

LEAD UPDATE

Climate Change: Mainstreaming Mitigation and Adaptation for Sustainable Development

Focal Persons Workshop January 26, 2008.

There is an emerging global consensus that Climate Change poses a very serious threat to human existence and that people in developing countries are most vulnerable to the impacts of this change. It is crucial to address this potentially devastating challenge and increase awareness as well as capacity of all stakeholders to tackle the associated risks and threats.

Background

LEAD Pakistan teamed up with the Punjab Resource Mobilization Programme (PRMP) to introduce government officials from the Punjab P&D Department to the essentials of Climate Change and sensitize them to the urgency for action. Predominant objectives of the workshop, conducted on 26th January, 2008 at Bhurban, were to raise awareness of climate change issues among a key stakeholder group and to enhance ability for framing development strategies in line with existing climate change knowledge.

Discussion

Discussions ranged from an overview of Climate Change to Pakistan's policy on the subject and the Mitigation and Adaptation options open to the country. The workshop opened with welcome speeches by the Secretary Environment, Mr. Shah Nawaz Badar and LEAD Pakistan's CEO, Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh. Subsequent to the workshop's introduction, participants watched Al Gore's globally acclaimed documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" which creatively summarized a wide array of climate change information and debate.

Following the global perspective, keynote speaker, Mr. Ayub Qutub translated the



impact of changing climate in local terms, specifically highlighting the significance for decision makers in Punjab. With reference to Pakistan's sole Climate Change policy document that Mr. Qutub had been involved in developing, he explained Pakistan's priority areas of intervention for tackling climatic challenges. He also compared the progress in Pakistan with that of neighbouring nations, demonstrating a negative trend relative to other SAARC members, particularly in the area of energy efficiency.

Questions were raised by participants on a range of issues including the civilization vs. scientific aspects of climate change, lack of green manifestos on the political scenario, the role of industrial sector in addressing the problem and decisions regarding the future energy composition of Pakistan. The essential issue of Development vs. Environment Protection was also explored and whether "dirty" technologies were still necessary for growth of nations.

Parallel thematic sessions on Mitigation and Adaptation were run by LEAD Fellows Mr. Shahid Lutfi and Mr. Abdul Qadir Rafiq, respectively. The session on Adaptation explored the inverse relationship between climate change vulnerability and responsibility, highlighting the tipping points for human development in poorer nations. Mr. Qadir Rafiq mapped out the vulnerability factors for Pakistan, building a case for adopting national adaptation strategies with references to recent climate related disasters in



Concluding address by Dr. Ishfaq Ahmed



The workshop speakers

the country, and discussed requirements for successful adaptation planning.

Thematic group on Mitigation looked at the disparities in Green House Gasses (GHG) emission inventories of the industrialized world and the developing countries and the case for adopting mitigation strategies in low GHG emitting countries, such as Pakistan. Mr. Lutfi discussed Pakistan's key areas and options for planning mitigation interventions, focussing especially on urban construction and energy issues.

After receiving briefings on the respective themes, participants from both groups prepared a list of recommendations for the GoPunjab to introduce climate change mitigation and adaptation measures within existing programmes and projects.

Recommendations

Climate Change Adaptation

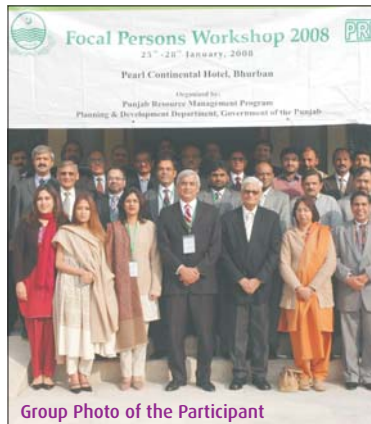
Adaptation Options for Agriculture

- Reclaiming and treating land that has gone barren due to excessive exploitation by farmers.
- Altering cropping patterns in line with the shifting seasons.
- Switching over to crops that are more drought and pest resistant.
- Capacity building of farmers with regards to financial, technical and managerial skills.
- Consolidations of agricultural land.
- Increased funds and capacity for Research and Development in the sector, with a special focus on biotechnology.
- Enforcing intellectual property rights e.g. patenting Basmati seed.

Adaptation Options for Water

- Situation Analysis and greater research for assessing the local situation. Strategies should be designed and policies tailored according to the requirements of

- different areas in Pakistan
- Institutional capacity building and improving coordination between Disaster Management



Group Photo of the Participant

- Agencies.
- Greater efforts for including all stakeholders when selecting strategies for adaptation and then effectively communicating the strategies to all concerned groups.
- Better management of water sources, especially reducing wastage in irrigation.
- Providing some form of insurance to vulnerable groups affected in disaster areas. For instance extending micro-credit facilities to agriculture workers in drought hit areas.
- Provide alternative employment opportunities to farmers affected by droughts and floods.
- Steps should be taken to make climate change and disaster preparedness information a part of school curricula to train students.

Climate Change Mitigation

LIST OF SPEAKERS

- Dr Ashfaq Ahmad (Special Assistant to the Prime Minister)
- Mr. Shahnawaz Badar (Secretary Environment, Punjab)
- Ali Tauqeer Sheikh (CEO, LEAD Pakistan)
- Ayub Qutub (PIEDAR)
- Shaihd Lutfi (Government of Sindh)
- Abdul Qadi Rafiq (Program Officer UNDP Pakistan)

Mitigation Options in Urban Planning

- Construct public buildings according to environmental conditions and make them energy efficient through intelligent architectural designs.
- Enforce strict by-laws for urban construction.
- Promote waste to energy schemes as a strategy for waste disposal and also power generation.
- Shift towards renewable energy sources, especially solar power as it is a viable option for Punjab
- Create green belts, especially within Industrial parks.
- Build more water reservoirs
- Traffic engineering and pooling of public resources.

Mitigation Options in Urban Transportation

- Punjab has already embarked on introducing "greener" buses and rickshaws on the streets. This initiative should be further strengthened.
- Create mass transit system in cities.
- Motor vehicle examination needs to be strengthened.
- Design an integrated traffic management system and Traffic zoning.
- Monitoring of fuel pumps for impure sources.
- Greater emphasis on providing renewable fuel for vehicles. Ethanol is already being used as fuel in some part of Lahore.
- Revise car financing policies.
- Find innovate solutions such as introducing boats in Lahore's canal or reintroducing tongas on the streets.

At the end of the workshop, Ali Tauqeer Sheikh acknowledged the strategic significance of the exercise as it had brought key stakeholders into the loop and strengthened LEAD's linkages with the public sector.