

Unpredictable climate hitting farmers hard!

Unpredictable weather frustrating farmers, impacting productivity

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TDT | Manama

As the climate changes, it sparks unpredictable weather patterns, which has caused a detrimental impact on the ways farmers grow and produce crops.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has already warned that the effects of climate change on agriculture will depend on the rate and severity of the change and the degree to which farmers can adapt.

In Bahrain, there are farmers who have already felt the change and are struggling to adapt, as it has impacted their productivity.

Andrea Pucciarelli, manager of Roots and Shoots Organic Farm, told *The Daily Tribune* that she sees many challenges in this regard.

"Unpredictable weather is causing severe challenges to farmers, who have to plan which crops to grow. Crops that should have been ready at a given point are now not growing well or dying." Roots and Shoots Organic farm has been supplying tomatoes, eggplants, cucumbers, squash, pumpkins, cabbage, broccoli, cauliflowers, salads, onions, etc. to the market here for the past four years.

However, climate changes, Pucciarelli points out, directly impacts which crops farmers should grow and when they would be ready.

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has warned that changes in temperature and rainfall are leading to longer growing seasons all over the globe.

Pucciarelli herself is a victim. She had planned to grow specific seasonal crops, which should have been ready by November when the climate starts



What We Can Do

We can reduce the impact of climate change on agriculture in many ways, says the United States Environment Protection agency, including the following:

- Incorporate climate-smart farming methods. Farmers can use climate forecasting tools, plant cover crops, and take other steps to help manage climate-related production threats.

- Boost crop resistance. Adopt research-proven ways to reduce the impacts of climate change on crops and livestock, such as reducing pesticide use and improving pollination.
- Prevent food waste. Shrink your carbon footprint by planning your shopping trips carefully and properly storing food. Donate nutritious, untouched food to food banks and those in need.

to cool. Instead, they are now going that in January, which is not normal.

Extremely-frustrating

"The changing weather has af-

ected all aspects of agriculture and is extremely-frustrating.

"We now should wipe away everything learned, as it is no longer feasible."

The farm, Pucciarelli said, follows a guardianship style which

allows planting various crops to test and determine which ones are successful.

"Luckily, we have the security of steady clients; however, I can understand the issues of other farmers who plant specific crops

to make a living. If the crops fail, they will lose a lot of money, and current circumstances have resulted in a lot of daily guesswork."

Unexpected weather, Pucciarelli adds, damages crops and income

"Unexpectedly, it rained in July last year when the sun was red hot. "The water on the leaves acted as a magnifying glass and burned many of our crops."

New challenges

She added: "Each season of farmers new challenges for farmers, but the unpredictability now presents unique problems to endure daily.

The threats posed by pests are one such challenge. Nevertheless, farmers are aware of which one arrives frequently. Unfortunately, they are experiencing a rise, unlike earlier.

Normally, winter is cold

Andrea said: "Normally, winter in Bahrain is cold enough that flies and pests would die or slow down, which can be detrimental as crops contain fewer pollinators, but it can also cause other issues.

"For instance, we have noticed many crops affected by aphids. The weather must be cold enough for the aphids to die; however, the low temperatures needed for this have just arrived."

Pucciarelli explained that farmers will now use more pesticides which will affect the quality of foods, and bugs will get more resistant.

"It is an ongoing cycle that farmers are trying to adapt. We are now hard-pressed to find new methods and live with a guessing game to remain successful with our crops and produce."

Unpredictable weather is causing severe challenges to farmers, who have to plan which crops to grow. Crops that should have been ready at a given point are now not growing well or dying

ANDREA PUCCIARELLI, MANAGER OF ROOTS AND SHOOTS ORGANIC FARM



Man tries to encash cheque 7 years after writing it; Court denies

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Most cheques are good for six months.

However, the case may not be the same with business, government, Treasury, cashier's, money orders, and traveller's cheques.

Whatever the situation, the general agreement is that one should cash or deposit it as soon as possible, which is best.

But, if you hold on to a cheque, there is a risk of the account number changing or the cheque writer may have forgotten and spent the money on something else. And this exactly formed the



crux of a protracted Court battle reported yesterday.

Details of the case emerged as the Court of appeal heard a litigant who decided to cash a cheque seven years after writing it.

Obviously, the cheque bounced for the linked account

had no cash, sparking a court battle.

The case went through four stages before reaching a conclusion yesterday, with the Court ruling the cheque as invalid.

The incidents leading to the bizarre scenario started seven years ago with the plaintiff's wife requesting her friend a BD7,000 loan, for she had lost her bag while travelling abroad and had no money.

The plaintiff's wife had asked the friend to write a cheque in her husband's name so that he could cash it.

However, the woman later in-

formed the friend that she no longer needed money.

However, when the friend asked her to return the cheque, the plaintiff's wife, at that time, claimed she had lost it.

The bond was so strong between them, the friend told the Court that she trusted her and made no further move.

But, the defendant told the Court that she suffered a heart attack when the friend's husband, seven years after the incident, tried to cash it and filed a criminal case.

The bank had denied cashing the cheque, citing the cheque

had passed its expiry.

However, the plaintiff went ahead and filed a civil suit demanding to cash the cheque.

The defendant's attorney pleaded before the Court that the incident, as claimed, was contrary to the facts and the case won't stand as per the law.

However, the Court of First Instance ruled in favour of the plaintiff and ordered to encash the cheque.

Pursuant to this, the defendant appealed the ruling before the cassation Court.

The Cassation Court accepted the appeal and returned the

case to another Court to make a decision.

The Court then referred the case for investigation, asking each party to prove their claims.

The defendant's friend testified as the amount was borrowed, while one of the witnesses of the plaintiff's wife claimed that the plaintiff and the defendant had a commercial relationship.

The Court, considering the fact that the cheque remained inactive for more than seven years and related reports, ruled having no legitimate reasons to cash it.