

Centre of Excellence for Capacity Development on Climate Finance

The challenge

Our climate is changing faster than at any point in history, primarily as a result of several human activities. Climate financing becomes essential, especially in terms of reducing the adverse impact of climate change. However, the challenge here remains of the scarce funding opportunities remain due to complexity in the subject matter.

Therefore, we urgently need to go beyond traditional approaches to find new solutions. Investments are required both for physical infrastructure and to strengthen the capacities of individuals and institutions to access existing funds and mobilise additional domestic and international resources. In this context, GIZ India and NABARD have jointly developed a focused approach on capacity development for Climate Finance.

The objective

GIZ India and NABARD are creating a state-of-the-art Centre of Excellence for Capacity Development on Climate Finance as part of NABARD's Centre for Climate Change (CCC), housed at the Bankers Institute of Rural Development, Lucknow. The Centre of Excellence develops the capacity of government staff, trainers, bankers, and other stakeholders, so that they can access and mobilise financial resources to address issues related to climate change.

Our approach

The project develops high-quality training modules and tools. This approach will enable the trainers to prepare a customised practical training for different target groups. Faculty members of the Bankers Institute are

being trained on effective training delivery methods to help participants develop key competencies on Climate Finance.

In addition, the project is also setting up a modern and flexible classroom and laboratory to provide a congenial learning environment for participants, and to promote user-centred learning. This space will focus on problem-centric and active learning experiences. The décor will evoke the five elements in traditional Indian mythology – earth, water, fire, air and sky – drawing an emotional connection to climate change. The learning laboratory is designed for innovative, self-paced, experiential and experimental learning. It will sensitise participants to the prevalent issues of climate change and encourage them to reflect on it. The goal is not limited to providing participants with the technical skills, as it goes beyond influencing their attitudes and actions in the long term.

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A knowledge portal on Climate Finance will allow trainees and interested stakeholders to further learn and exchange information on this subject.

After the trainings, the Centre for Climate Change will support trainees through handholding, coaching, and mentoring for project concept note development and appraisal of climate change-related projects for climate financing.



Achievements

In this context, three training modules have been developed so far. The first module focuses on the concept of climate finance and how to design projects that tap into this kind of funding. The second covers climate financing-related opportunities and risks for bankers. The third includes environmental and social impact assessment and gender mainstreaming – issues that must be covered in any climate change-related project. These training modules will help the participants formulate their project ideas into a concrete project proposals that can be submitted for funding from external sources.

The modules can be tailored to specific target groups, such as senior government officials, bankers, and mid-level professionals. In 2018–19, the CCC conducted 12 trainings with 266 participants. One included a study

tour to Germany where participants could exchange ideas with colleagues there. Case studies documenting climate change-related projects will be developed to help participants understand how the theory works in practice. Similarly, a network is also being developed to exchange ideas and training approaches on Climate Finance.

The Centre for Climate Change has supported various government and non-government organisations to develop and submit proposals for funding. One of this is the Public Works Department of Tamil Nadu, which submitted a proposal for a USD115 million project on climate-resilient management for the Noyyal River Ecosystem. Uttarakhand and UNICEF in Uttar Pradesh have expressed interest in utilising the Centre's expertise in developing similar concept notes.



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