VARIATION IN RESPONSES OF INDIVIDUAL SPECIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN KUMAUN CENTRAL HIMALAYA

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ABSTRACT

The IPCC projects that the mean global temperature by 2100 may increase by 1.4-5.8°C. As per the third assessment report of IPCC, due to increase in the concentration of greenhouse gases over the last 100 years, the mean surface temperature has increased by 0.4°C to 0.8°C, globally. The preliminary studies on climate change in Himalayan region indicate that warming is more than the global average rate and the increase are larger at higher altitudes. Phenology is the study of the cycling of biological events throughout the year and climatic warming is expected to disturb phenological sequences. In recent decades phenological shifts in several plant species distributed across taxonomical groups in Himalayan region have been related to climate change.

Key words: Himalayan region, climate change, phenological changes