

# Climate Change Vulnerability *in Rural Communities*

## The Three Factors of Vulnerability

### Exposure

*The character, magnitude, and rate of climate change impacts to which the system is exposed*

### Adaptive Capacity

*A community's ability to adapt and adjust to climate change impacts*

### Sensitivity

*The degree to which a community may be negatively affected by climate change*

A community's vulnerability to climate change may be impacted by a variety of factors, such as their capacity for emergency response, the severity of weather changes predicted for their region, or their resilience and **ability to adapt**.

**Exposure** refers to external weather factors and could include a community's drought risk in a given season.

**Adaptive Capacity** is similar to resilience, and examples could include a community's ability to manage climate risks.

**Sensitivity** may refer to how dependent a community is on the stability of their system.

Depopulation of rural areas has shifted funding priorities from rural communities to urban centres. Lack of funding reduces a community's **adaptive capacity**.



**Limited funding for climate adaptive projects increases the risks of adverse impacts from flooding, drought, and general changes in weather patterns.**

Agricultural productivity is inherently dependent on weather and environmental resources, making rural farming communities vulnerable to climate change and shifting weather patterns.

The livelihoods of rural farmers and ranchers are vulnerable to extreme weather events such as floods, drought and storms.

Small family farms are at risk of being outcompeted by large corporations as the market favours efficiencies of scale.



As the average farm sizes increases and farms become corporatized, the 'social capital' and cooperative aspects of small, rural towns decline.