

**Summary of Discussion**  
**National Consultation Workshop**  
**on**  
**Preparation of State Level Strategy and Action Plan on Climate Change**

The National Consultation Workshop was held on 19<sup>th</sup> August, 2010 in New Delhi, for discussing the common framework/approach for preparing the State Level Action Plans on Climate Change. The workshop was organized under the aegis of the GOI-UNDP Project – ‘Capacity Building for addressing Climate Change’ and attended by 150 delegates including various Central Ministries, State Governments, Climate Change Experts, Civil Society, Development agencies, etc. The list of the participants in annexed.

In the inaugural session, Mr.R.R.Rashmi, Joint Secretary, MoEF recalled that while addressing the Conference of State Environment Ministers in August 2009, Hon’ble Prime Minister had called upon the States to expeditiously prepare the State Action Plans on Climate Change consistent with the strategy outlined in National Action Plan on Climate Change. Accordingly, the Consultation Workshop intended to seek recommendations for finalizing the Framework for preparing the State Action Plans and consolidating the approach. Ms.Caitlin Wiesen, Country Director, UNDP acknowledged the initiatives taken by Indian Government on climate change issues. However she noted that the greatest challenge now is to convert and adapt the national level policy imperatives to sub-national level actions. The preparation of State Level Action Plans is of great importance in that context. Mr.Subhodh Sharma, Advisor (Climate Change), MoEF noted that India is highly vulnerable to climate change and the National Action Plan on Climate Change is one of the most comprehensive plans to address climate change.

Dr Ashwini Kulkarni of Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, presented weather data indicating current patterns. The monsoons were shifting west wards making central India drier. The number of rainy days is decreasing and amount of rainfall in a single day is increasing. The mean and maximum temperatures analysed for 12 of the major Indian cities show an increase, as does the sea temperatures and the droughts have increased over the past 3 decades. The projections for the last quarter of 21<sup>st</sup> century shows more variations in northern India and over Himalayas that puts the Himalayan glaciers at threat. Dr Ravindranath of Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore encouraged the use of scientific data in the preparation of the state plans. Stake holder participation and building awareness at the grassroots level are imperative for formulating the good plans.

The nodal ministries presented respective National Missions under NAPCC and the status of implementation. It was suggested that states can take their lead from the National Mission documents while formulating mitigation/ adaptation strategies under the State Level Strategy and Action Plan (SAPCC).

Dr.Preeti Soni, Climate Change Advisor, UNDP presented the common framework for the preparation of SAPCC that was developed in consultation with other development agencies like GTZ, DFID and World Bank. The common framework that draws largely on the principles of territorial approach to climate change, focuses on sub national planning, building capacities for vulnerability assessment and identifying investment opportunities based on the state priorities. The framework provided broad, systematic and step-wise process for the preparation of SAPCC and advocated a participatory approach so that states have enough ownership for the process and the final Plan.

There has been a general consensus on the framework presented by UNDP and participants felt that it can be evolved further incorporating the inputs from states. Participants highlighted the need to have a generic approach, yet retain flexibility where required so that the framework is not rigid. It was suggested to integrate the REDD Plus approach into the SAPCC and requested development agencies to help the States in preparing the SAPCC. Participants from the states suggested that the framework to facilitate preparation of the SAPCC have both adaptation and mitigation component to climate change impacts. Though, adaptation was identified as the more important element of the SAPCC. It was felt that the approach should be able to integrate state level variations in ecosystems, geographic conditions, socio-economic scenario etc.

Participants emphasised that it may be useful if the SAPCC is based on scientific assessment of the climate vulnerability to climatic variability and long term climate change. A scientific assessment will help in identifying and prioritising mitigation/ adaptation strategies, identifying most vulnerable districts/ social groups/ sectors (water, forest, agriculture) etc; energy intensive sectors (Industry, transport etc); climate change projections; GHG Emissions (sectors/ regions).

It was suggested that a detailed impact/ vulnerability assessment by each state will neither be cost effective nor time efficient. It is important to develop vulnerability indices to understand what areas/ sectors are more vulnerable. Participants also requested for developing a common methodology for GHG emissions inventory. The expert panel suggested that there was a national inventory under NATCOM which could be further refined to have a state level inventory which would help SAPCC should set priority areas for mitigation. Participants emphasised the need to build capacities of stakeholders so that they can collate, analyse and make use of information made available by scientists and researchers.

State representatives raised the issue of financing mechanisms for taking up activities by the states for the implementation of the SAPCC. It was informed that nodal ministries would have to allocate funds under the respective National Missions through the outlays of respective ministries. Other suggested funding options were from bilateral and multilateral agencies. Participants also suggested that MoEF should request for fund allocation from Planning Commission.

Concerns were also expressed on how the states would include multiple sectors in SAPCC. The mission documents within the SAPCC would have to be linked with each other and integrated with the NAPCC. The North-eastern states desired to know how the preservation of private forest land (which has high carbon storage potential) could be incentivised. Addressing the issues of selecting appropriate technology/ tools specific to the states, it was suggested that creation of **Technology Watch Group** under Strategic Knowledge Mission could help in this regard. Participants felt that preparation of SAPCC would not be a onetime exercise as integrating climate related actions with development is not an easy process and the states may require continuous hand holding.

### **Key recommendations**

1. Agreed to have a common framework for State Action Plan on Climate Change with sufficient flexibility.
2. The framework on “**State Level Climate Change and Action Plan**” to be circulated to all States for using as guideline for preparation of State Action Plan.

3. All State Governments may be advised to finalize the State Action Plan on Climate Change by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.
4. The State Action Plan on Climate Change should provide adequate scope for addressing state specific issues and context under the over arching National Action Plan on Climate Change.
5. The State Action Plan should adapt participatory approach for effective implementation.
6. States should built capacities of various stakeholders not only for the preparation of State Action Plans but also for implementing it thereafter.
7. Standard Methodology for Vulnerability Assessment needs to be developed in consultation with national and regional institutions and experts. UNDP may consider to take initiative in this regard in coordination with World Bank, GTZ and DFID.
8. Development agencies -UNDP, World Bank, GTZ and DFID have been requested to extend all support, both technical and financial, to the State Governments on the preparation of State Action Plans.
9. State Governments may be advised to approach for financial support to prepare State Action Plan to the Climate Change Division, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India.
10. State Governments may approach, if necessary, Dr. Ashwini Kulkarni, IITM, Pune, Prof. N.H. Ravindranath, IISc., Bangalore, Prof. A.K. Goswain, IIT Delhi, Dr. R.C. Dhiman, Malaria Research Centre Institute of Communicable Research, Delhi, Prof. P.K. Aggarwal, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Delhi for necessary data/information pertaining to their area.
11. UNDP may consider incorporating in their annual programme of “Capacity building on Climate Change” project, the provision of organising regional workshop for reviewing/monitoring the preparation, finalisation and implementation of the State Action Plan on Climate Change.

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