

Climate Science, Communities and Media



Report of the State Media Workshop on Climate Change

October 27-28, 2017 | Jalandhar



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Jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to launch a national programme on climate change reporting in media with Centre for Media Studies, Environmental Information System (ENVIS) Center on environment & media as the knowledge partner for the programme.

#Write4climate

About the organisations:

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)



The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is the nodal agency in the administrative structure of the Central Government responsible for the planning, promotion, co-ordination and overseeing the implementation of India's environmental, forestry and climate change policies and programmes. The main activities undertaken by the ministry include conservation and survey of the flora of India and fauna of India, forests and other wilderness areas; prevention and control of pollution; afforestation, and land degradation mitigation. The Ministry also serves as the nodal agency in the country for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) etc.

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH



For over 60 years, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH has been working jointly with partners in India for sustainable economic, ecological, and social development. Currently, GIZ has over 330 employees in India, of whom 85 per cent are national personnel. The focal areas of Indo-German cooperation currently are: Energy; Environment, Preservation, and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources; Sustainable Urban Development

The Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) as well as the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) are the main commissioning parties of GIZ in India. Other clients include Indian public sector clients, the European Union and foundations. The Government of India has launched numerous important initiatives to address the country's economic, environmental and social challenges, and GIZ is contributing to some of the most significant ones. For example, it supports key initiatives such as Smart Cities, Clean India and Skill India. GIZ, in close cooperation with Indian partners, devises tailor-made, jointly-developed solutions to meet local needs and achieve sustainable and inclusive development.

Centre for Media Studies (CMS)



CMS is a dedicated multi-disciplinary research-driven organisation that enables policy makers to take informed decisions on development and social change to improve quality of life. CMS is engaged in Research, Advocacy and Capacity building in Social Development, Environment, Communication and Governance issues at local and national policy levels. CMS has an extensive experience in organizing workshop for media personnel on various environment issues.

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Executive Summary

Climate change has become one of the challenges that demands the attention of governments, communities and experts. The state media workshop on climate change focused on sensitizing media representatives on issues relating to climate change and adaptation, in particular understanding the linkage between global climate change scenario and the situation on the ground, so that they can carry the message forward to their respective audiences. The workshop was held in Hotel President on October 27, 2017, followed by a field visit to Integrated Solar Powered Community Lift Micro Irrigation Project on Kandi Canal in Talwara, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab on October 28, 2017. It was jointly organised by GIZ, Punjab State Council for Science and Technology, Punjab and Centre for Median Studies (CMS).

The workshop brought together around 38 representatives of Punjabi, Hindi and English media in Punjab, and representatives of different organisations with interest and expertise in climate change. In the inaugural session, representatives of CMS, GIZ and Punjab State Council for Science and Technology set the ball rolling by presenting the background and objectives of the workshop. It was pointed out that the workshop is part of the series of such gatherings being held in four states with the aim of familiarizing journalists with essentials of climate change reporting through interaction with thematic experts. Dr. SK Saxena, Principal Scientific Officer (PSO), Punjab State Council for Science and Technology, Punjab, presented a detailed overview of the state climate action plan covering different sectors such as water, agriculture, livestock management and chemical usage reduction. A presentation was also made on challenges media faces in covering climate change. After the lunch and informal discussions, the session focused on community perspectives on climate adaptation and developing resilience, which was followed by a panel discussion.

On the second day, media representatives were taken on a field visit to Integrated Solar Powered Community Lift Micro Irrigation Project on Kandi Canal in Talwara, District Hoshiarpur, Punjab. Gr. GS Dhillon, Map Officer cum STSCO, Department of Soil and Water Conservation gave an introduction to the project and how field channels have been replaced by underground pipelines and micro irrigation system technique for efficient use of water. The project will improve the yield and quality of the crops. The visit concluded with lunch and certificates were distributed to all the participants.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session commenced with screening of a short film “We know enough about Climate Change- It’s time for decisions now!” giving a message, we have to act now to save mother nature. A beautiful animation film depicting how human deeds have destroyed nature, like droughts, change in rainfall, polluted rivers, air pollution, etc. It’s time to change our lifestyles and bring forward ways which have a low carbon footprint on nature. This will surely help in making a better future on earth for the mankind. After the screening, Ms. Annu Anand, Head of Advocacy at Centre for Media Studies, welcomed the participants and introduced objectives of the workshop.

Dr. S K Saxena, Principal Scientific Officer (PSO), Punjab State Council for Science and Technology, made a presentation on overview of climate change impacts and adaptation strategies in Punjab. The focus of the state climate action plan is mainly on efficient use of water



and on promoting sustainable agriculture. Other aspects covered in the plan were Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem and biodiversity, Sustainable Habitats, Renewable Energy development and Solar Mission and Enhanced Energy Efficiency Mission. Dr. Saxena discussed Punjab Water Mission. He said, the objective is integrated approach for conservation and management of water resources. He discussed the strategies to achieve the objective. Some of them are augmentation ground water in problematic/over exploited areas, enhancing water use efficiency by 20%, augment surface water to take advantage of excess rainfall and others. Budget requirement will be approx. Rs 24850 crores.”

Dr. Saxena said , “the objective of Punjab Agriculture Mission is to usher in 2nd green revolution through sustainable agricultural practices for food and livelihood security in changing climate scenario. Strategies are being mapped to improve crops, livestock and fisheries in Punjab. The target of Green Punjab Mission is to increase forest and tree cover to 15% of total area by 2022 and to identify and eco-restore degraded forests and recover forest ecosystem services. SAPCC also focuses on conservation of flora and fauna, wetlands, forest biodiversity to sustain Shivalik Ecosystem, besides developing habitats to adapt to climate change and increasing

solar power share by 800 MW by 2022. This will help achieve overall energy efficiency by 15-20% in various sectors. Dr. Saxena discussed the importance of knowledge enhancement on understanding drivers and impacts of climate change, associated vulnerabilities and adaptation mechanisms through partnerships. Climate Change adaptation projects have been initiated by the government, like a project is underway to utilize paddy straw for making briquettes which can be used to replace coal in brick kilns. He shared that, to achieve the targets of SPACC an approximate of Rs. 123530 crores are needed. Potential funding sources for climate change projects were also discussed.

Dr. Kirtiman Awasthi, Senior Policy Advisor, Climate Change, GIZ, started with an introduction of the participants. Later, he introduced GIZ and its focus areas pertaining to climate change. Dr. Awasthi spoke on two phases of the project. "First phase, when whole policy formulation was happening in India around climate change. Now, the project is in second phase, which is primarily focused on implementation and capacity building. Multi-level training programs have been designed, starting from the legislature and coming down to the district level. In training of the legislators and sectorial level, the most critical aspect is how to mobilise finance on any implementation related to climate change.

At district and panchayat levels, the focus is basically on planning implementation and ways to engage various stakeholders. Stress has been laid on maximising benefits for women as they are the ones who get affected most due to climate change. They are dependent on natural resources and agriculture. Therefore, the thrust is to ensure that at least half of the beneficiaries should be women. Even the National Adaptation Fund which was created by government in 2014 has a clause that if any state wants to access the fund for any project then 33% of the total beneficiaries should be women. We also need to have a pool of experts within the country or state itself to continue the training programs so that the dependence on international agencies and other external resources are reduced."

A presentation titled 'Climate Change and Media' was given by Mr. Dinesh C Sharma, Managing Editor, India Science Wire. He said that, "we need to understand the connection between the climate change at the international level and its ground realities of climate change at local level." Myths and realities pertaining to climate change were discussed. Many journalists think that climate change is something far off or in a distant future. It is also often associated with melting of glaciers only. But the reality is that impacts of climate change are real and are being felt right now and these impacts are beyond melting of glaciers only. The fact is that rainfall patterns all over the country are changing and overall rainfall is decreasing in North West India, including Punjab.

There is a rise in the occurrence of extreme weather events in various parts of India which are clear indicators that climate change is happening. Climate change has begun to impact agriculture, water resources and livelihoods. Mr Sharma discussed the need of reporting climate change by the media. Since climate change is an ongoing process and not an event, it is not an obvious story for reporters. One has to look for subtle changes taking place or being experienced by local communities or observed by scientists, to piece together a story. He said that, "There is a lot of denialism and scepticism around this subject even in newsrooms. Stories need to be written, based on scientific evidence as well as anecdotal information and quotes from communities on the ground." He concluded by providing the sources from which media could access the data with regards to climate change, which will furnish their story coverage.

The presentation was followed by interaction and discussion with media representatives.



Understanding Climate Change, Impacts and Adaptation in Punjab

The second session of the workshop covered issues relating to climate change impacts and media coverage of the same. First presentation of this session was by Dr. Surender Paul, Director/ Scientist, India Meteorological Department, Punjab. He spoke on Trends of Climate Change in Punjab. "Climate change is a nutshell of what we observe over a period of time," said Dr. Paul. He added, "If climate change is due to natural variability, then its normal. But, if its due to human activities then situation becomes critical. Variability due to human deeds leads to extreme weather events. Heavy rainfall events at some places have increased. Heat wave and severe heat wave events are also recorded. Being an agricultural state, rainfall is important for Punjab. The state gets 80% of the total rainfall in monsoon season itself. Remaining 20% it gets during rest of the year."

"Rainfall is decreasing in Punjab. Monsoon rainfall is not a problem yet. But, rest of the year rainfall is very low. Like, there is no or very less rainfall in Punjab during winter season," Dr. Paul shared. Temperature change is affecting agriculture and cattle in the state. In the role of media, Dr. Paul said, "we cannot predict extreme weather forecast one or two days before. It can be done 2-3 hours before and media plays a critical role in disseminating this information to the public. We have WhatsApp groups with media and other people in which we share weather updated. Apart from that all information is there on the website." Our purpose is that information should reach to the people and we have to create a proper system for that, Dr Paul added.

Next presentation was focused on Punjab's cattle, milk production, related problems and possible solutions. Dr. R S Grewal, Professor of Animal and Nutrition, Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU). The university has initiated a project focused towards developing climate resilient livestock production system in Punjab. Temperature rise is affecting milk production in the state. "Punjab's native cattle and buffalo breeds (Sahiwal and Murrah/Nili Ravi) are comparatively hardy animals as compared to cross-bred varieties to climate variabilities. Milk production is severely affected by Temperature-Humidity Index (THI). It decreases in crossbred cows by 35-40% when THI increases by 72," pointed out Dr. Grewal. Heat stress is affecting native animals as well. Milk yield goes down by approximately 20% in native cattle due to heat stress, he added. "Climate resilient sheds are being developed to combat temperature rise for cattle, specially buffaloes. Climate friendly measures like rooftop solar panels, rain water harvesting and LED lights will be there in the shed. In built facility for assessing the impact of shed on animal performance and physiology will be installed. Tube silage is needed to store fodder for the cattle," he added.

"Artificial Insemination (AI) is being done to improve reproduction rate in cattle. We need to develop a weather linked insurance to compensate for loss in income of small and marginalised farmers due to decrease in milk yield of buffalo/cattle," he added.

Final presentation of the session was given by Mr. Raman Mehta, CEO, Vasudha Foundation. He spoke in context to socio-economic status, climate and policy framework. "Agriculture is the largest sector of the economy, and provides maximum jobs. But, the contribution of agriculture to State Gross Domestic Product (SGDP) is declining. Patiala University did a sample study the burden of debt on families. Figures showed that, average debt per farmer family is Rs. 5.52 lakh, while average debt per labourer family is Rs. 68,000. The average debt per acre is Rs. 71,000," The SAPCC identifies intensive rice and wheat cultivation as foremost challenge. Increase in temperatures of 0.5-2.0 degree C could lead to decline in rice yields by 0.16-9.6%. Increase in temperatures of 1.0-2.0 degree could lead to decline in wheat yields by 14-23%. Rice/wheat cropping cycle reportedly leading to groundwater depletion, soil degradation, and high levels of toxicity. In Punjab, groundwater availability is 20.35 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) while exploitation is 34.66 BCM."

Moving towards policy framework Mr. Mehta suggested, "The Minimum Supporting Price (MSP) for rice/wheat coupled with procurement by Food Corporation of India (FCI) provides a perverse incentive to the farmers to continue with the existing crop cycle. From a farming perspective it eliminates market uncertainties and assures Return on Investment (ROI)." To have higher productivity and a sustainable future we have to make rice cultivation less water intensive and more productive. We have to move from flooded rice to multiple aeration rice, to save emissions and save water. Yields of multiple aeration rice could be higher and soils could become more productive. Rice stalk management can be done without burning the residual biomass. Suggestions based on the study to benefit the farmers are, "Punjab government provides a hidden subsidy by providing free electricity for irrigation. Can some of this subsidy be provided directly to the farmer in exchange for shifting to more sustainable farming of rice? Weed management is an issue with multiple aeration rice: Can some MGNREGA funds be deployed to share the costs of weeding." Mr. Mehta also shared the advantages if changes in existing practices are done. Water savings of up to 50%-60% or more. Savings of electricity. State could have additional options to augment revenues from electricity generation. Farming yields and perhaps even incomes could be augmented.

The presentations were followed by a lively question and answer session.

Building Bridges among Media, Scientists, Civil Society and Government

The final session of the day was a panel discussion, in which panellists were Mr. Ikhlq Ahmad, Assistant Editor, Times of India, Chandigarh; Prof. (Dr.) K.K.Rattu, Director Media & Head, Department of JMC, DAV University, Jalandhar; Mr. Raman Mehta, Dr. S K Saxena and Mr. Dinesh C Sharma. While the discussion involved professionals and experts of various sectors



relating to media and climate change, the panel discussion acted as a platform for free and frank exchange of views on media coverage of climate change. The discussion revolved around how media can take this issue to common man. One thing to be kept in mind while reporting any climate change news is that the language used should be easy to understand for the public. Jargon should be avoided and complex material must be presented in a simple form. Panellists also added that meeting and workshops that convey messages on climate change must be covered on a regular basis to keep audiences engaged. Information must be shared with media persons at proper time so that they can make use of it. Experts should be prepared to answer queries of journalists, offer explanation for complex issues and ideas, and be willing to be quoted. Only when people are willing to talk, would there be a proper communication. Mr. Ahmad pointed out that today science and technology news is mostly confined to gadgets only and this scenario should change. People have to change their perception towards climate change and protect natural resources, especially water to have a better future.

Field Trip

The second day of the workshop was meant for the field trip and all the participants of the workshop reported at Hotel President, from where they travelled in a Bus to Talwara and Hajipur blocks of district Hoshiarpur. This field trip was facilitated by the representatives of Department of Soil and Water Conservation. When the bus reached the Jugial village in Hajipur blocks of district Hoshiarpur, everyone was welcomed with a very warm hospitality.

After the greetings, community members together in the department hall, along with the media representatives and organizers, for a discussion. With a very brief introduction, the interaction commenced.

Mr. GS Dhillon, SDSCO cum Map Officer, Chief conservator of soils, Punjab, started the Introduction session with his presentation about the Project.

“This project is all about the Integrated solar-powered community lift micro-irrigation project on Kandi Canal in Talwara and Hajipur Blocks of the district. The total cost of the project is Rs.40.93 Crores and the Jain Irrigation Systems Ltd, Jalgaon is company approved through



E-tender. The project was started on 28th January 2015 and Completion of Construction was 7th August 2017,” said Mr. G.S Dhillon.

The project was implemented in three areas. Since socio-economic conditions in the region is also poor, the department provided all necessary facilities and help to farmers in the initial phase.. But later on, the community came forward and participate in the project. The grid-connected solar irrigation project was sanctioned under NABARD- RDE with the total cost of 31.28 cr.

“Major works of the project is the installation of field level with high-tech micro irrigation (drip, micro-sprinkler, and sprinkler) systems complete with automation. We operated solar system of innovative siphon system sump wells and pump houses too which is complete with power connection, transformer, cables etc,”explained Mr. Dhillon.

People in Jugial, a village in the Talwara and Hajipur Blocks of Hoshiarpur district are mostly engaged in agriculture. As the village is at higher elevation than the canal, there is no irrigation facility and people had to depend upon only rainfall. Many villagers left the farming and migrated to other cities.

Therefore, “we started giving electricity for eight hours daily, set the objective of the project and convinced to the farmer to adopt these technologies and not to leave the farming and their farm-land. We assured irrigation to the agricultural fields, improving cropping intensity, increasing efficiency through the judicious use of canal water and fertilizers. Phase I of the projected focused on increasing yield and production with better quality of horticulture and non-horticulture produce and also improving socio-economic condition of the farmers,” continued Mr. Dhillon.

“This Innovative Project is the first of its kind in Punjab for large-scale efficient (70% saving) use of canal water and other inputs through an underground pipeline and micro-irrigation,” said Mr. Dhillon.

When asked about the issues and the impact in their area, community members replied that in the recent 10 years, the amount of rainfall has drastically reduced and this has affected their



production of crops. “We didn’t have enough facilities to save water but now, due to this project and lot of support by the representative of the project, we could save water and electricity for the agriculture. We do meeting with the Water User Association, WUA once in a month and all are very helpful,” explained villagers.

Water User association, WUA Unit and Department of soil and water conservation have been a great help to these villagers to save water and their land for the cropping. WUA has established 18 units in 7 years to manage the water supply to the farmers and their land. And maximum water intake was approved are approx. 15.7 Cusecs. And through this many villages are benefited like Regpur, Depur, Badala, Passi Karora, Kando Karora, Narnaul, Gaghwal, Paralian Chak, Gaggar, Asafpur, Badalian, Jugial, Bharath, Swar etc.

The project benefited ecologically handicapped area on the left side of Kandi Canal devoid of irrigation due to its higher elevation. This single project benefited to 664 hectares’ area owned by 800 farmers of 14 villages with assured irrigation and productive cultivation. Intended Socio-economic development of the beneficiaries through optimum yields average increased 40-80%. Land Value to rise exponentially in project area leading to its overall development. The even Indirect benefit to landless through employment opportunities in construction and crop cultivation.

After the discussion, presentation and the interaction with the local farmers we moved towards the demonstration farm to see the installation of the solar-powered community lift micro- project, drip, and micro-sprinkler. “We proposed cropping pattern with the micro-sprinkler system and dripline of vegetables 10%, Orchards 25-30% with drip system on horticulture and forestry plants, Wheat, Pulses, Maize is 60-65% with sprinkler system. The area to come under remunerative crops, horticulture, and vegetables. Precious farmland to be saved by replacing field channels with underground pipeline and micro irrigation system,” explained project representative of Integrated Solar Powered Community Lift Micro Irrigation.

After the interaction and field visit, it was time for lunch with the representatives of department and media persons. Before the lunch started we distributed the certificates to all the participants and thanks to all of them for their great participation, enthusiasm, time and their consideration to end this the successfully.



Feedback by Participants:

Media participants from different districts had shown a significant level of enthusiasm throughout the two-day workshop at Jalandhar, Punjab. As per the individual feedbacks, structure of the workshop was able to impress the participants as it helped them get a holistic picture of the impact of climate change and the various initiatives being taken in the region. Sessions were lined up in a way that it was interconnecting and a proper flow was maintained.

The field visit on the second day turned out to be the most important and much liked session for some participants. It helped them understand that how valuable resources, like water, is being efficiently used with the support of the government and they are improvising methods of agriculture to save water and other resources.

Overall the participants found the workshop content to be enriching. There was a general suggestion made by the media persons that such media workshops on climate change and environment should be held more often to ensure effective and efficient reporting in the region.

The use of layman language while reporting or discussing the impact of climate change for better mass understanding is important, which was also appreciated by the participants during the panel discussion.



Annexure - 1: Agenda

GIZ, Department of Environment (Tamil Nadu) and CMS

State Media Workshop on Climate Change

Venue: Pearl Hall, Clarion President Hotel, Chennai

Day 1: July 27, 2017

09.30	Registration and tea
10.00 to 10.30	<p>Inaugural Session</p> <p>Welcome Address and Introduction of Workshop by Ms Annu Anand, Head (advocacy), CMS</p> <p>Special Address – Dr. Ashish Chaturvedi, Director, Climate Change, GIZ</p> <p>Introductory Remarks – Dr H Malleshappa, Director, Department of Environment, Govt. of Tamil Nadu</p> <p>Screening of short film on climate change</p>
10.30 to 13.30	<p>Understanding climate change, impacts and adaptation in Tamil Nadu</p> <p>Media and climate change – Mr. Dinesh C Sharma, Managing Editor, India Science Wire</p> <p>Connecting global to local - Multi-level governance of Climate Change by Dr. Ashish Chaturvedi, Director (Climate Change), GIZ</p> <p>Changing climatic patterns in Tamil Nadu – Dr. S R Ramanan</p> <p>Climate change and vulnerability of coastal areas and ecosystems in Tamil Nadu - Prof. A. Ramachandran, Visiting Professor, Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation Research, Anna University</p> <p>Overview of climate change impacts and adaptation strategies in Tamil Nadu – Dr. H Malleshappa, Director, Department of Environment, Tamil Nadu</p> <p>Interaction and discussion on media aspects of presentations</p>
13.30 to 14.30	Lunch
14.30 to 16.00	<p>Community perspectives on climate adaptation and developing resilience</p> <p>Developing climate resilience and sustainable habitat for Chennai city – Dr. A Nambi Appadurai, India Adaptation Strategy Head, WRI India</p> <p>Preparing communities for climate adaptation in water-stressed areas – Mr. Aadhi Narayanan, DHAN Foundation</p> <p>Sea level projections for the state of Tamil Nadu – Dr. K Palanivelu, Director, Centre for Climate Change and Adaptation Research, Anna University</p> <p>Interaction and discussion on media aspects of presentations</p>
16.00 to 17.30	<p>Building bridges among media, scientists, civil society and government (panel discussion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Jayashree Venkatesan (Care Earth Trust) • Dr H Malleshappa • Peer Mohamed Azees (Editor, Ippodhu.com) • Dr Ashish Chaturvedi (GIZ) • Mr. Dinesh C Sharma (moderator)
17.30 to 18.00	High Tea

Day 2: July 28, 2017, Field Visit

8.00	<p>Field visit to see revival of water resources as an adaptation measure, and interaction with community members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vembakkam of Thirukazhukundram block - 65 Kms away from Chennai in the East-Coast road • Thazhampedu (Thalampedu) of Thirukazhukundram - 70 Kms away from Chennai <p>Assembly Point: At the lobby of Hotel Clarion President</p>
13.00 to 14.00	Lunch
14.00 to 15.00	Discussion on story ideas and distribution of certificates to participants
	Vote of thanks

Annexure - 2: List of Participants

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