

International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)
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Outline

The *International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)* is a non-governmental research organization sponsored by scientific organizations and located in Austria. The institute conducts interdisciplinary scientific studies on environmental, economic, technological and social issues in the context of human dimensions of global change. IIASA's objective is to bring together scientists from various countries and disciplines to conduct research in a setting that is nonpolitical and scientifically rigorous. Because of its non-governmental status, IIASA is independent and can provide non-political and unbiased perspectives. This neutrality and impartiality is particularly valued by those utilizing Institute research findings. In their study of environmental, economic, technological, and social developments, IIASA researchers generate methods and tools useful to both decision makers and the scientific community. The work is based on original state-of-the-art methodology and analytical approaches linking a variety of natural and social science disciplines. Since its inception in 1972, IIASA has been the site of successful international scientific collaboration in addressing areas of concern for all advanced societies, such as global climate change, energy, acid rain, food and agriculture and land-use change, forest decline, water resources, the social and economic implications of population change, risk and the theory and methods of systems analysis.

Features of Research Activities

IIASA occupies an internationally recognized niche in carrying out applied, interdisciplinary research for the purpose of reducing the vulnerability of developed, developing and transition countries to the economic impacts of extreme events. Specifically, IIASA is developing modelling tools for the management of financial and economic disaster risk. Methodologically, this includes sophisticated stochastic simulation, optimization methods and economic modeling as well as developing decision-support tools including user interfaces for stakeholder processes. Furthermore, with growing interest on the part of the climate-change community in innovative ideas for helping disaster-prone, developing countries adapt to climate change, this research is proving useful in identifying vulnerable countries, projecting risks into a future with climatic and socio-economic change, and suggesting novel instruments for pre-disaster support. IIASA is in the unique position to continue this line of research in close collaboration with policy makers in developing, transition and developed countries.