



Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Areas of India – CCA RAI

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Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



Ministry of Environment & Forests
Government of India



CONTEXT

India's natural resources are already under tremendous pressure as a result of various human activities and population growth. The most vulnerable group in Indian society is the rural poor as they often depend on natural resources for their livelihoods, for instance from agriculture, fisheries and forestry.

Human-induced climate change poses an additional challenge, increasing the vulnerability of rural communities. According to India's Initial National Communication (NATCOM) the impacts of climate change currently projected for India include:

- a rise of two to four degrees Celsius in surface air temperature by 2050;
- significant impacts on rain-fed and short-season crops, resulting in yield losses; and
- an increased frequency of extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods and cyclones.

These impacts will vary strongly in their extent and form throughout the country. Interventions adjusted to local conditions are therefore required to cope with specific risks in different states and regions.

To prepare for the impacts of climate change, the Indian Prime Minister launched the country's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008. With an advanced institutional landscape providing a strong knowledge base and expertise relevant to climate change, India is well prepared to deal with the multi-faceted nature of climate change. The challenge now, however, is to bring varying levels of knowledge from different regions and sectors together, which calls for a cross-sectoral, integrated approach. Scientific knowledge on projected regional climate change impacts needs to be combined with best practices from various sectors and linked to proven coping strategies, local experiences and innovative approaches for climate change adaptation. That's what the project Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Areas of India does.

Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Areas of India – CCA RAI

The Indo-German development project CCA RAI aims to strengthen rural communities to live with climate variability and change. The project partners are:

- the Indian Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF)
- the four Indian states of Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal
- the German development organisation Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)

CCA RAI is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. It is guided by India's National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and focuses on different fields of work, pursuing a cross-sectoral, integrated approach.

The four Indian states that were chosen for the implementation of CCA RAI represent India's different agro-climatic zones.

Find out more here: <http://www.ccarai.org>

FIELDS OF WORK

State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs)

The development of SAPCCs supports India's architecture at state level for integrating climate change concerns into policies, plans and programmes, which will contribute to building adaptive capacities at local level.

The MoEF has requested all Indian states to develop an SAPCC. GIZ and other organisations, such as the United Nations Development Programme, the United Kingdom Department for International Development and the World Bank, are providing technical assistance to interested federal states for



the development of their SAPCCs. These plans are not only important for the implementation of the NAPCC at state level, but also for the inclusion of particular regional and local characteristics as well as specific concerns of vulnerable sectors and communities within each state.

Vulnerability and risk assessments

A structured approach to climate change vulnerability and risk assessments provides a scientific basis for decision-making to reduce the adverse impacts of climate change.

CCA RAI is developing a structured approach to climate change vulnerability and risk assessments, and it supports the governments of its partner states in conducting such assessments at state level. These assessments use expert contributions from all relevant stakeholders and thus provide a solid basis for decision-making at policy level. Furthermore, they help to bridge the existing gap between global climate change scenarios and local risk analyses. This structured, yet simple approach to vulnerability and risk assessment can also be used by other federal states.

Adaptation measures

Carrying out adaptation measures helps increase the resilience of communities to deal with climate change. Evaluating and communicating the results of these measures enriches overall adaptation knowledge, which leads to replication at a larger scale.

MoEF and GIZ are supporting the governments of the four federal partner states, as well as local communities and other relevant stakeholders in identifying, developing and carrying out adaptation measures in pilot regions. All projects follow a certain method of systematisation: they reflect, analyse and document the projects' processes and results. If the measures are found appropriate for adaptation they can be fine-tuned and implemented in other regions with similar agro-climatic conditions. In addition, lessons learnt are made available to the national and international adaptation community.

Climate proofing public programmes

Climate proofing public programmes in India ensures that their objectives are achieved despite changing climate conditions. It also helps to identify new opportunities and further increase resilience at local level.

Policy planners need to gauge the sustainability of public sector programmes in the face of climate change. The climate proofing tool developed by GIZ is used to analyse whether the objectives of government projects are threatened by climate change and how the planned measures can be adapted accordingly. The tool assesses how selected public schemes are already contributing to adaptation and how they could further increase resilience. The project is the first of its kind to carry out climate proofing of public investments. The experience gained will be made available to interested ministries, agencies and Indian states.

Financial instruments for adaptation

Financial instruments provide security and help to safeguard livelihoods in times of adverse conditions exacerbated through climate change.

Rural communities often have limited awareness of and access to financial products that could help to reduce the impacts climate change has on their livelihoods. CCA RAI assesses existing financial instruments such as insurance schemes that might be suitable for promoting adaptation to climate change in rural areas. CCA RAI also establishes close links with actors from both the public and private sectors to ensure climate risks are taken into consideration in the design of financial products.



Information and knowledge management

Exchange of information and knowledge related to adaptation increases awareness and enhances adaptive capacities at different levels.

The dissemination of existing information on and experiences in climate change adaptation is key for preparing for the future impacts of climate change. For this reason, one focus of CCA RAI lies in capturing and communicating relevant approaches, technologies and lessons learnt, for example through workshops at various levels, policy briefs, publications and the project website (www.ccarai.org). Furthermore, the project supports state governments in finding better solutions on how to manage their information on climate change.

Human capacity development

Building the capacity of local multipliers spreads awareness and knowledge on adaptation. The training of government officials at multiple levels enhances their capacities to integrate climate change adaptation into planning processes.

Decision-makers, development planners and practitioners in India are confronted with the question of how to deal proactively with the effects of climate change. Integrating climate change adaptation into planning and identifying appropriate measures is not an easy task. For this purpose, CCA RAI conducts training courses on 'Integrating climate change adaptation into development planning' at multiple levels in its partner states. These training courses are based on an OECD policy guidance and are aimed at building capacities among development practitioners to implement climate change adaptation measures.

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