



Climate Change Adaptation for Natural Resource-Dependent Communities in Kachchh, Gujarat

Government: Gujarat, India

Region: South Asia

Sector(s): Resilience

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Summary

The [National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change](#) (NAFCC) launched by the Government of India in August 2015 implements pilot scale local climate change adaptation projects in the state and union territories of the country. The basic aim of these projects is to protect vulnerable communities from the adverse effects of climate change. The projects under NAFCC prioritize building climate resilience in the areas identified under the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) and the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is the National Implementing Agency (NIE) of these projects across the country and, so far, 30 projects have been initiated across India.

Project details: Kachchh

In the Kachchh district of Gujarat, this project is being implemented by the Gujarat Ecological Education and Research (GEER) Foundation under the guidance of Gujarat's Climate Change Department.

Kachchh is one of the biggest districts of the country with diverse ecosystems and a range of local climatic variations. The objective of this project is to enhance the adaptive capacity of natural resource-dependent communities in agricultural, coastal fishing and pastoral sectors through Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Community-based Adaptation (CbA) interventions for water security, livelihood security and ecosystem restoration.

A total of 2,170 direct beneficiaries including 1,230 households from agricultural, 700 households from coastal and 240 households from pastoral sectors are included, with women making up 35% of the total. The project, which began in July 2017 and will end in 2021 is funded by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India.



Results

- The project is being implemented in three different ecological zones of the Kachchh District, which are in different geographical areas i.e. coastal areas of Abdasa, grassland area of Banni and agricultural areas of Khadir.
- Interventions like restoration of mangroves in the coastal belt, restoration of Banni Grassland and development of grassland as seedbank are part of the EbA.
- CbA interventions, such as the construction of a new type of water harvesting structure (known as 'Holia') in agricultural villages, creating micro-irrigation in Khadir region's agricultural area, installation of solar-based water irrigation pumps, distribution of fodder kits to pastoral communities, restoring the existing rain water storage structures including farm ponds, surface ponds and percolation ponds, installation of a bio-energy system and production of biochar from farm waste, livelihood interventions and skill building for small scale dairy and handicraft producers.
- Different interventions are completed at various stages of implementation; however, initial results show that scientific methods of addressing vulnerability will be very effective for natural resource-dependent communities.

Enabling conditions

There are several partner organizations and government departments working together in the Kachchh NAFCC project. These include Gujarat's state Climate Change Department, Forest Department, GEER Foundation, Gujarat Institute of Desert Ecology (GUIDE), Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI), Agriculture University, Women Self-help Groups such as Gurjari, state Energy Department, Agriculture and Co-operation Department etc. All of these entities are contributing to the success of the project and coordination is taking place at both the District Collector-level and the State Government-level.

Challenges

- Convergence of various government schemes is very tough; however, an effective mode of interdepartmental coordination could resolve this challenge in most cases.
- To work with communities and mobilize them to a new way of working is difficult but as the project goes on, they are becoming increasingly engaged and this project is becoming a turning point in many of their lives.

Key lessons learned

- Alongside the implementation of hard-core interventions, the development of soft skills and capacity building are very important for communities.
- Mainstreaming climate action at every level is important. To reduce vulnerability and increase resilience capabilities it is important to increase focus on scientific inputs of local climate change and strategies to address those concerns.
- The quality of rural livelihood is very interlinked with availability of natural resources; therefore, it is important to promote sustainable use of resources and develop long-term strategies to conserve them through an ecosystem-based approach.

More information

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Click [here](#) to read more about the project.