

It is forecasted that global mean temperature will increase by 0.3°C every ten years in the coming decades. This means a much faster increase than has happened in the last 10,000 years. The present global mean temperature is to be expected to increase by 1°C by 2025 and by 3°C till the end of the next century. In the course of this, land surfaces warm more rapidly than the oceans, and higher northern latitudes warm more than the global mean.

It is projected that over the next century average rate of global mean sea level rise will be about 6 cm per decade. Already a 30-35 cm rise of sea level would affect the habitability of low-lying coastal regions significantly.

Although studies have not yet conclusively determined whether on average global agricultural potential would increase or decrease, changes of climate would have important effects regionally. Decline in production might be expected in regions of high present-day vulnerability, where the ability to adjust is low.

Global climate change demands new agricultural strategy both regionally and on national levels. Within this, sustainable development in industrialized as well as in developing countries requires proper concern for environmental protection as the necessary basis for continued economic growth. Environmental