



Thirst Waves

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[Global warming](#) is making the air **thirstier**, causing higher **evaporative demand** that dries out **land** and **plants**—a phenomenon called **thirst waves**.

Thirst Waves

- **About: Thirstwave**, a term coined by researchers **Meetpal Kukal** and **Mike Hobbins**, refers to a period of **three or more consecutive days** with extreme **atmospheric evaporative demand**—reflecting how "thirsty" the air is for moisture.
- **Causes: Thirst waves** are influenced by **temperature, humidity, solar radiation, and wind speed**, unlike [heatwaves](#), which are mainly driven by **temperature** and **wind**.
- **Measurement: It is measured through Short-crop evapotranspiration that measures water loss from a well-watered 12-cm grass surface.**
 - Rising evapotranspiration indicates higher temperatures, lower humidity, and increased wind speed and solar radiation.
- **Impact: Stronger thirst waves** lead to **faster soil moisture loss**, greater **irrigation requirements**, and a higher risk of **crop stress** and **yield reduction**.
- **Thirstwaves & India: Studies show that evaporative demand is increasing in parts of India, including Northern India and the Western/Eastern Himalayas, driven by agricultural expansion and vegetation growth.**
 - While in the past, higher humidity helped offset the impact of rising temperatures, future warming is expected to further raise evaporative demand.

Read More: [Heatwaves as a Notified Disaster](#)

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