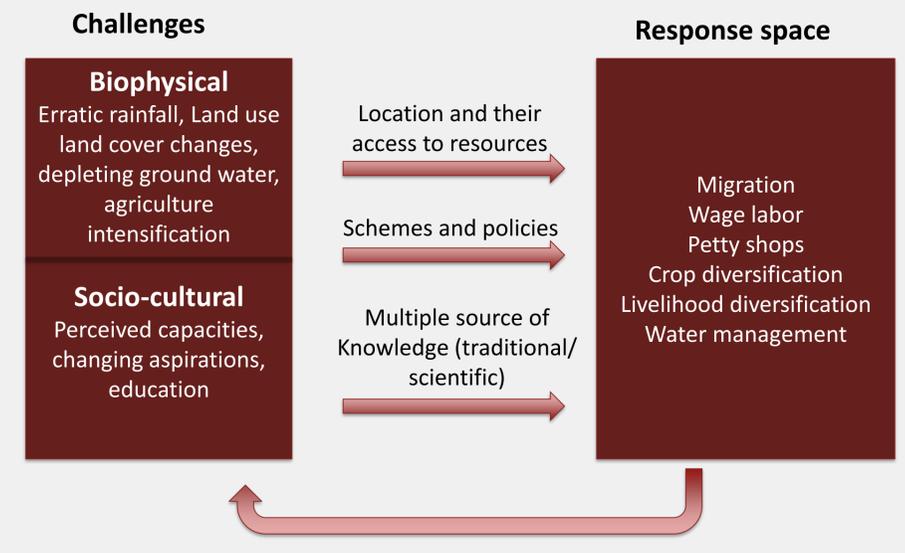


Livelihood Transitions along a rural-urban continuum: Case of Kolar district, Karnataka

Characterizing the study site: Kolar district *

- ▶ Climatic trends:
 - ▶ Declining trend in annual average precipitation
 - ▶ Increasing trend in annual average temperature
- ▶ Increasing drought trend, both in the summer and winter seasons.
- ▶ Primary livelihood: Agriculture (primarily rainfed) and allied sectors (horticulture, livestock and poultry rearing and sericulture)
- ▶ Stressors: Decrease in rainfall, declining soil quality, depleting groundwater, conversion of agriculture land to water intensive plantation, sand mining, lack of alternative livelihoods and vulnerable to high market fluctuations
- ▶ Migrating into non-farm urban livelihoods has emerged as key coping strategy – eased by improved rail and road network

Conceptual Framework



Research questions

- ▶ How are livelihoods changing along a rural-urban continuum and what drives these changes?
- ▶ How do households perceive and cope with risks and how does this shape household response pathways?
- ▶ What knowledge systems do communities draw on and how do these inform adaptation responses?
- ▶ Is migration emerging as an adaptive strategy or not?

Methods

- ▶ Mixed methods approach in 9 villages across the district
- ▶ Scoping visits followed by detailed village profiles
- ▶ Focus Group Discussions (n=18) (timelines, risk and response mapping and stakeholder mapping)
- ▶ Household survey (n=420)
- ▶ In- depth interviews (life histories) of select households (including migrants in city and non-migrants in rural area)

Initial findings

- ▶ Livelihood vulnerability is shaped by: water scarcity; lack of knowledge on efficient utilisation of limited water; lack of alternative rural employment opportunities; caste affiliation influencing access to resources; information and opportunities; complexity of institutional landscape that affects people's decision to seek support; information and entitlements.
- ▶ Response strategies to manage risks are socially differentiated (e.g. by gender, caste, education level) and a function of location (e.g. distance from markets, towns, roads). Key strategies include crop diversification, wage labour, commuting and migration.
- ▶ Local risks and responses are mediated by institutional processes at every scale (local to regional to national) and facilitated by formal (e.g. Banks, Government schemes) and informal channels (SHGs, peer networks) of knowledge/ information and credit flows, which are (supply/demand) socially differentiated.

*Kolar district adjoins semi-arid Bangalore sub-region. It is predominantly rural, with some towns serving as crucial junction providing markets, banks, employment opportunities to the rest of the district. Efficient connectivity to Bangalore via road and rail facilitates high migration (temporary, permanent and daily commute) to Bangalore for livelihoods which is being studied under the SD&G at IIHS, Bangalore



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