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In a presentation, senior consultant at SAWTEE and former agriculture secretary Dr. Hari Dahal pointed out that in the modern times, agriculture is both the victim and cause of climate change. He suggested adopting practices of crop diversification, integrated pest management, participatory irrigation management, among others, as a way to adopt sustainable intensification of agriculture practice in South Asia.

Despite an exemplary economic progress, South Asia is still one of the poorest regions and home to a large swathe of malnourished population. Moreover, it is also one of the most vulnerable regions to the impacts of climate change. Thus, the region needs to relook at the prevalent agriculture practices so that the farmers could intensify production on the limited land area causing minimum damage to the environment, pointed out Mr. MIH Japed, Director, Agriculture and Rural Development Division, SAARC Secretariat, as a rationale behind the push to adopt sustainable intensification of agriculture in South Asia.

Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, executive chairman of SAWTEE, also pointed out the challenge South Asia is facing in terms of agriculture and food security, especially related to nutrition security. As South Asia will be using 94 per cent of its arable land by 2030, an already existing water scarcity for irrigation means these countries need to adopt sustainable agriculture practices with less land and ensure minimum exhaustion of the environment.

Fabrizio Bresciani, regional economist at IFAD-Asia and the Pacific, insisted on the need for a "paradigm shift with regard to technological and management practices and making them accessible at the local level. He highlighted the importance of accelerating the flow of ideas and this is where regional cooperation and SAARC platform can offer big opportunities.

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