

Conference on
**“Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction- Climate Change Adaptation
(DRR-CCA) in Development: Policies and Practices”**

20 October 2014, Hotel Vivanta by Taj, Lucknow

Organized by: Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority, Govt of U.P. in
association with NIDM, GEAG, ISET and UNICEF

BRIEF REPORT

DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) and CCA (Climate Change Adaptation) approaches are integrated at national level through India's commitment to Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA 2005-15), National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and other programmes of government. There is an urgent need of integrating such programmes at sub-national levels (state or district levels) by exploring and developing the required policy and programmatic instruments/ mechanisms for creating enabling environment for large scale implementation. Agencies such as the State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs), District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) and Urban Local Bodies are needed to have a forward looking approach in their planning and implementation activities that accounts for range and trends in climate projections. Promoting climate sensitive decentralised disaster management planning in DDMAs and at ward levels represents a potential point of entry for addressing the above gap.

Uttar Pradesh has contributed some innovative experiences at national and international levels through pilot interventions. The experiences of integration of DRR and CCA in district planning at Gorakhpur has helped in developing Training Module by National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Govt of India which has been shared with all the 600+ districts of the country. The Ward level micro-resilience planning has provided experiences and knowledge towards decentralized urban planning for the enhanced resilience of the cities. There are various programmes of Govt of UP which can help in this integration of CCA and DRR at the ground level if concerted efforts are made at policy and practice levels.

With this background, a one-day State level workshop titled – **“Integration of DRR-CCA: Policies and Practices”** was organized on **20th October 2014** at **Lucknow** by UP-SDMA in collaboration with NIDM, GEAG, ISET and UNICEF.

The stated goal of the workshop was to facilitate deliberations on critical issues in integrating disaster and climate risks in development planning with a focus on the implications of hydrometeorological disasters due to climate change for the decentralised planning in the state and elsewhere.

Shri. V N Garg, Agriculture Production Commissioner, Government of UP was the Chief Guest of the Conference. The other dignitaries present included Shri. Suresh Chandra, Principal Secretary, GoUP, Mrs. Leena Johri, Secretary & Relief Commissioner, GoUP, Dr. Anil K. Gupta, Head, Policy & Planning, NIDM, GoI, Ms. Nilofar Porzande, Chief of State, UNICEF, Lucknow, Mr. Mihir Bhatt, Director, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) and Dr. Shiraz A. Wajih, President, GEAG.



Key messages

Dr. Shiraz Wajih began the session saying that disasters do not need any introduction. The state had been faced with hail, drought and floods just in the last few months. He further explained that GEAG has been working towards climate change adaptation with the hope that the state, using its experiences with decentralised planning for climate change, will provide direction to the policy and practice in the nation.



Dr. Shiraz Wajih, President, GEAG

Dr. Anil K Gupta confirmed that the mainstreaming and replication in other areas of the country and beyond of the model that has been developed in Gorakhpur is needed. Since the district governments are also part of this workshop, the deliberations will be taken ahead to the districts. Not just plans, but implementation is required. The Gorakhpur model is applicable beyond the country since our neighbouring countries also have a district system. Food security, natural resource management, and livelihood security are linked to disaster management and increased resilience. People who do not have food security and livelihood security are most vulnerable to disasters. Understanding these links, its relationship to land holding patterns, and the increase in vulnerabilities



Dr. Anil K. Gupta, Head – Policy and Planning, NIDM, GoI

due to climate change, all needs to be done as part of this workshop. Climate change increases extreme events; when our vulnerability is high and preparation low, these extreme events manifest themselves as a disaster.

Shri Mihir Bhatt, Director, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute remarked on the timeliness of the workshop. IPCC's report that examined the inter-relationship of climate change and disasters was released exactly three years ago. TERI's report was released two months ago. AR5's recommendation that climate change and disaster planning need to be brought together is being implemented in this workshop. In January, GEAG and other organisations had put out a 'risk-to-resilience' report. This too is being taken forward-all this makes the workshop timely. Any later, and this workshop would have been delayed. Along with the timing of this workshop, its location was also deemed to be appropriate. Mr. Mihir Bhatt considered it apt since the first attempt at decentralised planning for increasing resilience to climate risk was carried out in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.



Mr. Mihir Bhatt, Director, AIDMI

Ms Nilofar Porzande, Chief of State, UNICEF, suggested that Uttar Pradesh's vulnerabilities, with its being the most populated state with marginalised communities, made it important to take up this work in here. She went on to say that there are many tools that can be used to accelerate climate change resilience and vulnerability mapping. There is a need to increase awareness on this topic. For this reason, networking with a variety of organisations and increasing capacity of NGOs, state governments, and communities is important. Sharing and documentation of best practices are important- this workshop is a wonderful opportunity, especially since there are guests from other states as well as global experiences that can be tapped into. The future, our survival, and the kind of world we are passing on to our children depend on our commitment to this regard.



Ms. Nilofar Porzande, Chief of State, UNICEF, UP

Mrs. Leena Johri, Secretary & Relief Commissioner, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh confirmed the state's increasing vulnerability. Eastern Uttar Pradesh has always been flood-prone, but in the last few years, western Uttar Pradesh has begun facing floods. Bundelkhand is drought prone. The recurrence period of drought was earlier 6 to 8 years, but now this period of recurrence is narrowing down with droughts every 3 years or so. The terai region is in earthquake zone 4; while 31 districts of Uttar Pradesh are in earthquake zone 3. Furthermore, no matter if the disaster is natural or man-made, the poor of Uttar Pradesh are most vulnerable.



Mrs. Leena Johri, Secretary & Relief Commissioner, GoUP

Fortunately, several initiatives by the Uttar Pradesh aim to address potential disasters. With the Uttar Pradesh Disaster Management Act (2005), Uttar Pradesh was one of first three states to enact this. The SDMA is set up and functional. A State Disaster Management Institute has also been set up in 2011, which has conducted training for 6500 officials and other stakeholders. Disaster management module adopted for most service training programmes.

Mr. Suresh Chandra, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh said that climate change can no longer be ignored and governmental planning needs to take this into account. Any plan that is not inclusive of community is not efficient. It is necessary to train every citizen to be capable to fight in times of disaster, so that they are not dependent on government help. For



Mr. Suresh Chandra, Principal Secretary, GoUP

this, disaster preparation needs to be a part of curriculum. As a policy, this needs to be monitored regularly. Infrastructure creation, whether hospitals, schools, or residences, need to factor disaster risk reduction in planning and design.

Shri. V N Garg, Agriculture Production Commissioner, Govt. of UP, in his address, spoke at length about the necessity of multiple strategies to address climate change issues. If one considers climate change adaptation vis a vis climate change mitigation; the latter deals with causal factors while adaptation deals with the effect of these causes on different areas of economy and life. Climate change adaptation is more related to disaster risk reduction and is



Mr. V.N. Garg, Agriculture Production Commissioner, GoUP

often the focus of our policies. But that does not mean we ignore mitigation.

The various stakeholders are familiar with disasters and our vulnerability. Now, there is another factor to be considered. How can climate change adaptation be adapted to disaster risk? There is a certain extent of overlap, especially in assessment of vulnerabilities, flood management etc. But there are also non-overlap areas such as earthquakes. We still need to decide whether it is possible to integrate the two, at least in areas where they are overlapping.

Mainstreaming is finding a place for disaster risk reduction in our policies and processes. The GEAG document is first of its kind in the country, and is a very important beginning. However, this is still just a beginning and much more needs to be done.

There are many budgetary implications since the financial requirements of climate change adaptation measures are high. This needs to be provided for.

Similarly, if mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction is to be done in all departments a comprehensive monitoring framework needs to be established

Mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and disaster management is not just the responsibility of the government but of all stakeholders, including international non-governmental organisations. Red Cross has taken steps in this regard; they have come out with a manual on mainstreaming of climate change adaptation and disaster management.

Within the government, it is necessary to move beyond the district. District planning is a small part of the overall planning within a state. 70% of state resources are planned and budgeted at state level- thus it is necessary to have disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation plans at the state level. The department of environment had set up seven missions at the behest of the Central government to develop a state action plan. Despite a lot of efforts, this work has not been completed- interdepartmental cooperation is against the way the government departments work, the tendency of the government is to work in silos. Another obstacle is capacity, especially when combined with high staff turnover. Mainstreaming fatigue is revealing itself in the governments. Departments already have so many responsibilities on their hands that anything more is difficult to handle. Formal procedures are also not in place.

The inaugural session of the workshop was followed by an entire day of deliberations on three key thematic strands viz. (i) Disaster Risk Reduction-Climate Change Adaptation: Concepts and Insights (ii) Practical experiences on decentralized planning to address challenges posed by disaster and climate risks and (iii) Enabling disaster and climate risk reduction: policies, programmes and institutions at multiple scales from local to national.

The inaugural session was followed by two technical sessions and a panel discussion. The first technical session focussed on Disaster Risk Reduction – Climate Change Adaptation: Concepts and Insights. In this session, while **Ms. Margarita Tileva**, Chief, DRR Section, UNICEF, New Delhi shared the opportunities and challenges for implementation of state action plan on



Ms. Margarita Tileva , Chief, DRR Section, UNICEF

climate change, **Mr. A. A. Khan**, Official on Special Duty, Directorate of Environment, UP highlighted the main features of the UP State Action Plan on Climate Change. **Ms. Aditi Umrao**, State Programme Officer, UP-SDMA shared her views on mainstreaming DRR in development programmes and the key entry points for CCA integration. The presentation by **Dr. Divya Sharma**, TERI was based on her study done in UP which explored the key entry points for mainstreaming urban climate resilience into the UP State policy. Thereafter, the process of evolution of Gorakhpur DDMA and the preparation of the DDMP with integration of climate concerns in it was presented by **Mr. Dinesh Chandra**, Additional District Magistrate (ADM) - Finance and Revenue, Gorakhpur. The last presentation in this session was made by **Ms. Sreeja Nair**, Assistant Professor, NIDM which focussed on CCA-DRR integrated approach which has been adopted in Budelkhand region.



Mr. Dinesh Chandra, ADM - Finance & Revenue, Gorakhpur

The second technical session focussed on Field Based Practical Experience Sharing on CCA-DRR integration in the country. In this session, there were presentations on experiences from different parts of the country. **Mr. Arvind Rai**, Dy. Municipal Commissioner, Gorakhpur and **Dr. Shiraz Wajih** shared the Gorakhpur experience of DRR-CCA mainstreaming into development planning. This was followed by the Shimla experience which was shared by **Mr.**



Mr. Tikender Panwar, Dy. Mayor, Shimla

Tikender Panwar, Hon'ble Dy. Mayor, Shimla Municipal Corporation. **Ms. Shruti Sadhukhan**, ICLEI and **Prof. Shyamala Mani**, NIUA shared their national level experiences on this mainstreaming issue. A joint presentation was made by **Mr. Manjeet Saluja**, GIZ, **Mr. Gopalakrishna Murthy**, Academy of Gandhian Studies, Hyderabad and **Mr. Krishna Kumar**, AVVAI Village Welfare Society, Chennai on the CCA-DRR mainstreaming initiatives done in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Lastly, **Mr. P N Shah**, Director, Remote Sensing Applications Centre, Lucknow and **Dr. J P Gupta**, Director, Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) Lucknow talked about the use of remote sensing and the role of IMD in DRR and CCA planning.



Conference Delegates

The technical sessions was followed by a panel discussion which was chaired by **Mrs. Leena Johri**, Secretary and Relief Commissioner, GoUP. The panel comprised of key representatives from NIDM, GEAG, ISET, Department of Agriculture, Directorate of Environment, UNICEF and IMD. The objective of this panel discussion was to come up with a roadmap for integrating CCA and DRR in Uttar Pradesh. A “**Lucknow Declaration on Mainstreaming DRR and CCA**” was releases as a road map and key recommendations for DRR & CCA Mainstreaming in Uttar Pradesh in the light of the discussions and recent developments.



Panel Discussion

NB: This is a brief report and the detailed report will be shared soon.