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How do climate concerns and value orientation among bankers influence agricultural financing?

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How do climate concerns and value orientation among bankers influence agricultural financing?

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Abstract

Agricultural financing is crucial for economic development and sustainability. However, little is known about how bankers are concerned about climate change as decision makers for agricultural financing as well as their concerns are related to the possible future performances. This study investigates a research question "how do bankers' climate concerns and value orientation influence agricultural financing?" and the hypotheses "bankers' climate concerns discourage agricultural financing, whereas their value orientations for future generations encourage it." We conduct questionnaire surveys and collect data on concerns toward climate factors, prosocial attitude for future generations and sociodemographic information from 596 bankers at three areas in Bangladesh. The results reveal three main findings. First, bankers who have high climate concerns tend to be less optimistic about agricultural financing. Second, bankers who live in high climate-change areas tend to have more severe climate concerns and darker prospectives in agricultural financing than those in low climate-change areas. Third, bankers who have a high value orientation for future generations are likely to be positive over future agricultural financing. Overall, our findings suggest that agricultural financing shall be discouraged as climate change becomes severe, hitting low-land areas, such as Bangladesh, through the lens of bankers' perceptions, unless the bankers possess high concerns for future generations. To counter such negative possibilities in agricultural financing, a new agricultural financing scheme, such as "agricultural green banking," shall be necessary to implement.

Keywords: Climate concerns; value orientation; agricultural financing; bankers; Bangladesh

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Nomenclature

ADB Asian development bank
BB Bangladesh bank
BDT Taka, Bangladeshi currency
FAF Future agricultural financing
FAD Future agricultural development
FAO Food and agriculture organization
GDP Gross domestic product
IPCC Intergovernmental panel on climate change

1 **Introduction**

Agriculture and climate are crucial to human existence; however, the ongoing environmental 2 and climate change challenges pose significant threats to ensure global food security in the 21st 3 century (Durán-Sandoval et al., 2023). The effects of climate change are particularly evident in 4 the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, which have far-reaching conse-5 quences for both natural ecosystems and human life (Nicholls and Alexander, 2007, Gumel, 2022). 6 It is reported that the year 2023 has set new records for the highest temperature ever recorded on 7 a warming planet, with extreme floods, storms, droughts, wildfires and outbreaks of pests and dis-8 eases increasingly dominating global headlines (FAO, 2023). As a low-lying country, Bangladesh 9 is particularly vulnerable to rising temperatures, floods, droughts, salinity, cyclones and sea lev-10 els caused by climate change, creating severe risks for agricultural development and economic 11 stability (Alam et al., 2017, Asma and Kotani, 2021, Chen et al., 2022). In this regard, banking in-12 stitutions can play a significant role by supporting diverse eco-friendly strategies that promote both 13 agricultural and economic sustainability (Buranatrakul and Swierczek, 2018, Zheng et al., 2021a). 14 To ensure sustainability, it is crucial to understand employees' perceived cognitive efforts, their 15 consciousness of environmental & climate change issues and attitudes toward future generations 16 in banking operations (Hasan et al., 2022, Palmucci and Ferraris, 2023, Syropoulos and Markowitz, 17 2024). Therefore, this study examines how bankers are concerned about climate change and fu-18 ture generations as decision makers for agricultural financing, and how these concerns and value 19 orientation are related to the possible future performances. 20

Numerous studies document that current investments and commitments are vastly inadequate to meet the necessary requirements for sustaining agriculture under climate change, particularly in developing countries (Islam, 2011, Huang and Wang, 2014). According to climate change report (2013), the banking industry ranks lowest in climate change performance when compared to other industries (IPCC, 2013). Moreover, banks in Asia receive the lowest scores across all categories of climate change strategies and actions in comparison to other regions worldwide (Buranatrakul and Swierczek, 2018). A global assessment by World Bank reveals that insufficient investment in

agriculture has significantly contributed to the decline in agricultural productivity since the 1980s, 28 and this sector is expected to encounter even greater challenges in the future due to climate change 29 (World Bank, 2007). It is also evident that banks and other financial institutions are reluctant 30 to finance in the agricultural sector due to concerns about low returns and high investment risks 31 associated with climate change (Hossain, 2018). While some studies document that access to 32 agricultural credit plays a crucial role in enhancing farming production and reducing the adverse 33 effects of climate change (Chowdhury, 2009, Rahman, 2011, Abraham and Fonta, 2018). Aiello 34 (2009) report that insufficient financial investments restrict farmers' capacity to handle and recover 35 from adverse events, ranging from global events to natural disasters. Thus, it is crucial for banking 36 industry to develop effective strategies and make investments that address the impacts of climate 37 change and contribute to mitigating its effects. 38

Past studies reveal that employees' climate concerns, especially at the top management level, 39 are linked to organizational decision-making, actions and financial performances (Kuenzi and 40 Schminke, 2009, Norton et al., 2014, 2015, Tian et al., 2020, Hasebrook et al., 2022). For ex-41 ample, Buranatrakul and Swierczek (2018) find that directors and bank executives from North 42 America, Europe and Australia are more proactive in incorporating climate change initiatives into 43 decision-making and risk management due to their heightened concerns about climate change and 44 environmental awareness; however, strategic actions vary across regions. The prior literature 45 presents mixed results when analyzing the relationship between climate concerns and financial 46 performances. For instance, Kartadjumena and Rodgers (2019) document that sustainability con-47 cerns, such as environmental and climate issues, have significant effects on the financial health 48 and market performance of banking companies. Farjam et al. (2019) reveal that environmental 49 concerns promote green behaviors when the associated costs are low, but the impact diminishes 50 when encounter significant expenses in protecting the environment. On the other hand, Bătae et al. 51 (2021) assess the relationships of environmental, social and financial performance in the banking 52 sector, demonstrating a positive relationship between emission reduction and banking return on 53 assets and equity. Gangi et al. (2019) show that banks with greater engagement in environmental 54

⁵⁵ protection experience lower risk. Overall, the studies reveal inconsistent findings, highlighting the
 ⁵⁶ need for further research on the impacts of climate concerns on financial performances.

A group of studies suggests that people's value orientation towards future generations moti-57 vates proenvironmental actions, supports environmental policies and influences financial perfor-58 mances (Burhan and Rahmanti, 2012, Barnett et al., 2019, Lagoarde-Segot, 2019, Syropoulos and 59 Markowitz, 2023). For example, Syropoulos and Markowitz (2021) identify a correlation between 60 perceived responsibility towards future generations and decision-making as well as prosocial be-61 haviors within an intergenerational context. Watkins and Goodwin (2019) indicate that people 62 who perceive a moral duty towards future generations tend to be more aware of environmental 63 issues, exhibiting strong motivations and performances in proenvironmental behaviors. Syropou-64 los and Markowitz (2024) find that those who feel a strong sense of responsibility towards future 65 generations are more likely to take significant measures to address climate change and protect the 66 environment. Abrudan et al. (2021) state that the inclusion of future generations as stakeholders 67 enriches the way of thinking about sustainable financing. Therefore, the value orientation for future 68 generations is a powerful factor in understanding decision-making processes and actions aimed at 69 addressing various environmental and financial issues. 70

A growing body of research highlights the importance of people's concerns towards climate 71 factors and future generations in decision-making, proenvironmental behaviors and economic per-72 formances (Dienes, 2015, Masud et al., 2015, Yilmaz and Can, 2020, Duijndam and Beukering, 73 2021, Katz et al., 2022). However, there is still limited understanding of employee's climate and 74 future generations concerns for their decisions and potential future performances, particularly in 75 the financial sector. In this paper, we seek to address these issues by exploring the question of 76 "how do bankers' climate concerns and value orientation influence agricultural financing?" and 77 the hypotheses "bankers' climate concerns discourage agricultural financing, whereas their value 78 orientations for future generations encourage it." To this end, we conduct questionnaire surveys 79 and collect data on concerns toward climate factors, prosocial attitude for future generations and 80 sociodemographic information from 596 bankers at three areas in Bangladesh. The aim of this 81

study is to understand how bankers' climate concerns and value orientation influence agricultural
financing and to explore potential solutions for improving agricultural financing through the development of new loan designs and risk assessment strategies within banking policies.

Agriculture and banking system in Bangladesh

Agriculture plays a crucial role in the overall economic performance of Bangladesh, employing 86 a large share of the labor force, generating substantial foreign exchange earnings, supplying food 87 nationwide and making a significant contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) (Rahman, 88 2017, Husain and Hossain, 2022). To promote agricultural development and strengthen the national 89 economy, agricultural financing is indispensable, and the involvement of formal banking institu-90 tions plays a pivotal role in achieving these goals. (Yeasmin et al., 2024). The Bangladesh Bank 91 (BB), the central regulatory authority, supervises the banking system and regulates all scheduled 92 banks, such as nationalized commercial banks, privately owned commercial banks, foreign com-93 mercial banks and specialized banks that provide essential financial services to farmers (Kamal, 94 2006, Suzuki and Adhikary, 2010). According to agricultural credit policy, all these banks must 95 disburse at least 2 % of their total loans as agricultural credit, offering short-term loans for seasonal 96 farming, intermediate-term loans for equipment and infrastructure and long-term loans for larger 97 projects like land development and the establishment of agro-based industries (BB, 2014, 2023). In 98 line with country's development agenda, BB formulates the "agricultural and rural credit policy" 99 each year to ensure that funds are allocated and distributed effectively, efficiently and promptly to 100 agricultural and rural sectors, reaching farmers at the grassroots level to benefit them (BB, 2023). 101 The amount of agricultural credit is increasing every year, but it is not sufficient to meet the farm-102 ers' enormous demand (Azad et al., 2023). At the same time, the credit disbursement, oversight 103 and monitoring services from lender banks, such as nationalized and other commercial banks, are 104 still inadequate for advancing the agricultural sector in Bangladesh (Yeasmin et al., 2024). 105

106 2 Methods

¹⁰⁷ 2.1 Study area, sample and sampling strategy

A cross-sectional design was applied to collect necessary data from bankers with a predefined 108 questionnaire in three districts, namely Sylhet, Brahmanbaria and Pabana in Bangladesh, during 109 the period between April 2024 to May 2024 (see figure 1). Bangladesh has long been exposed to a 110 range of hazards, including climatological hazards such as droughts and sea-level rise, hydromete-111 orological hazards like floods and cyclones and geophysical hazards namely landslides and erosion, 112 for centuries (ADB, 2021). The districts of Sylhet and Brahmanbaria are situated in the eastern 113 part of Bangladesh, while Pabna is located in the northwestern part of Bangladesh and all three 114 districts are highly vulnerable to heavy rainfall and flooding during the monsoon and pre-monsoon 115 seasons. However, Brahmanbaria district is additionally vulnerable to climate change as indicated 116 by various indices, such as cyclone hazard and flash flood (ADB, 2021). While, Pabna district is 117 further vulnerable to both surface & ground water droughts and erosion risk (Rahaman et al., 2016). 118 Taking into account the different climatic conditions, we classify Sylhet district as a low climate-119 change area, while Brahmanbaria is considered a high hazard-prone area and Pabna is regarded 120 a high drought-prone area. The current study randomly identified 596 bankers, more specifically, 121 181 from low climate-change area, 166 from high hazard-prone area and 249 from high drought-122 prone area. To implement a random sampling procedure, we collect a lists of all banks with their 123 branches in each selected area. Then we randomly identified selected number of bankers, mainly 124 bank managers, by using the list and random number generator from each area. The second author 125 was the chief administrator of this survey and provided training to the research assistants about 126 data collection and conducting surveys. Trained research assistants contacted each bank and col-127 lected necessary information from bankers through a face-to-face interview. All bankers willingly 128 participated in this survey, providing data with written consent signed at the beginning. 129

130 2.2 Key variables

Table 1 provides an overview of the key dependent and independent variables along with their 131 definitions. A baseline questionnaire survey was conducted to gather information on bankers' fu-132 ture agricultural performances, their concerns about climate factors as well as prosocial attitude 133 for future generations and sociodemographic & bank characteristics. This paper uses bankers' 134 future agricultural performances, including future agricultural financing (FAF) and future agricul-135 tural development (FAD), as dependent variables. Each banker is asked to provide their perception 136 regarding future agricultural financing, stating "How do you perceive that agricultural financing 137 will be profitable from now to the next 30 years?" and the evaluations are made on a 5-point Likert 138 scale from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree." Likewise, to understand bankers' perceptions 139 related to future agricultural development, we pose the following question "How do you perceive 140 that agriculture in Bangladesh will develop from now to the next 30 years?" and the responses are 141 recorded on a 5-point Likert scale ranging from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree." Later, we 142 categorized bankers' responses into two groups for each question. If bankers do not disagree about 143 future agricultural performance, we assigned a value of 1, otherwise 0. 144

To assess banker's concerns for climate change, we collect data on temperature and sunlight, 145 precipitation, seasonality and topography factors by asking, "How much consideration do you allo-146 cate to each of climate factor when providing loan to the farmers?" and the responses are recorded 147 ranging from 0 (no concern) to 5 (high concern). To incorporate practical experiences of climate 148 change, we include three different climate-change areas: low climate-change, high hazard-prone 149 and high drought-prone areas. The prosocial attitude for future generations is measured by using 150 social generativity scale (see, e.g., Morselli and Passini, 2015, Barnett et al., 2021). This scale has 151 6 items, including the following statements: (1) "I carry out activities in order to ensure a better 152 world for future generations," (2) "I have a personal responsibility to improve the area in which 153 I live," (3) "I give up part of my daily comforts to foster the development of next generations," 154 (4) "I think that I am responsible for ensuring a state of well-being for future generations," (5) "I 155 commit myself to do things that will survive even after I die" and (6) "I help people to improve 156

themselves." The items are rated from "strongly disagree" to "strongly agree" on a 5-point Likert
scale. The score of prosocial attitude for future generations is calculated from the summation of the
scores for all 6 items. The information is collected on sociodemographic & bank related variables,
such as age, gender, educational background, bank type, bank collateral system and agricultural
loan.

162 2.3 Statistical analysis

A conceptual framework is developed for the relationships among climate concerns, climate-163 affected areas, prosocial attitude for future generations and future agricultural financing as well as 164 development by referring to cognitive, value-belief-norm and value-orientation theories (see fig-165 ure 2). Social cognitive theory suggests cognitive and environmental factors influence people's 166 decisions and behaviors (Bandura, 2001, Harris et al., 2021). The cognitive penetration theory 167 posits that cognitive states, such as beliefs, attitudes, desires, intensions and emotions can causally 168 influence how people take actions and perceive the environment in the most adequate manner 169 (Raftopoulos and Zeimbekis, 2015, Newen and Vetter, 2017, Cecchi, 2018, Battich and Deroy, 170 2022). The value-belief-norm theory postulates that human values, concerns, beliefs and personal 171 norms play a crucial role in shaping proenvironmental actions and behaviors (Stern et al., 1999, 172 Stren, 2000, Ghazali et al., 2019). In the literature, climate concerns and experiences regarded as 173 cognitive aspects that can influence perceptions and performances, providing insights into organi-174 zational issues, such as financing and development, in the context of climate change (Brügger et al., 175 2021, Van der Linden, 2015). The value-orientation theory suggests that people's decisions and 176 behaviors are guided by their values related to different time, relations, natures and motives (Kluck-177 hohn and Strodtbeck, 1961, Gajanayake et al., 2024). Prosocial attitudes toward future generations 178 reflects people's concern for both future and upcoming generations, influencing their planning for 179 what lies ahead. Based on above theories, the conceptual framework in figure 2 contextualizes the 180 predictions and associations for the purpose of clarifying the machanisms of agricultural financ-181 ing and development, hypothesizing that certain factors, such as climate concerns and prosocial 182

attitude for future generations matter for future financial performances.

Different non-parametric tests, such as chi-squared, Kruskal-Wallis are applied to compare 184 the differences in the key variables among various climate-change areas. This study applies logit 185 regression to quantitatively identify the effects of banker's climate concerns and value orientation 186 for future generations on future agricultural performances, specifically future agricultural financing 187 (FAF) and future agricultural development (FAD). Banker's each future agricultural performance is 188 expressed as a binary value 0 or 1. Let Y_i^K s are the dependent variables of FAF and FAD such that 189 $Y_i^K = 1$ if banker i does not disagree about future agricultural financing and future agricultural 190 development, respectively, and $Y_i^K = 0$ otherwise. The probability for banker i to positively 191 perceive future agricultural performances, denoted by $\operatorname{Prob}(Y_i^K = 1)$, is assume to follow the 192 distribution function F evaluated at $\mathbf{X}_i \boldsymbol{\beta}^K$, where \mathbf{X}_i is a $1 \times (m+1)$ vector of explanatory 193 variables for banker i ($\mathbf{X}_i = (1, x_{i1}, \dots, x_{im})$) and $\boldsymbol{\beta}^K$ is a $(m+1) \times 1$ vector of parameters 194 $(\boldsymbol{\beta}^{K} = (\beta_{0}^{K}, \beta_{1}^{K}, \dots, \beta_{m}^{K})')$. The distribution function of the logit regression model is as follows: 195

$$\operatorname{Prob}(Y_i^K = 1) = \frac{\exp(\mathbf{X}_i \boldsymbol{\beta}^K)}{1 + \exp(\mathbf{X}_i \boldsymbol{\beta}^K)}$$
(1)

A specification of Equation (1) enables us to compute β^{K} via maximum likelihood methods to 197 characterize Y_i^K (Wooldridge, 2010, 2019, Cameron and Trivedi, 2022). A series of logit regres-198 sion models are applied step by step to check the robustness of our results. First, the relationships 199 of climate concerns with future agricultural financing are examined. Second, the prosocial attitude 200 for future generations and climate-change affected areas are added. Finally, some sociodemo-201 graphic & bank characteristics are included in the model. The same procedure is applied for future 202 agricultural development. The main results of logit regression analyses are summarized in table 4. 203 Overall, we assess the effects of climate concerns and value orientation for future generations 204 on future agricultural performance by controlling for sociodemographic & bank characteristics 205 through logit regressions. 206

The conceptual framework in figure 2 illustrates the relationships of cognitive factors with future agricultural financing and development along with some sociodemographic & bank charac-

teristics in various climate-change areas. The relationships among variables in figure 2 represented 209 by solid arrows are examined in this study, while some other relationships, shown by dashed ar-210 rows, are documented or tested in other research (Dienes, 2015, Katz et al., 2022, Islam et al., 21 2024, Syropoulos and Markowitz, 2024). With this framework in mind, our main focus is on esti-212 mating the coefficients of β_1^K , β_2^K , β_3^K and β_4^K in figure 2. In this framework, a coefficient of each 213 independent variable is considered to represent the effect of that variable on future agricultural 214 financing and development, respectively, after the effect of all other variables have been netted out. 215 Recall our research question "how do bankers' climate concerns and value orientation influence 216 agricultural financing?" and the hypotheses "bankers' climate concerns discourage agricultural 217 financing, whereas their value orientations for future generations encourage it." In this regard, 218 the estimated coefficients of β_1^K and β_2^K are the key parameters enabling us to answer not only 219 the research questions but also the hypotheses, respectively. Thus, cognitive factors are expected 220 to significantly influence future agricultural financing and development, even after controlling for 221 sociodemographic & bank characteristics, irrespective of various climate-change areas. 222

223 **3 Results**

Table 2 summarizes the basic statistics of the major independent variables for various climate-224 change areas and overall bankers in the sample. Bankers residing in high climate-change areas 225 (hazard-prone and drought-prone) are more concerned about temperature and sunlight, precipi-226 tation, seasonality and topography than those living in low climate-change areas. The medians 227 of overall bankers' concerns for temperature and sunlight, precipitation, seasonality and topogra-228 phy are 3, 4, 4 and 4, respectively, indicating a high level of concern for climate change. The 229 average values of banker's prosocial attitude for future generations in low climate-change, high 230 hazard-prone and high drought-prone areas are 25.14, 25.16 and 25.73 points, respectively, and 23 these values significantly differ among climate-change areas. The overall average age of bankers 232 is 38 years and the mean age varies according to various climate-change areas. The percentages 233

of male bankers in low climate-change, high hazard-prone and high drought-prone areas are 86%, 234 96 % and 95 %, respectively. The educational background of bankers does not vary among climate-235 change areas, and they are mainly from business related education. Most of the bankers are from 236 private banking institutions, with percentages of 72 %, 68 % and 64 % in low climate-change, high 237 hazard-prone and high drought-prone areas, respectively. The banks follow fixed-asset collateral 238 system and the percentages of this system varies according to climate-change areas. The amount of 239 agricutural loan in high drought-prone area (hazard-prone area) is almost eight times (two times) 240 higher than in low climate-change area. In summary, bankers living in high climate-change areas 241 have higher climate concerns than bankers in low climate-change area and all other factors, such as 242 prosocial attitude for future generations and most of the sociodemographic & bank characteristics 243 vary among climate-change areas. 244

Table 3 presents the descriptive statistics, such as mean, median, standard deviation, mini-245 mum and maximum, of the major dependent variables for various climate-change areas and overall 246 bankers in the sample. Major differences are observed in the mean of future agricultural financ-247 ing and development across various climate-change areas: low climate-change, high hazard-prone 248 and high drought-prone. The percentages of bankers who do not disagree with future agricultural 249 financing (future agricultural development) are 85 %, 24 % and 39 % (89 %, 22 % and 40 %) in 250 low climate-change, high hazard-prone and high drought-prone areas, respectively. It can be inter-251 preted that bankers in low climate-change area have a more positive outlook on future agricultural 252 financing and development as compared to those in high hazard-prone and high drought-prone 253 areas. Moreover, in figure 3, bankers who have high concerns about temperature and sunlight, pre-254 cipitation, seasonality and topography tend to disagree with the perceptions of future agricultural 255 financing and development whereas those with low climate concerns tend to agree with these fu-256 ture agricultural performances across all climate-change areas. In most cases, the level of concern 257 for each of temperature and sunlight, precipitation, seasonality and topography is higher in high 258 climate-change areas (hazard-prone and drought-prone) than in low climate-change area, regard-259 less of agreement or disagreement on future agricultural financing and development (see figure 3). 260

Overall, bankers living in high climate-change areas and having high concerns for climate factors
 tend to be less optimistic about future agricultural performances.

Logit models in table 4 present the regression results for future agricultural finaning (FAF) and 263 future agricultural development (FAD), respectively. We apply different regression model speci-264 fications to check the robustness in our analyses and we confirm that the main results in table 4 265 remain the same in all models. Models 1-1 and 1-3 (2-1 and 2-3) report the estimated coefficients 266 of the independent variables for FAF (FAD) in the logit models. Models 1-2 and 1-4 (2-2 and 267 2-4) indicate the estimated marginal effects of each independent variable based on the estimated 268 coefficients in each model, representing a change in the likelihood of bankers' non-disagreement 269 with future agricultural financing and development, respectively, when the independent variable 270 increases by one unit, holding other factor fixed at sample mean. Model 1-4 (2-4) is the full 271 model that includes all independent variables for FAF (FAD). We mainly focus on reporting the 272 marginal effects of climate concerns, climate-change areas and prosocial attitude for future gen-273 erations because they are identified to remain significant at 1 % to 10 % significance level in all 274 models. However, the estimations also reveal other significant independent variables, for example 275 bank collateral system, that has significant effect on future agricultural financing and development. 276 The results can be interpreted that banks with fixed-asset collateral are 43 % and 28 % less likely 277 to positively perceive future agricultural financing and development than those which has no col-278 lateral system, respectively. One plausible explanation for this could be that the banks introduce 279 the collateral system where the loan default rate cases are high. 280

The likelihoods of bankers' non-disagreement with future agricultural financing and development decrease by 5% and 9% with a one-point increase in the concern for temperature and sunlight, respectively. Regarding precipitation, a one-point increase in concern leads to a decrease in the probabilities of bankers' non-disagreement with future agricultural financing and development by 6% and 8%, respectively. Similarly, a one-point increase in concern for topography decreases the likelihoods of bankers' non-disagreement with future agricultural financing and development by 12% and 18%, respectively. These results suggest that bankers with a high concern for cli-

mate factors tend to be less optimistic about future agricultural financing and development. The 288 bankers who live in high hazard-prone and drought-prone areas are 64 % and 49 % less likely to 289 positively perceive future agricultural financing than those who live in low climate-change area. 290 The probabilities of bankers' non-disagreement with future agricultural development decrease by 29 73 % and 54 % for those in high hazard-prone and drought-prone areas compared to those in low 292 climate-change area. This means that bankers who live in high climate-change areas tend to have 293 a darker outlook on agricultural performances than those who live in low climate-change areas. In 294 terms of value orientation, the probabilities of bankers' non-disagreement with future agricultural 295 financing and development increase by 3 % and 3 % with a one-point increase in value orientation 296 for future generations, respectively. This indicates that bankers with a high value orientation for 297 future generations are more likely to have a positive outlook on future agricultural performances. 298

Overall, the summary statistics, tests and diagrams indicate that bankers residing in areas vul-299 nerable to climate change and who express heightened concern for climate factors tend to be less 300 optimistic about future agricultural performances. The future agricultural financing and develop-301 ment are characterized by cognitive, climate-chnage areas, prosocial attitude for future generations 302 and sociodemographic & bank characteristics described in the conceptual framework in figure 2, 303 providing insights to our research question "how do bankers' climate concerns and value orienta-304 tion influence agricultural financing?" and the hypotheses "bankers' climate concerns discourage 305 agricultural financing, whereas their value orientations for future generations encourage it." The 306 regression results show that bankers who have high climate concerns tend to be less optimistic 307 about agricultural financing and development as well as who live in high climate-change areas 308 tend to have more severe climate concerns and darker prospectives in agricultural financing and 309 development than those in low climate-change areas. Moreover, bankers who have a high value 310 orientation for future generations are likely to be positive over future agricultural financing and de-311 velopment. The results suggest that strengthening bankers' value orientation for future generations 312 is essential for reducing negative possibilities in agricultural performances in the financial sector. 313

314 **4 Discussion**

Environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution and the misuse of 315 natural resources have long-term impacts that necessitate enduring strategies and actions grounded 316 in conscious thinking and planning (Cadilha and Vaz, 2023). The effects of concerns for cli-317 mate change and future generations in influencing future financial performances can be explained 318 through prospect and stakeholder theories. Prospect theory states that decisions under uncertainty 319 are driven by the desire to either secure gains or avoid losses (Barberis, 2013, Kahneman and Tver-320 sky, 2013, Osberghaus, 2017, Gonzalez-Ramirez et al., 2018). From the theoretical perspective, 321 managers make decisions based on how a problem is framed, which may deviate from economic 322 rationality and instead rely on cognitive processes, leading to potential biases (Godefroid et al., 323 2023, Palmucci and Ferraris, 2023). In practice, cognitive biases are consistently present in man-324 agers' strategic decision-making because they often make decisions in complex situations (Mazutis 325 and Eckardt, 2017, Keh et al., 2002, McFadden, 2022, Enke et al., 2023). Our research finds that 326 high climate concerns and living in high climate-change areas lead to be less optimistic outlook on 327 agricultural financing. We argue that managers make decisions under the condition of uncertainty, 328 where they place greater emphasis on potential losses than on gains. On the other hand, prosocial 329 attitude for future generations motivates managers to take sustainable strategies for improving fi-330 nancial performances in the banking sector. According to stakeholder theory, a responsible bank 331 satisfies societal expectations and promotes environmental values, including sustainability (Spren-332 gel and Busch, 2011, Dixon-Fowler et al., 2013, Bătae et al., 2021, Grosbois and Fennell, 2022). 333 Normative stakeholder theory asserts that managers bear a moral obligation to acknowledge the 334 interests of particular corporate constituent groups (Zakhem and Palmer, 2017, Valentinov and 335 Hajdu, 2021). Thus, it is crucial to uphold the sense of responsibilities towards future and future 336 generations throught different approaches. 337

Several future-studies approaches such as visioning, backcasting, scenario planning and future design, have been widely used across different fields, demonstrating how individuals' and organizations' prospective thinking and experiences related to future and future generations influence

their strategies and decision-making (Bell, 2009, Van der Helm, 2009, Phdungsilp, 2011, Amer 34 et al., 2013, Szpunar et al., 2014, González-Ricoy and Gosseries, 2016, Bibri and Krogstie, 2019, 342 Ziegler and Oliveira, 2022). Studies suggest that some future-studies approaches, such as scenario 343 planning, foresighting, backcasting and future design, can improve the identification of future chal-344 lenges and promote sustainable decision-making through forward-thinking strategies, cultivating 345 a strong orientation toward future generations and environmental sustainability (Vecchiato, 2012, 346 Cook et al., 2014, Tuominen et al., 2014, Wodak and Neale, 2015, Soria-Lara and Banister, 2018, 347 Lacroix et al., 2019, Timilsina et al., 2020, Pandit et al., 2021, Shahen et al., 2021). Our research 348 indicates that a high value orientation for future generations enhances future agricultural perfor-349 mances. Many financial organizations aim to achieve environmental and economic sustainability 350 by adopting various initiatives, such as green financing, to promote long-term sustainability. Green 351 financing encompasses all forms of investments that take environmental effects into account and 352 promote sustainability (Volz et al., 2015, Haque and Murtaz, 2018, Khairunnessa et al., 2021, 353 Zheng et al., 2021b). Thus, incorporating future-studies approaches into well-structured green fi-354 nancing schemes, specifically agricultural green banking, will enhance the orientation for future 355 generations, encouraging managers to adopt a visionary mindset for sustainable finance by identi-356 fying and addressing future challenges. 357

358 5 Conclusion

This study examines how bankers are concerned about climate change as decision makers for agricultural financing as well as their concerns that are related to the possible future performances. This research investigates a research question "how do bankers' climate concerns and value orientation influence agricultural financing?" and the hypotheses "bankers' climate concerns discourage agricultural financing, whereas their value orientations for future generations encourage it." To this end, we implement questionnaire surveys for collecting data on concerns for climate factors, prosocial attitude for future generations and sociodemographic & bank related information from

596 bankers at three areas in Bangladesh. The analyses reveal that bankers who have climate con-366 cerns tend to be less optimistic about agricultural financing. Moreover, bankers who live in high 367 climate-change areas tend to have more severe climate concerns and darker prospectives in agri-368 cultural financing than those in low climate-change areas. The findings also show that bankers who 369 have a high value orientation for future generations are likely to be positive over future agricul-370 tural financing. Overall, it is suggested that agricultural financing shall be discouraged as climate 371 change becomes severe, particularly affecting low-laying areas, such as Bangladesh, through the 372 lens of bankers' perceptions, unless the bankers possess high concerns for future generations. To 373 address these challenges in agricultural financing, a new agricultural financing scheme, such as 374 "agricultural green banking," shall be necessary to implement. 375

We note several limitations of this study and provide directions for future research opportu-376 nities. First, this research mainly focuses on bankers' climate concerns for future agricultural 377 financing, however, the perceptions of other stakeholders that might have significant impacts, are 378 not addressed in this study. Second, we do not account for the borrowers' perspectives, specifi-379 cally how farmers' concerns about climate factors influence their ability to secure and repay loans. 380 Third, our study examines bankers' concerns for climate factors and value orientation for agri-38 cultural financing from a short-term perspective, using cross-sectional data. Fourth, we consider 382 concerns for climate factors and prosocial attitude for future generations as cognitive factors in-383 fluencing future financial performances, however, other cognitive and non-cognitive factors, such 384 as knowledge level of various environmental aspects and prosociality may also impact agricultural 385 financing. Future studies should incorporate detailed data on both stakeholders' and borrowers' 386 perceptions towards climate factors using a panel data structure. Additionally, it is important to 387 consider key cognitive and non-cognitive factors to fully capture the dynamics of future agricul-388 tural financing. Despite these limitations, we believe this research provides a clear evidence that 389 bankers' concerns for climate factors are crucial for future agricultural financing as well as the 390 value orientation for future generations plays an important role in financial performances. It is 391 our belief that this research is the first attempt to clarify bankers' concerns for climate change and 392

³⁹³ future generations and assess how these concerns impact on future agricultural financing.

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Figure 1: The location of study areas (districts) in Bangladesh: (a) Sylhet (low-climate change area), (b) Brahmanbaria (high hazard-prone area) and (c) Pabna (high drought-prone area). The map also shows the location of sus-districts in the selected districts.



Figure 2: A conceptual framework describing the relationships of cognitive factors, climate-change areas, sociodemographic & bank characteristics, noncognitive factor with banker's future agricultural financing and development, where β_1^K , β_2^K , β_4^K are vectors of coefficients and β_3^K is a coefficient of corresponding factors; and $K = \{FAF, FAD\}$.



(a) Concerns for climate factors in different climate affected areas by future agricultural financing



(b) Concerns for climate factors in different climate affected areas by future agricultural development

Figure 3: Bar diagrams of bankers' climatic concerns in various climate attected areas by future agricultural performances

Table 1: Definition of the variables

Variables	Description
Dependent variables Future agricultural financing (FAF)	If bankers do not disagree about the future profitability of agricultural financing, then the value is 1, otherwise 0.
Future agricultural development (FAD)	If bankers do not disagree about the future development of agriculture, then the value is 1, otherwise 0.
Independent variables Cognitive factors	
Concerns for climate factors	
Temperature and sunlight	This is a value for measuring the concern towards temperature and sunlight,
Precipitation	This is a value for measuring the concern towards precipitation,
Seasonality	ranging from 0 to 5, with a higher value indicating greater concern. This is a value for measuring the concern towards seasonality,
Topography	ranging from 0 to 5, with a higher value indicating greater concern. This is a value for measuring the concern towards topography,
Decrecial attitude for future concertions	ranging from 0 to 5, with a higher value indicating greater concern.
riosocial autume for future generations	taus is a score on o questions tanging from o to o of the measuring prosocial attitude for future generations.
Climate-change areas (Base group $=$ Low climate-change area)	
High hazard-prone area	This variable takes a value of 1 when bankers live in
	a high hazard-prone area, otherwise 0.
High drought-prone area	This variable takes a value of 1 when bankers live in a high drought-prone area, otherwise 0.
Sociodemographic & bank characteristics	- -
Age	Age is defined as years of banker's age.
Gender	Gender is a dummy variable that takes value 1
	when the bankers is male, otherwise 0.
Educational background	It is a dummy variable taking a value of 1 if bankers are from business related education otherwise 0
Ronk trine	Rout type remeasants a dummy yorishle taking a value of 1
Datus type	when bankers are from private banks, otherwise 0.
Bank fixed-asset collateral	It is a dummy variable taking a value of 1 if the banks have a fixed-asset
Agricultural Ioan	collateral system to provide loan, otherwise 0. Total amount of current year loan in BDT ¹
¹ BDT stands for Bangladeshi currency in taka.	

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		Climate-change areas		Overall	p-value
	Low climate-change	High hazard-prone	High drought-prone		
Cognitive factors					
Concern for climate factors					
Temperature and sunlight					
Average (Median) ¹	2.65(3.00)	3.39(4.00)	3.13(3.00)	3.06(3.00)	
SD ²	1.50	1.16	1.40	1.40	0.01^{3}
Precipitation					
Average (Median)	3.65(4.00)	3.80(4.00)	4.23(4.00)	3.93(4.00)	
SD	1.21	1.15	0.80	1.07	0.01^{3}
Seasonality					
Average (Median)	3.46(4.00)	3.92(4.00)	4.21(4.00)	3.90(4.00)	
SD	1.55	0.86	0.77	1.13	0.01^{3}
Topography					
Average (Median)	3.79(4.00)	3.96(4.00)	4.09(4.00)	3.96(4.00)	
SD	1.15	1.51	1.35	1.34	0.01^{3}
Prosocial attitude for future gen	erations				
Average (Median)	25.14 (25.00)	25.16 (25.00)	24.73 (25.00)	24.97 (25.00)	
SD	2.73	1.62	1.70	2.05	0.01^{3}
Sociodemographic & bank charae	cteristics				
Age					
Average (Median)	39.14(39.00)	37.17 (37.00)	38.87 (39.00)	38.48 (39.00)	
SD	7.25	6.05	6.02	6.47	0.02^{3}
Gender (Base group $=$ Female)					
Average (Median)	0.86(1.00)	0.96(1.00)	0.95(1.00)	0.93(1.00)	
SD	0.35	0.19	0.22	0.26	0.01^{4}
Educational background (Base g	group = Others)				
Average (Median)	0.46(0.00)	0.49(0.00)	0.44(0.00)	0.46(0.00)	
SD	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.60^{4}
Bank type (Base group $=$ Other	(S)				
Average (Median)	0.72(1.00)	0.68(1.00)	0.64(1.00)	0.68(1.00)	
SD	0.45	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.21^{4}
Bank fixed-asset collateral (Bas	e group $=$ No collateral)				
Average (Median)	0.73(1.00)	0.84~(1.00)	0.80(1.00)	0.79(1.00)	
SD	0.45	0.36	0.40	0.41	0.03^{4}
Agricultural loan					
Average (Median)	5259093 (200000)	10800000 (2800000)	44100000 (5603289)	2300000 (350000)	
SD	8237631	3230000	14400000	96400000	0.01^{3}
Sample size	181	166	249	596	
¹ Median in parentheses.					

² SD stands for standard deviation. ³ Kruskal-Wallis test is applied to check a distributional differences of the variables by climate-change areas. ⁴ Chi-squared test is applied to examine whether or not the frequencies of the variables are independent among climate-change areas.

		Climate-change areas		Overall
	Low climate-change area	High hazard-prone area	High drought-prone area	
Future agricultural financing (FAF)				
Average	0.85	0.24	0.39	0.48
Median	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SD	0.36	0.43	0.49	0.50
Min	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Max	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Future agricultural development (FAD)				
Average	0.89	0.22	0.40	0.49
Median	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
SD^1	0.31	0.42	0.49	0.50
Min	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Max	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Sample size	181	166	249	596
¹ SD stands for standard deviation.				

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Table 4: Regression coefficients and marginal effects of the independent variables for future agricultural financing (FAF) and future agricultural development (FAD) in the logit regressions

	Fut	ure agricultura	l financing (F⁄	ιF)	Futur	e agricultural c	levelopment (F	AD)
	Coefficient	ME^{a}	Coefficient	ME	Coefficient	ME	Coefficient	ME
	Model 1-1	Model 1-2	Model 1-3	Model 1-4	Model 2-1	Model 2-2	Model 2-3	Model 2-4
Cognitive factors								
Concern for climate factors								
Temperature and sunlight	-0.19^{**}	-0.05^{**}	-0.20^{**}	-0.05^{**}	-0.37^{***}	-0.09^{***}	-0.37^{***}	-0.09^{***}
Precipitation	-0.31^{**}	-0.08**	-0.23*	-0.06*	-0.40^{***}	-0.10^{***}	-0.34^{***}	-0.08^{***}
Seasonality	-0.14	-0.03	-0.16	-0.04	0.01	0.002	0.0003	0.0001
Topography	-0.68^{***}	-0.17^{***}	-0.47^{***}	-0.12^{***}	-0.87^{***}	-0.21^{***}	-0.73^{***}	-0.18^{***}
Prosocial attitude for future generations	0.17^{***}	0.04^{***}	0.14^{**}	0.03^{**}	0.14^{**}	0.03^{**}	0.11^{*}	0.03*
Climate-change areas (r^{b} = Low climate-change i	area)							
High hazard-prone area	-3.18^{***}	-0.63^{***}	-3.29^{***}	-0.64^{***}	-3.96^{***}	-0.73^{***}	-3.93^{***}	-0.73^{***}
High drought-prone area	-1.92^{***}	-0.45^{***}	-2.16^{***}	-0.49^{***}	-2.35^{***}	-0.53^{***}	-2.41^{***}	-0.54^{***}
Sociodemographic & bank characteristics								
Age			-0.01	-0.003			-0.02	-0.004
Gender ($r = Male$)			0.27	0.07			-0.18	-0.04
Educational background ($r = Others$)			0.18	0.04			0.07	0.02
Bank type ($r = Others$)			0.22	0.05			0.29	0.07
Bank fixed-asset collateral ($r = No$ collateral)			-2.09^{***}	-0.43^{***}			-1.28^{***}	-0.28^{***}
Agricultural loan ^c			0.04	0.01			0.03	0.01
***significant at the 1 percent level, **at the 5	percent level ar	nd *at the 10 pe	ercent level.	14				-
" ME stands for a marginal effect to indicate a	change in the III	kelihood of ba	nkers non-ais	agreement with	perceptions of n	uture agricultui	al mancing o	aevelopmen

when the independent variable increases by one unit, holding other factor fixed at sample mean. ^b r stands for base group. ^c The logit regressions are computed with the natural logarithm of agricultural loan.

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