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Washington, Sept 13 (PTI) Global warming could send world agriculture into serious decline within this century, and the hardest hit will be developing countries like India and most of Africa and Latin America, a new study suggests.

Developing countries, many with average temperatures that are already near or above crop tolerance levels, are predicted to suffer an average 10 to 25 per cent decline in agricultural productivity by the 2080s, said the study's author William Cline, a senior fellow at the Center for Global Development.

India could see a drop of 30 to 40 per cent in its agricultural production, while poorer nations like Sudan and Senegal are projected to suffer by as much as a 56 per cent and 52 per cent respectively.

On the other hand, rich countries in colder climes could experience an increase in productivity by up to eight per cent, according to the findings.

Overall, agricultural productivity for the entire world is projected to decline by between 3 and 16 per cent by 2080s as a consequence of global warming.

"Some analysts have suggested that a small amount of global warming could actually increase global agricultural productivity. My work shows that while productivity may increase in a minority of mostly northern countries, the global impact of climate change on agriculture will be negative by the second half of this century," Cline said. PTI