

Climate War Game Individual Reflection

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For our first climate war game, I joined the agricultural sector in arguing in favor of small, collective farming, and all of the subsequent priority issues that went along with that, including road and irrigation infrastructure, investment in the development of climate resistant crops, among others. Prior to participating in this simulation, I only had a general idea of the agricultural sector in India; I was mainly basing my prior knowledge on information I had gathered over the years through studying environmental science in the United States, and on common knowledge about agriculture in general.

However, although I lacked specific knowledge about the intricate functioning of this sector, I did recognize the important and vital role that the agriculture industry played in the overall Indian economy. Not only was the economy reliant on the large revenue generated by crop exports, but also there was a significant portion of the population that was dependent on agriculture for subsistence and income.

To begin my further research, I looked up which crops were the most crucial to not only the retail and export parts of agriculture, but also to the subsistence and adequate nutrition of the large population. By establishing these first few facts, it was easier to narrow my focus in on what was particularly crucial to the part of the population that was reliant on agriculture and made it easier to begin establishing what our priorities would be in the war game.

My specific role within the agricultural team was to study US and India collaborations as they relate to agriculture and climate change. What I discovered was

that these collaborations were primarily centered on research that would help improve crop resiliency and predictive capabilities for monsoons. This research is helping to set the framework for a second agricultural revolution, called the “evergreen” revolution, which will increase agricultural productivity in the same way the previous Green Revolution was able to do, but in ways which are environmentally safe, economically viable, and socially sustainable. I was glad that I was able to explore in depth this particular aspect of Indian agriculture because it is so relevant to the future of global sustainability. With such a fast growing population, India is in desperate need of a more efficient agricultural sector in order to meet the food and nutrition needs of not only its own people, but also global populations as well.

The war game itself was one of the most interesting experiences I’ve had during a Northeastern course. It was an intersection of all of the different fields of study that I am interested in: business, sustainability, renewable energy, and international affairs. Working in such a collaborative way with the other sectors truly made me think deeply about the different conflicts that arise when I, or others, try to make all of these different interests combine in a cohesive way without compromises. I had to think about which issues were more important in certain circumstances, and to what extent I was willing to compromise with other sectors without losing sight of the ultimate goal. I feel like I gained and improved upon a variety of skills that will be beneficial to me in other courses, co-ops, and ultimately a career. These skills include public speaking (I was the first speaker and therefore did the primary presentation), negotiation and diplomacy with people who disagree with you on a basic level, problem solving on a large scale with real consequences, and knowing how to prioritize issues when each one has real implications

to a wide population. For these reasons, and with the added bonus of being in India during this whole process, I feel that this war game was one of the most valuable experiences that any student on this trip could have had, regardless of major and personal interests.