Adaptation Fund Country Exchange Programme 2021

Event Date: 19th 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/EanJ11K9ratJo8IXGi5F3NoB9GJmzfEvy3A-XVp5r4jZvA?e=awEIcg

Webinar 2 Proceedings:

As a part of knowledge sharing interventions of the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the Fund) NIE Country Exchange programme, the second webinar was organized on 19th August 2021. The AF team comprising Mr. Farayi Madziwa, Ms. Cristina Dengel, Ms. Martina Dorigo and Ms. Ishani Debnath, representatives of National Implementing Entities (NIEs) from 12 developing countries, Executing Entities of AF projects being implemented in India and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) officials from Head Office and Regional Offices participated in the event. The objective of the seminar was to present insights into the implementation aspects of

adaptation projects by showcasing two AF projects, each being implemented in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand respectively. Dr. R. Ramasubramanian, Director, Coastal Systems Research, representing the AF project of M S Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Andhra Pradesh and Dr. Rajashree Joshi, Programme Director, representing the AF project of BAIF Development Research Foundation in Uttarakhand, presented overview of the two projects.

The webinar began with initial remarks by Dr. A V Bhavani Shankar, who also briefed about the important deliberations of the 1st Webinar of NIE Country Exchange which was held on 17th August 2021.

Mr. Uday Shirsalkar, Chief General Manager of NABARD while welcoming the participants stated that the Paris agreement which aimed at strengthening the global response to climate change by keeping global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius, had laid the global goal of enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening resilience, and reducing vulnerability to climate change. He also delved on efforts of the Adaptation Fund Board in combating climate change issues in developing countries. He further stated that two AF projects would be presented which were designed to address issues of vulnerable communities and create resilience among them to ensure food security.

Dr. Surendra Babu, Deputy General Manager of NABARD gave the outline presentation of two AF projects under implementation in the states of Andhra Pradesh and Uttarakhand. The project in Andhra Pradesh focuses on problems of sea level rise in the coastal areas of India, mainly on account of frequent occurrence of cyclones. Three villages were identified for project implementation where more than 1500 people were trained on mangrove conservation. With the help of this training, 200 hectares of mangrove areas were restored. He dwelt in detail regarding Integrated Mangrove Fish Farming System (IMFSS) model developed by MSSRF. He also mentioned that most of the activities under this project have been completed. He brought out the challenges faced by the farmers in the project area like slow growth of mangroves, disease infection in crab culture etc.

Dr. Surendra Babu also covered the second Adaptation Fund project in the State of Uttarakhand, which was to improve the adaptive capacity of rural small and marginal farmers in Champavat district of Uttarakhand. Some of the major problems faced in that area are hilly terrain, water scarcity in summer, extreme weather events, fodder scarcity etc. Besides addressing these problems, the community and organizational members have participated effectively in climate change adaptation activities and have started working upon the techniques of efficient irrigation and water harvesting.

A video showcasing the AF Project titled "Conservation & Management of Coastal Resources as Potential Adaptation Strategy for Sea Level Rise in Andhra Pradesh" was presented subsequently.

The video showed restoration of mangroves and integrating mangroves with fisheries, which helped in livelihood promotion and achieved adaptation to climate change. The video also presented the various adaptation strategies carried out under the project.

A brief presentation by Dr. R. Ramasubramanian followed about the adaptation project of MSSRF in Krishna delta of Andhra Pradesh, which is highly vulnerable to cyclones and the coastal areas with a high population dependency upon ecosystem for their livelihoods.

The major problems in the project area were rise in temperature and sea levels. The people depended on fisheries and agriculture for livelihood are highly vulnerable to climate change. To mitigate these problems, the project was designed to restore the mangroves that serve as bio-shields to climate impacts. The project implementation was done in 3 villages where the mangrove plantation and integrated fisheries system have already been implemented. The local communities were trained in mangrove restoration and the project was executed with their participation. The presentation also covered monitoring aspects and capacity building through workshops.

After this presentation, a video on the second project under discussion i.e. "Climate Smart Actions & Strategies in North-Western Himalayan Region for sustainable livelihood for Agriculture dependent Hill Communities in Uttarakhand" was presented. The video

enumerated the problems of climate change that have affected the rural residents of Uttarakhand. The relentless efforts of BAIF Developmental Research Foundation with the support of NABARD achieved climate mitigation in the hilly terrains of Champavat where climate-smart systems were implemented. New techniques in crop production and water harvesting helped local farmers in attaining a sustainable livelihood.

Dr Rajashree Joshi, Programme Director of BAIF Developmental Research Foundation, presented insights on the project at Uttarakhand State in the district of Champavat. She enumerated the climatic risks of this region as hailstorms, cloud bursts and other extreme weather events, with migration, fodder crisis and degradation of national resources have further aggravated the problem. The major initiative from the project was introduction of multisectoral region specific family-based and area-based intervention by blending science and technology.

A multisectoral approach and gender-sensitive approach was adopted with various stakeholder engagements (NABARD, other Govt. agencies, and private sector). Water springs in the Himalaya, an important source of water, which were drying up in recent years were identified, mapped, and rejuvenated by undertaking recharge measures; and ecological restoration of entire habitats was accomplished. Introduction of sub-tropical horticulture, which is adaptive to the changing weather patterns, was another important component. The central focus of the project was women. Community pastoral lands have been revived with their involvement and women also contributed to afforestation.

This presentation was followed by a Question and Answer session, during which the following questions were received from the various NIEs:

- What are the sustainability aspects or elements of these projects? How continuance of these projects ensured beyond project period? (PKSF, Bangladesh)
- Sea bass farming and crab culture need saline environment. Will these interventions increase soil salinity and affect agriculture land? How is the project managing this situation? (PKSF, Bangladesh)

- What is the extent of coastline that is protected/ benefitted from this project? (NABARD, India)
- What qualitative improvement these projects brought into the lives of the community? (NABARD, India)
- What is the uniqueness of this project and what is the biggest takeaway from this project? (NABARD, India)
- How is polythene wastes generated out of polyhouses managed so that it does not pollute the soil and water sources? (PKSF, Bangladesh)
- Are the young people of the community involved in the project activities? (Fundecooperacion, Costa Rica)
- What is the monitoring process of climate change vulnerability (monitoring mechanism) in India? (PKSF, Bangladesh)

Answers for these questions were given by the respective executing entity officials beneficiaries of the project (who were present in the project area) and NABARD officials.

Shri K.G. Ranjit Kumar, General Manager of NABARD, concluded the webinar with a brief summary of the proceedings. The key lessons of the webinar were:

- NABARD as an NIE has facilitated implementation of numerous projects within the country cap allocated by AF, covering 19 districts in 6 states. Executing Entities were the backbone of the projects and instrumental in their successful implementation.
- Vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning was done following participatory methods with emphasis on local knowledge and technology.
- The projects addressed water scarcity issue of the hilly terrain through spring shed rejuvenation and rooftop rainwater harvesting.
- Enhanced livelihood and food security were ensured through adoption of climate smart agriculture practices like low-cost bamboo polyhouse and drip and sprinkler irrigation.
- Strong community-based organizations facilitated taking collective actions. Group approaches like Dairy Society, SHGs, Water committees, Forest groups etc. were the hallmark for the project success.

- Improvement of coastal ecosystem and livelihood support for coastal community were both achieved through conservation of mangrove biodiversity and adoption of Integrated Mangrove Fish Farming System (IMFFS).
- Adaptability to emerging situations while implementing the project has been a strong factor for success e.g., when crab culture was infected by viral disease replacement with cage culture of sea bass was a quick measure that ensured livelihood security. Also, when apple cultivation was not feasible, other fruit crops were taken up.
- The concrete climate adaptation model for coastline management and livelihood improvement evolved is replicable in the similar geographical areas.
- Adaptation projects can be mainstreamed through institutional financing if proper concessionalities like low-cost funding, long tenure loans, and appropriate credit enhancement measures can be built into the financial products.

Shri Ranjit Kumar concluded the webinar by thanking all the speakers, the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat, and the representatives of NIEs for their active participation and all colleagues from NABARD who facilitated organizing the webinar.

****