Many lessons were learned during the first Adaptation Fund facilitated country exchange, which took place from May 6 to 10, 2019 in the Libertador General Bernardo O’Higgins Region of Central Chile; it included representatives from 11 National Implementing Entities (NIEs).

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).

During the exchange, AGCID shared valuable lessons and findings from its project, which ranged from project design and development challenges to policy adherence and implementation of an advanced water harvesting system.

These lessons are now being applied in several of the respective NIE countries.

"Agroclimatic information tables, similar to the ones being used in Chile, have been provided to agricultural technicians and producers for analysis and planning of activities, allowing for key adjustments in agricultural production and reducing vulnerability" - Fundación Natura Panama
Applying Lessons Learned

Following a survey of NIE participants, 3 of the 11 NIEs were able to apply lessons learned within the first 2 months after the Exchange. Others noted key advances within that same period.

Country exchanges are an effective mechanism to share and apply knowledge gained. They center on field exchange visits between NIEs that wish to learn from projects in the same sector or that use a similar model to build their capacity in project design, development, and implementation.

Key advances resulting from Exchange

- Use of rainwater catchment tanks to better prepare for water shortages - South African National Biodiversity Institute
- Provision of more localized agromet data to help agriculturalists better plan seasons - Conseil Suivi Ecologique de Senegal
- Emulation of Chile soil management techniques to lessen impact of drought - National Environment Management Council Tanzania

"Learning about the challenges faced by Chile to become an accredited institution and to comply with the environmental, social, and gender policies helped us to solve those challenges more easily." - Mexican Institute of Water Technology

Panama

The Fundación Natura gathered regional planners from the Agricultural Insurance Institute, Agricultural Development Bank, National Bank of Panama, and Ministry of Environment to discuss and apply new agroclimatic information. This information was inspired from AGCIDs multi-partner approach.

Micronesia

Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) is now using the model for Chile farmers early warning system in their current Green Climate Fund Food Security proposal.

Dominican Republic

The Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral, Inc. (IDDI) noted technicians with a high level of social and community responsibility help improve motivation - similar to what was observed in Chile. The Institute also adapted project parameters to those of Chile to lessen bureaucracy for its Adaptation Project. Finally, the Institute created project participatory tables allowing the equal Project input of professionals, community, and technicians, regardless of academic level; These tables were directly modeled on the Chile tables.
Other key takeaways from the Exchange:

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 (EPIU): 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. Fundecooperacion: Costa Rica - Adapta 2+ 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. Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ): The Institute will apply lessons learned most applicable to component two of its project namely, improving water catchment and soil conservation initiatives.

5. Mexican Institute of Water Technology (IMTA): 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.

NIEs view new type of greenhouse made from plastic sheeting

NIEs discuss advantages of integrated policies at the Ministry of Agriculture