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SRI-RICE
SRI INTERNATIONAL NETWORK AND RESOURCES CENTER

Carbon Offsetting to Sustainably Finance the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in Nepal

Juna Shrestha and Benjamin Huber

Tuesday, October 4

12:20 - 1:10 PM

102 Mann Library

Refreshments provided



ClimateRe is a Switzerland-based start-up that promotes and facilitates innovative risk management approaches and develops appropriate insurance solutions to support the reduction of climate risk in agriculture as efficiently and sustainably as possible by providing access to knowledge, technology and finance.

The presenters have developed a project, set up as a carbon-offset initiative, to promote climate-resilient rice cultivation methods in Nepal. By making changes in current rice-growing practices, the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method has shown that it can lower rice paddies' net emissions of greenhouse gases which raise global warming potential. The project aims to enhance the climate-resilience of more than 56,000 Nepalese farmers, abating the equivalent of 500,000 tons of CO₂ emission. To enhance farmers' climate resilience, SRI will be combined with the provision of insurance protection against adverse weather events. This is the first time that SRI spread will be combined with carbon offsetting, and issues of such a 'marriage' will be discussed.

Juna Shrestha, co-founder of ClimateRe, did her PhD in soil carbon and nitrogen cycle, and greenhouse gas effluxes at the agriculture institute, ETH Zurich. She also has a post-graduate diploma in gender studies. She has worked more than 6 years in the environment and rural development sector in Nepal.

Benjamin is a geologist who did a PhD in biogeochemistry in the climate geology group at ETH Zurich. He has been working for several years in the financial sector, in different positions including controlling, client relationship management and CSR.

For more information contact Lucy Fisher - lhf2@cornell.edu



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