

Climate Resilience Academy for LDCs (CRAL)

Community Responses for Climate Resilience in a Post-COVID19 World

About CRAL

The issue of global climate change has become prominent over recent decades as we enter upon a post COVID-19 period of increased volatility and unpredictability. Cascading impacts of the pandemic multiplied by climate related shocks in the upcoming months and years will have serious consequences through their effect on the global economy, on global and regional food systems, and on available resources for disaster response and social protection. The Global South, Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are particularly at risk of negative outcomes from a changing climate due to their high vulnerability. There is an urgent need to build their resilience to the anticipated impacts which are now inevitable. In this regard, it is imperative to understand the regional level manifestations of climate change as well as the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic for the densely populated and less-explored, fast-developing regions of the Global South.

There is a pressing need for a systemic inclusion of the Global South in the global sustainability research arena. This research realm needs to squarely recognize and address geographic gaps, biases in theoretical perspectives, gender imbalances, and historic inequities in access to scholarly and policy influence. Experience of those who live closest to the challenge can help formulate better solutions and their voices and should be amplified in the global sustainability and development discourse (Ayeb- Karrison et al., 2016). With these shared needs and shared opportunities, South-South collaboration is an effective way for countries from the Global South to work with each other and learn from each other (TT- SSC, 2011).

In light of the above, The **International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)** in collaboration with the **Global Resilience Partnership (GRP)** has initiated the **Climate Resilience Academy for LDCs (CRAL)**. CRAL aims to be a long-term initiative entailing a series of annual academies that will bring together trans-disciplinary cohorts of academics, scientists, practitioners, thought leaders and policy makers with the aim to combine diverse forms of knowledge and generate useful insights towards identifying solution pathways for the most pressing Southern resilience challenges. The purpose of the academy is to amplify, coordinate and learn from expertise in the Global South, particularly in LDCs, and help bring the highly unequal playing field between the Global North and South to an equal level.

The key objectives of the academy are:

- To mobilize collaborative and trans-disciplinary teams of academics, thought leaders and non-academics from LDCs
- To develop South–South knowledge exchange and collaboration on climate change, resilience and sustainable development and potential knowledge transfer from South to North
- To build cutting edge collaboration schemes across the Southern regions, to work together towards solving the most intractable Southern-based challenges to climate change resilience

Overview of 2021-2022 Academy

As the COVID-19 pandemic grips the world with unfolding health, economic and social impacts, grassroots communities in the Global South, who are typically at the forefront of climate change impacts, have been developing their own coping mechanisms in the face of this dual crisis. It is becoming increasingly to capture and document these stories in real time for concerted action across different priority areas as the world faces up to an even longer-term challenge of climate change. In the past year, several priority areas have emerged across which immediate action will be required to for building resilience. . There is a substantial scope for knowledge generation and policy advocacy across these priority areas and a need to strengthen the capacity of grassroots organizations for supporting community resilience and to effectively deliver on necessary community response strategies.

In view of the above, CRAL would kick off with a pilot academy on **‘Community responses for Climate Resilience in a Post-COVID19 World’** with the aim to generate knowledge products and advocacy materials for promoting and strengthening action on grassroots-led community resilience in response to the dual crisis of COVID19 and climate change. The Academy will work across four essential thematic areas:

- Resilient rural-urban food supply chains
- Ensuring migrant security
- Empowering women and youth leaders
- Grassroots-led knowledge brokering

Programme Design

The Academy will entail a series of virtual workshops, seminars and meetings over the course of year, wherein participants will have the opportunity to share experiences and insights, engage in collaborative knowledge sharing and learning, and also receive training and support from experts in the field – with the aim to guide the process of envisaged knowledge products and advocacy materials. If circumstances permit, an in-person workshop with field visits will be organized for facilitating experiential learning. The Academy will also have a strong outreach component, wherein various platforms will be explored for disseminating various outputs from the Academy.

The Academy will invite 20 participants, encompassing grassroots and community-level practitioners as well as researchers working within the climate change adaptation and resilience sphere in LDCs. In addition, notable topic experts and specialists will be engaged throughout the Academy as resources person. At the end of the programme, participants will be awarded with a certificate to acknowledge their contribution and efforts. Participants will also become part of the Academy Alumni network, wherein they will be remain connected with future activities, as well as various engagements and opportunities under the Academy.

How to participate

- Register at (Link)
- For more information visit <http://www.icccad.net> or email us at sumaiya.anwar@icccad.org /sumaiya.selim@icccad.org or craldcs2021@gmail.com