



Concept Note on Learning Hub Event

“Supporting Planning Commission of Government of Bangladesh to set up a learning/knowledge hub for enabling knowledge exchange and dialogues on climate resilient development planning”

GED-IIED-ICCCAD

Food and Nutrition Security: A Comprehensive and Adaptive Agricultural Development

Introduction

‘Learning Hub Events (LHEs)’ are four half days knowledge sharing events, jointly collaborated by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), UK and International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) based at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) to support the General Economic Division (GED) of the Planning Commission of Government of Bangladesh in integrating climate change into the upcoming Seventh Five year plan (2016-2020). This ‘Five year plan’ is focused on creating a people oriented framework where the basic need of the common people can be met. In short, the overall development process is largely dependent on how climate change issues are properly integrated with the national policies of different sectors. Among these agriculture and food security has been given substantial importance.

Background

Agriculture is one of the most climate sensitive sectors. As one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change, Bangladesh is particularly susceptible in terms of food security. Although it is expected that Bangladesh will be achieving middle income country status through its 2021 development targets, the increased occurrences of natural disasters will hindered the development process. Food security is likely to be threatened due to increased amount of climate stressors. “Climate change has already affected agriculture, irrigation, navigation, ecology, bio-diversity, environment and underground water levels. As a result, rainfalls, floods, cyclones, droughts, cold and hot spells, sea and surface warming, water contamination, water and soil salinity, aquatic systems, silting and drying up of rivers, lowering of underground water levels are being affected.”¹ More researches on producing new varieties of salinity and drought tolerant crops are of utmost importance for our country to safeguard its food security.² A number of initiatives have been taken by the government to develop extreme climate tolerant crops varieties, but the volume of the initiative is not satisfactory. Production of wheat has gone down by 17.4% on an average over the past few years as a result of drought. Reasons behind this occurrence can be directed to the quality of seed, pesticide, farmland, irrigation and

¹Dr Syed Samsuzzaman, quoted on article *Newer ways can ensure food security amid climate change*, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha; Aug 3, 2015

²Dr. AinunNishat quoted on article, *More research on tackling climate change impacts stressed*, Dhaka Tribune; Jan 9, 2015

fertilizer. Irrigation is directly related to climate change.³ The situation in the agricultural sector has been worsened by the silting up and drying of the rivers and tributaries.⁴ Cropping has become a matter of concern now because of the changed timing of the seasons.⁵ In terms of rice, 'aman' will be adversely affected due to climate change, disturbing the accessibility of food.⁶ At the same time untimely rainfall will hamper the irrigation process during 'boro' season.⁷ If both 'aman' and 'boro' fail due to climate stressors such as rising temperature, possibility of large scale food security is inevitable.

The Seventh Five year plan (2016 – 2020) indicates key challenges to be addressed in regard to agricultural sector. The rate of transferring knowledge of new technologies to the local farmers is relatively low. Knowledge and research in understanding and responding to the market signals is a vital task in the Five year plan. Appropriate use of limited natural resources and diversification of high value crop is a major challenge. Also, proper implementation of the Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Adaptation plan (BCCSAP) has been considered a significant issue in tackling climate change issues.

Objectives

The overall objective of this Learning Hub Event (LHE) is to enhance the capacity of key stakeholders, including Government officials mostly to the personnel from planning commission and also to the line ministries, through creating a knowledge sharing platform to effectively integrate comprehensive agricultural development and climate change issues into national development planning and implementation and to create a holistic approach to ensure food security for the greater community.

Specific objectives of this LHE are followings:

- To raise awareness, among the policy makers, of the opportunities and risks associated with climate change in the field of agriculture and food security
- To gather and share relevant knowledge and lessons derived from cross-country experiences about impact of climate change on agriculture and food security to formulate a framework for better policy making approach

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding about the integrated approach, process and institutions required to keep necessary initiatives in line to ensure food secured communities through the comprehensive agricultural development
- Improved knowledge of capacity building and development and technical assistance needed to achieve the sustainable development goal and to incorporate climate change in the mainstreaming of development planning
- Developed consensus and encourage the synergies among the participants and several organizations to combat the impact of climate change altogether and to ensure food security in Bangladesh

³ ASM GolamHafeez, study finding on "Climate Change and Wheat Production in Drought Prone Areas of Bangladesh: A Technical Efficiency Analysis", *article More research on tackling climate change impacts stressed*; Dhaka Tribune, Jan 9, 2015

⁴ KhondkerMdMesbahul Islam, Horticulture Specialist, Department of Agriculture Extension, quoted on article *Newer ways can ensure food security amid climate change*, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha; Aug 3, 2015

⁵ *Newer ways can ensure food security amid climate change*, Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha; Aug 3, 2015

⁶ M. Asaduzzaman, *Agriculture: Future Challenges*, The Daily Star, Mar 23, 2015

⁷ Same as above

Event Agenda

Theme of the Event	Nutrition and Food Security: A Comprehensive and Adaptive Agricultural Development
Organized by	GED, Planning Commission, Government of Bangladesh; IIED, ICCCAD-IUB
Venue	NEC Conference Room, Planning Commission Premises, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Date: August 05, 2015 (Wednesday)

Time	Activities	Responsible Person
1:30-2:00 pm	Registration	ICCCAD Team
2:00-2:30 pm	Opening Remarks	Chair: Dr Shamsul Alam Member, GED, Planning Commission Facilitator: Dr Saleemul Huq Director, ICCCAD Senior Fellow, IIED
2:30-3:00 pm	Presentation One <i>Climate Resilience in the Agriculture Sector and The Important of Resilience in the Seventh Five Year Plan</i>	Maliha Muzammil CCAFS Scenarios & Policy Researcher Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford
3:00-3:15 pm	Question-Answer Session	All Participants
3:15-3:45 pm	Presentation Two <i>Adaptive Agriculture in Relation to Climate Change in Bangladesh</i>	Dr. Abu Wali Raghieb Hassan Deputy Director, DAE Ex. Climate Change Specialist, FAO
3:45-4:00 pm	Question-Answer Session	All Participants
4:00-4:30 pm	Open Discussion	All Participants
4:30-4:45 pm	Closing Speech	Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Joint Chief, GED