

EDITORIAL

The year 2012 experienced two major international events: the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) known as Rio+20 conference, held in Brazil and the UN climate conference, held in Doha, Qatar. The two UN conferences, though held in different continents, have common goals of promoting sustainable development (SD), poverty alleviation, protecting nature and addressing climate change. These all are linked together.

The UNCSD has renewed the political commitments of the global communities, assessed the progress made so far in implementation of Agenda-21 and MDGs as well as identified new and emerging challenges of promoting SD. The outcome of UNCSD strongly suggests, "Eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and is an indispensable pre-requisite of SD". The Doha climate conference also agreed a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol and follow-up actions as well as prepared a shared vision for mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The global communities have right vision and strategies, but we lack action on the ground seriously to protect the nature and human systems.

This issue of BEN features two of the action researches of BCAS, which resulted in community actions towards reducing risks and vulnerability of the common people in climate affected eco-systems, at the same time, contribute to natural resources conservation and sustainable development at local level. The world deserves more and more such local and community actions along with the vision and strategies. Translating the global thought into local actions also has many challenges. ❀❀❀

The Rio+20 Conference urged for redefining Development Pathways

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD) popularly known as Rio+20 was held at the Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 20-22 June in 2012 after 20 years of the first Rio Earth Summit was held in 1992, which resulted in the Agenda-21, UN Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Convention on Biodiversity and Convention Desertification. The UNCSD aimed at:

- to ensure a renewed political commitment from all governments and development partners to sustainable development;
- to assess the progress made in implementation of Agenda-21, WSSD plan of Action, NSDS and MDGs; and
- to identify the new challenges for sustainable development (SD) and develop strategies to address those challenges.

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The UN Climate Conference held in Doha: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities

Climate change emerges as one of the greatest environment, development and global governance challenge that mankind has ever faced. Most communities of different countries are starting to feel the direct or indirect impacts of climate change. The science is becoming stronger and louder. Climate change is becoming one of the centre points of research and policy discourse across the world, both in developed and developing countries.

The COP-18 Process

The delegates from 191 countries attended the UN Conference of the

Parties (CoP-18) in late November to early December 2012 in Doha, Qatar. Over 17,000 participants (involving government negotiators, climate scientists, environmental activists and social development and human right groups) attended the COP as well as in various parallel sessions and side events to influence the global decisions for an immediate agreement of the nations (in relation to second commitment of Kyoto Protocol- KP) and urgent actions in mitigation, adaptation, resource allocation and technology transfer. The

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Doha city welcomes the participants of UN COP-18

Source: UNFCCC Website

The UN Climate Conference held in Doha:



View of the inaugural session of COP-18 in Doha

Source: UNFCCC, Website

President of Qatar termed it as a “golden opportunity” to make progress on a new global climate deal, but the CoP-18 ended with a weak “Doha Climate Gateway”, which allows the negotiation process up to 2015 to agree on a more appropriate structure and wider targets for the second commitment period of KP. It is felt that the continuation of KP beyond December 2012 saved the global negotiation process and created a window to take up the process to an ambitious target level by involving the major emitters including the USA within 2015.

Major Negotiating Groups and Priorities

The negotiation process was mainly dominated by the USA, their allies and major groups including the European Union, BASIC group, LDC, AOSIS and African group. The BASIC group (with Brazil, South Africa, India and China) played a key role in Doha and called for more ambitious emission reduction targets from the developed countries as well as demanded finance, capacity building and technology transfer for both mitigation and adaptation. The representatives from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) and poor countries felt that poverty alleviation must be integrated into climate change actions. In Doha, they demanded an ambitious new KP for second period with higher commitments from developed countries and BASIC group which

would be consistent to contain global temperature rise within 1.5 degree Celsius. They also demanded annual climate finance of USD 60 billion from now until 2015. Bangladesh along with the MVC (Most Vulnerable Country) groups strongly demanded higher cut in carbon emission by the developed countries and greater financial and technological support for adaptation primarily to reduce climate risk and mitigation as well. The EU group was a key player in the recent COPs and in Doha. They looked for enhancing action in line with the Bali Action Plan (BAP) and Durban Platform for Actions.

Second Commitment Period of KP and Follow-up Action

In the support of Durban Platform, the draft decision at COP-18 calls for widest possible cooperation by the all parties in an effective and appropriate international response, with a view to accelerating the reduction of GHG emission. The KP has been amended so that it will continue as of 1 January 2013. The parties have decided that the length of the second commitment period would be 8 years. The countries that are taking on further commitment under KP have agreed to review their emission reduction commitment at the latest by 2014, with a view to increasing their respective levels of emission reduction. However, in the second commitment period, KP’s binding commitments covers around 15% of the total of amount global

emission, while the USA accounts for 16% of global emission has not signed up the treaty. Keeping 85% of the global emission out of the treaty is seriously inadequate and faulty. The parties have agreed to speedily work a universal climate agreement covering all countries from 2020, to be adopted by 2015 for deeper carbon cuts so that the world can stay below the 2 degree Celsius temperature rise by 2100.

Shared Vision, Mitigation and Adaptation

The Doha decision strongly supports a shared vision for long term cooperative action, including global goal for emission reduction to inclusive the ultimate objective of the convention and upholds the “principles of common, but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities” of the nation by taking into account the social, economic, environmental and other relevant factors. It calls for enhanced actions for mitigation and adaptation to climate change that are to be measurable, reportable and verifiable (MRV) to the UNFCCC. It suggests formulation of Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) by the developing country parties as well as policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to reduction of emission from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in developing world.

The Doha draft decision reaffirms that adaptation is a challenge faced by all parties and that enhanced actions and international cooperation on adaptation are urgently required to enable and support implementation of adaptation action aimed at reducing vulnerability and building resilience in developing countries. It has approved a three year work plan for implementation of loss and damage program, so that vulnerable countries can claim compensations and more resources for adaptation. The Doha Decisions encourage growing role of regional adaptation centers and network for adaptation. The CoP-18 also decided to establish a technology centre for mitigation and adaptation.

Climate Finance

The global communities are greatly disappointed since little progress has been made in funding under UNFCCC to help developing countries. The Parties have promised to provide up to \$100

Contd on page 6

Ecosystem for Life: An Initiative to explore Climate Change Impacts on Water and Livelihoods

Climate change is a reality and no longer a future concern. Over the past decades, there are growing evidences that with continued climate change, the pattern of floods across all continents has been changing, becoming more frequent, intense and unpredictable. Bangladesh and India faces a number of development challenges and barriers including natural disasters, gradual degradation of natural resource bases, extreme poverty, resource constraints, and lack of institutional capacity. Rapid changes in the climatic system will aggravate the extent and scale of challenges and problems.

The Ecosystems for Life: A Bangladesh-India Initiative has been an International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) led multi-stakeholder dialogue and research to promote insights into trans-boundary issues across the three major river systems: Ganges, Brahmaputra and the Meghna (GBM). Ecosystems for Life focuses on five themes: food security, water productivity and poverty; impacts of climate change;

convergence of inland navigation and integrated water resources management goals; environmental security and biodiversity conservation. The study has jointly been conducted by Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) and Department of Humanities and Social Sciences of Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, Assam. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is supporting the initiative. The study focuses on adaptation to impacts of climate change in Brahmaputra basin flowing through India and Bangladesh.

The overall objective of this study was to identify potential climate change impacts and their effects on water



Participants of a FGD in a Flood affected Village in Gaibandha, Bangladesh
Source: BCAS

availability and hence on food production and livelihoods. It attempted to identify the impacts of climate change on water resources and on the most vulnerable communities. The further tries to explore adaptation options in water, food and livelihoods. The findings would used as policy input to future water related policies in Bangladesh and India.

Contd on page 6

Collective Action to Reduce Climate Disaster Risks and Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) is implementing an action research project entitled “Collective Action to Reduce Climate Disaster Risks and Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Coastal Communities around the Sundarbans in Bangladesh and India. The Development Research Communications and Services Center (DRCSC), in West Bengal, is implementing project activities in and around the Sundarbans in India. The European Union is supporting the project. The project is being implemented in selected villages of Paikgacha Upazilla of Khulna, Morrelganj Upazilla of Bagerhat and Shyamnagar Upazilla of Satkhira Districts in Bangladesh. In India, the project is being implemented in selected villages of Hingleganj & Sandeshkhali Blocks of North 24 Parganas and Basanti & Patharprotima Blocks of South 24 Parganas districts in West Bengal.

The overall goal of the project is to reduce climate disaster risks and

enhancing resilience of the coastal communities around the Sundarbans by building capacity of the vulnerable communities, local actors and stakeholders through sustainable natural resource management and disaster risk reduction for promotion of livelihoods as well as by advancing community adaptation to climate change. The project considered the Sundarbans ecosystem as a whole and followed same methodology across the two countries. The project also aims to reduce dependency of people on the natural resources of Sundarbans. Thus the project hopes to contribute in conservation of the Sundarbans biodiversity and ecosystems that may again build resilience in the natural and human systems.

The project has used different methods and tools (Reconnaissance, Census, Baseline Survey and Participatory Vulnerability Assessment) to identify the project area and target beneficiaries



Participants of a village level Planning Workshop in the West Bengal, India.
Source: BCAS

for effective implementation work. The project plans to arrange awareness programs, trainings, demonstrations for target beneficiaries. The project will also formulate Climate Change Adaptation Forums and knowledge sharing networks for creating impacts on policies and practices at local, regional, national and even international levels. ❁

- ASM Shahidul Haque

Feature

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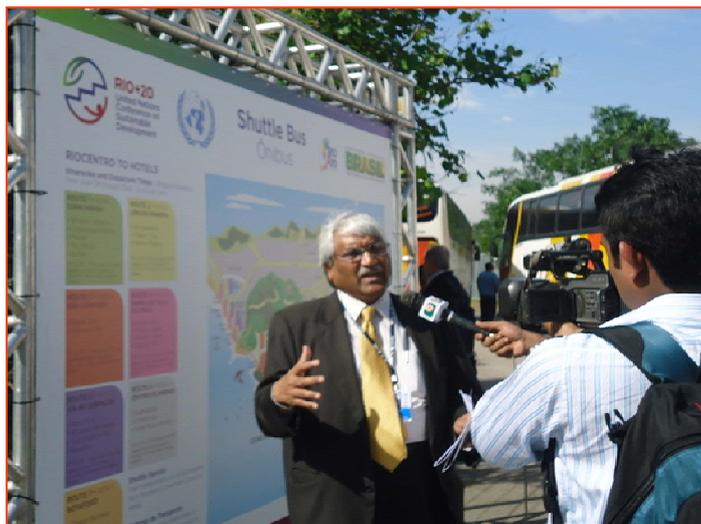
The official discussion of the Rio+20 focused on two issues:

- a) How to build green economy as key component of Sustainable Development (economic growth with equity, social justice and environmental soundness); and
- b) How to lift millions of people out of poverty and how to improve international cooperation and partnership for achieving sustainable development?

The Objectives of the UNCS D

One of the main goal of the Rio+20 summit was to put pressure on global leaders to enhance efforts and move forward from business as usual and to act promptly to end poverty, address environmental destruction (including climate change, loss of biodiversity, air and water pollution) and build a bridge to future. Discussions were held in plenary and parallel sessions on how to bring solutions to key environmental and sustainable development problems like water and flood of security, energy for all, protection of ecosystems and sustainable cities.

Hundred of experts, scientists, leaders of governments, representatives of private sectors, civil society and NGOs (Major group including farmers, women and ingenious people) discussed the issues and approaches and identified urgent steps towards reducing poverty, advancing human rights and social



Dr. Ariq Rahman, Executive Director, BCAS was talking to a news media during the UNCS D in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Source: BCAS

The Rio+20 Conference urged for



Opening session of the UNCS D in the Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Source: BCAS

justice, creation of wealth, ensure access of the poor to common goods and services, information and technologies for green economy as well as to protect environment and biodiversity of the world.

Key Outcomes

The Rio+20 adopted a draft agreement called "The Future We want". In the common vision statement, the agreement has stated, "Eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. In this regard we are committed to freeing humanity from poverty and hunger as a matter of urgency". It has renewed the political commitments of the UN members to achieve sustainable development at local, national and international levels and suggested an institutional framework for implementation of action plan. The key thematic areas for urgent and immediate actions are: poverty alleviation, food security and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, energy for all, water and sanitation, health and population management, eco-tourism and sustainable transport,

sustainable cities, climate change, forest and bio-diversity and productive employment for all.

The outcomes of the UNCS D were criticized by many human right groups and civil society organizations for not being adequately addressing the issues of developing countries and particularly of the issues like food and water security of the poor.

It was felt that the concept of green economy was developed to address the economic crisis of the Western developed countries (the USA and Europe). However, the few of the elements of green economy sound good, which suggest:

- Ensuring human wellbeing
- Economic growth with equity and justice; and
- Reducing environmental degradation and risk.

The Challenges Ahead

The leading civil society organizations have urged to redefine the development path for addressing the challenges of poverty alleviation and green economy as key components of sustainable development. It was strongly suggested by the civil society representatives that the new development path must maintain, ensure and where necessary should rebuild the natural capital as well as critical economic and livelihood assets for the poor and marginal to ensure food and livelihood security and at the same time conservation of natural resources (please see in the box-1). ❁

- D Mallick

Box-1: Fair Ideas to influence UNCSO Decisions

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), Pontificia University Catolica (PUC) in Rio de Janeiro and the partners organized a pre-conference event called "FAIR IDEAS" in the Rio de Janeiro on 16-18 June 2012 to share solutions for sustainable development. The fair ideas included a mix of plenary and panel discussions, seminars and workshops at the PUC to exchange views, share ideas and experiences for addressing poverty and sustainability. In the FAIR IDEAS event, BCAS, Global Forum on Environment and



Technical session of the Fair Ideas at Pontificia University Catolica (PUC), Brazil
Source: BCAS

Poverty (GFEP) and Climate Action Network South Asia (CANSA) with support from UNDP, Dhaka organized a side event called North-South Dialogue, which focused on "Role of Key Actors in Achieving Poverty Alleviation and Green Economy (GE) in developing countries. The dialogue was held at the PUC, in Rio on 16 June 2012.

The main objective of the dialogue was to facilitate exchange of views and get insights of all relevant key actors and stakeholders toward poverty alleviation and green economy as key components of sustainable development. Chaired by Dr. Atiq Rahman of BCAS, the dialogue was addressed amongst others by Dr. Ashoke Khosla of Development Alternative (DA), India; Prof. Paul van Gardingen, Director of ESPA (DFID Programme), Dr. Andy Parker, Senior Policy Advisor, the Royal Society of the UK, Ms. Farah Kabir, Head of Action Aid Bangladesh; and Dr. Saleemul Huq, IIED, London.

the importance of exchange of views and experience between North-South and South-South to demonstrate practical solutions to address the problems. He further emphasized that thrust of the rich and industrialized countries were to promote green economy and address climate change problems, while the essential task of many of the developing country was to eradicate poverty, accelerate economic growth and then pursue green economy and thus achieve sustainable development.

Dr. Ashoke Khosla spoke about the importance of creating green jobs for both poverty alleviation and SD in developing countries. He elaborated few of the DA's activities for creating green jobs and poverty alleviation. He further emphasized that the GE approach should also include the principles of inclusive development and thus protect and promote the livelihoods of the poor and vast marginal section of people in Asia and Africa.

Ms. Farah Kabir of Action Aid Bangladesh pointed out that there had been vital gaps in understanding women's role and gender perspectives in development process and economic growth. Despite some level of economic growth and agricultural development, the consumption and food security of women has not increased much in the developing world. So there is need for further research and dialogue on these. Green Economy, growth and market development must consider gender role, their stake and perspectives. The interest, risk and vulnerability of women in the context of market economy and climate change are to be analyzed and put into national policy and strategies in developing world. The women have capability, intelligence, innovation and greater resilience for adaptation to climate change. They need recognition, information and enabling conditions for their effective participation in GE, poverty alleviation and sustainable development, she added.

Dr. Paul van Gardingen, Director of ESPA spoke about the importance of natural resources and Ecosystem Services for poverty alleviation. He shared the examples of sustainable conservation, efficient and wise use of natural resources for improving livelihoods of people and reducing level of poverty.

Dr. Andy Parker of The Royal Society, UK spoke about the role of science, policy, population and ethics in the context of climate change and sustainable development. He highlighted on importance of geo-engineering and new technologies for sustainable development and hoped that dialogue and partnership may help to amplify voice of actors and poor to get benefits of new technology, knowledge and innovations.

The dialogue highlighted that climate change impacts on small farmers and poor countries were evident across the world. Climate change has already worsened the food security situations in many of the Asian and African countries. Farmers would need new technologies, inputs and better farm management in the climate change condition. They would need information, innovation, motivation, new skills and capacity to promote climate resilient farming to ensure food and livelihood security.

Dr. Atiq Rahman, in his concluding remarks, has said that governance is poor at national and global levels. The institutions are ineffective and sometimes non-functional at even UN system. At the global levels, decisions are influenced and dominated by the rich countries. In such an unequal process, the developing and poor countries cannot impact adequately on the decisions of COP/MOP under UNFCCC and UNCSO. Space should be created for effective participation of the representatives from developing countries and the global leaders must take fair decisions and actions now to address poverty, climate change as well as promote green economy and green development. ❁



Dr. Atiq Rahman was speaking at a BCAS-GFEP Side event on North-South Dialogue at PUC
Source: BCAS

The UN Climate Conference held in Doha:



Dr. Atiur Rahman, Governor of the Bangladesh Bank with Dr. Saleemul Huq of IIED and others at the Development and Climate Days at Doha. Source: BCAS

billion per year from 2020 onwards and only \$30 billion as initial fund for three years. Germany, the UK, France, Denmark, Sweden and EU Commission have announced financial pledges in Doha for the period up to 2015, totaling approximately \$6 billion only, while the developing countries demanded at least \$60 billion over the next 3 years (2013-15). The civil society group and members of the Climate Action Network (CAN) have criticized the CoP-18 for not showing sincerity and adequate efforts for setting goal and structure in relation to finance for developing countries. It is strongly felt that plenty could be accomplished in Doha, particularly with regard to financing for adaptation and mitigation efforts of the poor countries. More work should be done on

governance of Green Climate Fund and innovative finance. Parties and negotiators must do further home work before the next CoP 19 to be held in Warsaw, Poland.

The representatives of the small farmers, women and indigenous people termed the draft Doha agreement as a death warrant for the poor and indigenous people throughout the world. They demanded significant changes in the agreement to remove the weakness before the next COP.

The Role of Bangladesh at COP 18

Bangladesh had a large delegation with government negotiators, climate experts, Members of the National Parliament, civil society representatives and journalists. Everybody worked

collectively under the leadership of the Minister for Environment and Forest. In the negotiation process, Bangladesh took part through LDC, G77 and MVC groups and put forward the demands of developing countries. Bangladesh delegations along with NGOs have organized a side event on Loss and Damage, which drew much of the attention of the global negotiators. The Bangladesh delegation with LDC also suggested an “International Mechanisms for Loss and Damages”, which may open up the door to potential claims for cooperation in future for adaptation and climate risk reduction. Bangladesh delegation further organized a number of press conferences highlighting the climate risks and vulnerability as well as adaptation and mitigation action to tackle climate change in Bangladesh.

In the negotiation process, Bangladesh must continue to demonstrate its leadership. Bangladesh delegations have made laudable contribution to uphold the positions of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) and the Most Vulnerable Countries (MVC) groups. Bangladesh is in a good position to encourage and uphold the SAARC to take a regional approach towards finding climate solutions. AS a result, the SAARC has recently gained observer status to UNFCCC process and has already three separate declarations on climate change (Dhaka, Thimpu and Addu). We have to work collectively to make greater impacts in the next CoP to be held in Warsaw. ❁

-A Rahman and D Mallick

Contd from page 3

Ecosystem for Life:

The study adopted the flood vulnerability framework prepared by UNESCO-IHE in 2009 where it is defined as the extent to which a system is susceptible to floods or any natural hazard due to exposure, a perturbation, in conjunction with its ability (or inability) to cope, recover and adapt to the changes. It has also utilized lessons and suggestions from the IPCC reports, adaptation experts, community members and local actors.

Primary data collection was done mainly through Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews. Literature review has been done mainly from published peer reviewed papers, reports of the



River bank erosion enhanced in the study areas by climate change induced frequent floods

Source: BCAS

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), publication of various government organizations, reports published by UN organizations, local and international NGOs. The field study was conducted in Gaibandha Sadar, Fulchari, Shaghata and Sundarganj upazilas of Gaibandha district. The study areas are located within the reach of Brahmaputra-Jamuna and Tista rivers and their islands (Chars) in Gaibandha district.

The study team has completed their analysis and will share their findings with the multiple stakeholders. The next issue of BEN may publish the key findings of the study. ❁

- Sadman K Monsur

Workshops & Seminars

ESPA Project Workshop held in London

The End-Project workshop of the *Whole Decision-Network Analysis for Coastal Ecosystems (WD-NACE)* of ESPA (Ecosystem Services for Poverty Alleviation) was held at the Welcome Collection Conference Hall in London, UK on 27 September 2012. It was addressed by Professor Paul van Gardingen, Director of ESPA, Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director of BCAS and Chair of the International Advisory Committee of ESPA and Dr. David Raffaelli, Professor of the University of York, UK and Coordinator of WD-NACE project. The researchers, academics, scientists and representatives from project partners including SEI of York and Oxford, CEGIS, BCAS and Shushilan (from Bangladesh) and CORIDO and KMFRI (from Kenya) presented the key findings of the multi-country study in the workshop. Dr. Dwijen Mallick of BCAS made a presentation on Resources Use and Human Actions in Coastal Bangladesh: Knowledge and Network for Sustainable Natural Resources Management. ESPA has been supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the government of the United Kingdom, which aims to provide evidence based knowledge and tools to enable decision makers and actors to manage natural resources and ecosystems in a sustainable way that may contribute to poverty alleviation in the developing world.



Dr. Atiq Rahman, Executive Director of BCAS was speaking at the Inaugural session of the workshop.
Source: BCAS

South Asian Workshop on Environmental Outlook

A regional workshop on *South Asian Environmental Outlook (SAEO)* was held at the Hotel Summit, Kathmandu, Nepal on 28 -30 August, 2012. It was jointly organized by UNEP, Bangkok and Development Alternatives, Delhi and was attended by government officials of SAARC countries (including Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan), representatives from civil society and research organizations. The three day workshop was structured in different plenary and technical sessions to share the results of the SAEO, 2009 and UNEP report on Resources Efficiency: Economics and Outlook for the Asia and the Pacific. The workshop has developed the outline and methods of the SAEO report for 2012. The workshop further discussed the environmental trends and problems highlighting the climate change impacts on natural resources, livelihoods and economic activities of common people with country case study. It has also identified urgent policy responses to arrest environmental degradation and conservation of nature and ecosystems in the South Asian region.

Socio-Economic Scenario Building Workshop held in Colombo

CCAFS (Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security) project of the CGIAR and the partners organized a 3 day regional workshop on *Socio-economic Scenario Building in South Asia* from 29 November to 1 December 2012 at the Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The objectives of the scenarios building workshop were:

- to reveal key socio-economic trends and uncertainties for regional food security, environments and adaptive capacity to climate change as seen from a range of societal perspectives; and
- to guide collaborative decision-making and help develop regional capacity for food systems and environmental governance in the face of future uncertainty.

Academicians, researchers and policy makers from South Asian countries including India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan attended the workshop. The workshop was facilitated by the experts from Environmental Change Institute (ECI), Oxford University and International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Delhi. ❀



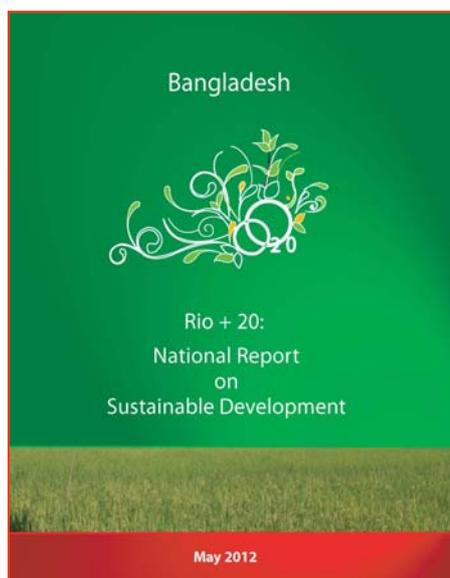
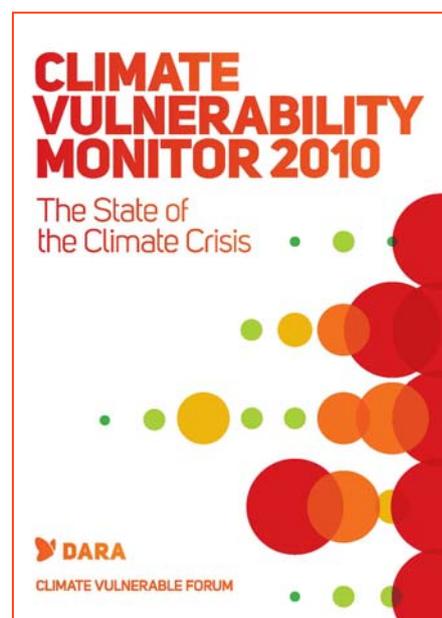
Findings of group work on People led transformative growth in South Asia were shared in the workshop.
Source: CCAFS

Publications

Climate Vulnerability Monitor 2010: The state of the Climate Crisis; This is the first print edition of the 2010 Climate Vulnerability Monitor issues in time for the main annual United Nations Climate Conference held at Cancun, Mexico (COP-16) in November/December 2010.

The Climate Vulnerability Monitor is a new tool built to assess the vulnerability of our world to the many effects of climate change as communities virtually everywhere are facing them – each in radically different ways. DARA and Climate Vulnerable Forum developed the Climate Vulnerability Monitor with critical input from leading international thinkers. It aims to help us keep watch on current and expected impacts caused by climate change and to promote understanding and debate around its growing dangers and how to deal with them.

This report identifies just how inexpensive it is to limit the majority of the negative impacts of climate change seen today, from the effects of the most violent storms and floods, to epidemic severe drought, desertification and even rising seas.



RIO+20: National Report on Sustainable Development, Published by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh- May 2012 with technical assistance of UNDP.

The National Report describes the achievements in respect of various dimensions of sustainable development in Bangladesh since the 1992 Rio Earth Summit and outlines the future directions and challenges in relation to carrying the process forward in future. As part of the preparation for participation in forthcoming RIO+20 Summit, Bangladesh has prepared a National RIO+20 Report. As the first step in the process, a draft National Stocktaking Report was prepared to reflect the status of Bangladesh in relation to sustainable development, particularly Bangladesh achievements during the past 20 years and the future prospects. The draft stocktaking Report has been validated through national consultations and synthesized into the Bangladesh National Report on Sustainable Development to be placed in the RIO+20 Summit in June 2012 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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