

Adaptation Fund Country Exchange Programme 2021

Event Date: 17th August, 2021

Attendees: 100 participants

Event Duration: 1 hour 30 minutes

Platform: The event was conducted on Cisco WebEx and streamed on a customized URL. The panelists and dignitaries were present on the WebEx call, whereas the rest of the attendees joined via the customized viewing link. The entire event was live translated in Spanish & French. A video of the country exchange can be viewed on the following link:

https://nabardmumbai-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/fsdd_nabard_org/EeFK8EggJLZCse-CZB4SR_QBTIeTVDrC4Bk3iGDoPoq75g?e=FTafg6

Webinar 1 Proceedings:

As a part of its Knowledge sharing interventions, the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the Fund) organizes “NIE Country Exchange programme” with participants of National Implementing Entities (NIEs) from developing countries across the world. The objective of the exchange programme is to enhance the capacity of accredited NIEs to effectively design, develop and implement concrete adaptation projects and programmes. The NIE Country Exchange programme for 2021 was hosted by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), India, which encompassed a series of three webinars conducted on 17, 19 and 24 August. The theme of this year’s programme was “Food Security.”

The webinar on 17th August 2021 was graced with the presence of Dr. G R Chintala, Chairman of NABARD; Shri P V S Suryakumar, DMD, NABARD; Mr. Ahmed Waheed, Adaptation Fund Board Member; The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat ; representatives of NIEs from various countries; Shri Uday Shirsalkar, CGM NABARD; Shri CSR Murthy, CGM, NABARD; Shri B. Suri Babu, CGM, NABARD; Ms. Rajasree Ray, Economic Advisor, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Govt. of India;

Dr. A. V. Bhavani Shankar, GM, NABARD; Shri K. G. Ranjit Kumar GM, NABARD; Dr. Surendra Babu, DGM, NABARD; NABARD's officials from Head Office and Regional Offices, and Executing Entities of AFB projects being implemented in India.

The webinar started with initial remarks by Dr. Bhavani Shankar, General Manager of NABARD highlighting the background of hosting the NIE country exchange programme by NABARD.

Shri Uday Shirsalkar, Chief General Manager of NABARD, welcomed the participants from 12 countries for this prestigious event. He stated that the event is a part of the Strategy of the Adaptation Fund that seeks to strengthen the long-term institutional and technical capacity of NIEs to implement high quality adaptation projects. He emphasized that "Climate Change is real", and extreme weather events faced in India as well as across other countries has impacted all adversely. There has been an increased awareness among countries and constant efforts are being made internationally to adapt and meet the challenges of climate change. He stated that this event would be a great platform to showcase the learning of NABARD regarding climate change interventions over the past 25 years. Explaining the role of NABARD as a National Implementing Entity for accessing funds under the adaptation and mitigation projects, he stated that NABARD has implemented 40 climate change projects in India with a total financial outlay of around \$274 million. Shri Shirsalkar also gave an overview of the 3 webinars under the present Country Exchange programme and how it would benefit in policy prescription at Adaptation Fund Board level for better implementation of climate change projects by the NIEs.

After the welcome address, a video showcasing several interventions undertaken towards sustainable development and food security by NABARD was presented. The video showcased NABARD's journey and its progress since inception, focusing on issues related to agriculture and rural development. It highlighted the various programmes such as, Participatory Watershed development, Self Help Groups and Tribal community programs, Entrepreneurship development among rural youth, Flood protection, Micro Irrigation, Solid Waste Management etc. The video also highlighted climate change

challenges and the salient features of the 6 Adaptation Fund Projects that benefitted 0.11 million people and 30 projects implemented under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change benefitting more than 1.9 million beneficiaries. Additionally, the state-of-the-art self-learning lab on climate adaptation set up in collaboration with GIZ of Germany (Center of Climate Change at BIRD Lucknow) was also covered in the video. The video concluded with success stories such as Tribal Development (Wadi) Projects, Micro Irrigation project at Vizianagaram district in Andhra Pradesh; Biogas project in Sindhudurg, Maharashtra; Rainwater harvesting in Darjeeling hills; Livestock production system at Punjab and Climate Smart Agriculture in Ahmednagar.

The video can be accessed here:

https://nabardmumbai-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/fsdd_nabard_org/EXskodTWRiZGjLIrizylhAEB8YsX5t7hR8Q1fPGKEMvmzg?e=ThglN2

The video was followed by address of Shri PVS Suryakumar, Deputy Managing Director of NABARD, who set the context with regard to the climate challenges and necessary steps to adapt. He highlighted the major interventions of NABARD viz. Watershed development programmes covering 2.1 million ha with a grant assistance of USD\$ >270 and for sustainable livelihood for 0.54 million tribal families with a grant assistance of USD\$ 340.00 million under Tribal Development Fund. The total climate finance portfolio for concrete climate change projects of NABARD as on 31 March 2021 reached to USD\$ 274 million covering support under AF, National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) of India and Green Climate Fund (GCF). He also mentioned about NABARD's support for micro irrigation programme under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) and Micro Irrigation Fund (MIF) and system improvement projects under transmission sector supported under NABARD Infrastructure Development Assistance (NIDA) which have the energy saving potential through reduced transmission and distribution losses. He further stated that the six projects sanctioned to NABARD under the Adaptation Fund with an outlay of US \$ 9.86 million against an overall country cap of US \$10 million, covered 0.11 million vulnerable communities in six states in India. Some

of the successful projects of NIE in other countries with the support of Adaptation Fund Board which merit special mention are:

- i. Project of Dominican Republic – Integrated Water resources management and rural development programme.
- ii. Project of Micronesia - Solutions for Reducing Community Vulnerability to Climate Change in the Federated States.
- iii. Project of Tanzania - Strategic Water Harvesting Technologies for Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change in Rural Communities in Semi-Arid Areas.
- iv. 5 projects being implemented in Indonesia

Shri Suryakumar flagged some of the climate challenges and ways to overcome by investing in renewable energy, restoring nature to absorb more carbon, conservation of forests and protection of oceans. He summed up with a brief on the way forward.

Thereafter, Mr Ahmed Waheed, Member, Board of Directors of the Fund addressed the forum. He extended a warm welcome to all the participants to the NIE Country Exchange Programme and explained the importance of country exchange in promoting innovation and sharing of experiences between developing countries. He emphasized the positive effects of AF implemented projects, and the Fund which now has up to 34 accredited NIEs from around the globe. Mr. Waheed concluded by asking everyone to be more open and vocal about ideas which can be shared for the benefit of all.

Dr. G R Chintala, Chairman of NABARD in his keynote address, shared his thoughts on “establishing resilience against climatic shocks for ensuring food security to the vulnerable communities vis-a vis the role of NIEs”. He began by specifying impacts of climate change on Food Security and stated that the relationship between climate change and food security is complex. Climate change and natural disasters affect the vulnerable sections of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, and rural areas the most. Adequate food production is not a sufficient condition for ensuring food security. In addition to availability, the other three pillars of food security viz., access, utilization and stability need to be addressed. India has attained self-sufficiency in food grain production, however, in terms of 2020 Global Hunger Index, we rank 94th out of the 107 countries in

food security. Indian agriculture is dominated by small and marginal farmers and is an employment provider to more than 50% of India's population. However, studies have indicated that long term climate change could reduce annual agricultural incomes in the range of 15 to 18 percent on average and up to 20 to 25 percent for unirrigated areas. All these outcomes would impact food security significantly. India is a world leader in addressing the challenges of climate change and has drawn up a National Action Plan on climate change.

Highlighting the strategic NRM interventions, Dr Chintala stated that NABARD has been supporting various socio-economic development programmes related to rural infrastructure, sustainable management of natural resources, sustainable livelihood, gender equality, skill development, sanitation, renewable energy, etc. Several of the interventions have direct relevance to climate action and achievement of sustainable development goals (SDGs). NABARD has partnered with over 3000 Community Organizations and have supported over 5000 Farmer Producers Organizations (FPOs) and about 12 million Self Help Groups (SHGs).

Dr Chintala also focused on few of the important interventions of NABARD which included Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, Nature based solutions, Direct Climate Finance Portfolio and Center for Climate Change (BIRD Lucknow). He spoke about empowering the farmers by transfer of technology and the need to roll out Green Credit Products for the farmers' benefits. He stated that the funding available for tackling the challenges isn't enough for nations, and that in between 2015 to 2030, the country will require an estimated \$206 billion of investment in infrastructure, agriculture, water, ecosystem development, etc. Nations all around the world will have to adopt a new strategy for reduction of carbon emissions and provide protection for food production. Dr. Chintala thanked the Adaptation Fund for giving an opportunity to NABARD to host the event and summed up with the way forward.

Shri Ranjit Kumar, General Manager of NABARD presented an overview of AF projects being implemented by NABARD in India. He stated that India is the 7th most vulnerable country to climate change and 65% of crop area is vulnerable to droughts and dry spells

as they are predominantly rainfed. Impact of global warming has led to a decline in yield of crops by as much as 25%. He also mentioned that India's long coastline is highly vulnerable to coastal floods and cyclones. He highlighted the 8 core missions under the National Action Plan for Climate Change (NAPCC) which included, National Solar Mission, National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency, National Mission on Sustainable Habitat, National Water Mission, National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan ecosystem, National Mission for Green India, National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture and National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change.

Shri Ranjit enumerated NABARD's role in climate financing covering the 6 projects funded by the Fund that are under implementation in India covering climate resilience agriculture, ecosystem conservation and livelihood, fisheries, water management and coastal resources, in addition to 2 projects funded by GCF and 30 projects financed through NAFCC, the domestic climate financing mechanism. He emphasized on the identification process and development of a project in the context of food security, climate change and other livelihood aspects. Shri Ranjit stated that there are multiple responsibilities that NABARD discharges as an NIE, such as developing a potential proposal, scrutinizing, managing, monitoring, evaluating, disbursement of grants, capacity building and collaboration with other institutions.

He further highlighted the lessons learned from the projects. An important point he remarked was "Once we take care of the livelihoods of the people, their wholehearted involvement in the projects is much higher." He also covered the best practices observed while implementing climate change projects and also drew up the way ahead for NABARD in its mission towards ensuring a better world to live for everyone.

Ms. Rajasree Ray, Economic Advisor to Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change, Government of India, addressed the participants and summarized few of the important aspects covered in deliberations. She spoke about NAPCC, its 8 missions and efforts of the State Governments which have also prepared State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) in line with the objectives of NAPCC. SAPCCs focus on various sectors,

such as agriculture, water, health, biodiversity, infrastructure, coastal areas, etc., in order to source financial support for undertaking adaptation activities at state level.

Ms. Rajasree highlighted India's commitment to combating climate change as per Conference of Parties (COP 21) in 2015 at Paris as under:

- i. To reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 33%–35% by 2030 below 2005 level
- ii. To increase the share of non-fossil-based energy resources to 40% of installed capacity of power by 2030, with help of transfer of technology and low-cost international finance including from Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- iii. To create an additional carbon sink of 2.5–3 Gt CO₂ through additional forest and tree cover by 2030

She emphasized on India's contribution to sustainable development goals and the food security scenario in India and spoke on the role of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) as a National Designated Authority (DA) for international climate funds like the AF and GCF. The 6th IPCC report presents evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence. Achieving the targets of Paris Agreement (1.5-2 degrees Celsius of warming) requires deep reductions in GHG emissions. With regards to national perspective, she indicated that India is currently the third largest greenhouse emitter, but our per capita emission is lower in comparison to the developed countries. Across six Indian port towns such as Chennai, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, Surat and Vishakhapatnam, more than 28 million people will be exposed to flooding, if sea level rises by 50 cm. With rising temperature, there can be intensification of water cycle which is going to affect the rainfall pattern in India adversely.

Ms. Rajasree concluded by urging the Adaptation Fund Board to continue to provide its financial support to the developing countries through their adaptation activities. She thanked NABARD and the AF for organizing this prestigious event.

In conclusion, a Question and Answer session followed, during which the following questions were received from the various participating NIEs:

- i. Elaborate further on the mangrove rehabilitation project. Whether the location, sea wave pattern, sedimentation aspects and other scientific information was available well before interventions had taken place? (KEMITRAAN, Indonesia)
- ii. How is environmental monitoring of projects carried out? In Benin, there is a committee specifically set up for environmental and gender monitoring. What is the position in India? (FNEC, Benin)
- iii. What are the main difficulties encountered in monitoring projects? (FNEC, Benin)
- iv. Please describe the interventions undertaken in fisheries-based livelihood projects and do you consider gender aspects for the fisheries project? (PKSF, Bangladesh)

Answers were given by a team of NABARD's officials comprising of Shri U D Shirsalkar, Shri C S R Murthy, and Shri B Suri Babu.

The Webinar ended with a brief summary by Mr. C S R Murthy, Chief General Manager of NABARD. The key lessons from the webinar were:

- Putting in place a strong domestic climate policy framework defining the development pathways on the lines of NAPCC as adopted by India.
- Creating awareness among vulnerable communities on climate change impacts
- Knowledge management and dissemination through stakeholder engagement
- Enabling access to climate adaptation technologies more specifically for small land holders
- Community participation approach for climate action projects/programme implementation
- Mainstreaming climate actions with effective convergence of public and private financial resources.
- Developing tailor made green finance products for different climate actions for linking with institutional/bank credit
- Alignment of climate actions towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Shri Murthy thanked the Adaptation Fund Board, MoEF&CC and NIEs across countries for joining and actively participating. He concluded with the UN Secretary General, Mr. Antonio Guterre’s powerful statement “Making peace with nature is the defining task of the 21st Century. It must be top-priority for everyone and everywhere”.
