

Adaptation Fund Country Exchange Programme 2021

Event Date: 24th August 2021

Attendees: 100 participants

Event Duration: 2 hours

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/EWQdhFUabfJvvCAob9LjEMB_AkWaENlB2W7ToZ_Kl3J-9g?e=vbzylZ

Webinar 3, Knowledge Fair Proceedings:

The third in the series of the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat country exchange programme webinars was conducted on 24th August 2021, as a part of knowledge sharing interventions of the Adaptation Fund (AF). The webinar was designed to be a knowledge fair where participating National Implementing Entities (NIEs) from various countries shared experiences from their own AF projects. The discussion covered purpose/objective, challenges faced during the project cycle, how challenges were addressed, and the lessons learnt. Representatives of NIEs from 12 developing countries, Adaptation Fund Board team comprising of Mr. Farayi Madziwa, Ms. Cristina Dengel, Ms. Martina Dorigo and Ms. Ishani Debnath, Executing Entities of AF projects in India and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) officials from Head Office and Regional Offices, participated in the event.

Dr. A V Bhavani Shankar, General Manager of NABARD briefed about the important deliberation of the two webinars conducted on 17th and 19th August 2021 and objectives of the present webinar.

Mr. Uday D Shirsalkar, Chief General Manager of NABARD, gave a recap of the previous two webinars, and the deliberations which centered on adaptation efforts from India to combat global temperature rise & extreme weather events. He welcomed the participants from the 12 nations for sharing their experiences of project implementation in their respective countries.

Ms. Cristina G Dengel, Knowledge Management Officer at the Fund moderated the webinar and spoke on the objectives and invited the first presentation of the day from Dr. Menan Jangu, National Environment Management Council (NEMC), NIE representative of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Dr. Menan Jangu presented an overview of 4 projects in Tanzania which are funded by the AF. Apart from these, 3 more proposals have been submitted to AF for consideration. He emphasized on the importance and requirement for a knowledgeable, dedicated and experienced team of experts for implementation of such kind of projects. He also spoke about the lessons learned from these projects and the challenges faced.

The second presentation was by Ms Dewi Rizki from Partnership for Governance Reform in Indonesia (KEMITRAAN), the NIE of Indonesia. She gave a brief background of the project while highlighting the participation from villages involved in the project. Ms. Rizki emphasized the involvement of local villagers in the restoration and management of the watershed. Important lesson learnt while implementing the project was, to give emphasis to monitoring and efficient management of the project. It is also important to create awareness among the local communities for the project to be successful.

Ms Dossou Worou Fortunée, from Fonds National pour l'Environnement et le Climat (FNEC), the NIE of Benin, while making the next presentation, narrated the experience

in implementing their project on rehabilitation of the Cotonou channel, which contributed to the adaptation and rejuvenation of Lake Nokou enabling to withstand extreme climate events. The Cotonou channel linking Lake Nokou with the sea to effectively regulate flood waters, is a climate sensitive ecosystem, and has changed dramatically since it opened 135 years back. Challenges faced on a local level are the complexity of the physical environment and the unique dynamics in movement of water between the lagoon and the sea. Unavailability of reliable data was also a challenge faced in project implementation.

The main lesson learnt was on need for detailed documentation, climate justification and a trend analysis for sensitive eco-systems. A good vulnerability analysis is needed which is based on the endogenous adaptation practices by local people. There is a need to explore supplementary financing for the development of data, which is extremely important.

The following presentation was given by Mr. Pedro Zuccarini, from the Dominican Institute of Integral Development (IDDI), the NIE of the Dominican Republic. He emphasized on experiences from working with the communities that make it possible to successfully implement all project activities as per the stipulated time frame. There are 2 basic components for their project: first being improvement of potable water management through integration and management of small and medium watersheds. Second component is strengthening of capacities. Mr. Pedro stated that involvement of Public and Private institutions are vital for success of climate change projects. The risks are intangible and sometimes beyond control. He emphasized that alternative means of livelihoods in times of drought and water crisis etc. are to be found and implemented to adapt to the changing climate scenario. For example, usage of alternate crops which are climate change resistant, can be adopted. He also enumerated the lessons learned from these projects; like the need to focus on the community, communicate, disseminate information and train/empower the community, strengthen capacities (in order to confront climate change) and access to basic necessities.

These presentations made by the NIEs were graphically summarized by Ms. Desiree from TOFU Creatives of Philippines, pictorially presenting the components of projects and key takeaways in each of them.

The next presentation was given by Ms. Carolina Reyes from Fundecooperacion para el Desarrollo Sostenible, the NIE of Costa Rica, who spoke about the different sectors working, like coastal communities and afro-fisheries industries. More than 40 entities are implementing the programme. The project is the result of involvement of various entities - private, public, NGOs etc. Challenges faced during the course of implementation were complexity in terms of monitoring and follow-ups, lack of coordination between different stakeholders etc. Management of all stakeholders is important to attain the best results. Impacts need to move from local to national level. Empowerment of community is one of the most important lessons learned during the course of implementation of projects.

Following this, Ms. Vilna Cuéllar from Fundación Natura, the NIE of Panama in her presentation, indicated the components of the programme viz., increasing adaptive capacity of people, water management, and ability to take decisions. Lesson learned in project implementation was to work and deal with different areas of intervention from the national level to the local level. Conflict in water usage was resolved through consultation with various stakeholders. Focus on pilot projects established in different areas of watersheds was also an important aspect. Support from the community was vital for success in project implementation. Viewpoints were obtained and incorporated from all stakeholders at the round tables.

Dr Nomita Halder from the Palli Karma Sahayak Foundation (PKSF), NIE of Bangladesh, indicated that Bangladesh is one of the most vulnerable nations to climate change. Enhancing adaptive capacity is therefore necessary for successfully implementing adaptation projects. They have promoted climate-smart cultivation and flood resilient livestock methods as a climate adaptation measure. They have also successfully implemented 23 projects which gave successful results. She then concluded that they feel

privileged and honored to be accredited and recognized by the Adaptation Fund Board and expected support from the AF board to implement climate adaptation projects.

Ms. Claudia Godfrey from the Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas (PROFONANPE), NIE of Peru, spoke about their experiences in implementation of project to address the vulnerability of coastal communities and increase adaptation to climate change. She has emphasized on the need for attention in monitoring of project and preparation of a realistic budget. Some important aspects for designing projects, as enumerated by Ms. Godfrey were to consider other allied issues also along with environmental issues while framing the climate problem and to work with multiple entities dealing with them, to be prepared for unexpected eventualities like the present day COVID19 and be ready for suitable changes, ensuring proper communication with all project beneficiaries and to treat them like partners of the project; and above all have a clear understanding of the project risks for coming out with a good project design.

The next presentation was by Mr. Maxwell Maturure from the Environmental Management Agency (EMA), NIE of Zimbabwe. He stated that the accreditation journey in his country began in 2016. He touched upon points like implementation of measures to support ecosystem resilience, strengthening institutional governance to increase socio-economic resilience to climate change and implementing a comprehensive knowledge management system.

The presentations were followed by the Question and Answer session. Questions were focused on COVID adaptation, data collection aspects, time frame for funding approval by the AF, and the salient differences between climate financing by AF and GCF. These questions were answered by the panelists from NABARD and the AF team.

Ms. Cristina Dengel thanked all the participating NIEs on behalf of the Adaptation Fund for sharing their experiences and thanked NABARD for successfully hosting the knowledge fair webinar.

The knowledge fair concluded by Mr. C S R Murthy, Chief General Manager of NABARD summarizing the event and thanking the AF team for their support in organizing the event successfully. He thanked all the NIEs for their active participation and presentations. He thanked all the senior executives of NABARD, and colleagues for facilitating the NIE Country Exchange Programme successfully. He also thanked the Executing Entities and project beneficiaries from India for their active participation.

The key lessons from the three Webinars as enumerated in the summing up, were:

- 1) The theme chosen for the programme being “food security”, was relevant in the context that hunger and malnutrition have reached critical levels due to many drivers, one among them being climate change and it is further accentuated by enduring effects of COVID-19 situation.
- 2) Climate change affects low-income producers through lower production and productivity and low-income consumers through lesser entitlements. This could make agricultural production less remunerative and it may result in economic decline.
- 3) Wide range of adaptation measures were presented by NIEs, mostly nature based solutions like sustainable agriculture, water management, forestry, sanitation, ecosystem conservation touching fragile eco systems like Hill regions, coastal areas, rainfed areas etc.
- 4) Integrated approach is required for strengthening of the capacities of local actors to manage climate related risks.
- 5) Local practices of the people towards adaptation have to be studied and emulated to arrive at proper solutions, and these practices have to be disseminated and integrated with National Climate Action Plan.
- 6) Low-cost interventions (like bamboo-based poly house structures) needs wider adoption
- 7) Projects should address livelihoods and incomes to derive immediate benefits and sustain the community interest and involvement. Linkages to other sectors (tourism etc.) also needs to be explored.
- 8) Women as agents of change

- 9) Strengthening the capacities of local actors to manage the climate change
- 10) Public-Private Partnerships and Co-financing
- 11) Project should be flexible and dynamic with in-built mechanism for Risk Management
- 12) Some of the project learnings can be up scaled and possibility for mainstreaming to be explored.

Some of the challenges encountered were:

- Lack of Expertise in understanding climate issues. Designing of interventions require knowledge, dedicated team of experts, especially in sectors like coastal management and water sectors.
- Complexities in coordination amongst stakeholders
- Expectation of immediate benefits by local communities
- Delays in obtaining permissions from statutory authorities
- Need for dedicated Climate funds at NIE level to take care of sensitization, capacity building, etc.
