

## Understanding climate change

**NT Bureau**

Chennai, July 13:



*D Viswanathan, Vice-Chancellor, Anna University delivering the inaugural address at the five-day IndoFlux workshop, here, yesterday.*

'India has a significant stake in scientific advancement as well as an international understanding to promote mitigation capacity and adaptation, which requires improved scientific understanding, capacity-building, networking and broad consultation processes,' said D Viswanathan, Vice-Chancellor, Anna university.

He was speaking at the IndoFlux workshop, jointly organised by the Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, USA and the Institute for Ocean Management, Anna University, Chennai, here, yesterday.

The five-day bilateral workshop aim to discuss and develop a blueprint for a long term biogeochemical monitoring network in India, to assess the impact of global environmental change. The workshop would include a decision on placement of monitoring stations and an agreement on the instrumentation at these stations.

Addressing scientists from India and the US, present at the workshop, Viswanathan said, two-third of India's population is directly dependent on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture, fisheries and forest. The projected climate change under various scenarios is likely to have implications on food production, water supply, biodiversity and livelihood.

In such situation, he remarked that addressing climate change requires a good scientific understanding, as well as coordinated action at national and global level.

Pointing that globally, countries have invested in long term environmental monitoring programs in terrestrial, coastal and oceanic environment. Viswanathan added that there is an urgent need to implement an integrated long term monitoring programme that will link terrestrial, coastal and oceanic processes.

Shambhu Singh, director, Department of Science and Technology (DST), in his address said DST would take a proactive role for the establishment of an IndoFlux to fill the gap of a long term monitoring network. According to him, a Rs 2,000 crore plan has been proposed to the planning body, which is likely to be implemented next year.

Shambhu assured that the studies conducted would be funded continuously and everyone would share the data. However, he urged scientists to come out with results of further studies conducted on this matter.

In his address, Dennis Badocchi, University of California, Berkeley, said, India, being home to all types of climatic condition, plays a strategic role in the study of changing climatic condition, globally. With its unique biodiversity, high productivity and distinct climatic environment, India's situation could shed light on climatic changes occurring all over the world, and would help the scientists learn more on the environment and the changes that it is currently going through.

R Ramesh, director, Institute for Ocean Management, Anna University, P V Sundareshwar, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, USA, G Srinivasan, director, DST/ IMD, Department of Science and Technology, Ministry of Science and Technology and Smriti Trikha of Indo-US Science and Technology Forum, New Delhi also spoke on the occasion.

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