Department of Environment

CLIMATE CHANGE CELL

INFORMATION BULLETIN

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Contents

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Inter-governmental Negotiations

Bangladesh will spearhead LDC Concerns

Canada is hosting The Eleventh Conference of the Parties (COP11) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Montreal during 28 November – 9 December this year. A significant landmark for this year is that the First Conference of the Parties serving as Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP1) will also be held during the same period. The Kyoto Protocol, an international and legally binding agreement to reduce greenhouse gases emissions world wide, entered into force on 16 February 2005.

The United Nations Climate Change Conference will address several important items in its agenda, particularly in relation to Bangladesh and the LDCs. The COP11 agenda includes the review of the financial mechanism of the Convention, national communications, development and transfer of technologies, capacity-building under the Convention, implementation of the Buenos Aires programme of work on adaptation and response measures (Article 4.8), matters relating to the least developed countries (Article 4.9), review of adequacy of commitments of the Convention (Article 4.2. a, b), etc.

The COP/MOP1 agenda includes the report of the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism and election of members of the Executive Board, procedures and mechanisms relating to the compliance under the Kyoto Protocol including election of the Compliance Committee, capacity building under the Kyoto Protocol, Adaptation Fund, etc.

The Bangladesh Delegation, led by Mr. Tariqul Islam, Honorable Minister, Ministry of Environment and Forests, looks ahead to contribute on several of these agenda items. As an LDC, Bangladesh will also help in coordinating this group's position within the G77 umbrella.

The review of the financial mechanisms under the Convention will draw specific attention from Bangladesh and LDC perspective. In particular, the Special Climate Change Fund will be discussed. The discussion will draw on two reports, *Experience of international funds and multilateral financial institutions relevant to the investment needs of developing countries in meeting their commitments under the Convention*, and *Report of the Global Environment Facility to the Conference of the Parties.* Meetings with the GEF are also planned to discuss LDC issues, particularly in relation to the programming paper, full-cost funding options, sliding scale, timing of access to the fund, etc. to assist in the preparation of additional guidance to the GEF.

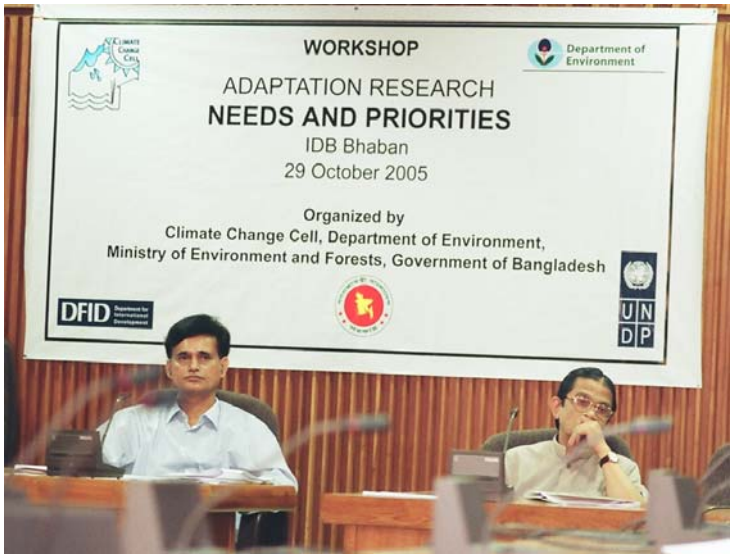
Bangladesh has recently completed its National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA). The document contains priority areas of need to address adaptation concerns. At this Conference, it will call on all Parties to start funding national efforts on adaptation, particularly in LDCs where the burden of adverse impacts of climate change is on the rise.

Bangladesh NAPA completed

Recently, Bangladesh National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) has been submitted to the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). On receiving clearance, the Ministry will submit this to the UNFCCC Secretariat. NAPA identifies a set of concrete project proposals for adaptation to climate change. The Climate Change Cell, which has a mandate to continue the NAPA process and facilitate implementation of NAPA, suggests to pilot and test some of the projects proposed by NAPA and then provide feedback to the relevant implementing agencies and potential donors. Following broad areas have been proposed among others:

- adaptation to coastal crop agriculture and flashflood prone crop agriculture,
- coastal fisheries and prolonged flooded area fisheries,
- capacity building of the water management organizations,
- coastal aforestation,
- safe drinking water for coastal communities,
- insurance for hazard affected areas,
- research on drought, flood and saline tolerant crop.

NAPA has also proposed gender issues to be cross cutting and emphasis on awareness and policy advocacy.



Mr. Md. Reazuddin, Director, Department of Environment, with Mr. Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests at the Adaptation Research Workshop

CDM Project from Bangladesh gets approval of the Executive Board

The designated national authority (DNA) for CDM in Bangladesh has so far approved four projects in the Waste to Energy area.

Out of these, the Landfill Gas Extraction and Utilization Project has obtained approval of the CDM Executive Board. The project is expected to save 990,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions over the period 2005-2012.

Another project on Composting, which will save greenhouse gas emissions of about 4,87,000 tons is expected to get the approval of the CDM Executive Board shortly.

Adaptation Research: NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

A draft working paper "Adaptation research: needs and priorities" was prepared and circulated in October 2005 to a wide range of professionals for discussion, comments and suggestions at a workshop organized on 29th October. The working paper introduced topics, explained objectives, and methods for identifying initial research proposals for review. The working paper shows linkages of climate change with MDG, PRSP and other related initiatives. The working paper defines adaptation research in the national context and includes the following research proposals:

- Adaptive coastal crop agriculture
- Adaptive crop agriculture for flashflood prone areas
- Safe drinking water for coastal communities
- Economic impacts of Climate Change
- Climate change and health
- Empowerment of women members of Local Government and Municipalities
- Capacity building of female fish processors
- Development of low cost erosion protection technology
- Hazard proof housing
- Livelihoods of remote chars and islands dwellers

Resource persons covering a wide range of sectors from different Government agencies, NGOs, research institutes, media and grassroots level practitioners participated and contributed in the workshop. The main objective was to identify adaptation research thematic areas and a prioritized list of adaptation research concept notes. A scoring sheet listing the10 concepts, and keeping provisions for adding new concepts was used to rank the proposals. At the end of the workshop ranking sheets were collected for analysis and interpretation.

The prioritized adaptation research proposals will be submitted to the Technical Advisory Group meeting for selection in December this year.

The Regional Workshop on Climate Change Negotiations in South and Southeast Asia: The Role of Bangladesh and Least Developed Countries was organized in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 30-31 October 2005.

The objectives of this workshop were to:

- Build capacity of government officials on climate change issues by bringing together officials and experts from South and Southeast Asian countries to discuss possible impacts of climate change in the region and response measures;
- Discuss issues relating to the forthcoming international negotiations on climate change (COP11/MOP1)
- Raise the profile of climate change within Bangladesh

While the main focus of the workshop was regional, there was substantive discussion on Bangladesh issues.

The workshop was jointly organized by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), GoB; Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS); and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). The co-sponsors were European Capacity Building Initiative (ECBI), British High Commission (BHC), Dhaka and Department for International Development-Bangladesh (DFID-B).

Two persons (one UNFCCC Focal Point, and a representative from a development Ministry) participated from each of the following countries: India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Bangladesh.

The PRECIS Climate Change Model in Bangladesh

PRECIS is a regional climate modeling system developed at the UK Hadley Centre that can run on a regular desktop PC and can be applied to any region of the globe to generate detailed climate change predictions. Improving climate change impact predictions is of central importance for the Climate Change Cell. Better predictions are of climate change impacts will enable planners, policy makers and professionals in all areas to integrate climate change considerations in their respective work and facilitate adaptation to climate change.

The Climate Change Cell has established a network to facilitate work with the PRECIS climate change model in Bangladesh. In addition to the Department of Environment (DoE), the network involves: Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD), SAARC Meteorological Research Centre (SMRC), Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPARRSO).

In the medium term, output data of PRECIS will be used as input for water models such as GWAVA to also predict flooding regimes, salinity intrusion levels and others. The Climate Change Cell has scheduled a workshop in January 2006 to bring together Bangladesh institutions working with climate and water models and develop a joint work plan.

In the long term, outputs of the climate and water models will also be used as input for predictions of livelihood resource bases, for example in the agricultural sector. They can also be combined with economic parameters.

The Climate Change Cell is currently exploring opportunities to provide further training to the institutions working with the PRECIS model in Bangladesh in order to increase the number of people able to operate the model and improve the modeling capacity in the country.

Climate Change Terminology

Climate change means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.

Adverse effects of climate change means changes in the physical environment or biota resulting from climate change which have significant deleterious effects on the composition, resilience or productivity of natural and managed ecosystems or on the operation of socio-economic systems or on human health and welfare.

Vulnerability to climate change signifies the extent to which a natural or social system is susceptible to sustaining damage from climate change. Adaptation can thus be seen as a way of reducing vulnerability to climate change. Vulnerability is commonly seen as a function of three elements: first, the *exposure* of systems to climatic hazards, i.e. the physical risk that such an event may take place; second, the *sensitivity* of a system, i.e. the degree to which a given change in climate will lead to positive or negative changes in a system; and third, the *capacity* of a system to adjust practices, processes or structures to moderate or offset the potential damage or take advantages of the opportunities created by a given change in climate.

Resilience describes the ability of groups or communities to cope with external stresses and disturbances as a result of social, political or environmental change.

Source: UNFCCC

It is important to note that many of these concepts are used differently by other research areas. For example, disaster mitigation is a common term in the literature on natural disasters, where mitigation concerns the reduction of adverse effects of disasters rather than the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Further, the specific use of the terms is also debated within the climate change research community.

About the Climate Change Cell

The Climate Change Cell has been established in the Department of Environment in 2004 under the Comprehensive Disaster Management Program (CDMP) of the Government. It responds to the recognition that Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, and that the number and scale of climate-related disasters is likely to increase. The Cell provides the central focus for the Government's climate change related work, operating as a unit of the Department of Environment (DoE) under the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). Its objective is to enable the management of long term climate risks and uncertainties as an integral part of national development planning. This will contribute to the primary objective of the wider Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme, which aims to strengthen the capacity of the Bangladesh disaster management system to reduce unacceptable risks and improve response and recovery activities.

Meeting these objectives will enable more effective and sustained poverty reduction through the reduction of disaster and climate risks within the overall development process.

The Climate Change Cell's work program focuses on four main areas:

Building the capacity of Government to coordinate and integrate climate change issues in mainstream development activities across government. It also acts as a secretariat to coordinate other national climate change activities such as National Communication preparation, the NAPA process, and the Clean Development Mechanism.

Strengthening existing knowledge and availability of information on impact prediction and adaptation to climate change. This includes compiling and synthesizing existing studies, and filling some of the gaps, as well as improving information exchange between science and policy-makers.

Awareness raising, advocacy and coordination with partners across government, NGOs, civil society, private sector and donor organizations. Using a variety of mechanisms and information products, the Cell is working to promote the integration of climate change adaptation and risk reduction in development activities, especially within climate sensitive sectors and the disaster risk reduction process.

Improving capacity to adapt livelihoods to climate change in the agriculture sector. Working with FAO, we are field-testing livelihood adaptation strategies with farmers to better respond to disasters and climate change risks. This includes translation of climate change modeling into agricultural response options and livelihood adaptation practices. The initial focus is on drought conditions, with a view to facilitating replication elsewhere.

The Climate Change Information Network

The Climate Change Cell is supporting the development of a virtual climate change information network aiming to collect, analyze and disseminate climate change related data. Through this network the Climate Change Cell hopes to build information on climate risks and adaptation options, disseminate the results and support the translation and communication of information into a format useful to government line departments, local government and NGOs working with vulnerable communities.

This Information Bulletin invites you to participate in this Network to help us service climate change related knowledge needs and services. Please share with us your interests, concerns, viewpoints, knowledge and resources that can enable others engage effectively in meeting the climate change related challenges.

The Climate Change Cell is organizing a series of interactive events from December onward (see upcoming events) to engage with relevant actors, institutions and stakeholders.

Upcoming Events

Contact us

CLIMATE CHANGE CELL

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