2019 Country Exchange Chile

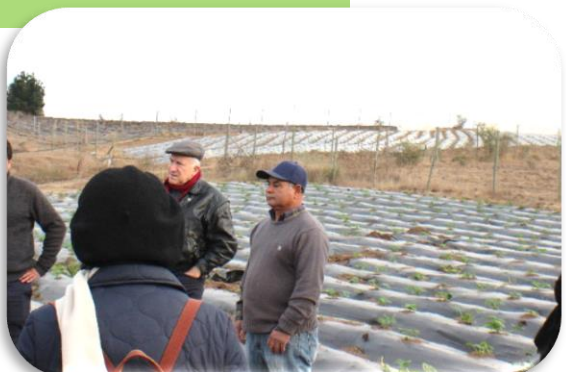
Eleven National Implementing Entities enhance project design capacity through interaction with Chile project stakeholders

We have to re-educate ourselves about the effects of climate change, be more environmentally aware"

Jorge Carrasco – Technical Project Coordinator of Institute of Agricultural Research

Adaptation Fund projects enhance local capacity building through country exchanges

The Adaptation Fund (the Fund) facilitated the first country exchange to be implemented under its medium-term strategy (MTS) from May 6 to 10, 2019, in the Libertador General Bernardo O'Higgins region of central Chile. The exchange was planned around the theme Water and Agriculture, and was hosted by the Fund's accredited NIE, The *Agencia de Cooperación Internacional de Chile* (AGCID). Agency officials, partners, and beneficiaries offered participating NIEs of the Fund a first-hand experience with AGCID's adaptation project, which helps strengthen farmers' ability to adapt and build resilience to climate variation, water scarcity, and adverse weather.



Farmer and regional technical coordinator share information on strawberry field in Litueche, O'Higgins

Chile project Implementing agency: Agencia de Cooperación Internacional de Chile (AGCID)
Sector: Agriculture
Grant amount: US$ 9.96 million
Duration: 4 years

Water and Agriculture

During the exchange, AGCID shared valuable lessons learned and findings from its project, which ranged from project identification to implementation, along with the framework for project evaluation. Representing 11 countries, the NIE participants spent two days at the project sites and three days at interactive workshops in the capital Santiago.

"What I found interesting is that small-scale farmers from the O'Higgins Region use earnings from their income to re-invest in climate smart farming mechanisms."

Mpfunzeni Tshindane - Project Coordinator South African National Biodiversity Institute

Lessons learned from AGCID's experience ranged from utilizing local forecasting mechanisms to aid farmers plant and tend crops more effectively to the importance of inter-institutional cooperation. NIE representatives expressed eagerness to apply techniques and lessons learned by AGCID to their projects immediately following the exchange.

Key lessons learned and takeaways from the country exchange based on feedback provided by the participating NIEs is presented in the summary below. It should be noted that these are centered on the water management and agriculture sectors based on AGCID project experiences.

NIEs celebrate a week of productive exchanges with project leaders at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Santiago, Chile

Key Lessons Learned

1. Since women within the O'Higgins Region participate at a much higher rate in project working groups than men, it is good practice to target the female-headed household for future project initiatives.
2. Projects succeed more when aligned to national policies and strategies.
3. Incentives for youth can have positive benefits for sustaining project activities.
4. Partnerships and knowledge transfer are important for stimulating innovation in adaptation.
5. National elections should be worked into the project timeline to avoid project delays.
6. Financial monitoring is key to project success and should be inclusive and follow a bottom-up approach.
7. Implementing entities should be transparent to increase trust and stakeholder confidence.
8. Accessing international climate finance through Direct Access can promote in-country coordination of state and non-state actors and reduce "red tape".
9. Monthly, local forecast bulletins help to disseminate knowledge to the O'Higgins farmers and equally create a bank of knowledge for future project expansion.
10. Projects should capitalize on existing procurement systems and include in the project proposal, a plan for the management of project machinery and equipment post project completion.
11. Partnerships are an important way of promoting project sustainability.
12. Communication with project stakeholders should capitalize on existing communication platforms and is more effective when a bottom-up approach is used.
13. Person-to-person interaction supported by demonstration sites should be at the center of stakeholder communication.
14. Evidence-based farming should be considered as best practice for adaptation in agriculture.

Key NIE takeaways and proposed actions

1. **Department of Environment (DoE): Antigua and Barbuda -** Inter-linked projects bring a larger impact to beneficiaries, similar to what AGCID advocates through their inter-ministerial and local agro-climate committees.
2. **Environmental Project Implementation Unit: Armenia -** Water collecting techniques demonstrated by AGCID will be used by EPIU specialists and employed in communities that lack irrigation but have above average precipitation.
3. **Adapta2+ Program: Costa Rica -** Program will continue to address social and environmental impacts due to climate change and ensure that these efforts are reflected at the national level.
4. **Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral, Inc.: Dominican Republic -** Institute will look into using AGCID-like participatory tables integrated by professionals, technicians, and communities where activities are planned.
5. **Planning Institute of Jamaica: Jamaica -** The Institute will apply lessons learned most applicable to component two of its project namely, improving water catchment and soil conservation initiatives.
6. **Mexican Institute of Water Technology: Mexico -** The Institute's vast experience stands to offer guidance to AGCID regarding an expanded system of agro-climatic forecasting systems, drought modeling, and monitoring and forecasting tools.
7. **Micronesia Conservation Trust: Micronesia -** Project development team will use farmer collective bulletin approach under their GCF Food Security project.
8. **Fundación Natura: Panama -** The Foundation will emulate the technical agromet table methodology used by farmers, similar to what is being initiated by the Panama technicians.
9. **Conseil Suivi Ecologique: Senegal -** The Conseil will gain the engagement of local beneficiaries by providing more localized agriculture data through agromet stations.
10. **South African National Biodiversity Institute: South Africa -** The Institute will implement the observed water harvesting technologies and soil management techniques observed.
11. **National Environment Management Council: Tanzania -** Chile soil management techniques will be emulated by the Council and will be useful in some components of its project.