

EDITORIAL

The ecosystems are being degraded in many parts of the world. Many socio-economic factors, institutional weakness and environmental stresses such as rapid climate change are causing this ecosystem degradation, which again affects the lives and livelihoods of the millions of poor people in the developing countries. An integrated and pro-poor management of natural resources is essential for both regeneration of ecosystems and poverty alleviation. Further adaptation measures are to be undertaken in the local contexts considering the climatic stresses. The main article of this Bangladesh Environmental Newsletter (BEN) focuses on how environmental governance can promote conservation of ecosystems and poverty alleviation simultaneously.

The Conference of the Parties (COP 17) under the UNFCCC ended in Durban in December 2011 with poor outcomes though it saved the Kyoto Protocol. Higher political and diplomatic efforts would be required from governments and all concerned to make the next COP successful. This was emphasized in the international news of this BEN.

The other important articles of this issue include: scaling up Community Based Adaptation (CBA), devastating floods in Pakistan and a recent experience of BCAS for conducting social and environmental impact assessment of power plant. We hope our valued readers will take much interest in this issue of BEN. We wish a happy and prosperous 2012 for everyone. ❀

Threatened Ecosystems, Climate Change, Poverty and Environmental Governance

Every ecosystem has a dynamic and complex relationship among the living beings and non-living components of the environment. The importance of ecosystem services for social and economic development, livelihood promotion of the poor people and human well-being are well recognized in the UN Agenda -21, WSSD Plan of Action and UNFCCC. But both the climate variability (temperature rise, changes in weather pattern and erratic rainfall) and climatic extremes such as frequent floods, cyclones, tidal surges, salinity intrusion, sea level rise and drought are affecting the natural resource bases, their productivity and services and thus damaging the livelihood options and potentials of the poor, particularly in the developing world. Poverty is the pronounced deprivation of wealth and well-being and lack of choice and empowerment of the people. Over one billion people live in food and livelihood insecurity in the present world. Of them, 800 million live in chronic poverty, those who lack basic amenities, social security and human dignity. Global climate change brings additional threats to poverty alleviation, food and water security, health and livelihoods of the millions, particularly in the developing world. Adaptive measures at ecosystems, human and societal levels are required urgently to protect the already degraded ecosystems in many parts of the world. Further, lack of good

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Scaling Up Community Based Adaptation: CBA5 Conference held in Dhaka

The Fifth Conference of Community Based Adaptation which popularly goes by the acronym CBA5 was jointly organized by Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) during 24-31 March, 2011 in Dhaka. This year's theme was "Scaling Up: Beyond Pilots". The primary focus of the Conference was on the need to spread CBA knowledge and practical lessons across communities and different levels of actors. Some key

actives addressed during CBA5 were - What is CBA? How does it differ from community based development activities? And how can one plan CBA activities in the future to ensure sustainable climate change adaptation activities, and not just the usual development activities? A total of 388 registered participants from 62 different countries attended the conference, representing development organizations, academic institutions, research and policy institutions.

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Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director of BCAS was addressing in a Plenary Session of the Conference. Prof. Ian Burton, Dr. Saleemul Huq, Dr. Rajendra K. Pachauri and Mesbah Ul Alam of MoEF were present
Photo: BCAS

COP-17 in Durban: Kyoto Protocol got a Life

The seventeenth Conference of the Parties (COP-17) under the UNFCCC was held in Durban, South Africa during 28 November to 9 December 2011. The conference started with the call “**Work Together for Saving Tomorrow Today**”. The main objective of the COP-17 was to save the Kyoto Protocol from a premature death and pursue the way for curbing GHG emission to save the planet from devastating climate change impacts, which are being already felt in different parts of the world. Jacob Zuma, the President of South Africa, in the opening session of the conference, urged the delegates from 191 Countries (who participated in the two-week long conference) to look beyond national interest and work for a broad based consensus for mitigation and adaptation to address climate change. South Africa tried their best to ensure that Kyoto Protocol did not die on their soil.

The main debate and concerns about the future of Kyoto Protocol centered around the demand of the industrialized and wealthy countries led by USA, who wanted emerging economies like China, India, South Africa and Brazil (who are the potential emitters in future) must accept a legally binding commitment for their own emission reduction. This added a new dimension to climate change negotiation, which started from Copenhagen during the COP-15 in 2009.

Poor Outcomes of COP17

The Climate talk in Durban yielded limited outcomes. The delegates agreed for a road map only for a future climate deal and kept the Kyoto Protocol alive. The conference ended with a modest accomplishment with the promise to work toward a new global treaty in coming years and the establishment of a new climate fund. However, the lack of ambitions mitigation targets by all major emitters including the USA, China, India and Brazil means that temperature will increase in near future. The conference also agreed on creation of a fund to help the poor countries to adapt to climate change though the precise sources of the money have yet to be determined.

The only positive side of the Durban COP was that in the political divided world and conflicting negotiation environment, the delegates could shun the voluntary pledges of action and turned towards legal commitments by the parties for emission reduction.

about the future of low-carbon economies.”

Delegation of Bangladesh in COP17

The Bangladesh had a delegation of 133 members who played a significant role in the negotiations not only as part of the LDC Group



Jacob Zuma, the President of South Africa was addressing the opening Session of the COP17

However, the negotiations will be launched in future to conclude a wider legal agreement for all major emitters by 2015 to enter into force from 2020. This will take much time again to initiate concrete actions by the parties. Hence many environmentalists and civil society representatives criticized the poor outcomes of Durban and viewed that delegates wasted their time by focusing on a negotiating text and failed to agree deeper emission cuts, which is urgently needed for arresting the rapid climate change and addressing its impacts on people and their livelihoods, particularly in the developing world.

It is felt that poor people on the frontline of climate change got little in the deal to address climate change impacts now and in future. Hence it is said, “The decisions adopted here fall far short of what is needed now”. However, Achim Steiner, Executive Director of UNEP said, “The outcomes of Durban provide a welcome boost for global climate action. They reflect the growing, and in some quarters unexpected, determination of countries to act collectively. This provides a clear signal and predictability to economic planners, business and innovators

but also at the political level with a ministerial level meeting of the Climate Vulnerable Forum (CVF) which Bangladesh now chairs. This forum of political leaders, which was formed by the Maldives in 2009, has grown in significance since then, and with Bangladesh hosting the meeting in November 2011 it takes over the leadership until next year. The LDC Group, with Bangladesh's active involvement, played a significant role in the negotiations and achieved a positive result on the adaptation track with an agreement on National Adaptation Plans and the Green Climate Fund.

Dr. Saleemul Huq, Director of International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) feels that the main lesson from Durban is that leaving efforts to the negotiations in the COPs is not enough, and that higher level political and diplomatic efforts will be necessary before COP18 in 2012 if it is to be a good COP rather than a bad one. Bangladesh and the other vulnerable countries will have to be proactive at the highest political levels if they wish to achieve such a good outcome.

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Social and Environmental Impact Assessment of Power Plant

In order to meet the need of the existing power crisis, the government of Bangladesh has awarded Summit Power Ltd. to construct Summit Bibiyana 1& 2 Power Plants in the south of Kushiyara River in the Habiganj district of Sylhet. This is by far the largest private sector Independent Power Plant (IPP) to be built in Bangladesh with an investment of USD 550 million. The project is being considered for funding by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) by World Bank (WB) and International Finance Corporation (IFC). A prerequisite of multilateral donor agencies is to conduct comprehensive Social and Environmental Impact Assessment (SEIA) of large scale projects. As a part of this requirement Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies conducted SEIA for Summit Power Limited.

The objective of the study was to assess the environmental and socio-economic impacts of the power plant, suggest mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts, enhance measures of beneficial impacts,

formulate environmental management and monitoring plans and address health and safety issues. BCAS has long term experience in carrying out similar studies since 1987 and the focus has been on large scale infrastructure and industrial projects, gas transmission pipeline and cement plants. Overtime BCAS has gathered knowledge and experience on aspects of environmental and social issues to be able to undertake SEIA study for large projects independently. SEIA standards of IFC, ADB and Department of Environment (DOE) have been the guiding principles of the study. Extensive sound modelling, water modelling and air quality modelling and measurements have been done to assess the levels of noise, air and water pollution. The research team also forecast that, activities due to the power plant construction are not likely

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to have adverse impacts on the biodiversity of Kushiyara River.

It was concluded that there would be a significant number of involuntary resettlement as a consequence of the project. A census survey was done for the Project Affected People (PAP) and compensation packages were designed according to losses of the PAPs. To design these packages consultations were held with stakeholders such as Upazila Chairman, local leaders, teachers, journalists and community people. Other social impacts included land acquisition process, which is the responsibility of the government of Bangladesh.

The study was lead by Dr Mainul Islam Sharif and his team of experts in April 2010 and was finally completed in October 2011. The final report is available in the ADB and IFC websites. ❀

- M.I. Sharif & Sadman K Monsur

Devastating Floods in Pakistan: Impediments to Livelihoods and Resources Management

The prolonged and devastating floods of 2010 and 2011 were a huge impediment on the national development process in Pakistan. It occurred consecutively and had detrimental consequences on livelihood resources and the economy as a whole. The floods of 2010 were very devastating which had affected 20 million people, left 2000 dead and inundated one fifth of the country.

The floods were caused by torrential monsoon rain for several weeks affecting the regions of Khyber Pakhthunkhwa, Sindh, Balochiistan and Punjab. A total of 39 districts were affected by floods and

unprecedented inundation. During natural calamities the risks and vulnerabilities of the poor and marginal people are magnified, as a result millions of poor people suffered from diseases, starvation, food insecurity and malnutrition. Agriculture, livestock, and infrastructure were washed away and more than 300,000 houses were collapsed.

A total area of 4.2 million acres have been flooded. Mud slides started at the end of July 2011 and continued up to mid August 2011 and the situation gradually worsened from August 2011 when the consecutive torrential rains began.

Emergency Response and Humanitarian Aid.

There have been emergency responses from the government and various aid organizations. A number of international agencies came forward to help flood victims during flood and post flood period to recover the asset losses and to reduce their vulnerability. Pakistan Red Crescent Society, Islamic Relief USA, Oxfam and Mercy Corps deployed many emergency teams and supplied food, water, medical aid and health supports to the flood victims. UNDP has launched a US\$120 million relief and aid recovery programme for one year to help communities affected by the floods.

Early Learning

From the experience of frequent floods it is strongly recommend enhancing the flood warning and flooding information which can reduce the devastation, risks and vulnerability. The donors' participation and their long and short terms programme implementation is urgently needed during and post disaster period to recover the losses. ❀

- G. Jilani



The Flood Victims in Pakistan

Feature

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environmental governance and institutional weakness favors the power elites and thus dis-benefits the poor and marginal sections in the society. Improving environmental governance, appropriate adaptation measures and empowerment of the poor, local actors and stakeholders with new knowledge, demonstration of good practices and institutional linkages may help the process of regeneration and safeguarding ecosystem services for the poor and thus ensure the food, water and livelihood security of the poor and marginal communities as well as reduce their multiple risks and vulnerability to environmental degradation and socio-economic stresses.

Ecosystems and Human Society

The central element of ecosystem is the interaction and inter-dependency of the living organisms including humans with other components in the local environment. We live in the nature and take many ecosystem services. It provides us food and nutrition, drinking water, medicines, fodder, fibers and furs. Ecosystems regulate the weather and climate, water filtration, formation and nutrient in soil etc. It also provides cultural supports to satisfy human spiritual desires, ceremonial and recreational activities. The Millennium Ecosystems Assessment (2005) suggests that ecosystem services are being degraded, particularly in the developing world due to many socio-economic, political, institutional and environmental factors. Over exploitation of the natural resources has resulted in large scale degradation of the key ecosystem services. There is growing concern that the increasing degradation is now impacting on some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable groups. The decline of ecosystems services



Richness of Bio-resources in the Hills of Southeast Bangladesh

Source: BCAS

Threatened Ecosystems, Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

affects the progress towards poverty alleviation. There has been a recognized linkage between poverty and degradation of ecosystems services in the developing world. Many socio-economic activities and processes (such as growing population, unwise human interventions for economic development, trade and business) and environmental factors including rapid climate change are causing destruction and degradation to major ecosystems in Bangladesh.

Degraded Ecosystems and Poverty in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is a small country with high population density and widespread poverty. It is facing a number of environment-development and resources management challenges. The country is also known as one of the most vulnerable country to climate variability and climatic extremes (floods, cyclone, tidal surge, sea level rise, salinity intrusion and drought). The country made some progress in poverty reduction in the mid 1990s and early 2000. The poverty situation has improved in 2005 when 40% of people lived under poverty as compared to 56.6% in 1991. The recently published BBS (2011) report says that the ratio of poverty has further declined to 32% in Bangladesh. But all the development and poverty alleviation efforts are again threatened by devastating climate change impacts. The recent MDG assessment in Bangladesh and PRSP report show that a relatively large number of poor people are living in the environmentally degraded ecosystems such as in the northwestern drought prone upland; riverine *Charland* in the Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions (51%) as well as in coastal ecosystems in Khulna and Barisal divisions (46%). Lack of economic opportunity,

degradation of natural resources and frequent climatic disasters make people poorer in these regions. There are also evidences of growing inequity, deprivation and disparity in the society.

The **coastal ecosystems** are characterized by low lying land and tidal plain with rivers and canals. Both the surface and ground water have high level salinity. Climate change induced high tide and sea level rise have aggravated the situation with severe negative impacts on natural resources (land, water, fisheries, forest and biodiversity), agriculture, drinking water, health and livelihoods of the common people. The coastal ecosystems are also endowed with large mangrove forest and marine fisheries. Increasing salinity and frequent cyclones and tidal surges are affecting the sources and quality of fresh water, lives and livelihoods of the millions in coastal Bangladesh.

The riverine Charlands: Bangladesh, being a deltaic country, has three major river systems (Ganges, Brahmaputra/Jamuna and Meghna) with over two hundred small and medium rivers. The river Jamuna and Ganges in the Northwestern parts of the country have hundreds of large and small chars (islands) crowded with thousand of poor people. The chars have fertile land, fisheries and grasslands. The poor people eke out their subsistence living by utilizing the land, water, fisheries, grazing land and their wage labour.

The **drought prone upland** (in Northwestern Bangladesh) has been characterized by high and dry land with water scarcity. In the earlier days, there have been forest, wildlife and fisheries in the river and perennial water bodies. People, mainly the *Adivasis* (indigenous people) used to depend on the natural resource bases for their subsistence livelihoods for centuries. Increasing drought and erratic rainfall have affected the natural resource base, agricultural productivity, horticulture and degraded the limited water resources which again affect lives and livelihood of the poor.

The **hilly ecosystems** in Bangladesh are also being degraded by many unwise human interventions (such as deforestation, planting of invasive species and hill cutting) and climatic factors such as temperature rise, low and erratic rainfall, increasing drought and flash floods.

Livelihood dependency of the poor on ecosystem services

Bangladesh was very rich in natural resources. Common people would take

enormous livelihood support and services from the ecosystems in terms of food and nutrition, water, medicines, fodder, housing materials and fibers. Besides the goods and services, ecosystems also provide recreational, religious and spiritual benefits for the people in Bangladesh. Large parts of the subsistence livelihoods of millions of the common people in Bangladesh often depend on land, water, fisheries, forests, bio-resources and ecosystem services. Ecosystem services are the benefits obtained from ecosystems. These include provisioning services such as food and water, medicine, fodder, fibers and regulating services such as flood and diseases control. Population growth and competing demands for goods and services, and increasing consumerism have resulted in over exploitation of the ecosystems services across the world. Global climate change brings additional threats to the natural resource base, their productivity and services.

Population, Development and Ecosystems Linkages

The general assumption is that large population needs greater amount of resources for food, water, fodders, fuel and other basic amenities. Hence, a growing population means smaller amount of resources per capita. Bangladesh has a huge population (about 160 millions in 2011) in a comparatively small land area of 1,475,000 sq km. High population density and higher dependency of common people on natural resources for their subsistence livelihoods has intensified over exploitation of natural resources and ecosystem services. Further the development interventions by government and other actors including the private sector (i.e., infrastructure development, industrialization, urbanization, trade and business) and encroachment of agricultural land, wetlands and forest land for housing and development activities have also affected the natural resources base and degraded ecosystem services. Hence, the poor and marginal communities are facing hardship in accessing the resources for their livelihoods.

Climate Change Impacts on Natural Resources and Ecosystem Services

The Fourth Assessment report of the IPCC suggests that ecosystems and species are very likely to show a wide range of vulnerability to climate

change depending on imminence of exposure to ecosystem-specific and critical thresholds. In Bangladesh, both climate variability and climatic extremes affect the land and its productivity, forest and biodiversity, water resources (availability, quality and access of the poor), agriculture (land and soil fertility, crop, irrigation management), firm outputs and rural livelihoods in Bangladesh. The country has problems of abundance (flood in monsoon) and scarcity of water having serious implications on livelihoods of the common people. It is apprehended that climate variability and change would modify water cycle and hydrological patterns in the Himalayan regions and these may bring additional threats to agriculture and rural development, poverty alleviation and livelihoods of the common people. The government of Bangladesh has formulated NAPA (National Adaptation Programme of Action) and Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCSAP). The government policy and strategies have identified the critically affected ecosystems and set of adaptation measures. We need to implement those actions urgently.

Integrated Management of NRs and better Governance

Integrated and pro-poor management of natural resources is essential for both ecosystem regeneration and poverty alleviation. Integrated approach is required at special, sectoral and community levels. Achieving the ecological and social goals (poverty alleviation and livelihood promotion) necessitates a from new regime of Natural Resources Management, better understanding of the linkages (driving forces and degradation patterns and the stake of the poor), wider awareness among actors and stakeholder as well as purposeful engagement of actors. Environmental governance (in the form of appropriate policy and strategies, enforcement of laws and regulations, role and greater responsibility of local government and actors, empowerment of the poor and local communities and various actors for conservation and sustainable uses of the resources) is a critical input to the integrated NRM that may benefit the ecosystems and the poor. The poor and marginal resources users (like forest dwellers and fishers) need long term tenurial right to the resources which may help safeguarding the ecosystems and contribute to poverty

alleviation in the long run. Diversification of livelihood options of the poor and resilience building in natural, human and social systems can also protect ecosystems and contribute to food and livelihood security and poverty alleviation. Adaptation measures could be undertaken for building resilience and livelihood protection in the degraded ecosystems. Adaptation options are to be explored in the local contexts considering the human, social and ecological stresses including the climate change impacts.

Environmental governance and political economy play a key role in resources allocation to people. In Bangladesh, political process and institutes favor the rich and power elites. They get most of the ecosystems benefits (water, fisheries, forest and biodiversity). Empowerment of people with new knowledge and awareness, capacity enhancement and linkages with actors and institutes as well as improving governance can reverse the situation where majority poor and marginal people may get greater access and entitlement to resources and services for their lives, livelihoods and thus can reduce the risks and vulnerability in relation to social and environmental shocks.

A recent BCAS study on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Livelihoods in Bangladesh suggests to investigate an appropriate and integrated institutional structure with inclusiveness (societal, vertical and horizontal) for better management of NRs and ecosystems services for poverty alleviation in Bangladesh. It is also suggested that a bottom up governance is required for pursuing sustainable NRM and equitable social development. An interdisciplinary research can provide necessary knowledge and insight on how to improve environmental governance and engage the policy makers, key actors at local government and stakeholders so that both the poor and ecosystems are benefited. Currently BCAS, in association with partners from the UK and Bangladesh, is engaged in a participatory research to understand the resources use patterns, driving forces, challenges for sustainable NRM, knowledge and stakeholders analysis in coastal ecosystems under the Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation (ESPA) programme of UK-DFID. We hope to share the findings of the study in the next issue of BEN. ❀

- A. Rahman & D. Mallick

COP-17 in Durban : Kyoto Protocol got a Life

BCAS and IIED Events in Durban

BCAS, in association with Germanwatch and ACTS from Kenya, organized a side event in Durban on 30 November 2011. The event entitled “Balancing Priorities and Creating Synergies: Pro-poor Action for Food Security, Adaptation and Mitigation”, was addressed amongst others by Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director of BCAS, Rachel Berger of Practical Action, UK and Sven Harmeling of Germanwatch. Md. Golam Rabbani of BCAS made a keynote presentation on Planning for Agriculture in Bangladesh in the Light of Climate Change Strategy, which initiated discussion on how do the developing countries take the challenges of feeding the growing population and at the same time, promote adaptation in agriculture.

The International Institute for Environment and Development

(IIED), BCAS and the partners organized the “Development and Climate Days” on 3-4 December 2011 at a hotel in Durban. The event featured more than 40 speakers and

panel discussants with contribution from the participants, which focused on effective climate change adaptation planning. ❁

- D. Mallick



Dr. Saleemul Huq of IIED speaking to the audience of “Development and Climate Days” in Durban. Hannah Reid of IIED and Farah Kabir of Action Aid Bangladesh were also present. Source: BCAS

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About 40 participants from LDC countries were funded by CBA and their abstracts were selected by the conference organizers.

Key Focus of the Conference

The Fifth CBA conference was segmented into three parts – field visit, technical session and high level panel sessions. From 25-27 March, 2011, the participants went for a three-day field visit to see the community based adaptation initiatives and activities in eight different vulnerable sites of Bangladesh such as areas affected by drought, flood, river bank erosion, water logging, coastal salinity, high tide, coastal erosion and cyclone.

From 28-31 March 2011 national and

Scaling Up Community Based Adaptation:

international participants attended the technical sessions. The conference was inaugurated by Sheikh Hasina, Honorable Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh followed by introductory speeches by Dr. Hassan Mahmood, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Bangladesh, Dr. Atiq Rahman Executive Director, BCAS, Dr. Saleemul Huq, (IIED), Youssef Nassef, UNFCCC and Ian Burton, University of Toronto, Canada.

A poster session was organized from 28-30 March. The main objective for this session was to add an interactive, visual and aesthetic dimension to the conference and was designed thematically to create a scope for

networking among the organizations. In addition to the display of posters several documentaries on CBA were shown to the audience. This gave the participants an opportunity to see relevant activities undertaken by partner organizations. On the third day of the poster session a panel of judges declared the names behind the three best posters. The winners were selected by a review committee who evaluated the content, presentation and structure of the posters.

On 31st March, 2011 there was a high level panel of guests at the concluding session. Ministers, government and intergovernmental officials attended this session. It was announced that a book will be published on the conference outcomes which will contribute to the Fifth Assessment report of IPCC as well as scientific and academic literature. This publication will provide good lessons on how to support CBA and help vulnerable communities to deal with the impacts of climate change in future. It was also announced during the concluding session that, the forthcoming Sixth CBA conference will take place in Vietnam in 2012. The theme will be “Communications” and the focus will be on lessons learnt, knowledge sharing amongst stakeholders and current practices of adaptation in developing and developed countries. ❁

- Syeda Sajeda Haider & Syeda Jafari Husain



Participants at a Technical Session in the CBA 5 Conference

Source: BCAS

Workshops & Seminars

Roundtable Discussion on Impact of Climate Change on Migration in Bangladesh

The Centre for American Progress (CAP) is based in Washington D.C. It develops new policy ideas, critiques the policy that stems from conservative values and shapes the national debate. CAP also shares a good relationship with the Obama administration and believes in moving towards changes and there is growing interest in issues like climate change, famine and looks at these issues to design foreign policies accordingly.

In order to take forward these issues, CAP and BCAS hosted a roundtable discussion on Climate Change and Migration in Bangladesh at Hotel De Crystal Crown on 15 December, 2011. Michael Werz and Caroline Wadhams Visiting senior fellows of CAP and Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director of BCAS made presentations during the session.



Caroline Wadhams of CAP addressing the Participants of Roundtable Dialogue

Leading scientists, professionals and members of civil society organizations participated in the dialogue. Thoughts and knowledge were shared with CAP delegates that helped develop new avenues to address the climate induced migration in Bangladesh. Participants addressed questions like if we can handle climate change and migration together? Issues like migration of Bangladeshis into Assam during 1971, social conflicts between Assamese and Bangladeshis, citizenship rights, paradox regarding the term 'Climate Refugees' as well as economically compelled migration and environmentally compelled migration were discussed. A conclusive synthesis of the discussion was that the current rate of migration will not be the same in the future, the scenario is bound to change. Extensive research and comprehensive frameworks need to be developed to understand the nexus between climate change induced migration in Bangladesh. ❁

Action Research for Community Adaptation in Bangladesh (ARCAB) launched

ARCAB was launched on 20th July 2011 at Hotel Lakeshore in Dhaka. The ceremony was attended by over 100 representatives from NGOs, donor agencies as well as local and international universities. The session opened with an introductory briefing on ARCAB by Dr Saleemul Huq, Research Fellow of IIED, which was followed by a presentation by Jessica Ayers of IIED on Baseline Monitoring and Evaluation. After the presentations the participants were engaged in a group work to write their experiences, observations and generate ideas about M&E at community levels. The group work was done to incorporate the findings of participants into the future methodology of ARCAB.

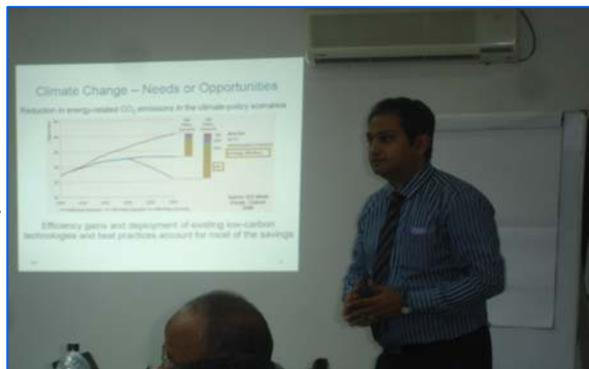
The second session was moderated by Dr Atiq Rahman, Executive Director BCAS. Dr Saleemul Huq made a presentation on the aims and objectives of ARCAB. Dr. Huq emphasized that ARCAB is a platform to bring scientists of different subjects under the overarching theme of climate change. Dr Huq's presentation was sequentially followed by presentations and speeches by guests like Mozharul Alam of UNEP, Farah Kabir of Action Aid, Dr Khairul Islam of Water Aid Bangladesh. The ceremony concluded with a plethora of questions, answers, suggestions and ideas from the participants and ARCAB personnel. ❁

Training on Food, Water, Energy and Livelihood Securities

The Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) along with support and facilitation by the Asian Development Bank and Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies put together a series of training courses on the following themes- Energy Security and Climate Change, Livelihood Security and Climate Change, Food Security and Climate Change, Water Security and Climate Change. The trainings were conducted in hotels Lake Breeze and Lake Shore respectively, Dhaka. This training session was primarily targeted to mid-level officials of key government organization and non government organizations as well as donor agencies involved in climate change projects

The overall aim of the series of trainings was to strengthen Bangladesh Governments' capacity in implementing The Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy Action Plan (BCCSAP).

The training under each theme was carried out for a period of three days. The training sessions were conducted by the ADB team which included Syed Tanveer Hussain, former Secretary of MoEF and team leader of the project, Mr. Arif M. Faisal of ADB, Dr Aftabuddin Ahmed, ADB Consultant and Dr SMA Rashid, ADB Consultant. In addition to the ADB team, guest speakers contributed their knowledge and expertise in different sessions such as Surojit Bose of Pricewater House Coopers, Dr Ijaz Hossain of BUET and Dr Ghulam Hussain of BARC. ❁



Mr. Surojit Bose of Pricewater House Coopers at the Energy & Climate Change Training in Hotel Lakebreeze, Dhaka

Publications

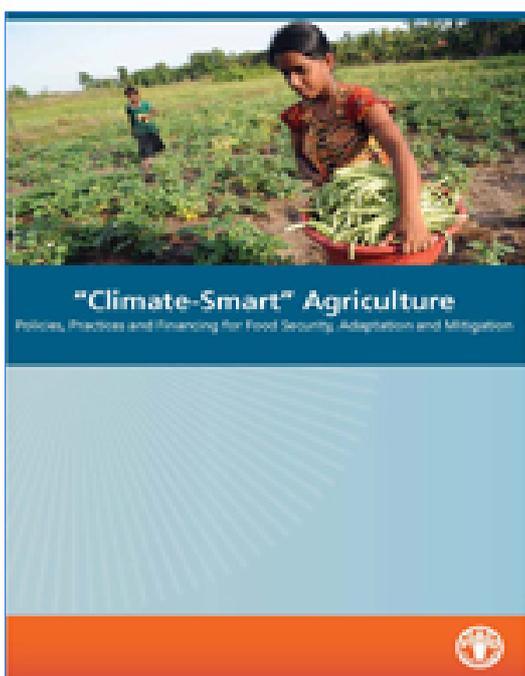
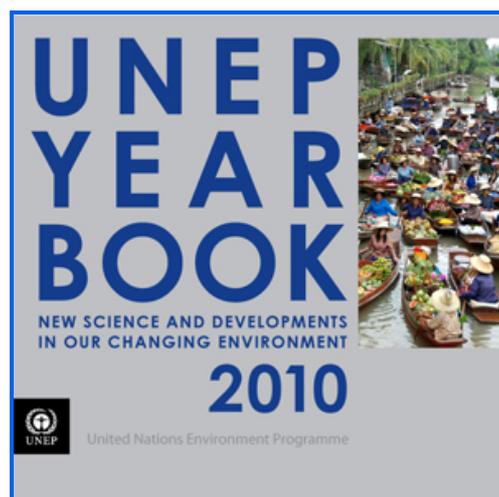
UNEP YEARBOOK 2010

New Science & Developments in Our Changing Environment

Published by: UNEP, Year: 2010

The UNEP Yearbook 2010 is an insightful reading resource that highlights the issue of environmental governance and is useful literature for environmental scientists, practitioners, researchers and students. The authors emphasize that the purpose of this Yearbook is to strengthen science-policy interface and presents recent developments and new scientific insights that are of interest to policy makers. It also looks at the loss of world's ecosystem, the impact of climate change and the impact of harmful substances and hazardous waste on human health. Important international agreements protocols and amendments are also mentioned in this book.

Out of 100 emerging issues suggested by experts less than one third have been mentioned in this book and they have been summarized in the following main chapters: Environmental Governance, Ecosystem Management, Harmful Substance and Hazardous Waste, Climate Change, Disasters and Conflicts and Resource Efficiency. These chapters are UNEP's six thematic priorities. The book is illustrated with pictures, graphs, tables and maps that help the reader to comprehensively understand the thematic issues.



Climate Smart Agriculture: Policies Practices and Financing for Food Security Adaptation and Mitigation

Published by: FAO, Year: 2010

The need for climate smart agricultural policies, practices and financing arise as the world population is expected to reach 9 billion by 2050 and developing countries must undergo a significant transformation to meet related challenges of food security and climate change. The book on Climate Smart Agriculture: Policies Practices and Financing for Food Security Adaptation and Mitigation published by FAO in 2010 and provides perspective on three different dimensions of climate-smart agriculture. Each section of the paper contains examples, case studies, graphs and conceptual explanations providing insight into climate smart agriculture practices and emphasizes on the roles institutions and financing.

The book is segmented into three chapters. The first chapter is, 'Examples of climate-smart production systems', which informs the reader about the existence of effective climate smart practices and provides illustrative examples of current practices from developing countries such as Philippines, Afghanistan, Egypt and Uzbekistan. It also briefly covers issues like agro forestry, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture as well as urban and peri-urban agriculture. The second chapter focuses on 'Institutional Policy Options' and emphasizes on the need for greater coordination, coherence and integration between climate change agriculture and food security policy processes. The third and last part is on 'Financing and Investments for Climate-smart agriculture' focusing on issues like - the need for financing, the gaps in financing sources, blending different types of funding and funding mechanisms.

In the end the list of jargons and a detailed list of references are useful resources for extensive reading and research. It can be concluded that this paper is targeted towards agriculture specialists, researchers, trainers and students that provides a platform for further research and knowledge under this theme.

Editorial Board: Dr. Saleemul Huq, Dr. Atiq Rahman, Dr. Dwijen Mallick, Golam Jilani and Syeda Jaferi Husain

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