IIASA research explores problems too big for one country to solve alone, offering a holistic view of the interconnected challenges facing our planet. This systems perspective helps define new pathways for global transitions.

US and USSR leaders established IIASA during the Cold War as an initiative to build bridges between East and West. Today, the Institute continues its bridge-building between science and policy, and between countries and regions. Independent and nongovernmental, IIASA is funded by National Member Organizations in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, and Oceania.

In a world facing unprecedented global change, IIASA provides independent, neutral, interdisciplinary science advice.
Energy & Climate Change
Energy & Climate Change researchers focus on transformational pathways, ranging from the longer-term phasing out of fossil fuels to the introduction of sustainable energy solutions. Scientists study the interactions between energy production, greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, climate change, energy access and security, as well as the application and diffusion of new technologies.

Food & Water
As increasing global demands for food and freshwater pressure the world’s land and ocean resources, Food & Water research concentrates on solution-oriented approaches within four integrative research themes: food security, integrated watershed management, optimizing multiple uses of terrestrial ecosystem services, and safeguarding sustainable seafood and aquatic ecosystems.

Poverty & Equity
Researchers in the Poverty & Equity area investigate the drivers and dimensions of poverty and inequality and how they influence human wellbeing and the environment. They analyze differential vulnerability and resilience regarding both elaboration and implementation of development policies.

Systems Science
IIASA scientists work across numerous fields including climate change, agriculture, and population dynamics. They build and implement advanced tools to analyze the nexus areas where different Earth systems intersect and interact. This interdisciplinary work is providing new insights into the synergies arising from tackling several global challenges simultaneously. It also shows the trade-offs needed when systems problems are addressed from multiple interconnected perspectives.

Research Impacts
IIASA’s high quality academic research results in a wide range of positive impacts for policy and society, including: Innovative population projection methodologies support policies to build human capital and help aging societies adapt.
Air pollution research yields tangible benefits for human health in addition to economic and environmental benefits.
The IIASA-coordinated Global Energy Assessment underpins the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All initiative. Robust policy responses developed at IIASA increase resilience against climate change impacts at the global, national, and regional level.

Education and Training
IIASA researchers come from over 45 countries and include a multitude of disciplines, from mathematics to social science. The Institute conducts capacity building activities with new generations of scientists, both at IIASA and in member countries.

Young Scientists Summer Program (YSSP) Since 1977, the YSSP has welcomed PhD students from around the world to conduct research on topics related to the IIASA research agenda.
Southern African YSSP (SA-YSSP) Modeled on the success of the YSSP, a regional program was launched in 2012 in South Africa.
Postdoctoral Fellowships Postdoctoral scholars work with IIASA researchers to build knowledge of advanced systems analysis as applied to their fields.
Training Workshops Each year IIASA researchers coordinate numerous training workshops around the world.

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