

National Workshop: Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Areas of India

Workshop Summary

A two-day workshop co-hosted by Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change/ MoEFCC and Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit/ GIZ GmbH brought together more than 120 participants from National Government, State governments, bi- and multilateral donors, Research Institutes, Academia, Think Tanks, Development Banks and representatives of Non - Governmental Organisations.

The project "Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Areas of India" has developed over five years policy instruments at State level, prepared tools for making informed institutional decisions in light of climate change, and tested climate-resilient land use systems.

Participants deliberated on a broad range of topics. The discussions can be summarised as follows:

1. ON CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN GENERAL

- As more data on climate change becomes available, uncertainties in decision making will decrease. Making this information available is a key task for future work on adaptation.
- Adaptation is currently the only way to harness important development successes against climate change.
- Climate change adaptation requires a climate lens: it is not about doing different things, but doing things differently.

2. ON STATE ACTION PLANS OF CLIMATE CHANGE:

- The preparation of -28 SAPCCs with 19 plans endorsed marks an important first step to create India's architecture to tackle climate change.
- GIZ contribution to this process consisted of providing support to 16 States and two Union Territories, with 11 SAPCCs endorsed by MoEFCC to date.
- Governance of overall process at State level is important: dedicated staff with a minimum of resources is required for State CC cells to deliver on the plan's strategies and plans.
- Quickly moving from formulation to implementation is important to maintain impetus.
- Prioritizing actions in priority sectors is needed, as is calculation of Incremental Costs
- Tapping into existing and opening new resources at international, national, state and local level will increase means for implementation.

3. ON: TOOLS FOR INFORMED DECISION MAKING IN TIMES OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND ADAPTATION TO IT

- Vulnerability assessment is an important tool to assess the vulnerability of ecosystems and people to climate related risks. The guiding book “A Framework For Climate change Vulnerability Assessments” with practical examples has been launched in this workshop.
- Climate Proofing is a tool to mainstream climate change concerns into policies and programmes, thus ensuring stronger and sustainable results despite climate variability.

4. ON: DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

- Testing innovative approaches for increasing the climate resilience of communities and ecosystems is important.
- First successes for up-scaling were shared. Open questions on how to systematically upscale these pilots that are happening all over India should be addressed.

5. ON: CAPACITY BUILDING, INFORMATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

- A capacity building strategy developed with State Governments and key stakeholders involved in SAPCC implementation ensures addressing the regional needs and sustainability of capacity building measures.
- For long term impacts, it is important to anchor training programmes in State Training Academies and other premier training institutes.

6. ON: FUTURE TOPICS OF RELEVANCE IN CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

- The limits of adaptation – how to deal with Loss and Damage?
- How to strengthen dialogue on Climate Change Adaptation in India?
- Implementation of SAPCCs in selected states
- Preparedness for access to international and national Climate Change Finance
- Integration of different policy instruments such as NAPCC – SAPCC – NAP- NAMA

New Delhi, 15th October, 2014

