

ISSUE 16

MAKING SENSE

A WEEKLY UPDATE ON POVERTY, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE
MAINSTREAMING

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The process of formulating on Local Climate Fiscal Framework has been started by the Study Team lead by General Economics Division, Planning Commission in order to establish a country-led approach to address climate change that involves government and other actors working together to deliver the necessary policy and programmes at local levels.

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KEY EVENTS

KICK OFF MEETING ON LOCAL CLIMATE FISCAL FRAMEWORK (LCFF)

Climate change has a highly localized dimension in Bangladesh. Impacts due to climate change are felt locally and affect the vulnerable population in different regions in different ways, so adaptation should also be addressed locally. The link between analysis and tracking down of climate funds to climate sensitive investments at the local level is missing.

To establish a link between these issues, a climate fiscal analysis at local level is essential. This would provide a guideline for setting a vision for an integrated framework based on which the Government, Development Partners and the private sector will deliver climate change investments for upcoming decades.

A Study Team has been formed in order to formulate a Climate Fiscal Framework for the local government in Bangladesh. The first meeting of the Study Team on Local Climate Fiscal Framework (LCFF) was held in the Conference Room of General Economics Division (GED) on 11 April, 2013. Md. Rezaul Karim, Joint Chief of the General Economics Division (GED) and National Project Director (NPD) of the project chaired the meeting.

It is pertinent to be mentioned here that upon formulation of LCFF for 8 pilot Unions, the framework will be disseminated among key stakeholders through a national validation workshop and GED will conduct advocacy for adoption of the framework by Local Government Division (LGD).



Picture 1-National Project Director is giving directions to the team

Key Decisions

Field test of the questionnaires needs to be conducted at two different locations: Coastal and Flood Prone region. Two teams will go for the field test and cover at least three Union Parishads at each location. Each team will consist of three members and the field test should be completed by the end of April 2013

The Study Team will be divided into **four small groups** consisting of three members. A Deputy Chief will accompany each group from each wing of General Economics Division during the field visit.

Representatives from Local Government Engineering Departments (LGED), Union Parishad Governance Project (UPGP), and Upazila Governance Project (UZGP) will be included in the study team.

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KEY EVENTS

PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING ON CLIMATE FISCAL FRAMEWORK

PECM Project has the mandate to ensure significant improvement of the development budget system to ensure adequate investment in Poverty-Environment and Climate Change related purposes. In order to achieve the objective, a Climate Fiscal Framework will be developed in partnership with Finance Division, Ministry of Finance.

In 25 March, 2013, the Government of Bangladesh constituted a Steering Committee to provide policy guidance and advice for preparation of a Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF). The committee is headed by Mr. Ranjit Kumar Chakrabarty, Additional Secretary, Budget and Treasury & Debt Management, Finance Division and other representatives from Local Government Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Animal, Ministry of Food, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, GED and Planning Commission.



Picture 3-Participants expressing their opinions

The committee is responsible for carrying out the following issues-

- Provide strategic guidelines to prepare Climate Fiscal Framework (CFF)
- Identify the relevant activities and prepare a Work Plan (time frame, budget and ToRs)
- Recommend qualification and ToR to appoint consultants
- Report on the progress of its activities to the National Steering Committee of the PECM project from time to time



Picture 2-Mr. Ranjit Kumar Chakrabarty, Additional Secretary, Budget and Treasury & Debt Management, Finance Division is expressing opinions

The **first and second** meetings were held at Finance Division on 15 April and 18 April, 2013 to finalize Preliminary Budget, Work Plan and Terms of Reference (ToR) for hiring consultants. Three consultants will be appointed in Public Financial Management Expert, Fiscal Policy Expert and Macroeconomist.

KEY EVENTS

CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS ON TRAINING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

General Economics Division successfully provided training to 191 Public Sector planning professionals during 2011 and 2012. An assessment study will be conducted in order to assess the Effectiveness, Efficiency, Relevancy and Sustainability of the training programme on Poverty, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Inclusive Development Project Design. In this study, focus will be given to the impact of the project at the Planning Commission, Ministry and Agency level to examine the overall impact of the training programme in relation to its intended objectives.

Moreover, it will also review the implementation strategy of the capacity building training and analyze the factors that impacted the quality of the output and develop recommendations for further improvement of capacity building activities in future.

The assessment study would be participatory in nature with a focus on learning and appreciative enquiry approach. It will explore the different tools, techniques and analytical approaches to collect data to define the present situation of the PECD Training impacts at various scales. This study will be based on both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods, where most of the sources selection would be done randomly from the total participants, with random sampling.

In order to finalize the methodology of the study, a consultation meeting with stakeholders was held in the Conference Room of General Economics Division (GED) on 11 April, 2013. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Shamsul Alam, Member of General Economics Division of Planning Commission.

Key Decisions

Stratified sampling technique will be followed to have more precise information inside the subpopulations about the variables under study. The sampling framework suggests interviewing 27 trainees to be interviewed. The participants suggested increasing **the number of interviewee** to get diversified information, and that the assessment should focus more on **Content Analysis, Method Analysis, Competency of the Trainers and Pre and Post training Assessment**



Picture 4 Mr. Hassan A. Shafie is presenting the inception report of Training Impact Assessment

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KEY EVENTS

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The 4th meeting of the National Steering Committee (NSC) of the Technical Assistance project titled 'Capacity Building for the Planning Commission: Poverty, Environment and Climate Mainstreaming (PECM)' was held on 24 April, 2013 at Planning Commission. Mr. Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam, Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning chaired the meeting.

NSC provided valuable suggestions on the findings of the Mid-Term Evaluation of PECM Project, Work Plan and Targets for 2013, and Strategic Direction for next phase of PECM Project.

Mr. Robert Juhkam, Deputy Country Director of UNDP Bangladesh said that '*the PECM Project has large and broader impact with small investment which shows efficiency and good value for money*'.

Division Chief, General Economics Division (GED), Planning Commission emphasized that the PECM project is the heart of GED as it was deeply involved in the PEC integration of *Sixth Five Year Plan (SFYP), Perspective Plan, National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), ADP Guideline, Revision of Development Project Proforma (DPP) & Technical Project Proforma (TPP) format, Capacity Building of the Planning Professionals through training*, and provide technical inputs and supports to the GED and Planning Commission.

He suggested taking quick initiative for extending the project to next phase for ensuring continuity including an evaluation by IMED to be carried out early for the purpose of project completion report.

A good number of government stakeholders now know about Climate Change due to the training of the PECM Project.

Mr. Bhuiyan Shafiqul Islam, Secretary, Planning Division, Ministry of Planning



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KEY EVENTS

FIELD TEST ON LOCAL CLIMATE FISCAL FRAMEWORK

Eight Unions from four ecological zones e.g. Haor, Coastal, Barind, and Central flood plain were selected to study on Local climate Fiscal Framework (LCFF). Before starting the actual field visits, field test of the questionnaire is essential. A team went to visit the Sariakandi Union Parishad of Sarikandi Upazila of Bogra District for field-tests purpose. The team made following recommendations-

- The questionnaire needs to be simplified slightly.
- For making it understandable to the general public, a presentation on the LCFF concept and the key questions could be done before the group work.
- The Study Team may discuss the methodology for formulating the LCFF for Unions that do not have a Five Year Plan.
- The general people are very aware of the environmental problems in their union. The knowledge of the people on Climate Change impacts on Sariakandi varies, but people have more or less understanding of CC.



KEY EVENTS

MONTHLY PROGRESS REVIEW MEETING

Monthly progress review meeting of PECM Project was held in the Conference Room of General Economics Division (GED) on 21 April, 2013. The meeting was chaired by Md. Rezaul Karim, Joint Chief and National Project Director, GED, Planning Commission. The meeting was made following discussions –

- 23 Case Projects were selected from ADP for analysis from Poverty-Environment-Climate Change Lens. 8 Case Project Reports is already been finalized. The reports will be sent to National Project Director of PECM Project for final approval from the authority. 12 draft reports are ready for consultation with concerned organizations. These reports will be sent to them for comments. Remaining 3 field visit will be completed by May, 2013.
- Report of 23 Case Projects will be finalized by first week of June.
- The draft report on ‘Resource Mapping of ‘Vutiar Beel’ will be placed for comments from concerned authority.
- Field test of draft questionnaires of Local Climate Fiscal Framework (LCFF) will be completed by May, 2013
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CDMP II and GED will be signed by May, 2013 to impart training of 200 Public Sector Planning Professionals.
- Training Module on ‘Poverty, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Inclusive Development Project Design’ will be revised according to the revised Development Project Proforma (DPP)/TPP format. The revision process is being conducted by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) Wing of the Planning Division.
- Capacity Building Strategy for Planning Commission on Mainstreaming PEC issues at National Level Planning will be reviewed by General Economics Division.
- Office equipments will be procured as soon as possible.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Socio-economic Study

Finalize PEC Nexus Analysis reports of 23 Case Projects.

A socio-economic case study team has been analyzing Poverty-Environment-Climate Nexus in various ongoing development projects.

The team will make a visit on 10-12 May, 2013 to the '*Dredging at Harbor Area of the Passur Channel for Mongla Port' Project*' under transport sector implemented by Mongla Port Authority, Ministry of Shipping (MoS) in the Southern part of Bangladesh.

Clean Air and Sustainable Environment (Case Project) implemented by Department of Environment, Dhaka City Corporation and Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority on 16-18 May, 2013 in Chittagong District and 26-27 May 2013 Dhaka District.

Validation Workshop on Final Report on Training Impact Assessment (TIA)

Validation Workshop on the final report on Training Impact Evaluation will be held in Planning Commission on 19th May, 2013. Based on the evaluation, General Economics Division (GED) will redesign the training curriculum for public sector planning professionals.

Audit of PECM Project for 2012

Foreign Aided Project Audit Department (FAPAD) will conduct project audit for 2012 in June 2013.

Local Climate Fiscal Framework (LCFF)

A team will visit Dakop Upazial of Khulan District to field test the questionnaire for Local climate fiscal Framework on 02-05 May 2013. After getting their feedback, the questionnaires will be finalized and actual study will start. The Study Team Meeting will be held on 13 May, 2013 on LCFF.

National Climate Fiscal Framework (NCF)

A series of meeting of the Project Steering Committee formed by Ministry of Finance on formulation of National Climate Fiscal Framework (NCF) will be held in order to advocate introducing a "climate budget code" and yearly "climate budget report" by Finance Division budget wing.

Partnership with Comprehensive Disaster Management Program (CDMP II)

GED will establish a partnership with CDMP II for organizing capacity building activities. In order to do that GED PECM and CDMP II will sign a MOU and move forward to next steps. It has been targeted that 200 more planning professionals will be trained on Poverty, Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Sensitive DPP/TPP formulation. A consultation meeting will be held among Department of Disaster Management, GED, PECM Project, UNDP and CDMP II for signing the MOU.

SPECIAL FEATURE

RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE: COMMUNITY BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Resilient infrastructure is one of the ingredients for poverty reduction and livelihood promotion. Initiative of construction of flood-resistant block roads to establish links between different resources and services to the rural community is one of the key such interventions by Community Based Resource Management (CBRM) Project.

The CBRM project is implementing by Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) with emerging semi autonomous body and beneficiaries (O & M). The cost of the project is Tk. 2004.65 million (USD 28.64 million) funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Government of Bangladesh (GoB) and Contributory fund from the beneficiary group. The project covered all Upazila of Sunamgonj District for the period of 2007-2012 (1st and 2nd Phase) and will include the 'haor' areas of Netrokona, Habigonj and Kishoregonj based on the availability of the fund in the 3rd phase.

Block road construction and maintenance practice introduced by the project is easy and creates scope for improvement of local people's skills and income opportunities through community involvement. The ethnic community living in the locality replicates the technology for constructing internal roads within their neighborhood. As the materials for construction of block are easily available and does not need to burn for compaction, they are environmental friendly as well.

The immediate socio-economic impact of the block road improvement on the community include the accessibility of the people to the service facilities

increased by 64%, mobility of the women increased by 50%, vehicle transportation facilities improved and income of the people increased by 75% through increasing scope for business and promotion of Income Generating Activities.

Block road construction is a environmental friendly infrastructure development process that enhance capacity and reduce vulnerability. However it will take time to ensure acceptance by the society due to existing limitations. One of them is ensuring quality product. Labor Contracting Society (LCS) based infrastructure development is sensitive to quality control which requires job-centre based concrete block manufacturing system creation.

More sophisticated technologies including the mixture machine using and compressed block manufacturing technique could be use for better quality block preparation. In this case the involvement of the local people by promoting their skills through training should be considered for the sustainability of the technologies and wide replication.

The construction of block road can be replicated in the coastal region of Bangladesh where the availability of quality road construction materials is rare. The blocks can be prepared in the suitable locations and transported to the remote localities for road construction. This can also be a good adaptation technologies against the climate change causes sea level rise and frequent flooding.

Author: Md. Abdul Awal Sarker, Monitoring Officer, PECM Project,
Email: awal.sarker@gmail.com

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SPECIAL FEATURE

7TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY BASED ADAPTATION

The 7th International Community Based Adaptation Conference (CBA7) on 22-25 April, 2013 at Rupashi Bangla Hotel in Bangladesh, hosted by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS). The goal of the conference was to minimize gaps between the top-down approach of national governments and the bottom-up approach of communities and civil society. The conference provided an opportunity to share and learn from each other by exchanging ideas. The participations involved the organizations mainly work at the grassroots level with poor and vulnerable people in the developing world, but the conference also attracted a growing number of government representatives from different parts of the world.

Renowned environmentalists, scientists, policymakers, academics, government and non-government officials as well as international development partners participated to discuss the steps to make Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) could be made in more holistic. It also emphasized the coordination among sectors such as food, water, education, health, energy, livelihood opportunities, poverty reduction and social mobilization.

It provided a platform to share and learn experiences on CBA particularly mainstreaming climate change into planning process. Significant number of climate scientists, policy makers, practitioners and other stakeholders shared knowledge in relation to mainstreaming community-based adaptation into international, national and local planning and processes.

Nine participants from General Economics Division (GED) Planning Commission took part in that conference. It helped the participants to enhance the capacity to integrate lessons learnt on CBA into local, national and international planning for development and climate change. PECM Project also took part in the Poster Competition.

Mr. A.K.M Mamunur Rashid, General Economics Divisions of Planning Commission, Bangladesh made a presentation on '*Climate Finance and other emerging challenges for Mainstreaming Community Based Adaptation*' in a plenary session. *He highlighted major challenges at local level planning process are as follows:*

Capacity Gap: Lack of capacity of Local Government Institutions (LGIs) mostly is to be found on insufficient knowledge and information, inadequate human resources, programme design and formulation.

Partial Experience: LGIs are experienced to implement programmes like Social Safety Net and Emergency Response but lack of experience to implement Development Projects.

Tied Funds: Funds for LGIs are not untied and it is always with some prescriptions, making it difficult to address the local burning issues.

Authority Gap: Government and Non-government Organizations only seek opinions from LGIs during implementing their development interventions. The LGIs have no authority to change the programmes based on local needs and demands.

A presentation was also made by Mousumi Pervin on '*Mainstreaming Climate Change into National Development Planning*'.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE & CLIMATE SCIENCE: A Toolkit

By Citty Williams, Kirsty Galloway McLean, Gleb Raygorodetsky, Ame Ramos-Castillo and Brendan Barrett
 Publisher: United Nations University (UNU), April, 2013



Synopsis

The consequences of climate change include effects on agriculture, pastoralism, fishing, hunting and gathering and other subsistence activities, including access to water. The book will provide an in-depth understanding regarding access to *articles, videos and various other resources that will assist indigenous peoples, local communities, policy makers and other stakeholders in accessing research on climate change adaptation and mitigation*. It is recognized that indigenous communities have long, multi-generational histories of interaction with the environment that include coping with variability, uncertainty and change. However, climate induced impacts on their territories and communities are anticipated to be both early and severe due to their location in vulnerable habitats, including small islands, high altitude zones, desert margins and the circumpolar Arctic.

The book is available in 5 languages e.g. English, French, Spanish, Russian and Portuguese. First part includes page 1-29 is in English. Climate change poses a direct threat to many indigenous societies due to their continuing reliance upon resource-based livelihoods. At the same time, resilience in the face of a changing environment is embedded in indigenous knowledge and know-how, diversified resources and livelihoods, social institutions and networks, and cultural values and attitudes.

Attentiveness to environmental variability, shifts and trends is an integral part of their ways of life. Community-based and local knowledge may offer valuable insights on climate induced changes, and complement broader-scale scientific research with local precision and nuance. Indigenous societies have elaborated coping strategies to deal with unstable environments, and in some cases, are already actively adapting to early climate change impacts. While the transformations due to climate change are expected to be unprecedented, indigenous knowledge and coping strategies provide a crucial foundation for community-based adaptation measures.

Contents:

- Can REDD forests ever become green?
- Energy innovation and traditional knowledge
- Land use, climate change adaptation and indigenous peoples

Source:

<http://portal.unu.edu/calendar/?go=event.page&id=6409>

Reviewer: Mousumi Pervin, Training, Knowledge Management and Communication Expert, PECM Project
 Email: mousumipervin@gmail.com

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NEXT MONTH WORK PLAN

Week Days	Analysis of Mainstreaming	Mainstreaming	Capacity Building	Climate Finance	Policy Advocacy/External Relations	Knowledge Management	Communication	Project Management
1-4 May, 2013	Preparatory work for field visit e.g. communication with Case Project Team, Field visit arrangement, transport arrangement etc.	Finalizing meeting minutes	Initiated note to file for GED to handover the draft Capacity Building Strategy	Field Test of Questionnaire on LCFF in Khulna Debriefing on the field test experience	Advocacy with MOF, MOLGRD&C, MOEF, MODM&R	Weekly Report to GED	Newsletter Preparation and dissemination to stakeholders	Monthly an weekly report preparation for GED, IMED and UNDP
05-11 May, 2013	Field visit by the Case Project Study teams in Transport and Agriculture Sector	Finalizing Case Project Reports by incorporating feedback from Agencies	Review the questionnaires of TIA	Experience Sharing Meeting between LCFF field test Team		Data entry of Knowledge Index		Minutes finalization of various meetings
12-18 May 2013	Finalizing Indicator Framework		Finalizing Case Project Reports by incorporating feedback from Agencies	Liaison and Communication between GED and CDMP for signing MOU Validation workshop on TIA report	Communication with steering committee and others for smooth functioning of CCF and LCFF	Meeting with stakeholders Monitoring and follow-up with the consultant of DPP Manual Preparation	Weekly Report to GED	Liaison and Communication with different stakeholders
19-25 May, 2013		Weekly Report to GED						
26-31 May 2013		Weekly Report to GED						

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The overall goal of this Poverty-Environment-Climate Mainstreaming (PECM) project in Bangladesh is to enhance the institutional capacity of targeted national stakeholders to integrate poverty-environment-climate linkages into national development planning process. This integration will promote more sustainable economic development in Bangladesh.

PECM is a project of General Economics Division (GED) of Planning Commission under Ministry of Planning, Government of Bangladesh. PECM is part of an Asia Pacific regional and global Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI). The project is supported by UNDP & UNDP-UNEP PEI.

For further information please contact:

Md. Rezaul Karim

Joint Chief and National Project Director,
General Economics Division, Planning Commission,
Room-24, Block-14, Planning Commission Campus,
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh.
Email: karimrm03@gmail.com, info@pecm.org.bd
Website: www.pecm.org.bd

