

National Implementing Entity Country Exchange hosted by India

In August 2021, The India National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) hosted the third National Implementing Entity (NIE) exchange via three virtual sessions. NABARD is an Adaptation Fund accredited NIE, and hosted from the NABARD Mumbai premises over a two-week period. Eleven NIEs participated representing a diverse array of projects.

During this country exchange, NABARD shared valuable lessons learned and findings with other NIEs based on the country exchange themes of food security and climate change resilience. These lessons and findings ranged from implementing beneficial, low tech coastal management solutions to the importance of synchronizing climate resilient approaches to national policies. All lessons and findings were underscored by the importance of community participation to achieve climate adaptation.

In addition to NABARD, Seven NIEs equally shared valuable lessons learned from their projects, which are featured in this brochure. Read further to learn of their challenge and successes.



Beneficiaries share their project experiences from NABARD-led projects. Mangrove restoration prevents coastal erosion.



ADAPTATION FUND

2021

Maintaining food security and increasing climate change resilience

Photos: Project beneficiary explains challenges of water retrieval. Planting mangrove seedlings in Andhra Pradesh. Photos courtesy of NABARD.

INDIA

NABARD India stresses the importance of **strong climate-oriented leadership** as extreme rainfall, monsoons, and rising sea levels impact India.

NABARD's approach to combatting climate change is unique, as they have established eight, small-scale Adaptation Fund projects on the ground using US\$9.86 million in funding. These projects are established in diverse geographic regions across multiple adaptation sectors reaching 1.9 million beneficiaries.

Project implementers are addressing sectors tailored to local adaptation needs such as food security, water conservation, coastal management, sustainable livelihoods, forest management, and livestock and fisheries management.

NABARD implements a bottom-up approach emphasizing **community participation**. They equally align their approach with State and National Policies emphasizing climate resilient interventions including biogas, solar technology, and water budgeting.

NABARD achieves its current success by focusing on six key pillars:

- **Increase awareness among vulnerable communities.**
- **Sensitize stakeholders in provincial government, especially farmers.**
- **Manage knowledge.**



During the exchange, NABARD beneficiaries in the Himalayas participated via livestream (top right).

Direct Access modality facilitates project implementation

In 2012, NABARD became an Adaptation Fund National Implementing Entity, then shortly afterward a Direct Access Entity. The Direct Access approach aims to ensure that projects and programs are more nationally relevant and better connected to the development plans and climate change strategies of each country. NABARD takes full advantage of Direct Access to finance its eight projects.

NABARD's efficient financing mechanisms highlight the benefit of the Direct Access modality. The Direct Access Modality enables climate change adaptation readiness, with the Adaptation Fund providing about US\$1 million annually specifically for adaptation.

- **Disseminate knowledge.**
- **Mainstream climate-smart agriculture finance through banks.**
- **Use technology whenever possible to mitigate and adapt to climate change risks.**

PERU

The Adaptation Fund NIE for Peru is Profonanpe, which implements a climate change adaptation project focusing on Peru's coastal marine ecosystem and fisheries along littoral zones. Their goal is to support the Peruvian Government to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities from the impact of climate change. To achieve this, Profonanpe adopts a four-component approach covering resilience, efficient surveillance for fisheries, capacity building, and policy management.

Profonanpe emphasized to the other NIEs the importance of creating a strong conceptional framework and, similar to the NIEs, involving stakeholders at the early stages. Similar to NABARD, Profonanpe encountered **challenges of limited baseline data**. Regardless, they were still able to establish effective performance indicators and a corresponding project budget.

Profonanpe emphasized that **any budget should be realistic** and that principal actors within projects are often linked to other issues outside the project scope. Their budget was recently altered as a result of external circumstances.

COASTAL FLOODING



Social specialist Claudia Godfrey shares Profonanpe's approach to protecting the marine ecosystem in Peru.

BENIN

The Adaptation Fund NIE, the National Fund for Environment and Climate (FNEC) of Benin, is a public institution with financial autonomy under the remit of the Ministry of Living Environment and Sustainable Development. FNEC is a funding mechanism for programs and projects within the scope of protecting and managing the environment, combating the harmful effects of climate change, and promoting sustainable development in Benin.

Their project focuses on preserving a sea channel that has existed for 135 years and effectively regulates flooding in the city of Cotonou. However, sea level rise and the changing climate has caused an increase in flooding due to the Channel's inability to adapt to the increased water flow. FNEC will work to rehabilitate the channel and adjoining dam to reduce flooding, which includes developing adaptive capacities for local communities and ensuring Lake Nokoue (a type of lagoon west of the city) remains healthy.

FNEC recently had their Adaptation Fund concept note approved and are now in the environment and social impact assessment stage. Challenges FNEC anticipate include **dealing with a difficult geographic area, lack of local data, and dealing with non-permanent homesteads**.

COSTA RICA

The Fundecooperación is the Adaptation Fund NIE for Costa Rica and they implement the Adapta2+ Program. The objective of this Program is to reduce the vulnerability and improve the resilience of local populations by focusing on critical sectors. This approach reduces the negative impacts of climate change. The main sectors highlighted by Fundecooperación during the exchange were agriculture and water.

Fundecooperación acts as a bridge connecting international cooperates, local institutions, communities, and small-medium size enterprises. They have 40 entities implementing at the country level involving many stakeholders ranging from Government to academia. This poses its own unique set of challenges when ensuring the projects remain community-driven.

Challenges highlighted by Fundecooperación include the **complex coordination between stakeholders and attempts to empower communities virtually during COVID-19**. Fundecooperación noted the **difficulties of guaranteeing the participation of producers, local leaders, and community organizations** in each critical area. One way Fundecooperación dealt with this was to play a transversal role and mediate between stakeholders.



The Costa Rica adapta 2+ program is a long standing partner with the Adaptation Fund

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral, Inc (IDDI) is a Dominican-based non-profit organization focused on socioeconomic transformation of communities. IDDI concentrates its activities in rural and urban areas in the Dominican Republic as well as Haiti. Their Adaptation Funded-project aims to enhance climate resilience in the San Cristóbal province through an integrated water resources and rural development program.

Especially in the northeastern region, the Dominican Republic is vulnerable to floods and mudslides following severe storms. IDDI works with 24,300 beneficiaries to improve resilience capacity to climate risks. This is done through the construction of potable water and sanitation systems along with reforestation and conservation of 2722 hectares of land.

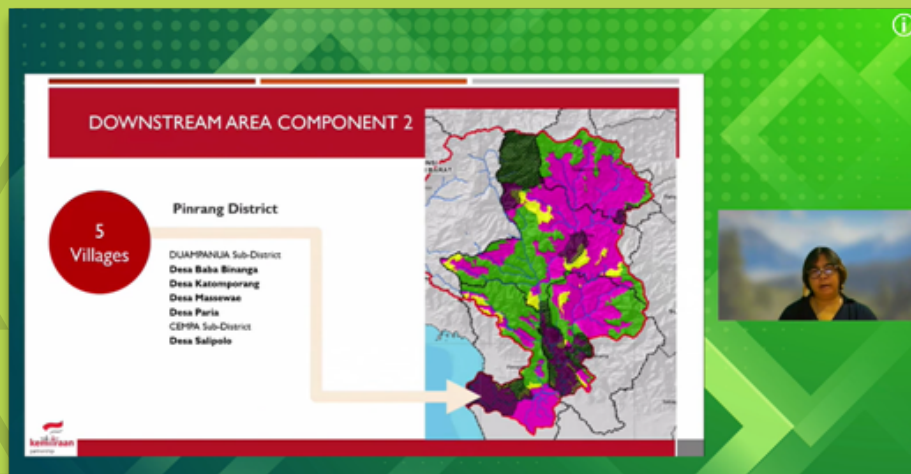
During the exchange, IDDI emphasized the need to **move beyond training of stakeholders and more toward empowering them**. To do this, the capacity of local project implementers must be strengthened along with awareness building among the local population.

INDONESIA

Indonesia's project entitled, "Community Adaptation for Forest-food Based Management in Saddang Watershed Ecosystem," began in October 2020. A risk study carried out in the area shows that 93 percent of villages in the watershed are vulnerable to climate change.

Implemented by the NIE Environmental and Climate Change Adaptation Consortium (Konsorsium Adaptasi Perubahan Iklim dan Lingkungan or KAPABEL), the main objective of this program is to increase the food security of the community of Saddang Watershed ecosystem.

KAPABEL is still integrating its approach within the target communities, so their lessons learned are fairly limited at this time. However, they were still able to share valuable insights into their project implementation successes and challenges. Similar to NABARD's community-based approach, KAPABEL **involves local community leaders in the decision-making process** at the early stages of project development, which has proven to be fruitful in ensuring sustainability.



Laode Syarif, executive director of KEMITRAAN Indonesia, discussed the geographic areas targeted by their forestry projects.

PANAMA

The Fundación Natura represented the input from Panama, and their program is focused on integrated water management. The goal of the program is to increase the capacity of local communities for improved water management. Their entire approach synchronizes with the National Energy Plan and is a prime example of the importance of ensuring coordination with government at all levels. Thus far, Fundación Natura has supported 36 protected areas and 4000 capacity building activities.

Fundación Natura emphasized repeatedly that managing multi-sectoral programs **requires direct communication**. They worked together with the communities and local government to establish an approach linked to existing territorial agreements.

Fundación Natura highlighted the challenge of **managing local expectations**. Such expectations should be outlined well in advance, so that the public does not over-anticipate the benefits from a given project.

To secure effective partners, Fundación Natura had to ensure their partners were, above all else, motivated to continue the projects. **Having motivated partners** begins at the community level and often includes local community members.

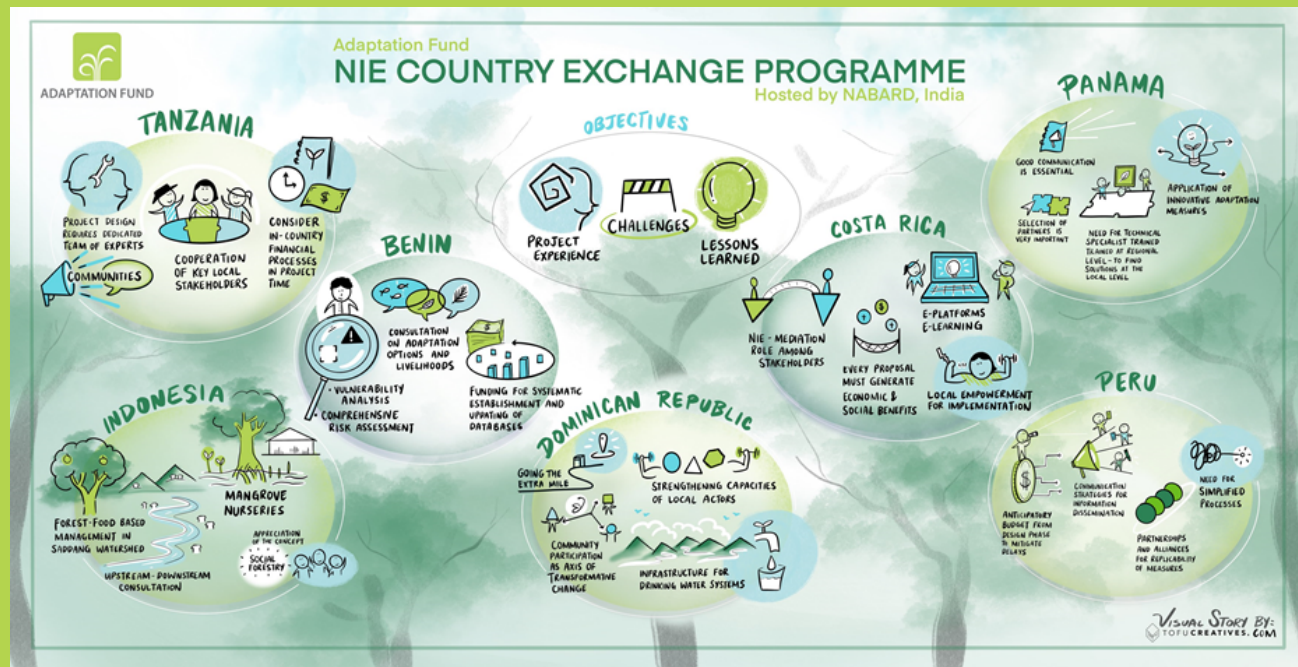
Finally, Fundación Natura emphasized the need to **innovate at every level of the project**.

TANZANIA

The National Environment Management Council (NEMC) has been a long-standing partner of the Adaptation Fund, with four approved projects since 2017. The focus on NEMC input for the NABARD Exchange centered on three new projects currently under consideration. They include a lake restoration project, climate resilience project, and saltwater stressed adaptation project (Zanzibar).

NEMC shared much of what they have learned from their previous projects and how they are applying that knowledge to the proposed projects. NEMC places their priority on a knowledgeable, experienced, and dedicated workforce. To achieve such a workforce, they used different experts from varying institutions to ensure collaboration. This collaboration includes local stakeholders during the decision-making process.

NEMC experienced Adaptation Fund approval **delays due to a lack of data**. Even if an area has a genuine climate risk, lack of information may prevent project justification. Furthermore, **tempering local community expectations is also necessary** to avoid unreasonable anticipated benefits.



Communication is key – this was the major underlying theme that emerged from the NABARD Exchange. Strong communication channels between government, beneficiaries, and all entities in between remain essential for project success.

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