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PARTNERSHIP FOR LAND USE SCIENCE (Forest-PLUS) PROGRAM

Report

**Training program on Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas Inventories,
Vulnerability, Mitigation and Adaptation analysis**

December 17- 18, 2013

Rampur, Himachal Pradesh



January 2014

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DISCLAIMER

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

DCF	Deputy Conservator of Forests
Forest-PLUS	Partnership for Land Use Science
FSI	Forest Survey of India
GCC	Global Climate Change
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HPFD	Himachal Pradesh Forest Department
MoEF	Ministry of Environment and Forest
REDD	Reducing Emission from Deforestation and forest Degradation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VFC	Village Forest Committee

REPORT

1. INTRODUCTION TO FOREST-PLUS PROGRAM

The **Partnership for Land Use Science (Forest-PLUS) Technical Assistance Program** is a five-year **USAID**-funded program to reduce emissions and enhance carbon sequestration in India's forests by developing and testing effective ways to take REDD+ actions to scale. Working in close collaboration with MoEF and State Forest Departments, Forest-PLUS will assist in developing and deploying scientific tools and methods for improved ecosystem management and carbon sequestration, forest carbon inventory and reference baselines, designing modalities/ programs to create better incentives for forest dependent communities to participate in REDD+ activities, and enhancing individual and institutional REDD+ capacity.

2. BACKGROUND OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

This was the second training course on 'Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vulnerability, Mitigation and Adaptation' organized for Village Forest Committee, Eco Development Committee, Panchayati Raj Institution and Self Help Group members of Rampur landscape of Himachal Pradesh. This two-day training program was conducted on December 17-18, 2013 in Bhadaras, Rampur, Himachal Pradesh. Forest-PLUS designed this course mainly for members of Village Forest Committee, Eco Development Committee, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Self Help Groups.

Presentations were prepared to be relevant in the Himachal Pradesh context. This training program is an output of and contributes to Forest-PLUS Activity 2.3.2., which is focused on building capacity on climate change issues; in this case within the State Forestry Departments of Forest-PLUS pilot landscape states.

3. PARTICIPANTS IN THE TRAINING PROGRAM

The participants (please see annex 2 for details) who attended this two-day training program are as follows:

Sr No	Particular	Number
1.	President VFC/JFMC	16
2.	Vice President VFC/JFMC	1
3.	Secretary JFMC	2
4.	Members VFC	6
5.	PRI- Up Sarpanch (Head)	1
6.	PRI- members	3
7.	SHG – leaders	2
8.	SHG- secretary	1
9.	Total	32

4. PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

4.1. Inaugural session

A two-day training program on “Global Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vulnerability, Mitigation and Adaptation” for VFC, EDC, PRI, and SHG members was organized on December 17-18, 2013 at Hotel River Rock, Badrash Rampur, Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh. The objective of the training was to make local communities aware of the causes of climate change, greenhouse gas emissions from forests, the effects of climate change on both the living and non-living environment, ways to mitigate climate change, and measures to adapt to climate change. Participants represented JFMCs, Gram Panchayats and Mahila Mandals. There were 32 participants of which eleven (11) were women. After registration of all the participants, Training Coordinator Mr. Sandeep Khanwalkar introduced the detailed training program to the participants.



Figure 1: Inaugural speech by Mr. C. B. Pandey, CCF, Rampur Circle

Mr. C. B. Pandey, Chief Conservator of Forests, Rampur Forest Circle, Himachal Pradesh was the chief guest of the training. In his inaugural speech he talked about apple orchards since apple is an important horticulture crop of the region and whole economy of the farming community revolves around apple production. He presented few facts about apple being impacted by climate change e.g. a shift in the apple range in the neighboring district of Kinnaur to higher zones which earlier were not suitable for apples. Though such observations were not backed by a presentation of scientific data, but they painted a picture of the effects of climate change which the local community participants could easily understand. Mr. Pandey also cited the importance of forests on the region’s livelihoods through its effects on crop microclimate and productivity in forestry, horticulture, and agriculture. To make participants clear about

climate change and its impact on human life, Mr. Pandey talked about local climatic disasters/incidents happened in the region in recent past. His inaugural remark brought excitement and curiosity among participants about the topic and its relation to their lives. After formal inaugural of the training group photograph was taken.

Mr Sandeep Khanwalkar, training coordinator, concluded inaugural session by extending vote of thanks to chief guest, chair and participants.

4.2. What is Forest PLUS Program

Dr Sushil Saigal, Institutional and Governance Advisor, Forest PLUS Program elaborated the details of Forest PLUS program, its background and conception in simple Hindi language. While discussing Forest PLUS he also told participants about the REDD + program and also differentiated the two. He explained why REDD + has become so important for the entire world. He also narrated the relevance of such a program to the country, Himachal and the local communities.

4.3. Module 1: We and our environment

Session One: Understanding environment and its components

Mr. Rishu Garg, Sr. Program Officer, Inspire Network for Environment, New Delhi spoke about environment and its components. Throughout his session he was very interactive, and encouraged participants to engage in discussion. This was followed with lunch and interactions.

After lunch, Mr. Garg discussed about the issue of global climate change with subcomponents of natural and human causes of changing our environment and basic facts about global climate change. In an easy way he explained the environment, its components such as physical, biological and cultural and role of these components in sustaining life.



Figure 2 Mr. Rishu Garg interacting with the participants

4.4. Module 2: Global Climate Change

Dr. Sushil Saigal elaborated on the concepts, causes and implications of climate change. Using simple terms, he explained weather, climate, climate change and global warming. He told participants that the temperature of our earth has increased by 0.4°C over 100 years. He cited examples of heat waves in Rajasthan, changes in rainfall and snowfall patterns, cloud bursts in Kullu, Kinnaur and Shimla districts of Himachal Pradesh as vivid examples of the consequences of climate change. He also explained natural causes which result in climate change which was little difficult for the participants to understand as being purely natural phenomenon such as earth's movement, wobble, volcanic eruption and gulf stream etc.



Figure 3: Dr. Sushil Saigal interacting with the participants

4.5. Module 3: Greenhouse Gases and their role in Global Climate Change

Session 1: Greenhouse effect, Greenhouse Gases and their role in Global Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas inventories

The last speaker of the first day was Mr Rishu Garg who explained the role of greenhouse gases in global climate change in a simple and plain way. He made use of pictorial illustrations to make it clearer to the participants the effects of short and long wave radiation. He mentioned the role of carbon dioxide in climate change. He explained that the result of these can be easily observed every day, for example, rainfall increasingly concentrated in heavy downpours, more very hot days and very cold nights, increasing numbers of droughts, floods and cyclones etc. Mr Garg suggested that all of us have to work collaboratively at all levels including local, state and national to address these challenges of climate change. For local communities to play their role in adapting to climate change they have to understand the phenomenon clearly, particularly as they are more exposed to many of the effects of climate change impacts.

Session 2:

In the concluding session, two short films were shown to the participants; they were on decreasing ice in poles and on increasing temperature. Everybody enjoyed watching these films and demanded more of such presentations because they can see and understand the issues covered by the various speakers.

Day Two: October 26, 2013

4.6. Recap of day one

Second day of the two days training program began with Training Coordinator Mr. Sandeep Khanwalkar's, introduction about day's course. He distributed small paper slips to the participants asking them to write down what they learnt from the first day's course. Participants were given two cards to write their learning on two questions:

- What they learnt on first day about Climate Change?
- What are the topics on which they need more clarity?

Later he read all the comments and also initiated interactions. This was done to let all the participants know each other's view about the first day's course. Finishing this, he took the participants through all the lectures covered in the first day and presented recap of the important learning.



Figure 4: Participants in training program

4.7. Module 4: Role of Forests in Global Climate Change

Dr. Sushil Saigal facilitated first session of the second day. He spoke about the role of forests in global climate change. He started his discussion with a simple definition of forest and then described the distribution of forest cover in the world, India and HP. He explained biodiversity, fuel wood, and fodder requirement in India. He gave a pictorial presentation of different sources of carbon dioxide emission in the atmosphere and explained why carbon is important to us. He also initiated a discussion with the participants about why forests are important to us and what should be done to increase forest cover and protect plantations.

4.8. Module 5: Addressing Global Climate Change - vulnerability, mitigation and adaptation

Session 1: Global Climate Change and our life and livelihoods–vulnerability at global, national and local scales

Dr. S. S. Samant, Scientist, G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Mohal, Kullu, HP conducted first session under this module. Dr. Samant briefly introduced the G. B. Pant Institute, its mandate and various activities in the Himalayan region. He also covered some aspects of climate, weather and change in the climate pattern over last few years. He mentioned that climatic aberrations in the form of heavy rainfall and snowfall, cloud bursts, flash floods, cyclones and droughts are evidence of climate change occurring in the world. He explained to participants the concept of climate change by citing local examples of change in the cropping pattern, chirpine and apple moving to higher zones, method of house construction in the hills, early flowering in a few tree species such as Rhododendron, plum and apple. He mentioned India's efforts to organize a response to climate change mitigation and adaptation in the form of eight national missions. He emphasized unless people participate in such endeavors success cannot be achieved. By adopting new ways we can minimize and delay the effects of climate change and thus avoid its most adverse effects.



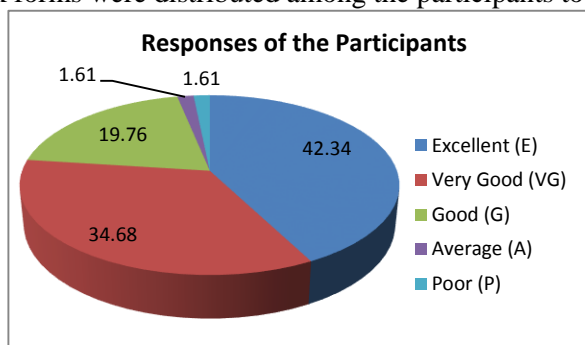
Figure 5 Dr. Samant facilitating session

Dr. K. S. Verma, Director, Institute of Biotechnology and Environmental Sciences of the Dr. Y. S. Parmar University of Horticulture & Forestry, Neri, Hamirpur, HP took the last session. He talked about the local context of climate change, environmental geography, and vegetation. He cited examples from Himachal in order to make participants understand the concepts more easily. In the hills of Himachal, clearing forests for roads and hydroelectric dam construction has affected the microclimates of the region and this has ultimately affected the livelihoods of local people. Abandoning traditional crops and adopting commercial crops has resulted in a shift of crops included in the hill farming system leading to a depletion of resources. He further explained how a 1°C rise in temperature forces agriculture to shift 300m higher in elevation. Emphasizing the importance of forests, he informed the participants that forests act as a

source as well as sink of the carbon so we should protect and conserve our forests. This session was followed with open house discussion, feedback and suggestions of the participants.

5. FEEDBACK SESSION:

At the end of two days training sessions, feedback forms were distributed among the participants to collect their responses to the various sessions covered under the training. There were five categories of responses in the feedback form; excellent, very good, good, average and poor. Participants were asked to give their responses under each category. From the analysis of responses given in the feedback forms we observe that 42.34 per cent responses for all the sessions of five modules were under the category of excellent, while, 34.68 per cent and 19.76 per cent responses present the



categories of very good and good, respectively. Very few responses i.e. 1.61 per cent were observed for average and poor categories. This feedback response analysis implies that most participants felt that all the sessions were excellent or very good. While looking at the statistical figures one would infer that almost all the responses were of the opinion that sessions covered under all the five modules were of good quality in terms of its contents and method of delivery and presentation, and that they were appreciated by the participants. Analysis of participant's feedback is given in the annex 2.

Participants' comments suggested that all the sessions very informative and useful. According to them the training program was well designed and full of important information about the forests, environment, climate change and their impact on the human population. To some participants the session on greenhouse gases was new and enlightening. Documentaries and short films were much appreciated by all of them and they suggested that more such films should be included in the programs since it gives them a chance to know what is happening in the outside world. Some of the participants found interactive sessions more useful as it encouraged the participants to share their views. The sessions on climate change and our life and livelihood was also much appreciated as people could relate this to their personal lives.

While going through the comments of participants it became very clear that all participants have at least come to know about the terms environment and climate change. Accordingly, these trained participants are expected to be ambassadors of climate change awareness in their areas, helping to spread the message of the importance of protecting forests and their role in preventing or mitigating climate change.

Participants came to understand that fire has bad effects on the flora and fauna and thereby gave their word to abstain from firing forests or grasslands, and to protect them from fires. It is important to mention here that fire is a prominent feature of all the forests and village lands in Rampur area during winter months i.e. November and December. Participants also clearly absorbed the importance of planting trees and many declared an intention to initiate plantation drives in schools, village common lands and forests including private lands. Such a commitment is a reflection of the enthusiasm with which they participated in the training program. Though participants still may have little knowledge about climate change yet they promised to pursue practical steps that contribute to an understanding of the causes of climate change, the role of forests in protecting climate, and forest and climate protection measures that can be taken at the community level. All the participants want to have more of such training programs with focus on impact of climate change on people's lives and their livelihood.

5.1. SUGGESTIONS OF THE PARTICIPANTS

- These training programs should be organized at the village/Panchayat level
- JFMCs should be strengthened and given more powers to execute the programs
- More people should be invited for such programs
- Such programs should be held every year
- Local people should be trained for fire protection
- To protect forests from wild fires, they should be surrounded with fire lines and dry leaves/twigs should be collected and burnt in *nallas* (drains)
- JFMCs should be entrusted with more rights and responsibilities towards forests
- Before carrying out plantations we should think about their protection, this will ensure greater success of the plantations and also check soil erosion
- We should encourage village communities to work towards climate change and train them to face such challenges
- Forest department should do handholding of the JFMCs and JFMCs should be actively involved in all forest activities
- To protect the environment, committees should be actively involved, this will ensure good results

5.2. COMMENTS OF PARTICIPANTS

- Want to know more about fire and its impact on the forests
- How does climate change impact our life and livelihood
- If 2ha forests land is given to a farmer and asked to care for it, all responsibility should be imposed on him then that forest will be all protected from fire etc. and this will develop into a good forests. Benefits of fuel, fodder and small timber should be given to the farmer for protecting that forest
- What could be the role of humans for climate change
- They liked small films and documentaries on climate change
- More information on global warming especially rise in temp; why is it happening
- Got information about Pros and cons of climate change
- Future implications of climate change
- What are weather and climate

5.3. PARTICIPANTS' COMMITMENTS/ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN

- Members of GP will share this important information with other members and relatives, will tell to protect forests from fire and grow more trees
- Will help create awareness amongst neighbors and other villages about fire hazards and protection of forests from fire
- More women should be made aware as they have direct relation with the forests
- Alternate source of energy such as solar energy should be used and encourage more people
- Everybody should plant 10 trees every year in and around their villages, in the school premises
- Women candidates were of the view that they should go to schools and make children aware of the importance of forests and cc
- Mahila mandals should be encouraged to participate in plantation programs in their villages.

6. VALEDICTORY SESSION

Sh. CB Pandey Chief Conservator of Forests, Rampur Forest Circle concluded the two days training program. In his address he expected that with two days teaching and interactions they should be able to understand the terms environment and climate change at least and also that it has effects on their lives and livelihoods. He thanked all the participants especially women who could find time and attended the training programs despite their busy and hectic household schedule.

On behalf of participants, Sh. HR Verma, President Teshan JFMC, Kotgarh Forest Division expressed his views on the training program. He thanked the organizers for their enthusiasm, energetic ways and management. He stressed to make more people aware of climate change such trainings should be held in various parts of the state. He also requested research organizations to conduct research in their region so that impact of climate change can be known and people's lives and livelihoods can be saved.

Training Coordinator, Forest-PLUS program, expressed his gratitude to CCF and her office staff who extended all their support and cooperation in making training program successful. He also said that without support and cooperation from the office staff it was not possible to make this program successful.



Figure 6: Group photo of participants

ANNEXURE 1: AGENDA



Forest-PLUS Partnership for Land Use Science

Training program on

“Global Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Vulnerability, Mitigation and Adaptation”

For VFC, EDC, PRI, and SHG members

Program Schedule

Date : December 17-18, 2013

Time: 11:00 AM – 05:30 PM

Venue : Hotel River Rock, Bhadaras, Tehsil Rampur, District Shimla

Day One- December 19, 2013		
Time	Session	Resource person
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM	Registration of participants	Regional Coordinator, Forest PLUS Program
11.30 AM to 12.00 Noon	Introduction to the training course	Training Coordinator, Forest PLUS Program
12.00 to 12.30 PM	Inaugural address	Mr. C. B. Pandey Chief Conservator of Forests, Rampur
12.30 to 01.00 PM	Group Photo	
1.00 PM to 2.00 PM	Lunch break	
Module 1. We and our environment		
02.00 PM to 02.45 PM	Session 1: Understanding environment and its components	Mr. Rishu Garg Senior Program Officer, Inspire Network for Environment, New Delhi
02.45 PM to 03.00 PM	Session 2: Screening of a short film on environment	
3.00 PM to 03.30 PM	Tea break	
Module 2. Global Climate Change		
03.30 PM to 04.15 PM	Session 1: Our changing environment – natural causes Our changing environment – role of humans Basic concepts and facts about global climate change	Dr. Sushil Saigal Institutional and Governance Adviser Forest PLUS Program New Delhi
04.15 PM to 04.30 PM	Session 2: Screening of a short film on Global Climate Change	
Module 3. Greenhouse Gases and their role in Global Climate Change		

04.30 PM to 05.15 PM	Session 1: Greenhouse effect, Greenhouse Gases and their role in Global Climate Change, Greenhouse Gas inventories	Mr. Rishu Garg Senior Program Officer, Inspire Network for Environment, New Delhi
05.15 PM to 05.30 PM	Session 2: Interactive exercise	
Day Two – December 20, 2013		
Time	Session	Resource person
9.30 AM to 10.15 AM	Recap - Interactive session on recapitulation of key points from Day 1	Training coordinator
Module 4. Forests and Climate Change		
10.15 AM to 11.00 AM	Session 1: Role of forests in Global Climate Change	Dr. Sushil Saigal Institutional and Governance Adviser Forest PLUS Program New Delhi
11.00 AM to 11.15 AM	Session 32: Screening of short film on links between forests and Global Climate Change	
11.15 AM to 11.30 AM	Tea break	
Module 5. Addressing Global Climate Change - vulnerability, mitigation and adaptation		
11.30 AM to 12.15 PM	Session 1: Global Climate Change and our life and livelihoods–vulnerability at global, national and local scales	Dr S. S. Samant Scientist, GB Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, Mohal, Kullu, HP
12.15 PM to 12.30 PM	Session 2: Screening of a short film on vulnerability to climate change	
12.30 PM to 01.00 PM	Feedback session	
01.00 PM to 01.30 PM	Valedictory session	Mr. C. B. Pandey Chief Conservator of Forests, Rampur
1.30 PM to 2.30 PM	Lunch break	

ANNEXURE 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S N	Name & Designation	Designation	Organization & Address
Guest and senior officials			
1.	Mr. C.B. Pandey	CCF	HP Forest Department, Rampur, Himachal Pradesh
	Resource person		
2.	Dr Sushil Saigal	Institutional and Governance Adviser	Forest PLUS Program, New Delhi
3.	Prof. K.S Verma	Director	Institute of Biotechnology and Environment Science, University of Horticulture & Forest, Neri Hamirpur,
4.	Dr. S.S Samnat	Scientist	GBPIHED Himachal Unit Mohal Kullu, HP
5.	Mr. Rishu Garg	Senior Program Officer	Inspire Network for Environment, New Delhi
6.	Sandeep Khanwalkar	Training Coordinator	Forest PLUS Program, New Delhi
Participants			
7.	Mrs. Nirmala Devi	President	JFMC Devta Panch Peer Doyi Range Nankhari Rampur
8.	Mrs. Sushma Devi	Vice President	JFMC, Devta Panch, Peer Doyi, Nankhari, Rampur
9.	Mrs. Sushma Devi	Pradhan	Mahila Mandal, GP Kirti Kotgarh Div.
10.	Mrs. Bina Devi	Pradhan	Mahila Mandal, GP Khawodi Range, Nankhari Rampur
11.	Mrs. Minakant	Pradhan	JFMC, Ganchhwa, Luhri Anni
12.	Mrs. Seva Devi	Secretary	JFMC Batuna, Nangli, Rampur
13.	Mrs. Budhi Devi	Secretary	JFMC, Devta Panch Peer, Viilage Doyi, Nankhari, Rampur
14.	Mrs. Twinkle	Gen. Sec.	Mahila Mandal, Rampur
15.	Mrs. Leelama Devi	Panchayat Ward Member,	GP Dausa, Rampur
16.	Mrs. Sarla Ravi	Panchayat Ward Member,	GP Taklech, Rampur
17.	Mrs. Kamlesh	Panchayat Ward Member,	GP Kirti Range Kotgarh, FD Kotgarh
18.	Sh. Sher Singh	President	JFMC
19.	Sh. Agar Das	President	JFMC, Batuna Nangli, Rampur
20.	Sh. Maheshwar Singh	President	JFMC Ropa Range, Kumarsen, Kotgarh FD
21.	Sh. Jiya Lal	President	JFMC, Kanda
22.	Sh. Nand Lal	President	JFMC Mogra

23.	Sh. Dinanath Verma	President	JFMC Chamala The. Kotgarh, Forest Division
24.	Sh. Ramlal	Pradhan	JFMC
25.	Sh. Gulpal Singh	Pradhan	FDS
26.	Sh. Kamlu Ram	Pradhan	JFMC, Bakhan Arsi, Anni Fd
27.	Subedar Major H. R. Verma	Pradhan	JFMC, Teshan, Kotgarh
28.	Sh. Suresh Kumar	Pradhan	JFMC, Chowai, Anni
29.	Sh. Pawan Kumar	Pradhan	JFMC, Chapohal Chowai, Anni FD
30.	Sh. Bhagat Ram	Pradhan	JFMC, Tharla, Assi Range, Anni Forest Div
31.	Sh. Ved Ram	Pradhan	JFMC, Joagi, Anni
32.	Sh. Dinesh Thakur	Vice President	GP, Kirti, Kotgarh Range
33.	Sh. Pankaj Verma	Member	JFMC Kanda Kotgarh FD
34.	Sh. Yograj	Member	JFMC Kanda
35.	Sh. Om Prakash Verma	Member	JFMC Teshan Kotgarh FD
36.	Sh. Prakam Singh	Member	JFMC, Teshan Kumarsen, Kotgarh
37.	Sh. Ashok Kumar	Member	JFMC Behna, Range Nither, Anni Fdiv
38.	Sh. Krishna Kant	Member	JFMC, Ganchhwa, Luhri Anni
Other			
39.	J.D Sharma	Assistant Registrar	Institute of Biotechnology and Environment Science, University of Horticulture & Forest, Neri Hamirpur,
40.	Sunil Marpa	Research Associate	GBPIHED Himachal Unit Mohal Kullu, HP
41.	Dr. Punam Sharma	Reg. Coordinator,	Forest PLUS, Rampur, HP

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