

Local innovation and experimentation: an entry point to climate-change adaptation for sustainable livelihoods in Asia

Progress Report from INHERE, India for January-June 2012

The joint regional project on Local innovation and experimentation: an entry point to climate change adaptation for sustainable livelihoods in Asia commenced implementation in India in January 2012. The goal of the three year project 2012-2014 is to improve the livelihoods of climate-change vulnerable rural communities, especially women, dependent on agriculture and natural resources, through participatory innovation development (PID) to respond to climate change.

The project has three specific objectives:

1. To improve the capacity of rural communities, especially women, dependent on agriculture and natural resources to innovate in order to adapt to climate change and become more food-secure, i.e. to become “innovative adaptive communities”.
2. To build the capacity of local organisations (CSOs, local government) to allow them to effectively support “innovative adaptive communities”.
3. To influence national and international policies towards the recognition of local capacities and initiatives in addressing the consequences of climate change.

Preliminary Work

The initiation of the project involved selection of staff for the project and their orientation to the project, its components and requirements. The staff was selected and appointed in February 2012. Three meetings were held for orientation of the personnel to be involved in the project. Of the three core staff, two are men and one woman. Initially the Project Coordinator was a woman but she left for personal reasons after working for four months. One of the Field Site Coordinators was upgraded to coordinate the project and replaced by a woman Field Site Coordinator.

Selection of Villages:

Following the selection of project personnel, selection of project villages was taken up. Thirty villages were surveyed for selection in Chamoli and Almora district of Garhwal and Kumaun region. Ten villages in Chamoli and 12 in Almora district were finally selected for the project. The criteria followed for selection of villages is

- Representative rainfed mountain villages where agriculture is still mainstay of livelihood.
- A mix of valley and ridge villages with altitudinal variation (900 mtr. to 1600 mtr.)
- Accessibility of approach and coordination of the villages.
- Availability of experienced and senior citizen farmers was also taken into account.

Joint Coordination and Agreements Meeting:

A joint meeting of representatives of CEDAC, INHERE, LI-BIRD and ETC was held in Bamako, Mali on March 15-16 on the sidelines of the Prolinnova International Workshop. At this meeting Agreement between Partners, Baseline Survey Format, Budget utilisation and Grant Disbursement Process were discussed and followed up by email for finalisation. The Agreement was signed with CEDAC in June 2012.

Steering Committee Meeting

A Steering Committee to take the process forward in India was constituted for the project in March 2012. The Steering Committee met on April 2, 2012 to understand, discuss and guide project implementation. The Steering Committee was chaired by the Director of the Vivekananda Institute of Himalayan Agriculture Research which is the Institute mandated by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research, the apex agriculture research body constituted by the Government of India, for agriculture research in the mountain areas in the Himalayan region where the project is located.

Project Progress till June 2012:

Baseline survey question format draft was finalised into a format which has been shared with project partners. The format was further developed by INHERE for ease of analysing and processing data. Copy is shared with implementing partners. The baseline survey has been initiated and is expected to be completed by July 2012.

The progress on the activities taken up in the implementation of the project under the related objectives is given here.

Activities undertaken for Objective 1::

a. Field assessment of communities' perspectives on climate change

Initial familiarisation with representative project villages and field assessment of communities perspectives was carried out in four areas of two districts from February 22 to March 31. The preliminary findings were presented at the Steering Committee meeting on April 2, 2012. On the basis of feedback received changes have been made in the process of information gathering and documentation. The process of gathering information resumed in June and is expected to be completed by July 2012. Thereafter the information will be assessed, compiled and documented.

The information is being collected and compiled in Hindi. On completion of process, the information will be translated into English.

b. Implementation and documentation of local innovation and ongoing joint experimentation

In order to build the capacities of farmers, a joint experimentation was set up for the summer crop of kharif. This involved the farming community, Institute for Hill Agriculture and INHERE working jointly on four crops which were expected to withstand expected low rainfall condition. The seeds for rainfed agriculture were selected by the agriculture research institute, VPKAS. The details are given in Table 2 in the Annexure.

Unfortunately, due to a very long dry spell lasting from January till the beginning of July when this report was written, the experiment following the dates and package of practices

guided by the VPKAS, supervised by INHERE agriculture scientist and followed by the farmers was not successful. Some farmers varied the practices through their own innovation and these results are awaited.

c. Training community groups in joint experimentation for climate-change adaptation

Training of farmer and community groups was initiated to carry out joint research with other stakeholders, e.g. researchers, extension workers, private entrepreneurs. As a part of this training, they will learn to operate in a multistakeholder environment for agricultural research and development in the face of climate change.

On 12.05.2012 agriculture scientist from INHERE, Mr Sudhir Saxena conducted training for farmers from the project area, on the package of practices to be followed for the seeds given by VPKAS and according to their guidelines. The training was held at the INHERE Training Centre in Chinoni on Joint experimentation. 12 men and 8 women participated.

Activities undertaken for Objective 2:

a. Training of CSOs and local governments in CCA, the international arena and links to local initiatives and innovation.

An orientation and training meeting for joint experimentation and linking up with other stakeholders in ARD has been planned for NGOs in July 2012. Local NGOs and CSOs are less familiar with the CCA challenges and what these mean in terms of supporting local initiatives and farmer/community groups. Some CSOs working actively in CCA are less aware of the concept and importance of PID but are in need of an approach that scales up the community initiatives integrated with science and development interventions. Training support of Prolinnova PID trainers in Nepal is planned.

b. Exchange of experiences between partners within and outside their Country Platforms

The Field Site Facilitators participated in a Youth Meeting on Climate Change between 10-12th of April 2012 which was co organised by IRDWSI and International Network on Ethics in Climate Change (INECC). The meeting was held in Semliguda, Orissa. Besides internal discussions with input sessions a field trip was also undertaken to understand climate change and adaptation.

A two member team from INECC also visited the INHERE project area to document climate change and adaptation by the community.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

The designing of the broad-based M&E framework to be adapted and operationalised in each country is awaited from ETC and LI-BIRD. An M&E focal person for the project has been appointed to monitor activity performance in line with the expected outputs. Planning and review activities are being carried out twice a month.

A backstopping visit by ETC Foundation has been planned for the first week of October.

ANNEXURES

Table:1 Villages Surveyed and Selected for Project

S.N.	Surveyed Villages				Selected Villages			
	Chamoli		Almora		Chamoli		Almora	
	GP	RV	GP	RV	GP	RV	GP	RV
1	Hargarh	Hargarh		Sirda	Hargarh	Hargarh		Sirda
2		Dharapani	Sirda	Gajjar		Dharapani	Sirda	Gajjar
3	Mehalchauri	Mehalchauri		Kwerali walli				Kwerali walli
4		Thala		Kwerali Palli				Kwerali Palli
5	Mekhuli	Mekhuli	Kwerali	Malsakhet			Kwerali	Malsakhet
6	Beena	Beena	Kothu	Kothu	Beena	Beena		
7		Jogina		Bagjibala		Jogina		
8	Banjani	Banjani	Khatyari	Khatyari	Banjani	Banjani	Khatyari	Khatyari
9		Rohida	Jaintha	Jaintha	Rohida	Rohida	Jaintha	Jaintha
10	Rohida	Kafalsain	Kotura	Kotura		Kafalsain	Kotura	Kotura
11		Malakot		Manaliya				Rampur
12		Raikot	Naugaon	Naugaon			Naugaon	Naugaon
13	Malakot	Gadut		Bayeesokhala				
14		Latugair	Bayeesokhala	Bhaltwani walli			Bayeesokhala	Bhaltwani walli
15		Kalimati		Bhaltwani palli				Bhaltwani palli
16		Tewakharak		Amdali				

17		Sera		Brahmdevchauri				
18	Kalimati	Dubiataal	Farika	Farika				
19	Naini	Naini	Dhanar	Dhanar				
20	Tetuna	Tetuna		Bhesiyagar				
21	Kolani	Kolani	Nyoni	Nyoni				
22		Dhamdev	Dyoni	Dyoni				
23	Dhamdev	Kot	Chhitar	Chhitar				
24	Chhadisain	Chhadisain		Jamrar				
25	Golegaon	Golegaon	Bagari	Bagari	Golegaon	Golegaon		
26		Bhediyana						
27	Bhediyana	Masusera						
28	Lakhedi	Lakhedi						
29	Dhargarh	Dhargarh			Dhargarh	Dhargarh		
30	Kunkhet	Kunkhet			Kunkhet	Kunkhet		
Total	18	30	14	25	7	10	7	12

Table: 2 Villages and Crops Selected for Joint Experimentation

Crops Selected for Joint Experimentation														
			Madua(Fox Millet)			Arhar (Lentil)			Dhan (Rice)			Makka(Maize)		
S.N.	GP Name	Altitude (in Mtr.)	Area Rainfed/Irrigated	Area (in Nali)	Qty. Seed(in kg.)	Area Rainfed/Irrigated	Area (in Nali)	Qty. (in kg.)	Area Rainfed/Irrigated	Area (in Nali)	Qty. (in kg.)	Area Rainfed/Irrigated	Area (in Nali)	Qty. (in kg.)
1	Khatyari	1200	Rainfed	10	2	Rainfed	10	4	Irrigated	10	10	Rainfed	5	2
2	Bhaltwani	1300	Rainfed	10	2	Rainfed	10	4				Rainfed	5	2
3	Querali	1450	Rainfed	10	2	Rainfed	10	4	Irrigated	10	10	Rainfed	5	2

4	Jaintha	1450	Rainfed	10	2	Rainfed	10	4				Rainfed	5	2
5	Malsakhet	1500	Rainfed	10	2	Rainfed	10	4	Irrigated	10	10	Rainfed	5	2
6	Rampur	1000	Rainfed	10	2	Rainfed	10	4				Rainfed	5	2
7	Naugaon	1250	Rainfed	10	2	Rainfed	10	4	Irrigated	10	10	Rainfed	5	2
8	Maikholi	1100	Rainfed	10	2	Rainfed	10	4				Rainfed	5	2
9	Dharapani	1200	Rainfed	10	2	Rainfed	10	4				Rainfed	5	2
10	Hargarh	1300	Rainfed	10	2	Rainfed	10	4				Rainfed	5	2
11	Beena	1400	Rainfed	10	2	Rainfed	10	4				Rainfed	5	2
12	Rohida	1600	Rainfed	10	2	Rainfed	10	4	Irrigated	10	10	Rainfed	5	2
				120	24		120	48		50	50		60	24

Table: 3 Villagewise Farmer Participation in Joint Experimentation for Kharif (Summer Crop)

		Foxtail millet (Madua)	Lentil (Arhar)	Rice (Dhan)	Maize (Makka)
S.N.	GP Name	No. of cultivator	No. of cultivator	No. of cultivator	No. of cultivator
1	Khatyari	5	10	5	5
2	Bhaltwani	5	10		5
3	Querali	5	10	5	5
4	Brahmdevchauri	5	10		5
5	Malsakhet	5	10	5	5
6	Rampur	5	10		5
7	Naugaon	5	10	5	5
8	Maikholi	5	10		5
9	Dharapani	5	10		5
10	Hargarh	5	10		5
11	Beena	5	10		5
12	Rohida	5	10	5	5
		60	120	25	60