## Under global surface warming, increased weather extremes reduce crops yields.

### **Peter Carter**

## **Climate Emergency Institute**

**American Geophysical Union Fall 2021 Conference** 

IPCC August 2021, 6<sup>th</sup> assessment, Working Group 1 (Science)
AR6 WG1)

2021 Abstract Title: Under global surface warming, increased weather extremes can reduce crops yields.

Using the IPCC AR6 WG 1 interactive atlas, we find yield declines may compromise world food security at 1.5°C which may be severe for major food producing regions at 2°C, especially if compound extremes, and increased surface ozone.

Final Paper Number: NH15G-2160

Session Number and Title: NH15G: 2021 Extreme Weather Events and Natural Hazards III

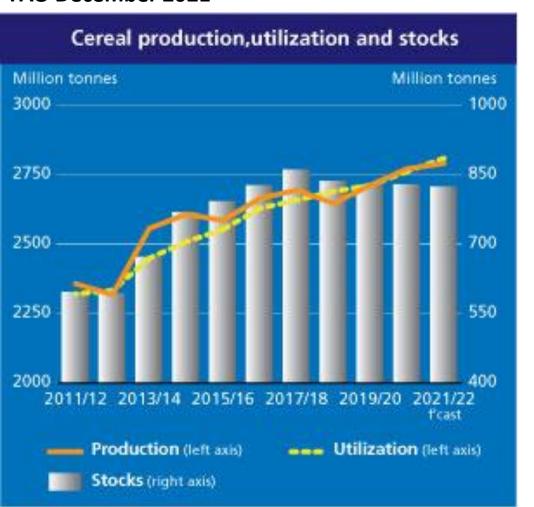
13 December 2021

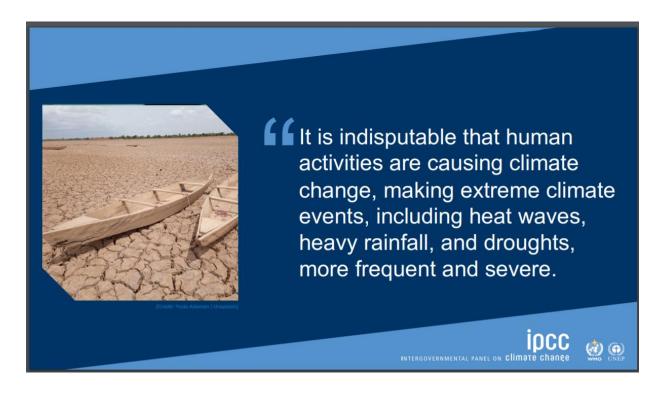
## FAO (UN Food and Agriculture Organization) World Food Situation December 2021

**World cereal production is still increasing** (though slower since 2019)

- but so are extreme weather events

#### **FAO December 2021**





## Severe Weather Events

- Super-storms
- Extraordinary cold snaps
- Hurricanes-cyclones
- Tornadoes
- Torrential rains
- Flooding
- Heatwaves
- Forest fires
- Drought
- Compound events

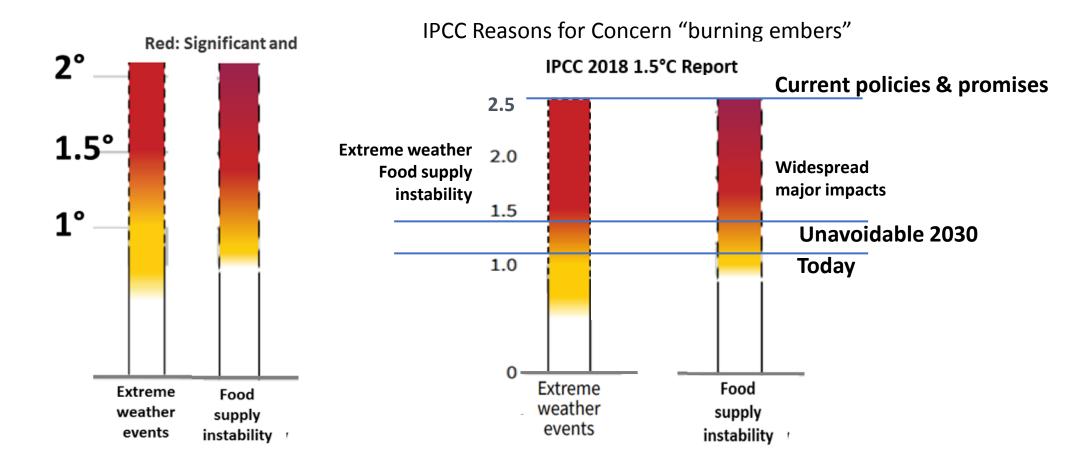
All being affected
by climate change with
adverse effects,
most with examples of
extreme damage
-including to crops,
as well as soil erosion
and land degradation

## **IPCC Extreme Events**

In the IPCC treats extreme whether events as on impact category, in which forest wild-fire are included

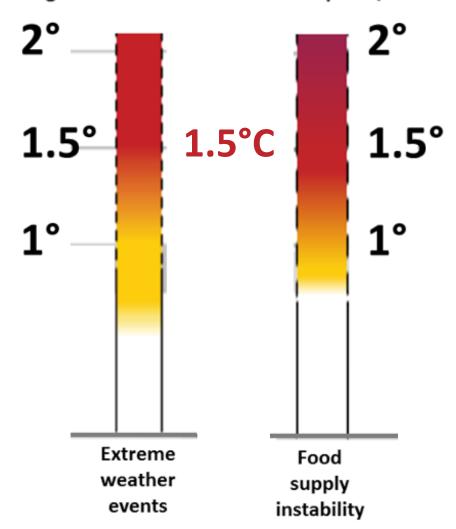
The extreme weather impact is most damaging to human population and crops, doubly damaging for labor intensive agriculture

Increasing extreme weather on agriculture is the most vitally important effect of climate change (disruption) effect today

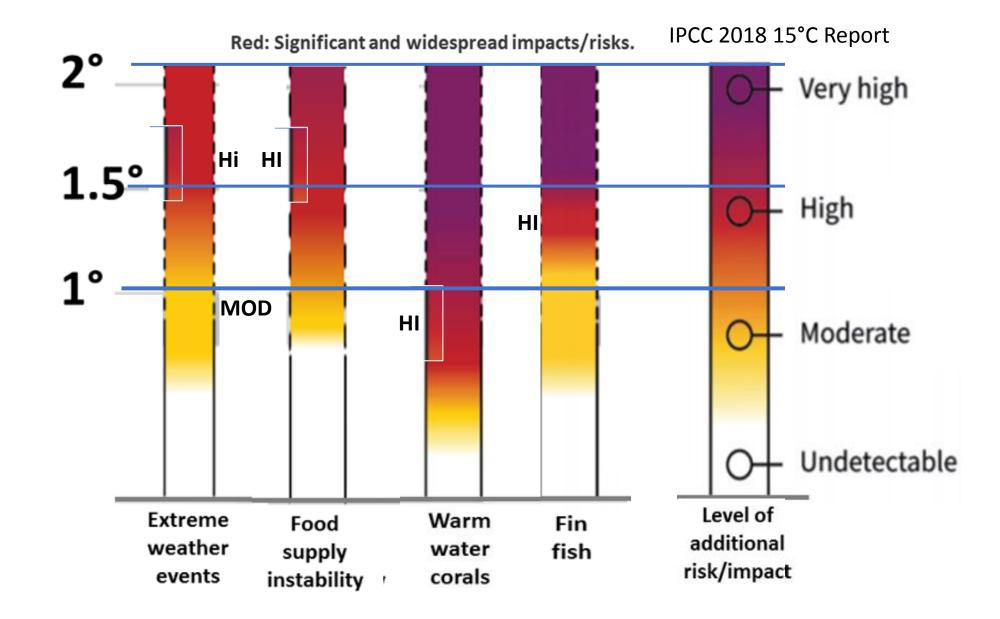


# The world has now entered the world food insecurity stage of global climate disruption

Red: Significant and widespread impacts/risks.





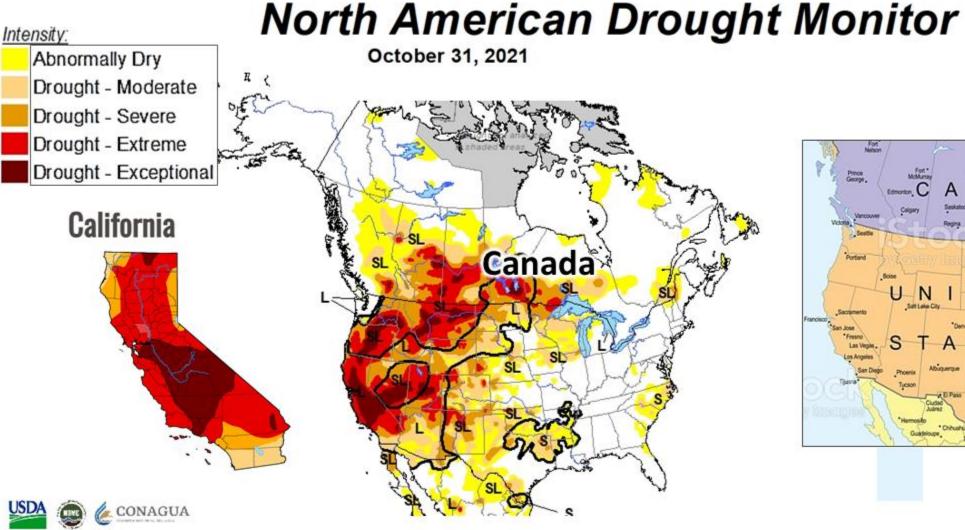


#### IPCC 4th assessment 2007

## Global production potential as equivalent to crop yield or Net Primary Productivity (NPP), is threatened at +1°C local temperature change

(IPCC 2007 AR4 5.4.2.2 p.285 Review of crop impacts versus incremental temperature change)

## Persistent Extreme Drought Affecting Western USA and Central Canada 31 October 2021

















## **Key Research Paper**

## Influence of extreme weather disasters on global crop production

Corey Lesk, et al, Nature, 6 January 2016 UBC and McGill

We show that droughts and extreme heat significantly reduced national cereal production by 9-10%.

A 7% greater production damage from more recent droughts (?getting worse)

There was 10% more damage in developed countries than in developing ones.

## Key Background Research Paper

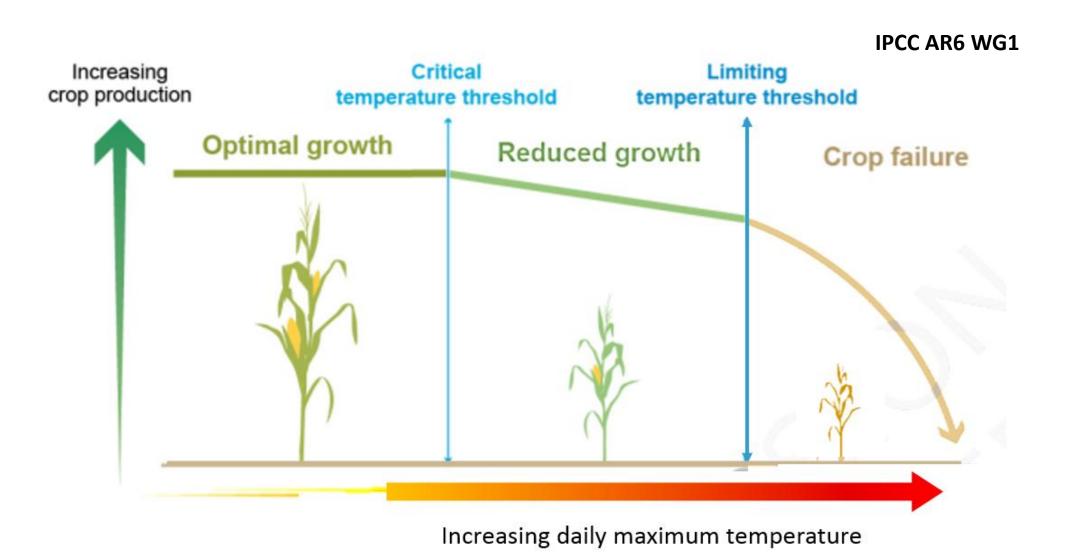
Ariel Ortiz-Bobea et al, Nature, 1 April 2021,

Anthropogenic climate change has slowed global agricultural productivity growth (Total factor productivity)

## IPCC August 2021, WG1 (Science)

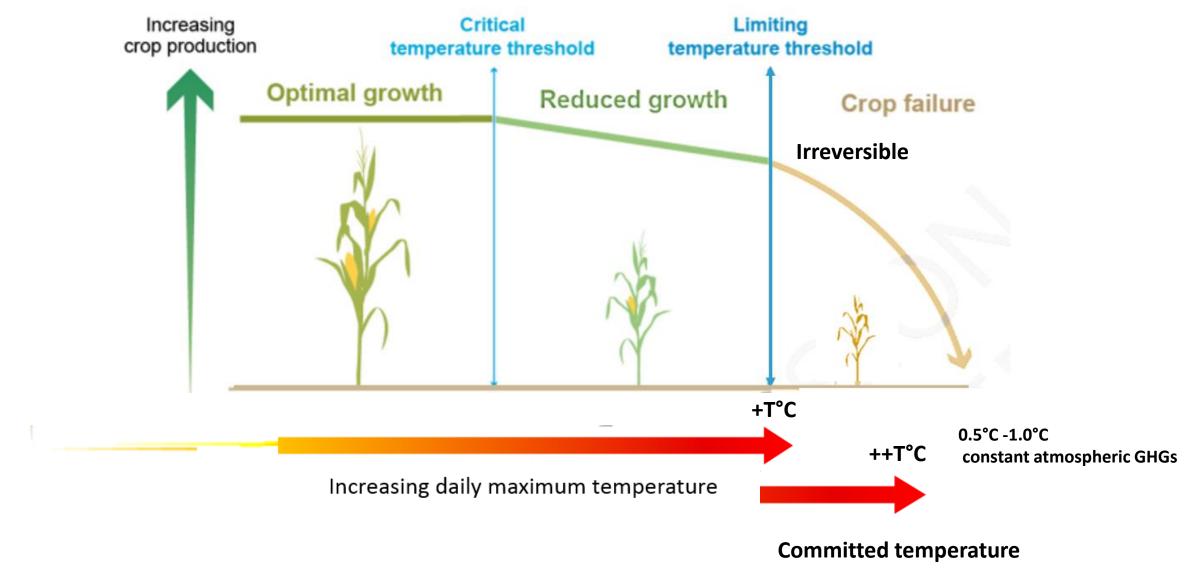
Temperature as limiting factor of crop growth

## FUNDAMENTAL: Surface temperature is the crop yield limiting factor for agriculture (without irrigation)



## **Global Surface Heating Agricultural Tipping Point**

At crop intolerance temperature increase tipping point- decline is irreversible and committed temperature increase is higher

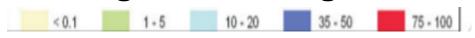


## **Irrigation**

Large benefit against heat and drought

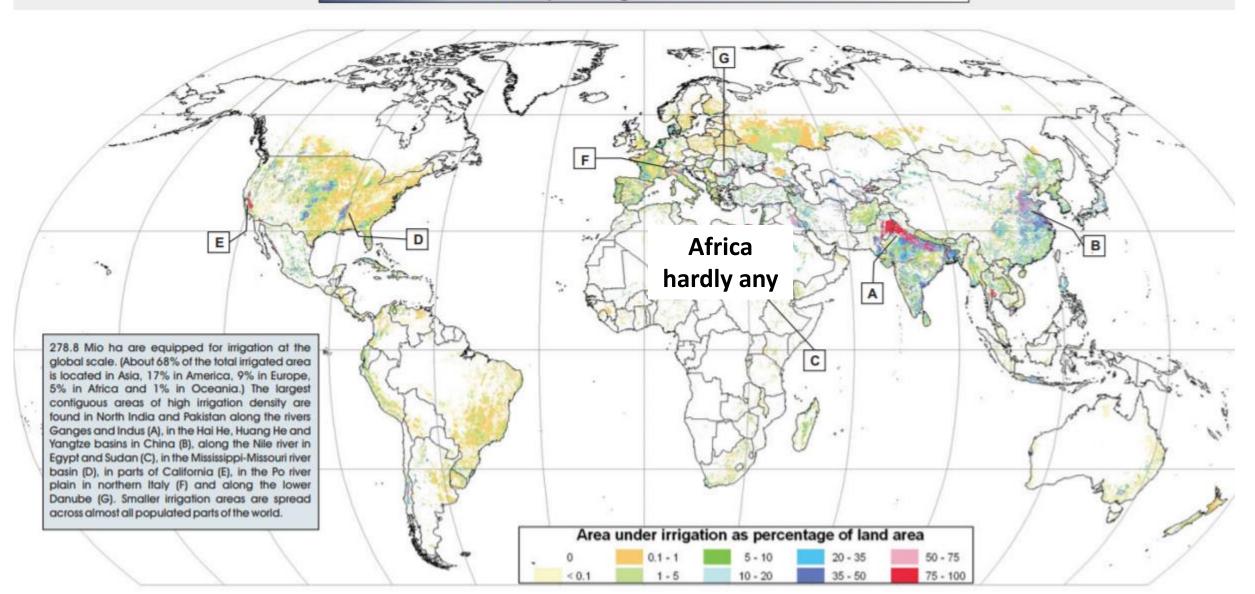
but likely has a limit to effectiveness

## **Agriculture Irrigation**



**Depend on rivers** 

### Global Map of Irrigation Areas Version 4



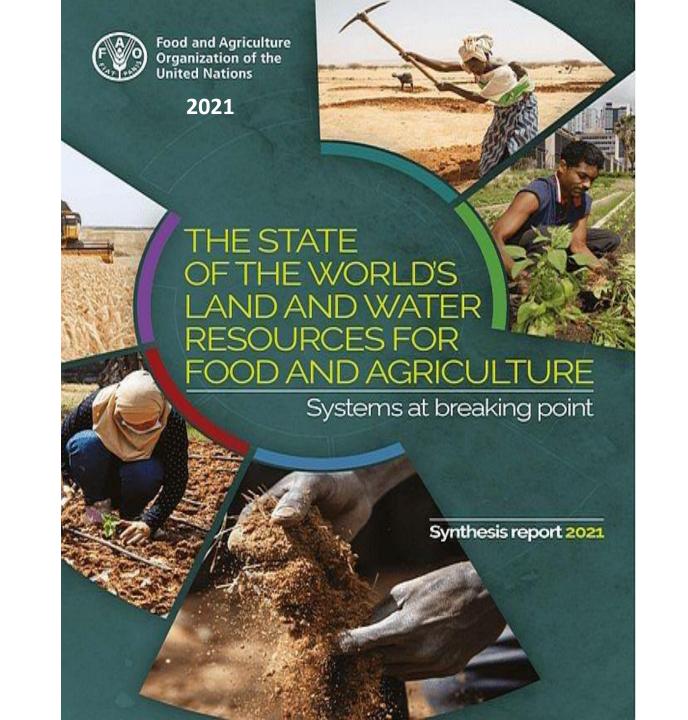
# THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S LAND AND WATER RESOURCES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

## Systems at breaking point

FAO, 9 December 2021

Increasing extreme weather events come on top of this

# World Agriculture at Breaking Point



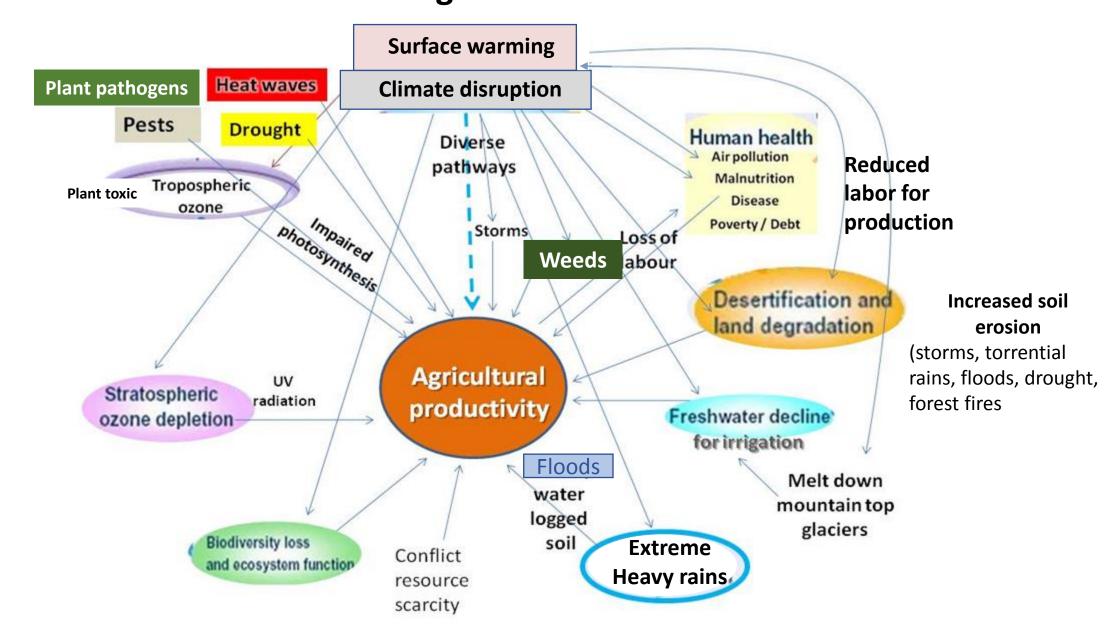
### **FOOD SECURITY**

## Effects of climate change

on crops 6 20 -ve +ve Effects of global warming and climate change on crops POSITIVE IMPACTS NEGATIVE IMPACTS As temperatures increased Increased productivity Warming insect infestations increase the -ve effects warmer temperatures stress increasingly overwhelm Crop damage Increase the potential +ve effects, possibility of from extreme heat ground level after which all crops in growing new crops Planning problems ozone all regions decline and less reliable forecasts Climate Longer growing seasons more so as temperatures Stronger storms variability continue to increase. Torrential rain increased production Waterlogged from higher CO2 land More floods Highly increased weeds accelerated specialized maturation rates increased high chemical crop diseases food production Decreased Less adaptable moisture stress decreased herbicide & pesticide efficacy More soil erosion Sickness increased loss of moisture stress human labor increased drought ADDITIVE Most -ve impacts are IMPACTS not captured by models

Feedback global warming acceleration

## So many adverse impacts of global surface heating and climate disruption on agriculture



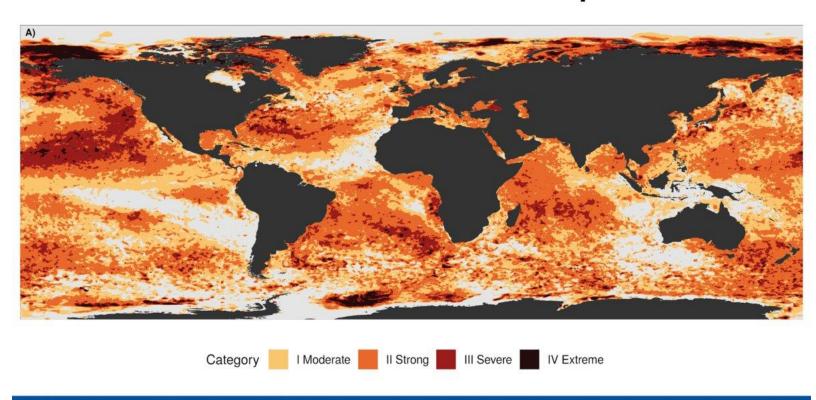
## **Heat Extremes Affect All Food Sources**

Crops, Livestock, Fisheries

## Fisheries: Extreme Sea Surface Heat Events (2019)

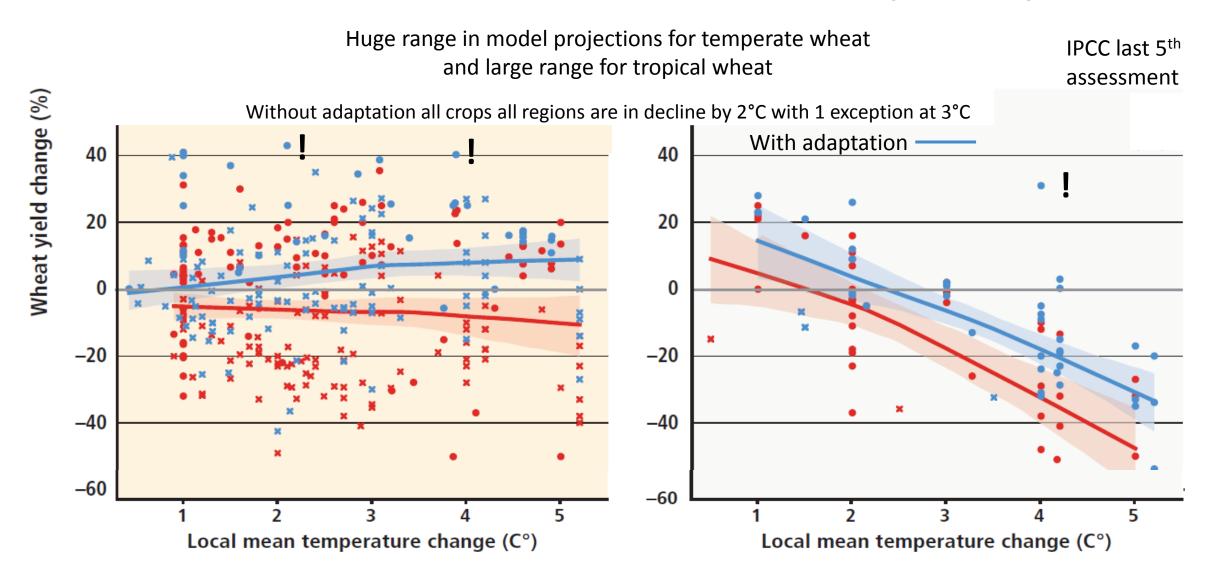
On top of ocean heating

## Marine Heatwave Map



## Model Projections of climate change impact on crops are linear They don't capture extreme events

## The several non-linear extreme events are not captured by models



**IPCC 2014 AR5 Figure 7-4** | Percentage simulated yield change as a function of local temperature change for the three major crops and for temperate and tropical regions.

## **Many Climate-Crop Model Gaps**

Assessment of crop yields under climate change assume linear changes as temperature changes, so does not account for abrupt changes under extreme weather events, nor for compound events.

Weeds, pests and plant pathogens are no captured by models

Tropospheric ozone is not accurately captured

Combined adverse impacts are not captured

Effects on soil erosion and land degradation are not captured.

The does not provide what needed for future crop production

There will abrupt, hard to predict losses with climate variability and extreme events

In IPCC projections adaptation is assumed to be successful even at rising degrees of climate change, and to be able to reverse risks to crops.

In addition, if a crop decline is observed at a particular temperature +T°C, that decline will continue because the temperature increase will continue, so we don't need simple %age crop decline at corresponding +T°C, we need to project full crop decline and loss at the committed temperature ++T°°C.

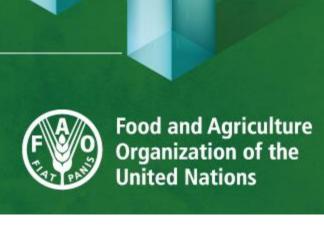
As population grows water resources per capita per year are decreasing rapidly

from

6994.9 m<sup>3</sup> in 2000

to 6029.4 m<sup>3</sup> in 2012

to **5630.2** m<sup>3</sup> in 2018



## About 58.6 million people are facing severe acute food insecurity in East Africa.

East Africa Regional Food Security & Nutrition Update (World Food Program))

Africa is projected to suffer increasing drought with little to no irrigation

Egypt

Sudan

Burundi

Zam. Malawi

Zimb.

Leso.

Sau. Ar.

Eth Somaliand

Som.

Madag

Yemen

Red Sea

Ug. Kenya

Tan

Past 1 months

Libya

Chad

CAR.

Algeria

Mali

Burkina Faso

Niger

Eq. Gui.

Congo Dem. Rep.

Ang.

Nmb.

Benin Nig.

V. Sah.

Maur.

December 2021

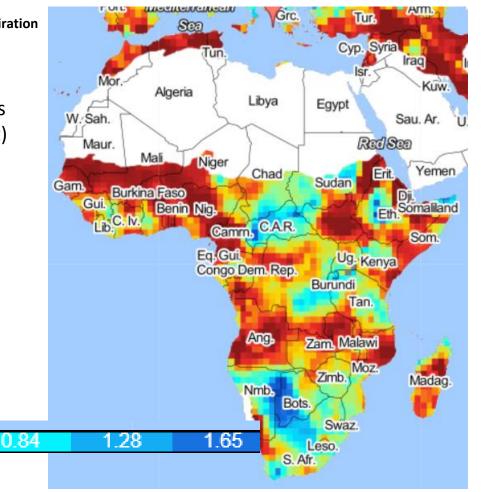
### **Drought (SPEI)**

(Standardised Precipitation-Evapotranspiration Index)

#### **INCREASING DROUGHT**

Compared to past 12 months (left) the past 1 month (right) shows large expansion and increasing drought severity

Past 12 month



Government of Spain, SPEI Global drought monitor, Santiago Beguería et al

-1.65

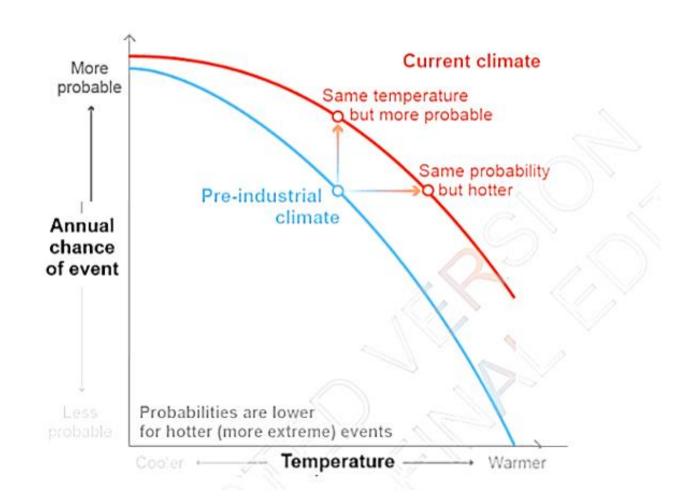
# IPCC August 2021 6<sup>th</sup> Assessment (AR6) Working Group 1 Science

## Chapter 11: Weather and climate extreme events in a changing climate

(in assessment for the first time)

FAQ 11.3: Climate change and extreme events

Extreme events have become more probable and more intense.



## FAQ 11.2: Will climate change cause unprecedented extremes?

Yes, in a changing climate, extreme events may be unprecedented when they occur with...



Larger magnitude



Increased frequency



**New locations** 



Different timing



**New combinations** 

# Extreme weather Is increasing attributed to emissions driven climate change and will continue to increase

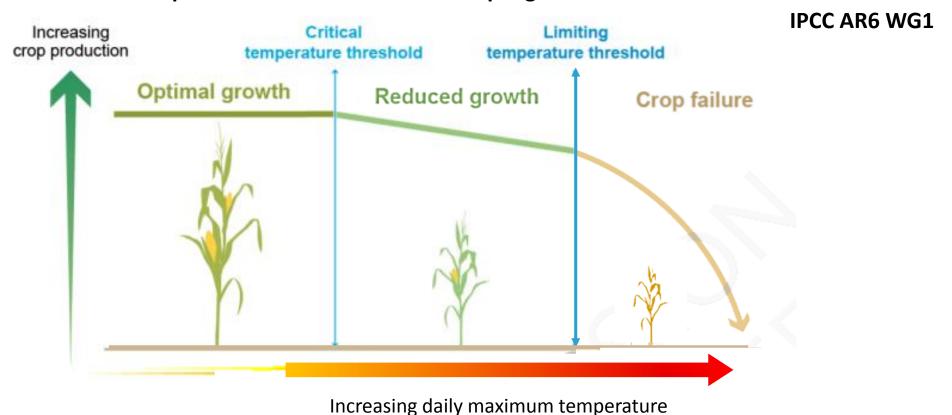
IPCC August 2021, 6th assessment, WG1





## **Crop tipping point: maximum heat tolerance**

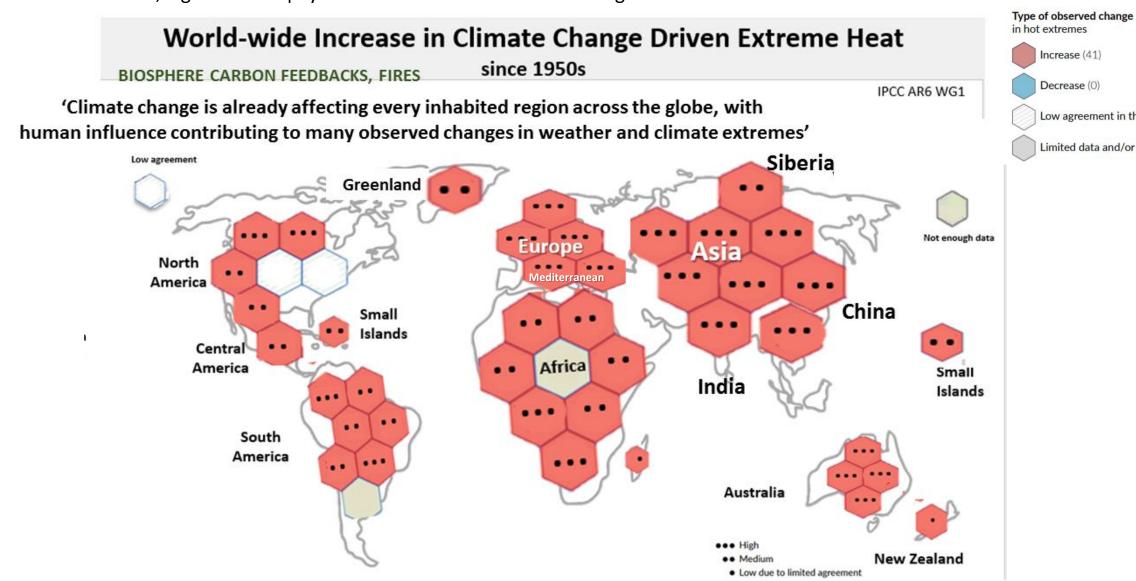
At temperature tolerance limit of a crop it growth crashes



FAQ12.2, Figure 1: Crop response to maximum temperature thresholds. Crop growth rate responds to daily maximum temperature increases, leading to reduced growth and crop failure as temperatures exceed critical and limiting temperature thresholds, respectively.

## **Hot Extremes**

IPCC AR6 WG1, Figure SPM.3 | Synthesis of assessed observed change in hot extremes attributed to human contribution



Adapted from IPCC AR6 WG1, synthesis of assessment of observed change in extremes and confidence in human contribution to the observed changes in the world's regions

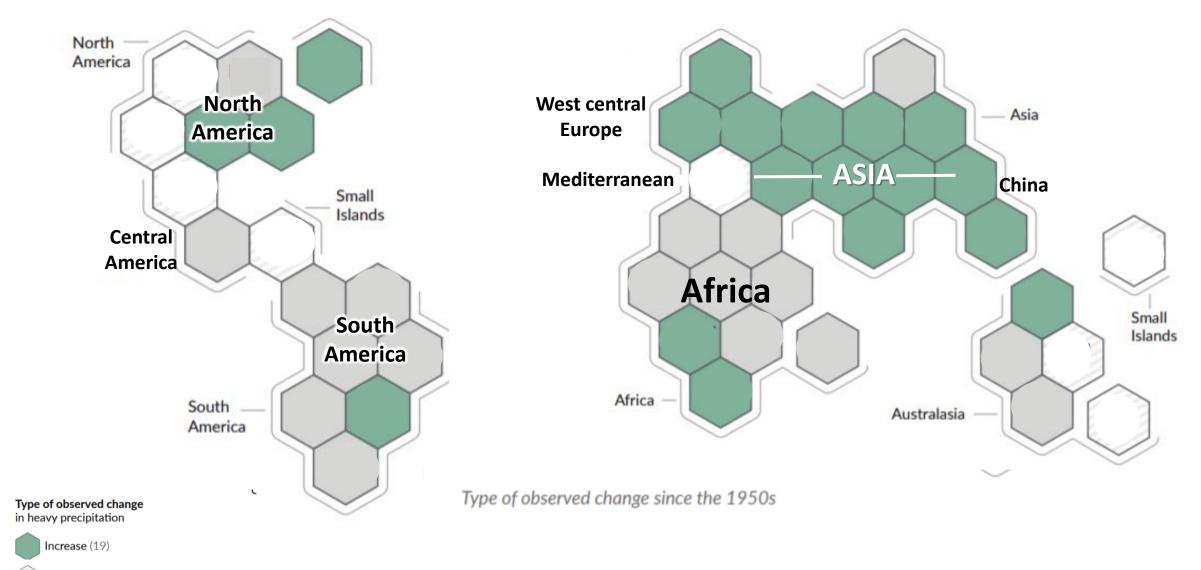
Increase (41)

Decrease (0)

Low agreement in the type of change

Limited data and/or literature (2)

## **Heavy Precipitation**

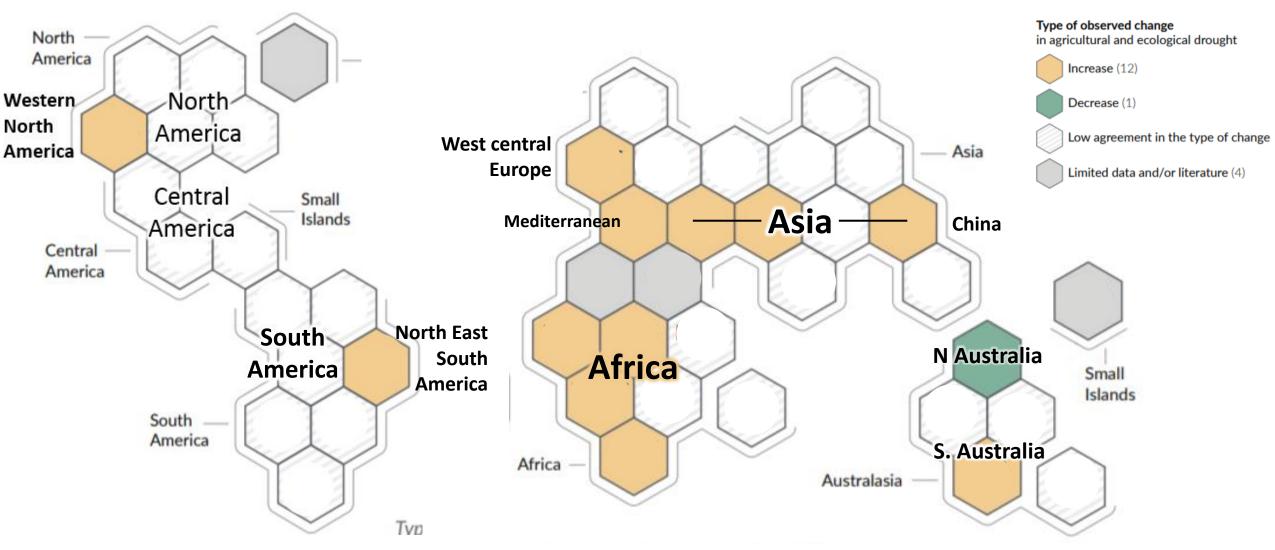


Low agreement in the type of change (8)

Limited data and/or literature (18)

(b) Synthesis of assessment of observed change in heavy precipitation attributed to human contribution

## **Drought**

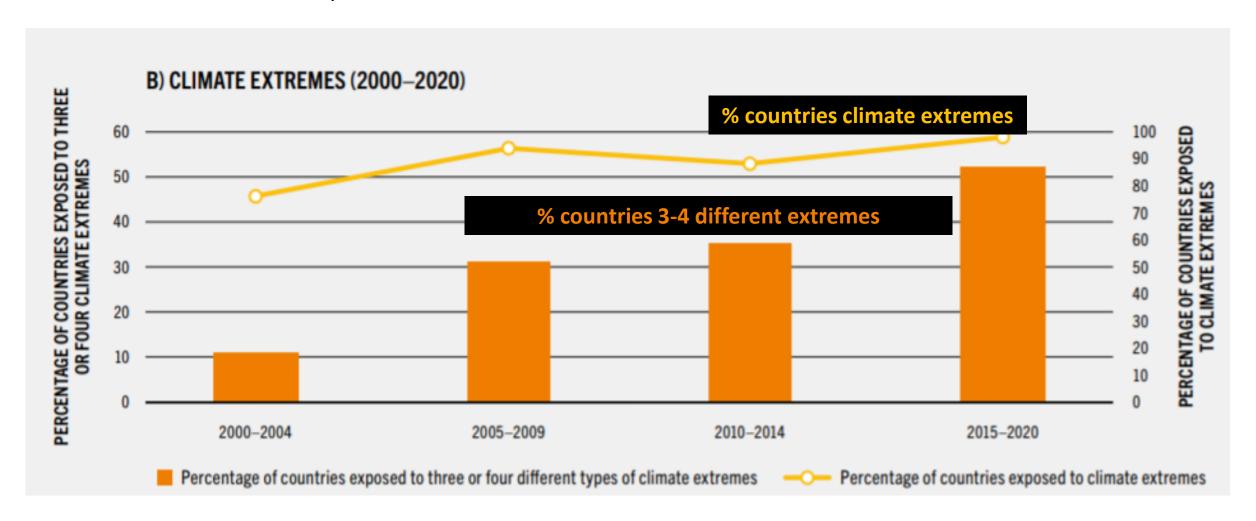


Type of observed change since the 1950s

IPCC AR6 WG1, Figure SPM.3 Synthesis of assessment of observed change in agricultural and ecological drought attributable to human contribution

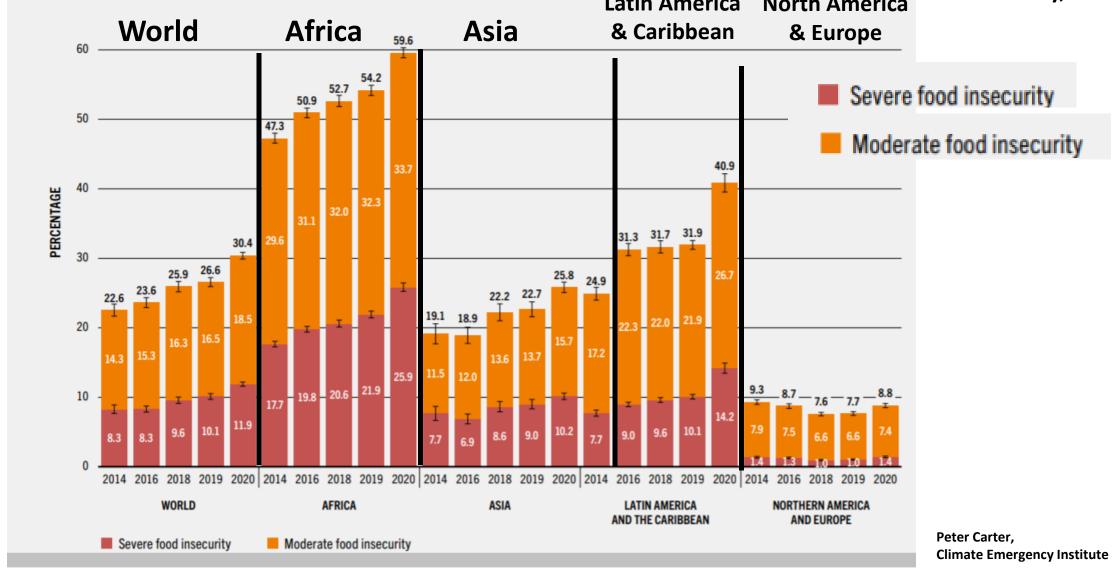
## **Climate Extremes**

FAO state of World Food Security 2021



## Food insecurity now affects over 30% of the world population



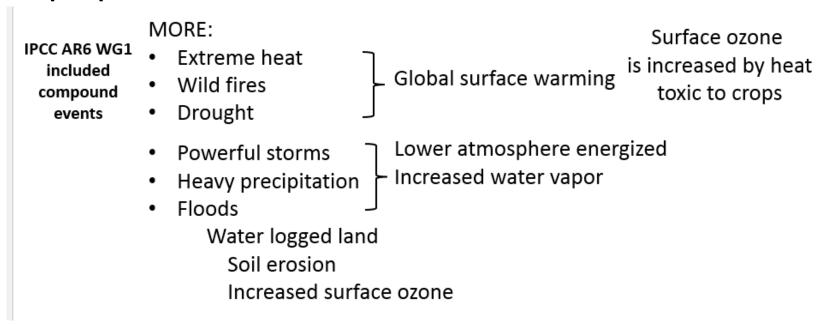


### How climate change drives extreme events impact on crops

Increasing extreme weather is being driven by climate change and so will increase with global temperature increase. They have yield impact shocks, depending on severity, duration and combination of extreme events

as a single category of climate change impacts
It is the most damaging impact to people and crops
- even more so on crop yields with labour intensive
Africa and lower latitude food production

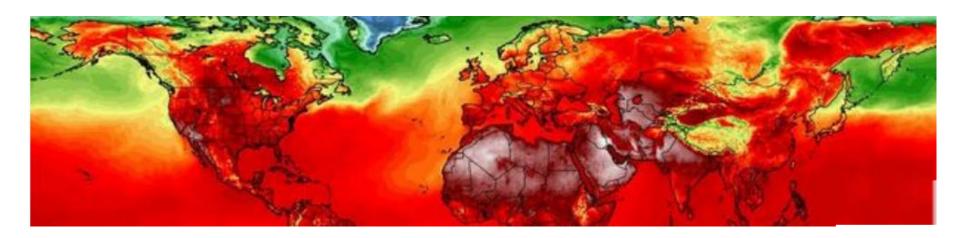
#### **Climate change crop impacts**



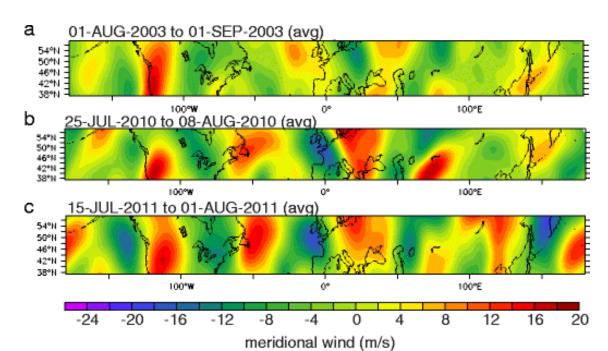
**MODELS** Climate change crop yield models in climate change assessments do not capture the impact of extreme weather **CLIMATE SHOCKS** Extreme weather acts as production shocks, but if severe, widespread and long lasting (blocking phenomenon) can impact a regional harvest.

#### Intense Prolonged Northern Hemisphere Extreme Events

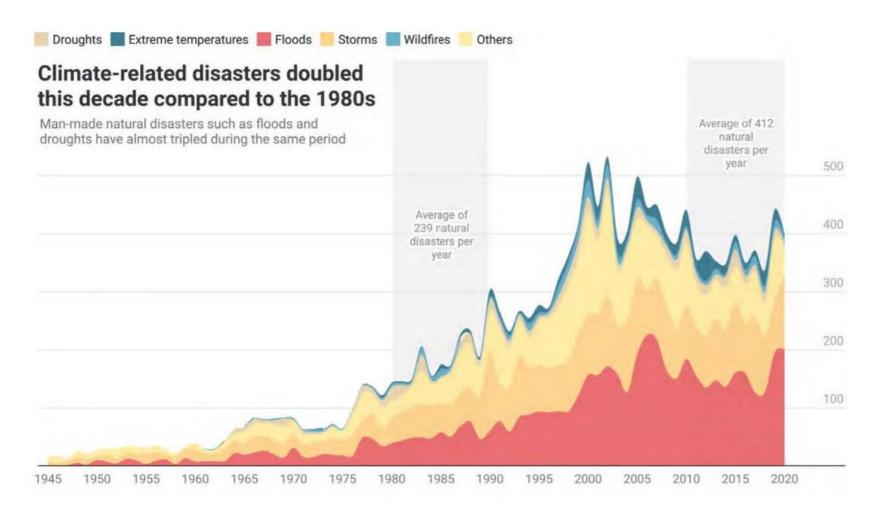
7 Jul 2018 Killer heatwave grips Northern Hemisphere as temperature records broken from Canada to Oman At least 54 people have died amid an extreme heatwave in the Canadian province of Quebec



Quasiresonant amplification of planetary waves and recent Northern Hemisphere weather extremes Vladimir Petoukhov, et al, PNAS, January 16, 2013



# Climate change driven disasters are increasing and will continue to increase with global surface temperature

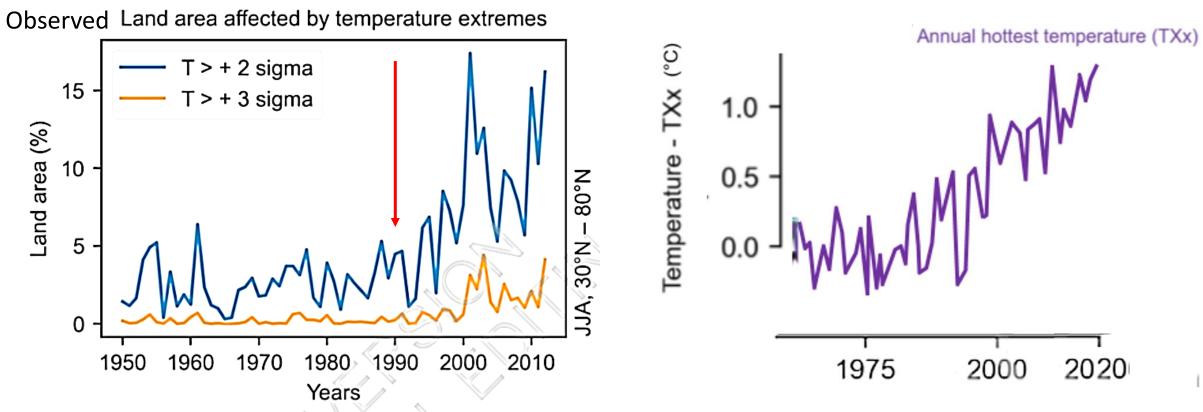


Source: The December 2021Global Humanitarian Overview 2022, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

#### Observed Northern Hemisphere Heat Extremes

**IPCC AR6 WG1** 

Increasing northern hemisphere land area affected by extreme heat and increasing extreme heat temperatures over time

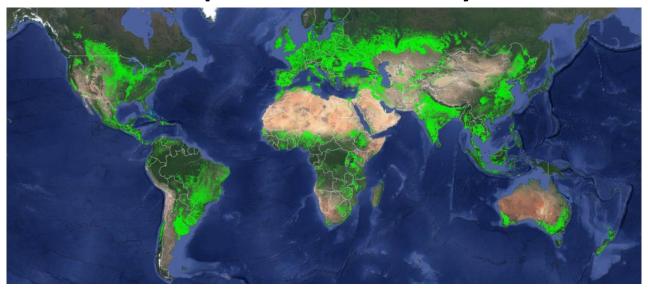


IPCC 2021, AR6, WG1, Box 11.4, Figure 1: Analysis of the percentage of land area affected by temperature extremes larger than two (orange) or three (blue) standard deviations in June-July-August (JJA). These panels show for both estimates a substantial increase in the overall land area affected by very high hot extremes since 1990 onward.

#### **Extreme Heat Will Affect Most Food Producing Regions**

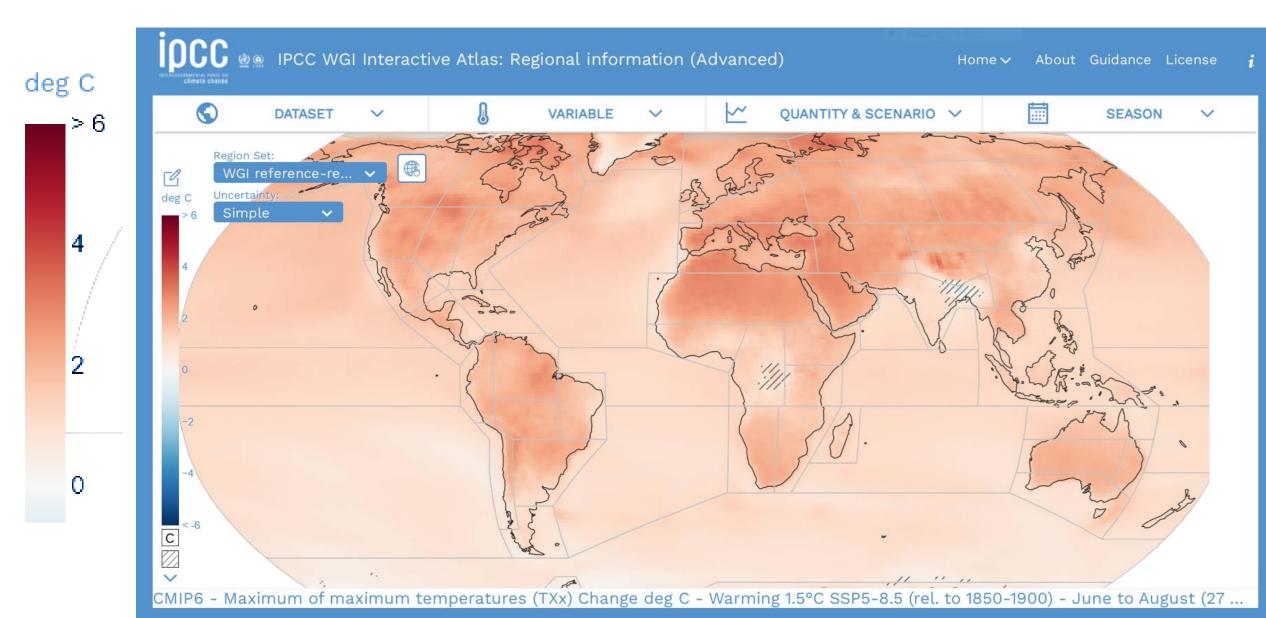
#### from AR6 WG1 interactive atlas

#### **Crop extent and density**

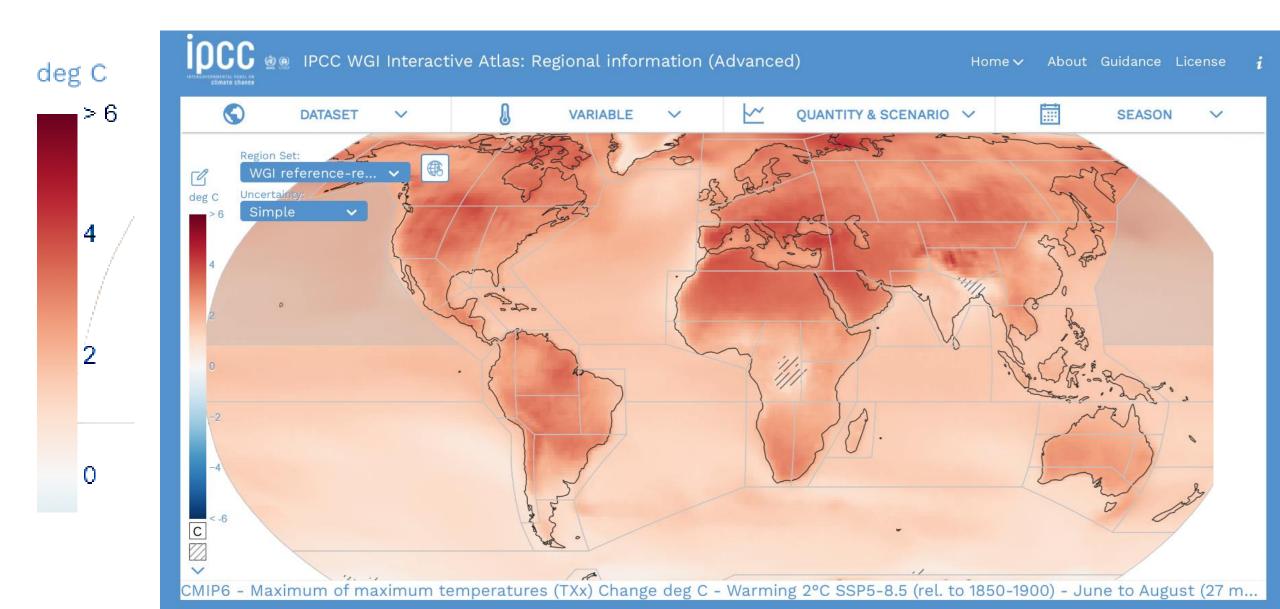


**USGS Crop area and density 2017** (satellite data)

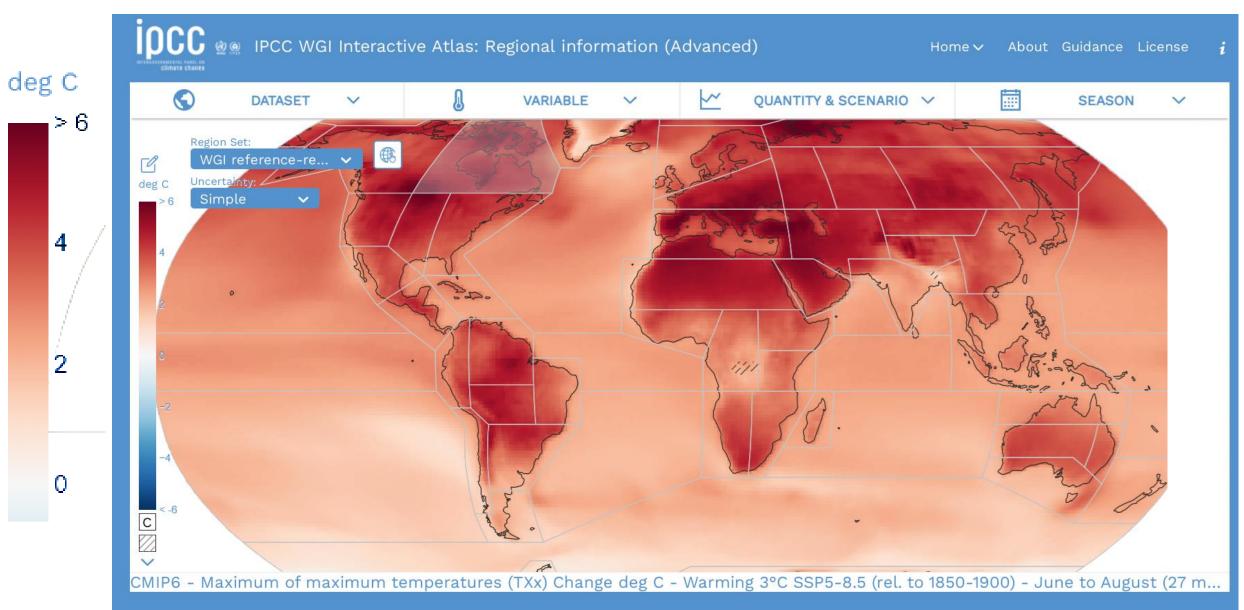
### Extreme heat 1.5°C



### Extreme heat 2°C



### Extreme heat 3°C



#### **Extreme Heat Will Affect Most Food Producing Regions**

Extreme heat at 1.5°C, 2°C and 3°C from IPCC AR6 WG1 Interactive Atlas

+1.5°C (2030 /soon after)

| Compared to the period of the

**+2.0°C** ( 2045)

DATASET

VARIABLE

VALUE & PERIOD

DATASET

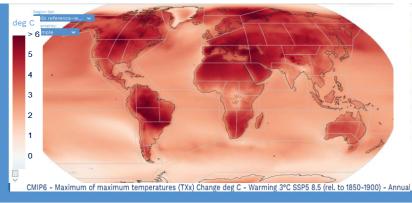
VARIABLE

VALUE & PERIOD

VALUE & PERIOD

COMPRO - Maximum of maximum temperatures (TXX) Change deg C - Warming 2°C SSP5 8.5 (rel. to 1850-1900) - Annual

+3.0°C (by national emissions targets)



**USGS Crop area and density 2017** (satellite data)

Studies have documented a large negative sensitivity of crop yields to extreme daytime temperatures around 30°C. These sensitivities have been identified for several crops and regions and exist throughout the growing season (high confidence)

IPCC, 2014, AR5 WG2, Ch.7 Food Security and Food Production Systems



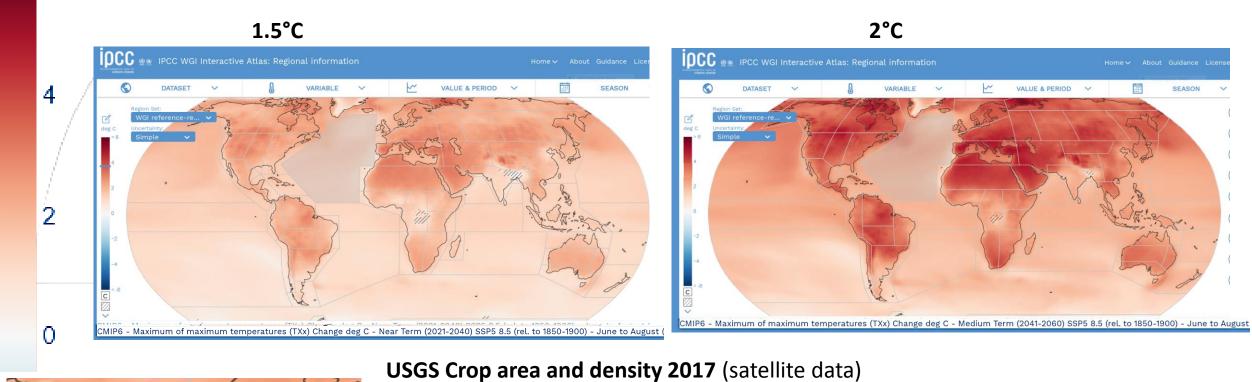
**Peter Carter, Climate Emergency Institute** 

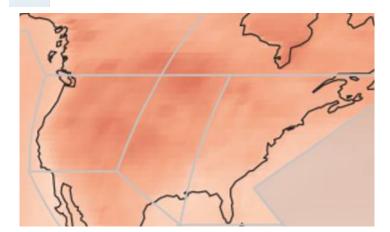
#### deg C

> 6

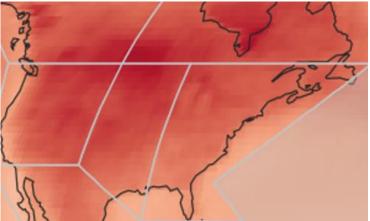
#### Extreme heat affects major food producing regions at 1.5°C-2°C

Maximum of maximum temperature (TXx) global change °C , June-August relative, to 1850-1900





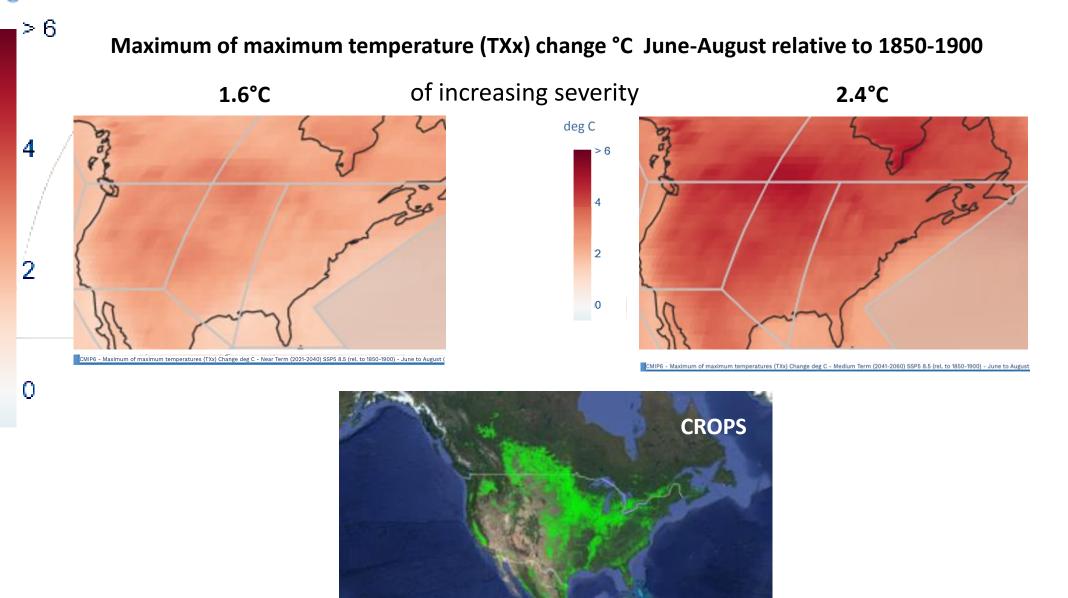




deg C

#### Extreme heat affects US food producing regions at 1.5°C-2°C

deg C



**USGS Crop area and density 2017** (satellite data)

#### Days of temperatures above 35°C

'Studies have documented a large negative sensitivity of crop yields to extreme daytime temperatures around 30°C.

These sensitivities have been identified for several crops and regions and exist throughout the growing season (high confidence)'

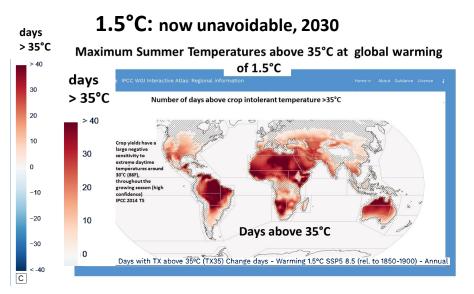
IPCC, 2014, AR5 WG2, Ch.7
Food Security and Food Production Systems

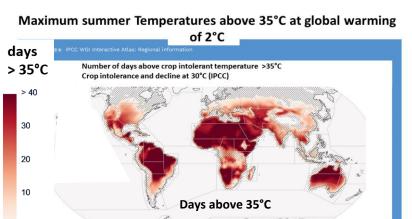
## Heat stress temperatures to crops is projected in major food producing regions for an increasing number of days, from 1.5°

#### Days of temperatures above 35°C

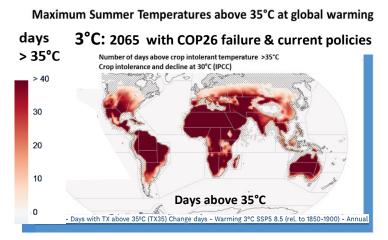
2°C: 2045

August 2021 IPCC AR6 WG1 Interactive Atlas





P6 - Days with TX above 35°C (TX35) Change days - Warming 2°C SSP5 8.5 (rel. to 1850-1900) - Annua



Studies have documented a large negative sensitivity of crop yields to extreme daytime temperatures around 30°C. These sensitivities have been identified for several crops and regions and exist throughout the growing season (high confidence)

IPCC, 2014, AR5 WG2, Ch.7
Food Security and Food Production Systems

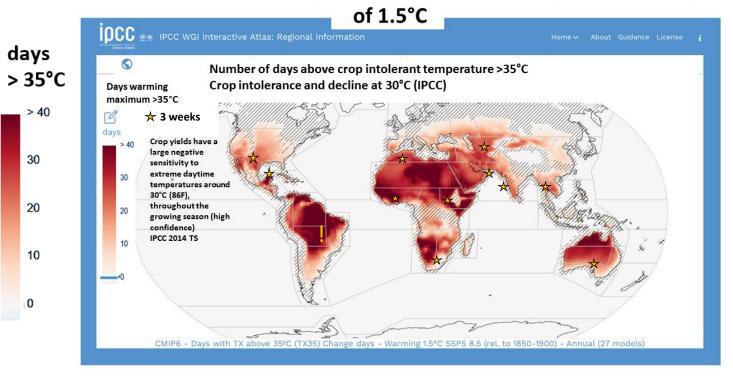
**USGS Crop area and density 2017** (satellite data)

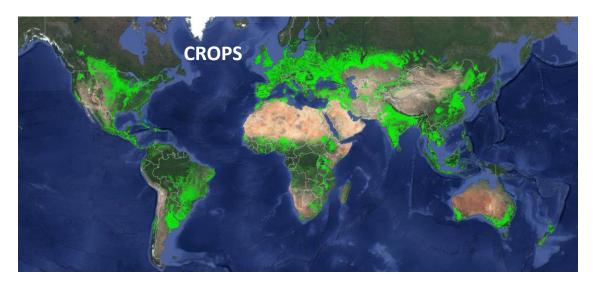


**August 2021 IPCC AR6 WG1 Interactive Atlas** 

**Peter Carter, Climate Emergency Institute** 

#### Maximum Summer Temperatures above 35°C at global warming





### Maximum summer Temperatures above 35°C at global warming

days

> 35°C

> 40

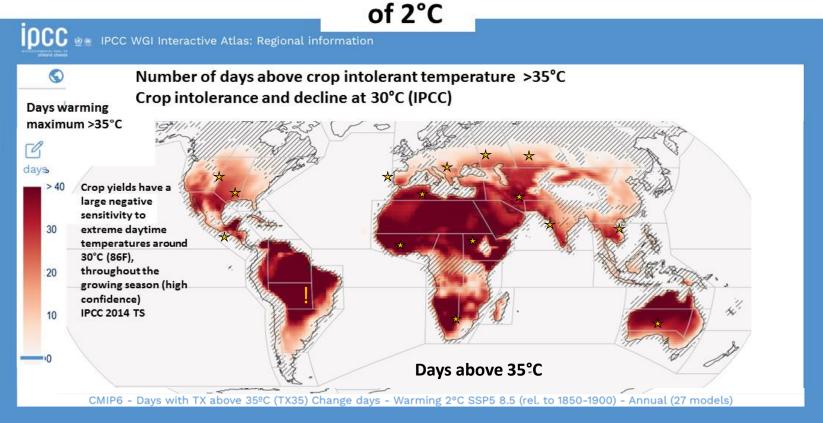
30

20

10

**Affects** USA South America Spain Saudi Arabia Iraq Iran **Pakistan** Turkey The ...stans All African regions Thailand Cambodia Australia Affected but less so (Italy)

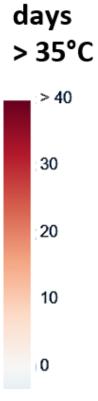
(Greece) (China)

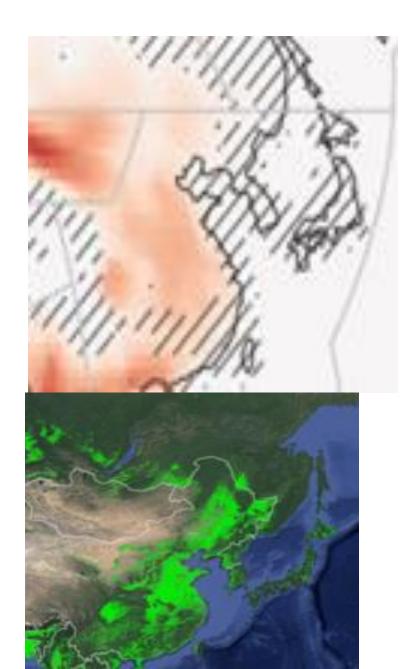




### China at 2°C

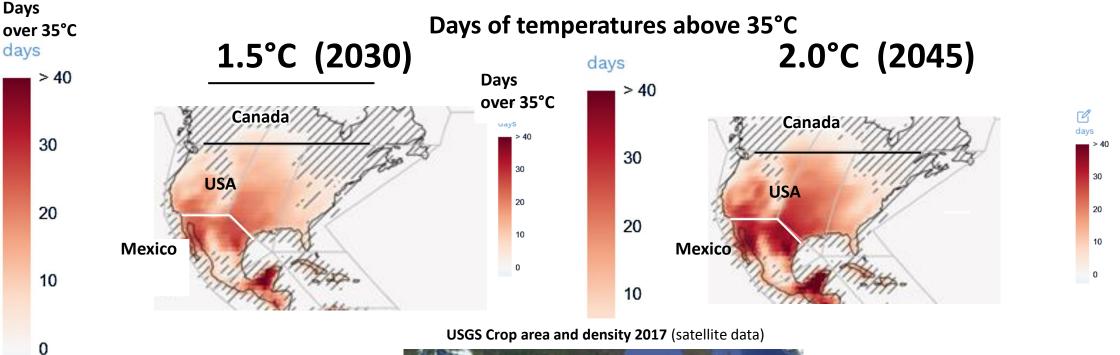
China ranks first in the world in terms of the production of cereals, cotton, fruit, vegetables, meat, poultry, eggs and fishery products. (FAO)

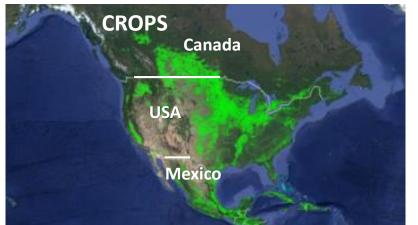






# Heat Stress affects crops in US and Mexico food producing regions for an increasing number of days at and from 1.5°C Canada's grain belt is also stressed



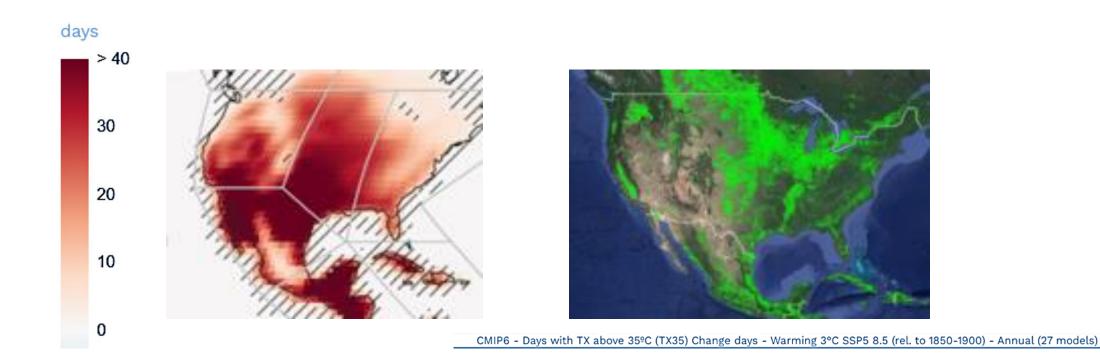


August 2021 ,IPCC AR6, WG1, Interactive Atlas

### At 3°C of global warming almost all food producing regions have maximum high temperatures above 35°C for many days- long periods in USA and Mexico

Maximum Summer Temperatures above 35°C at global warming days of 3°C **Heading based on present government policies** > 40 Number of days above crop intolerant temperature >35°C Crop intolerance and decline at 30°C (IPCC) Days warming maximum >35°C 30 Crop yields have a 20 large negative sensitivity to extreme daytime temperatures around 30°C (86F), throughout the growing season (high 10 confidence) IPCC 2014 TS CMIP6 - Days with TX above 35°C (TX35) Change days - Warming 3°C SSP5 8.5 (rel. to 1850-1900) - Annual (27 models)

### At 3°C of global warming almost all food producing regions have maximum high temperatures above 35°C for many days-Longest USA and Mexico



#### **Toxic Surface Ozone**

Formed from fossil fuel air pollutants

Also called tropospheric or ground level ozone

Toxic to humans and green plants, so crops

It is increased by heat

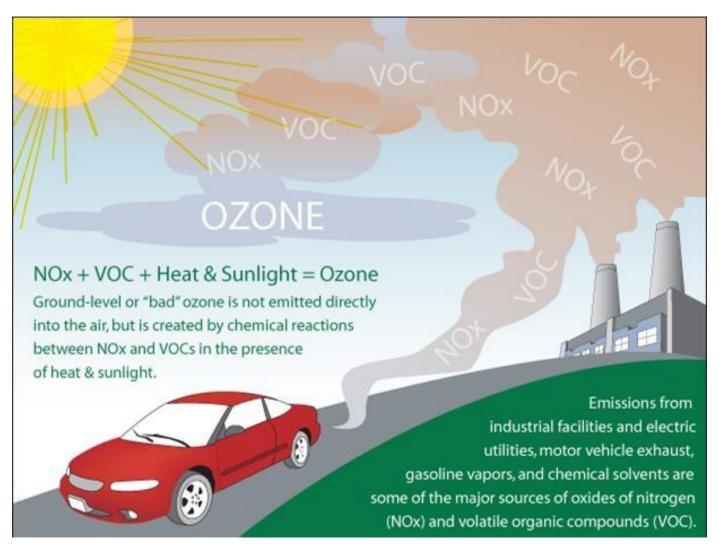
-so increased by heat waves

#### **Chemical reaction**

Fossil fuel air pollutants Heat from the sun

#### **Toxic Surface Ozone**

Toxic to humans and green plants Increased by heat



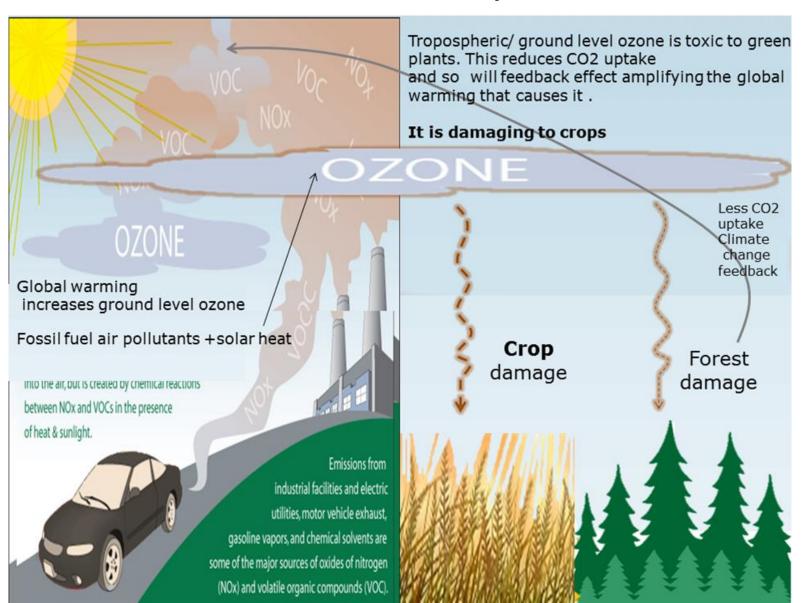
**EPA** 

#### **Chemical reaction**

#### **Toxic Surface Ozone**

Fossil fuel air pollutants Heat from the sun

Toxic to humans and green plants
Increased by heat

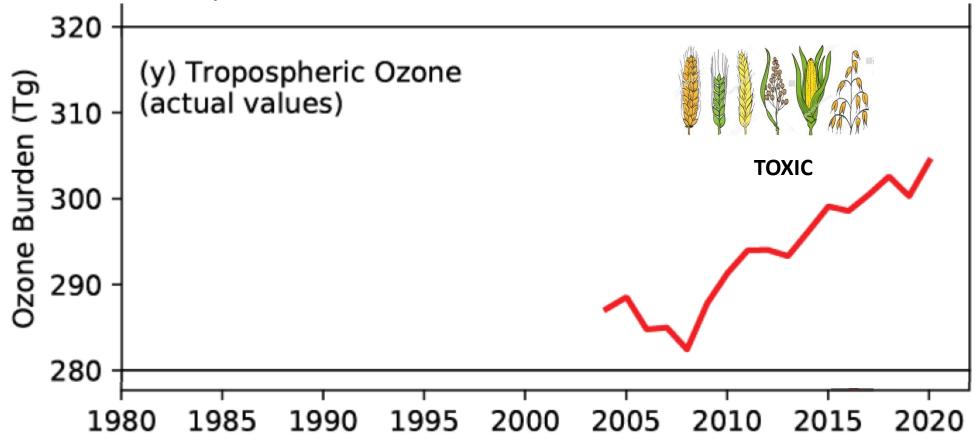


#### Increasing Surface Ozone (mainly northern hemisphere)

Tropospheric (surface or ground level) ozone is a toxic air pollutant, toxic to green plants including crops

- as well the human respiratory tract

Its level increases with surface temperature



Special Supplement to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, Vol. 102, No. 8, August, 2021,

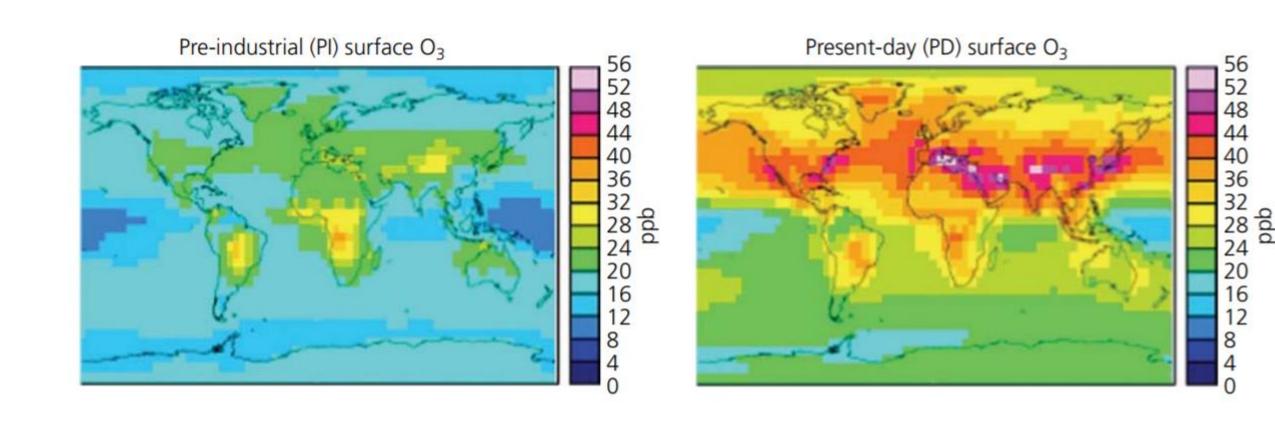
ALSO

Aircraft observations since the 1990s reveal increases of tropospheric ozone at multiple locations across the Northern Hemisphere,

A. Gaudel et al, 21 August 2021

# Surface ozone has increased mainly in the northern hemisphere with increasing air pollution and global surface warming

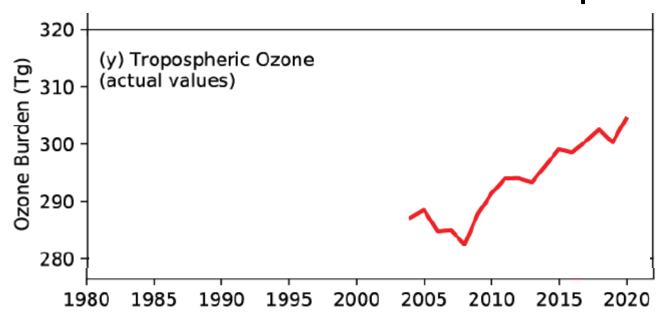
Ground-level ozone in the 21st century: future trends, impacts and policy implications, Royal Soc, 2008



#### Tropospheric (surface/ground level) Ozone Rapid Increase

Mainly the temperate northern hemisphere

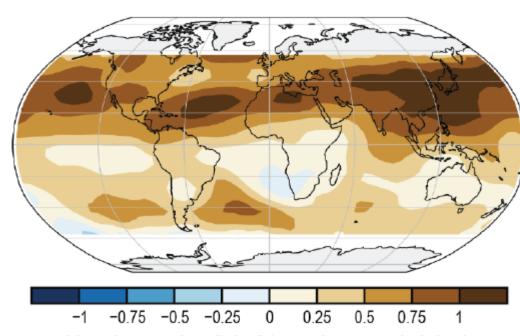
Heat increase surface ozone, which is toxic to crops as well as human health



Special Supplement to the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*,

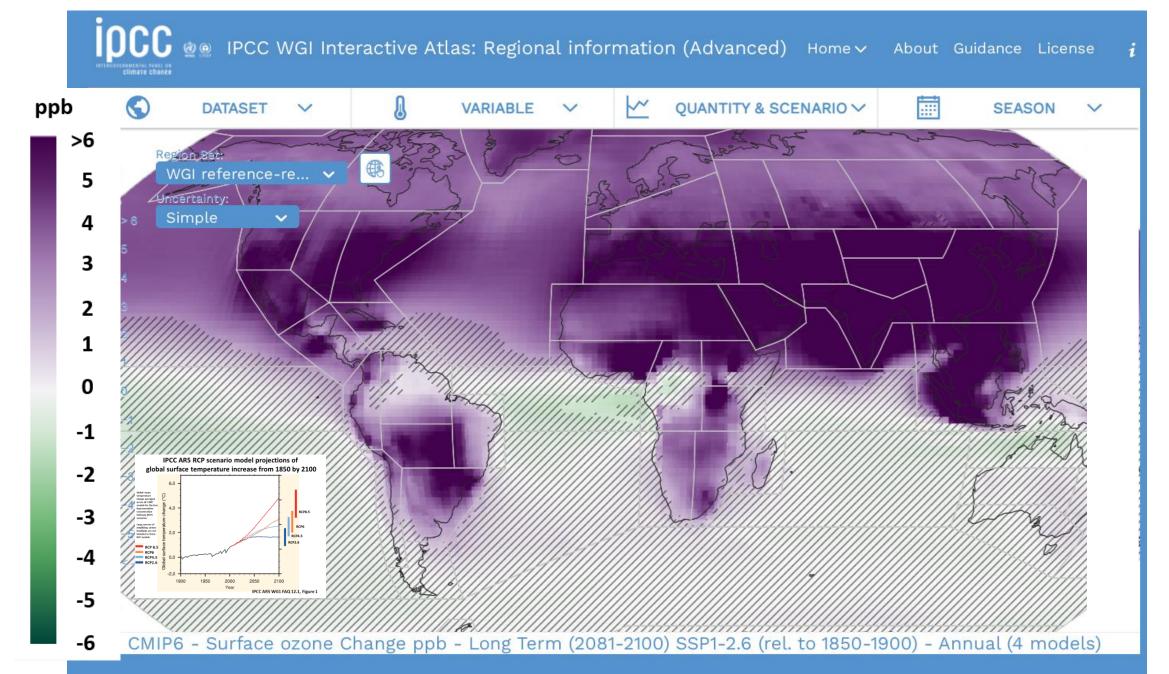
August 2021

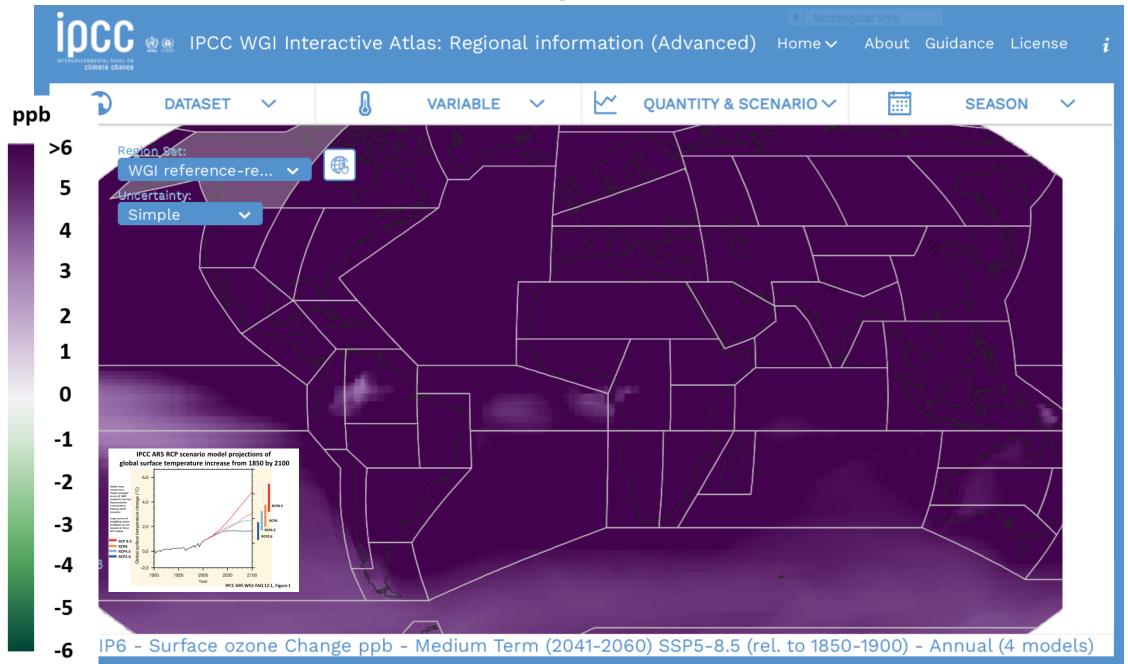
#### (ab) OMI/MLS Tropospheric Column Ozone



Special Supplement to the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, August 2021

1.5°C

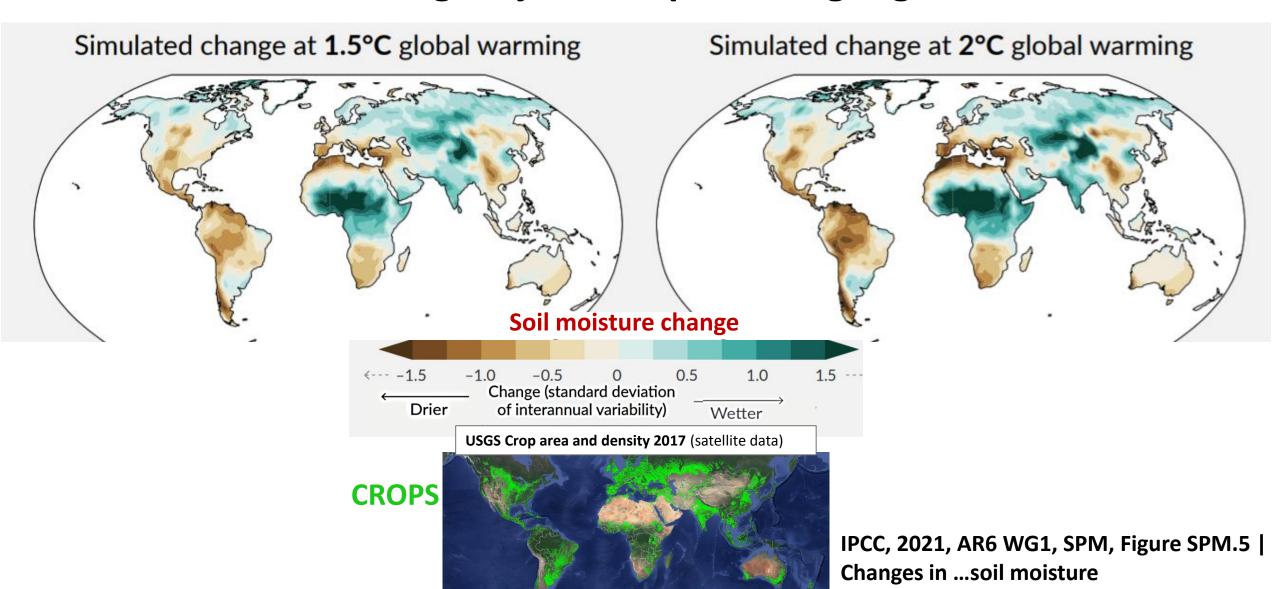




### **Drought**

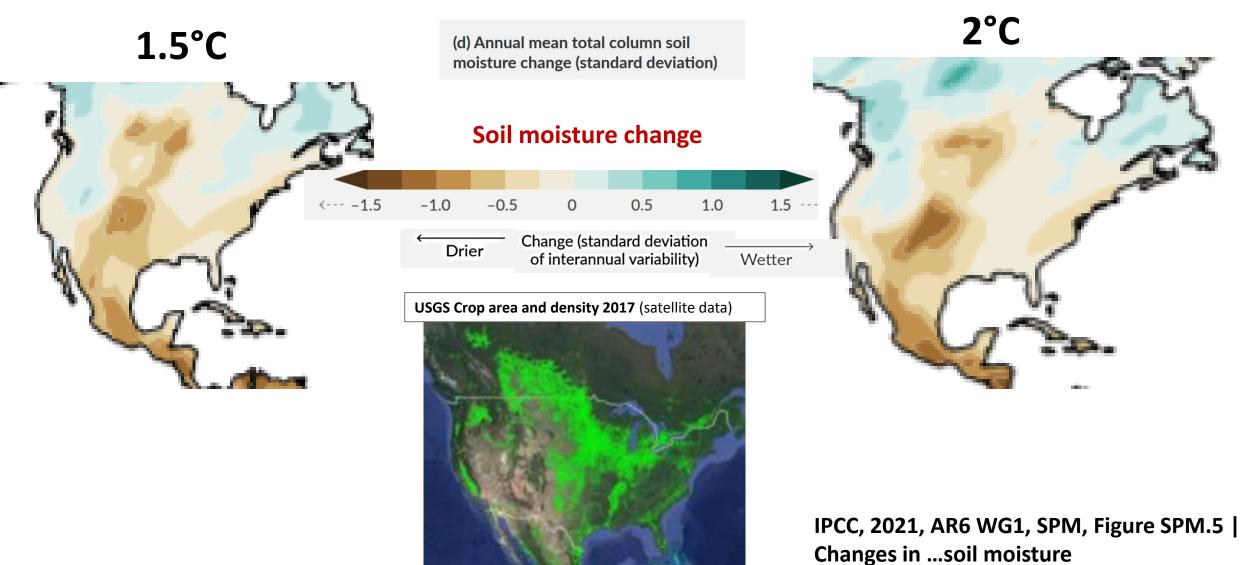
# Increasing world—wide drought from 1.5°C affecting major food producing regions

AR6 WG1 soil moisture



#### Soil Moisture Change at 1.5°C and 2°C

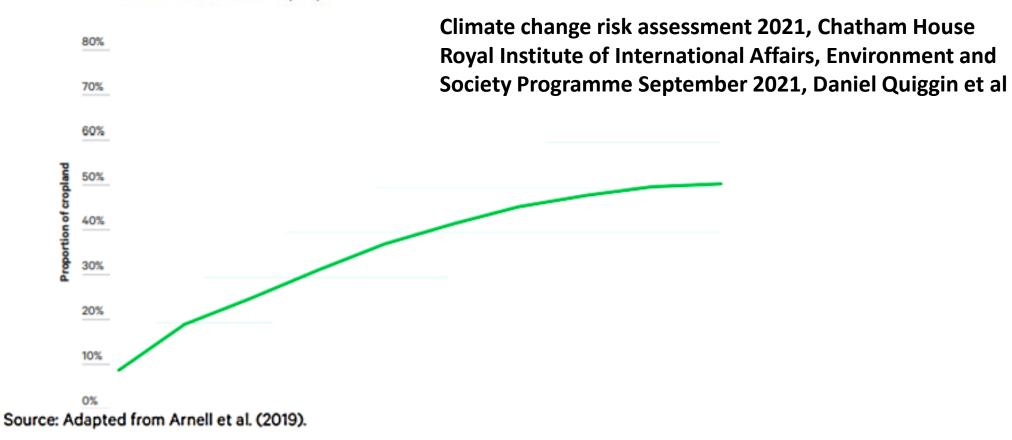
#### **DROUGHT**



#### % Increases in drought at 2.4°C

By 2040, the average proportion of global cropland affected by severe drought will likely rise to 32 per cent each year, more than three times higher than the historic average.

Figure 9a. Proportion of global cropland experiencing severe drought of three months or more per year



#### % Increases in drought at 2.4°C

Figure 10a. Proportion of global winter wheat crop area experiencing damaging hot spells



**Figure 10b.** Proportion of global rice crop area experiencing damaging hot spells



Source: Adapted from Arnell et al. (2019).

#### % Increases in drought at 2.4°C

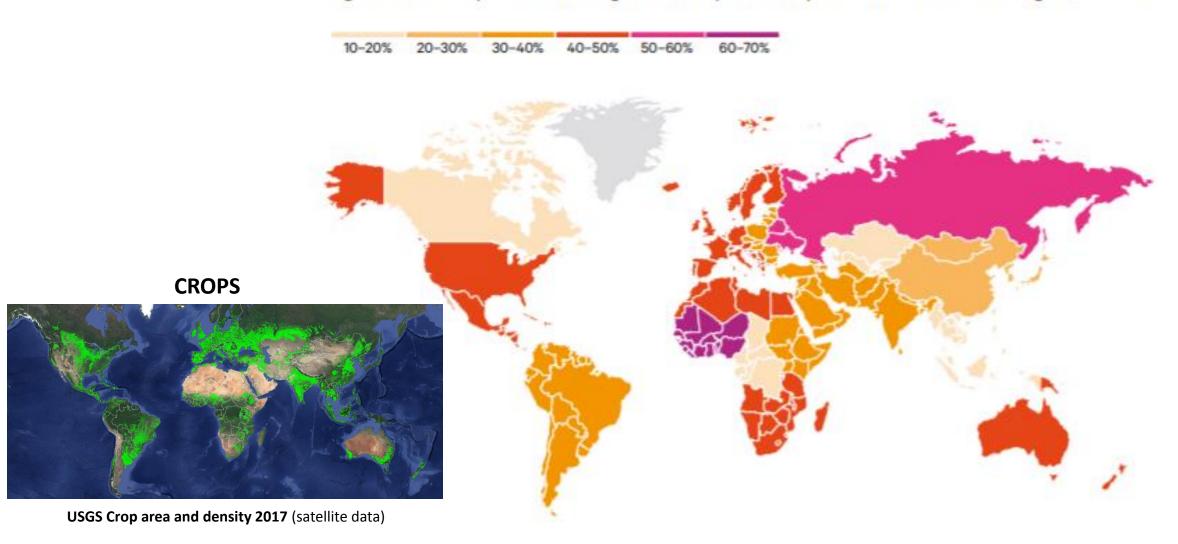
Figure 12. Proportion of continental cropland experiencing severe drought of three months or more 2.4°C



Source: Adapted from Arnell et al. (2019).

#### Proportion of regional cropland exposed to severe drought, in 2050

Figure 9b. Proportion of regional cropland exposed to severe drought, in 2050



Source: Adapted from Arnell et al. (2019).

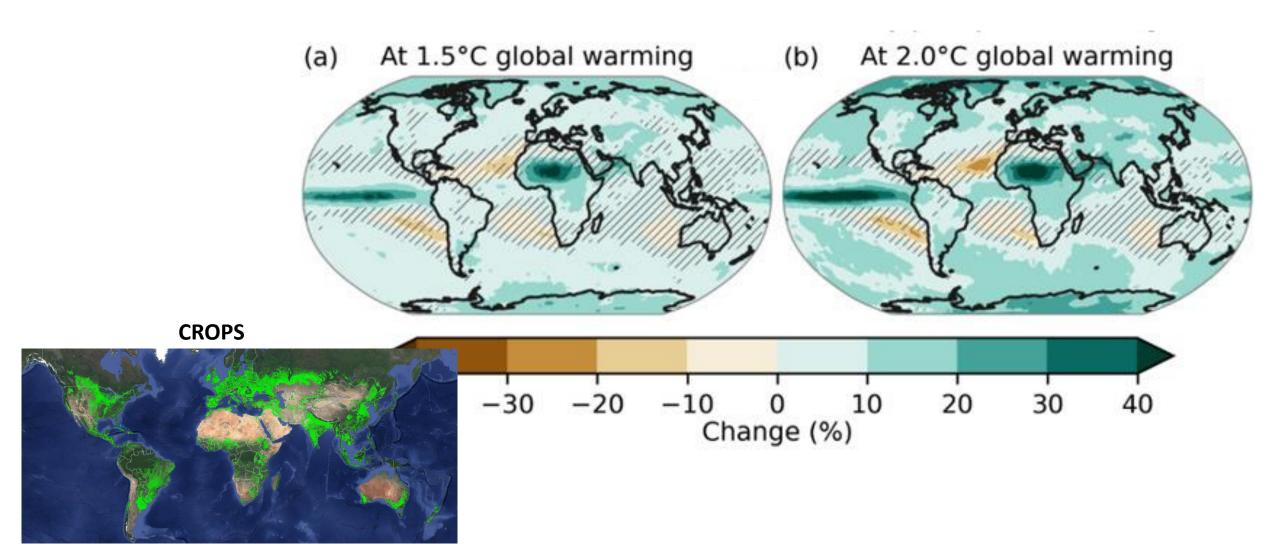
# Extreme Rainfall Floods

#### Annual maximum daily precipitation change (Rx1day) - median

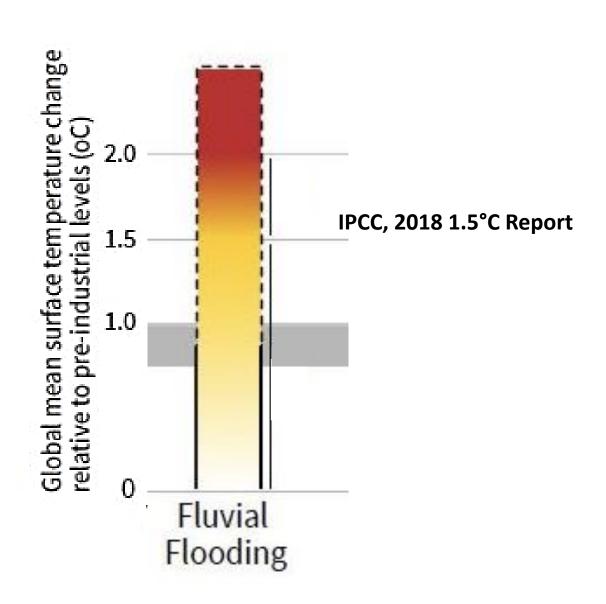
Almost all countries affected at 2°C

IPCC AR6 WG1

#### Damaging to crops and agricultural land



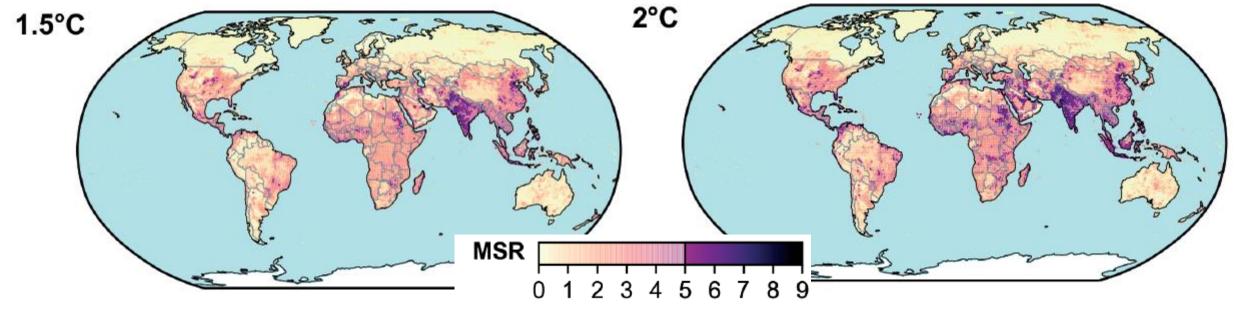
## **River Flooding**



## **Compound extreme events**

**Interacting and Cascading Risks** 

IPCC, 2018, 1.5°C Report



IPCC 2018, 1.5°C Report ,Figure 3.19 | Multi-sector risk maps for 1.5°C and 2°C

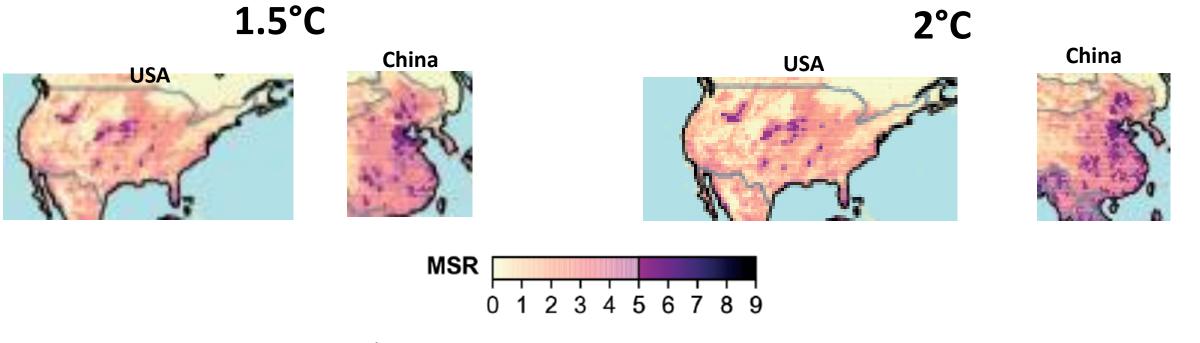


USGS Crop area and density 2017 (satellite data)

## **Compound extreme events**

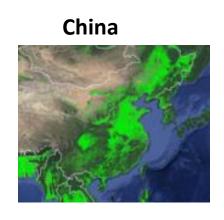
Interacting and Cascading Risks

IPCC, 2018, 1.5°C Report



IPCC 2018, 1.5°C Report ,Figure 3.19 | Multi-sector risk maps for 1.5°C and 2°C





USGS Crop area and density 2017 (satellite data)

#### **CONCLUSION**

The world today is in a state of world food insecurity emergency due to impacts at already committed degrees of climate change at 1.5°C to 2°C

The world's food producing regions are impacted substantially by multiple extreme weather events at 1.5°C increasing to 2°C

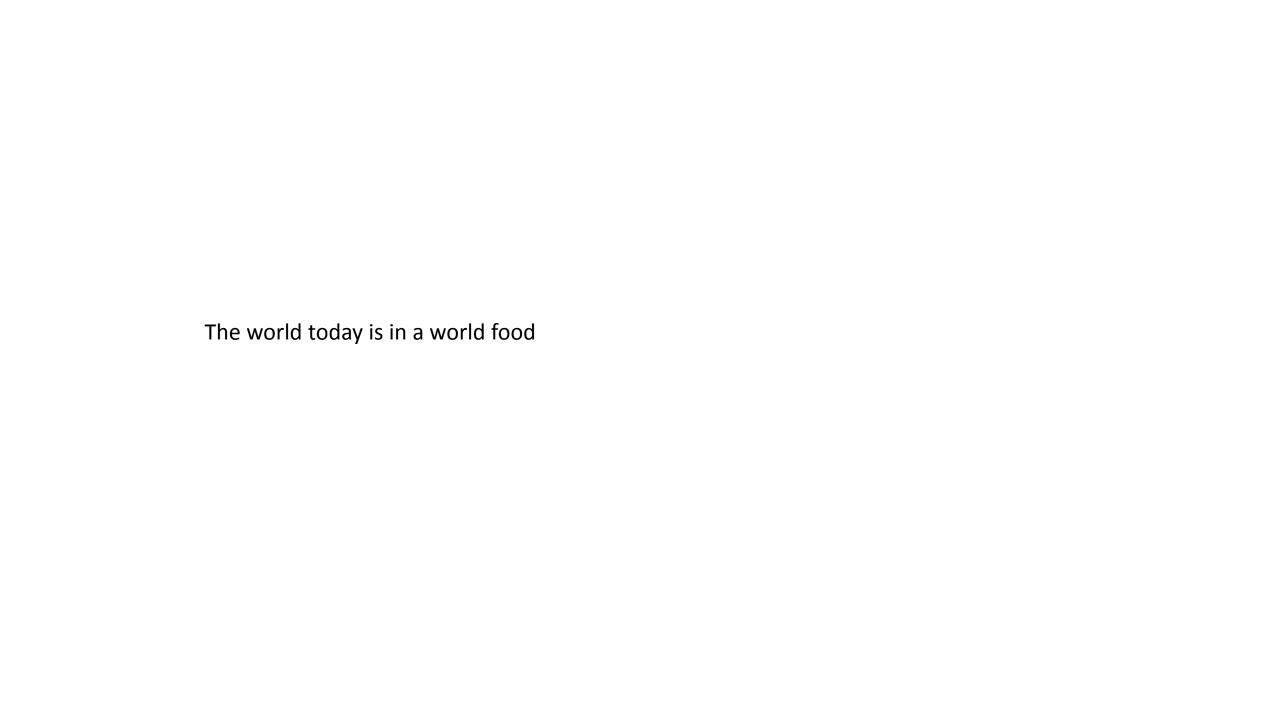
This includes compound extreme events

Increased surface ozone is an added adverse effect of high temperatures and heat waves, particularly the temperate northern hemisphere

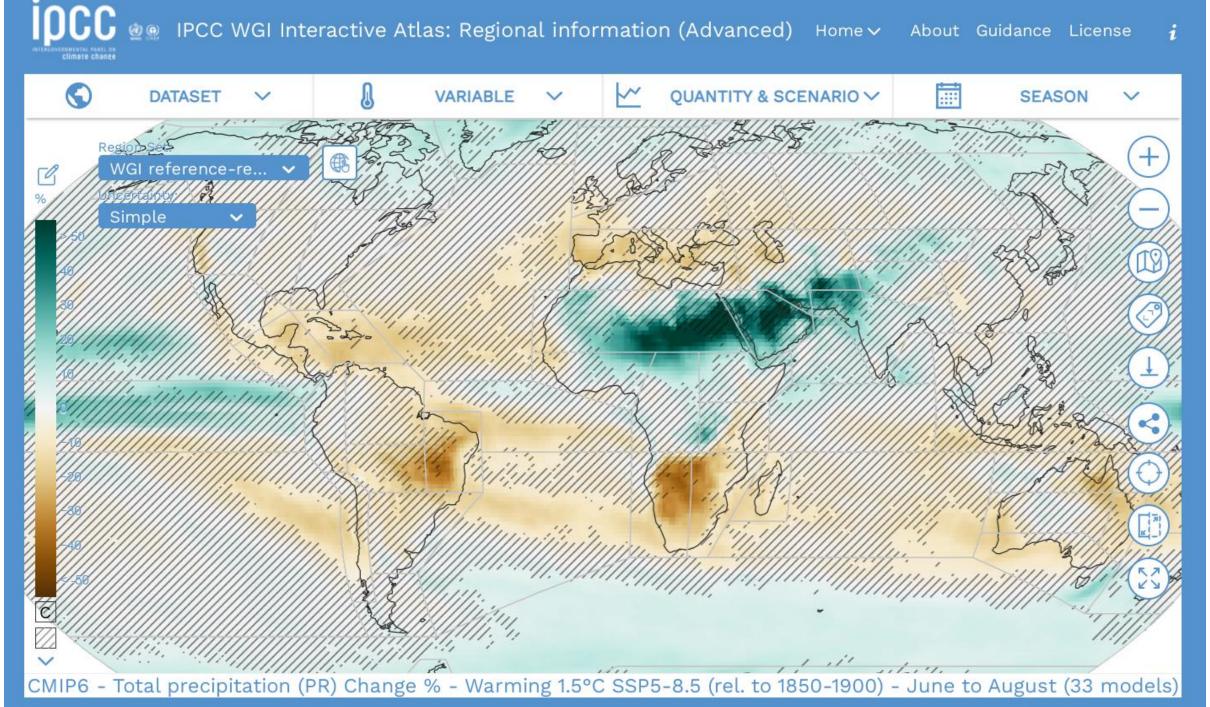
These impacts affect the industrialized northern hemisphere as well as the south This includes top world food producing countries, USA and China

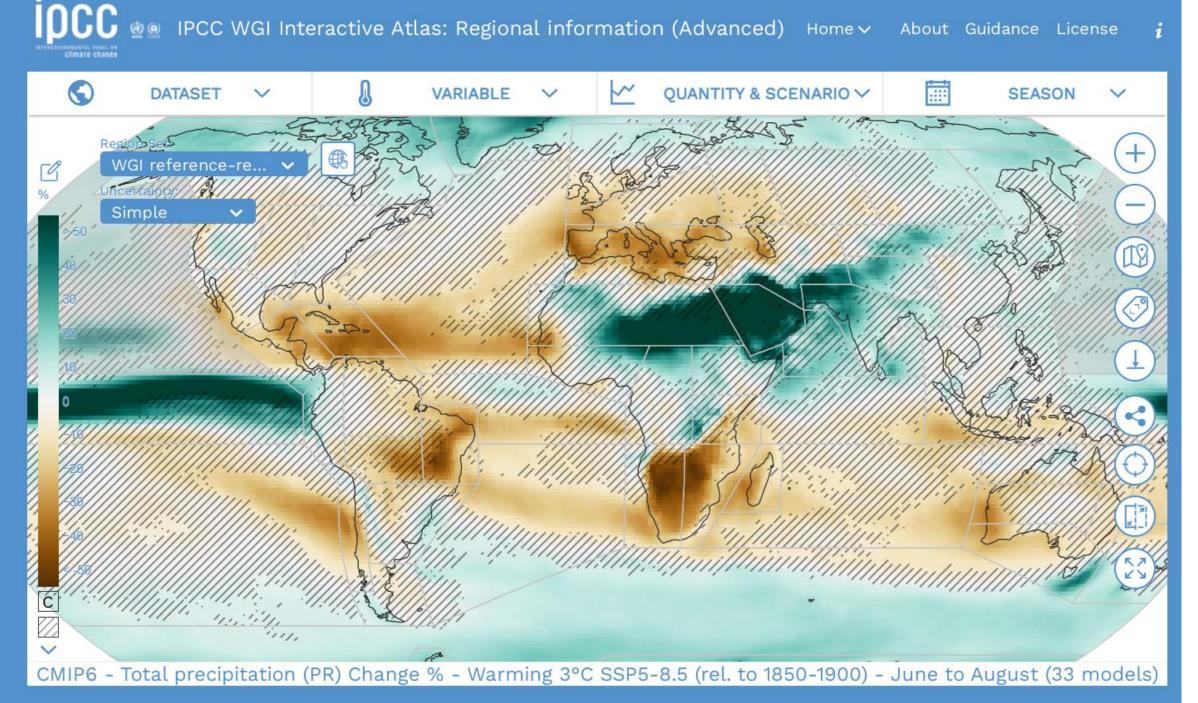
Africa is impacted by far the worst

These impact on top of world agriculture systems at breaking, and also on top increasing linear impacts of global climate change on food production



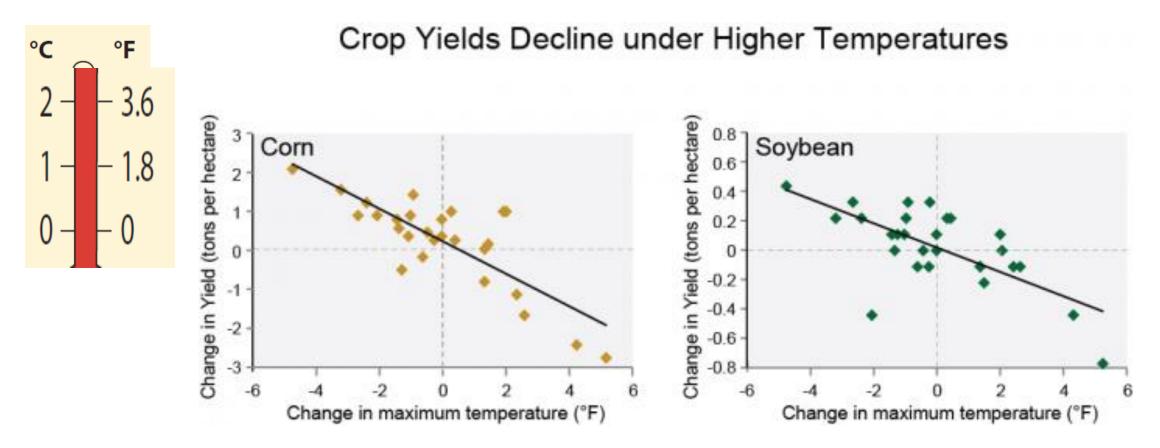
# The climate change background of increasing extreme events





## **USA** crop yields under higher temperatures

US global change research, 2019



Crop yields are very sensitive to temperature and rainfall. They are especially sensitive to high temperatures during the pollination and grain filling period. For example, corn (left) and soybean (right) harvests in Illinois and Indiana, two major producers, were lower in years with average maximum summer (June, July, and August) temperatures higher than the average from 1980 to 2007. Most years with below-average yields are both warmer and drier than normal., There is high correlation between warm and dry conditions during Midwest summers due to similar meteorological conditions and drought-caused changes

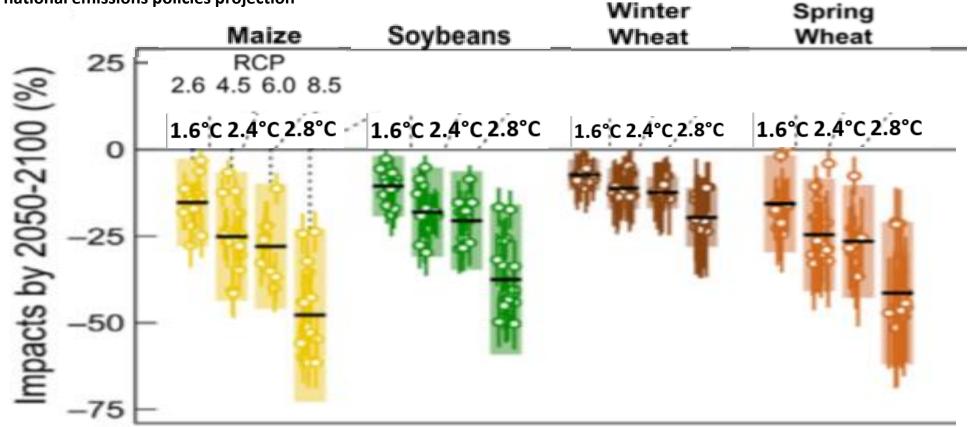
### Increasing US crop yield decline with increase of global warming above 1.5°C

Unpacking the climatic drivers of US agricultural yields, 2019

1.6°C: unavoidable,

2.4°C: requires immediate rapid emissions decline

2.8°C: national emissions policies projection



Unpacking the climatic drivers of US agricultural yields, A. Ortiz-Bobea, H, Wang, Carrillo and T. Ault, 29 April 2019

Figure 4.Climate change impact projections on United States crop yields. Each dot represents a particular GCM in CMIP5 for the end of the century (2050–2100). Vertical lines around each dot represents the 95% confidence. The horizontal solid black line and the colored bands correspond to the mean and ± two standard deviation of each ensemble, respectively. Climate change scenarios are increasingly severe from RCP 2.6–8.5 ). Traditional model with constant intra-seasonal effects of precipitation and temperature.

# Anthropogenic climate change has slowed global agricultural productivity growth

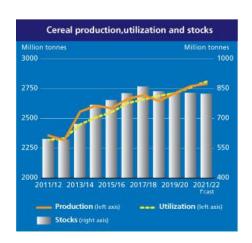
01 April 2021, Nature, Ariel Ortiz-Bobea, Toby R. Ault, Carlos M. Carrillo, Robert G. Chambers & David B. Lobell

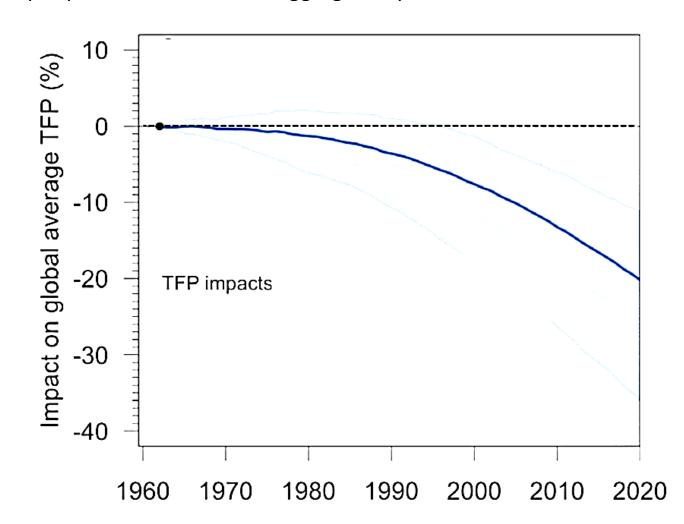
TFP measures aggregate total output per unit of measured aggregate input

"Anthropogenic climate change has reduced global agricultural TFP by about 21% since 1961, a slowdown that is equivalent to losing the last 9 years of productivity growth.

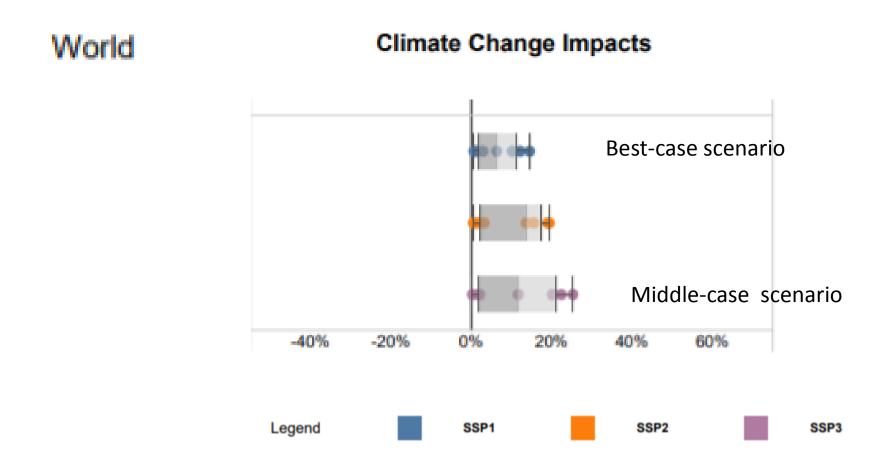
The effect is substantially more severe (a reduction of ~30-33%) in warmer regions such as Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

We also find that global agriculture has grown more vulnerable to ongoing climate change."





#### **IPCC 2019 Land Report, food Prices under climate change**



IPCC 2019 Land Report Figure 5.14 | Regional impacts of climate change on food price in 2050 under different socio-economic scenarios (SSP1, SSP2 and SSP3) based on AgMIP Global Economic Model analysis.