

Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP)

Conference on

Climate Change Adaptation:

Priorities for Research, Policy and Practices in North East India

Date : 25-26, February, 2014
Venue : Conference Hall, NEDFi Centre, Dispur, Guwahati-781 006, Assam
Organizers : ICIMOD and Aaranyak

The context:

The Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) region is highly dynamic, geo-ecologically and socioeconomically, with numerous natural and anthropogenic drivers of change at play, including climate change. The increased frequency and magnitude of extreme weather events, triggered by climate change and other drivers of change, are incurring high economic and social costs. The Himalayan region and the downstream areas that depend on its water supply and ecosystem services, including the Indo-Gangetic and the Brahmaputra plain – ‘the grain basket of South Asia’ – are particularly vulnerable to these changes.

Several studies, including some by ICIMOD, have shown that North East India is particularly vulnerable to the climatic and other changes. The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) also acknowledges this and accordingly a number of government programmes and other projects have initiated climate change focused research and actions. In this context and with the aim of significantly boosting engagements in climate change adaptation discourse and policy processes in the Brahmaputra Basin in North East (NE) India, the Conference will bring together selected experts, researchers, policy makers and practitioners dealing with climate change policies and livelihoods.

Objectives of this Conference are to:

1. Explore to institutionalize a platform for sharing of know-how on climate related policy, research and practice in the NE India;

2. Create opportunities for networking and engaging with policy makers to support informed decision making ;
3. Share information and knowledge about climate change adaptation in NE India

Background

ICIMOD's Regional Programme on Adaptation to Change aims to support the adaptation of vulnerable households, communities, and ecosystems and enhance their resilience to change. There are three different initiatives under this regional programme, namely 1) Himalayan Climate Change Adaptation Programme (HICAP), 2) Rural Livelihoods and Climate Change Adaptations in the Himalayas (HIMALICA) and 3) AdaptHimal. HICAP is a collaborative effort among three organizations – ICIMOD, Center for International Climate and Environmental Research (CICERO), Norway, and GRID-Arendal, Norway and supported by MFA–Norway and Sida

HICAP is being implemented in five different river sub-basins of the HKH region - the Upper Indus (Pakistan), Koshi (Nepal), Upper Brahmaputra (Tibet Autonomous Region), the Eastern Brahmaputra (India) and Upper Salween & Mekong (Yunnan, China). HICAP generates knowledge of climate change impacts on natural resources, ecosystem services, disaster resilience, migration and livelihoods contributing to promulgation of appropriate practice and policy for enhancing community resilience. Some of the on-going work includes downscaling of climate and hydrological scenarios, research on ecosystem services, food security, disaster resilience, migration and gender.

ICIMOD in collaboration with Aaranyak, one of the HICAP partners in India, is carrying out field research in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in the Eastern Brahmaputra River Basin (EBRB), India on issues related to ecosystem based adaptation, enhancing community resilience to water induced hazards, and migration. A Vulnerability and Adaptive Capacity Assessment (VACA) has also been conducted in seven districts in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Expected Outcome

- The Conference will facilitate interaction and networking among state level policy makers, practitioners and researchers in order to promote institutionalization of for sharing of know-how on climate change adaptation in North East India;
- The Conference will lead to a publication of the proceedings covering experiences and lessons learnt on climate change adaptation in North East India the results of which will further feed in to relevant initiatives in regional and global discourse on climate change adaptation

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