Evaluation of the risk in agriculture field due to climate variability

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Agriculture in Mexico, mainly rainfed agriculture, is vulnerable to extreme climatic conditions like droughts, floods and frosts. The use of climatic diagnoses and prognoses may become useful as a tool in the planning of agricultural activities, since knowing the climatic threat in advance allows to design and to implement actions that reduce vulnerability and consequently, the risk of low crop yields or even of total losses. In this study a methodology appears to consider the climatic risk of the maize under El Niño or La Niña conditions, in the region of Oaxaca, in southern Mexico. A methodology is proposed to construct a decision making scheme for agriculturists based on the seasonal climatic forecasts, considering the costs of adaptation and the value of the production.