



ENVIS

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Initiatives in Tamil Nadu



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Climate Change initiatives in Tamil Nadu

The most vulnerable group in the society are the rural poor as they often depend on natural resources for livelihoods such as agriculture, fisheries and forestry. Currently human activities are causing tremendous pressure on the natural resources. Human induced climate change poses an additional challenge, increasing the vulnerability of rural communities. The impacts of climate change currently predicted for India include rise of up to 4°C in surface air temperature by 2100. This would cause decline in almost one third of the yields from rainfed grain crops, and a rising number of extreme weather events, such as droughts, floods and cyclones. Customised interventions are therefore the need of the hour to cope up with the specific risks in different states and regions. Scientific knowledge of the projected regional impacts of climate change need to be enhanced and combined with best practices from different sectors, and linked to suitable proven coping strategies, local knowledge and innovative ideas.

Climate Change Adaptation in Rural Areas of India (CCARAI) Project

CCARAI is an Indo-German development project that aims to strengthen the efforts of rural communities in India to cope with climate variability and change. The project has different components such as preparation of action plans on climate change, vulnerability and risk assessments, climate adaptation measures, climate proofing public investments, financial instruments for adaptation, information on knowledge management and human capacity building. It is implemented by the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), Government of India (GoI) and the German International Cooperation (GIZ). It is financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. The MoEF, four States and GIZ are using multi-level approach involving several different components to work towards this goal, guided by India's National Action Plan on Climate Change.

The main responsibilities of the CCARAI project are financing, technical support, and institutional capacity building.

Tamil Nadu has been chosen as one of the CCARAI four partner States in India, apart from Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and West Bengal, as these States encompasses India's differing agricultural-climatic zones. Through the project a strong network of partners in the four States will be built relying on the existing institutions from the public and private sector partnerships.

National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC)

To prepare for the impacts of climate change, the Prime Minister of India launched the country's National Action Plan on Climate Change in 2008. With an advanced institutional landscape providing a good knowledge base and expertise relevant to climate change, India is well prepared to deal with the multi-faceted nature of climate change. The challenge now is to develop cross-sectoral integrated approach.

The NAPCC addresses the urgent and critical concerns of the country through a directional shift in the development pathway, including enhancement of the current and planned programmes. It provides multi-pronged, long-term and integrated framework for addressing climate change as a core development issue. There are eight National Missions which form the core of the NAPCC which are:

1. National Solar Mission
2. National Mission for enhanced Energy Efficiency
3. National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
4. National Water Mission
5. National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem
6. National Mission for a Green India
7. National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
8. National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change

These National Missions represents multi-pronged, long-term and integrates strategies for achieving key goals in the context of climate change. While several programmes are already part of the current actions, they may need a change in the direction, enhancement of scope and effectiveness and accelerated implementation of time-bound plans.

State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC)

The Ministry of Environment and Forests has requested all Indian States to develop action plans to define how they will undertake activities and programmes aimed at adaptation and mitigation in consonance with the objectives of NAPCC. This is because the NAPCC pursues the objectives of sustainable development that would increasingly guide India's development policy in the future, and hence the Government of India has encouraged the State Governments to develop State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC). SAPCCs would address this need. It would help identify measures that promote our development objectives while also yielding co-benefits for addressing climate change effectively. It outlines a number of steps to simultaneously advance India's development and climate change-related objectives of adaptation and mitigation.

GIZ and other organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UK Department for International development, World Bank are providing technical assistance to interested federal States in the development of SAPCC. The State-level plans are not only important for implementation of the NAPCC, but also inclusion of particular regional and local characteristics and specific concerns of vulnerable sectors and communities within each State.

Tamil Nadu State Action Plan on Climate Change (TN-SAPCC)

The Department of Environment (DoE), Government of Tamil Nadu has been designated as the Nodal Department/ Agency for the CCARAI

Project, and GIZ is identified as a technical institutional partner. Preparation of SAPCC is one of the components of the CCA RAI Project. The DoE initiated the activities related to the SAPCC in the year 2010 in the following sequence

- Inception Workshop with MoEF and GIZ
- Formation of a Steering Committee
- Identifying the different sectors for the Tamil Nadu State.
 1. Sustainable Agriculture,
 2. Sustainable Habitat,
 3. Coastal Area Management,
 4. Water Resources,
 5. Forest and Biodiversity,
 6. Knowledge Management,
 7. Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy & Solar Mission
- Identifying Nodal Officers for each of the Sector
- Identifying the Working Group Members for each of the Sector

Following this, periodical Working Group Meetings for each Sector were carried out for preparation of the SAPCC. Further there were periodical meetings for reviewing the drafts prepared for each sector. This led to the final draft preparation which has been forwarded to the GIZ and Intercooperation, New Delhi, and is currently under final editing. The Action Plan will also be integrating the prioritization of the adaptation and mitigation strategies put forth by each of the sector as specified mandatory by the MoEF, GoI. Further, the DoE has taken initiatives as per the guidelines of the SAPCC to conduct Agro-Climatic Zone-wise consultation workshops involving different stakeholders such as NGOs, farmers, fishermen, tribal people, academic experts, students and general public (urban/ rural). All the inputs received from the seven agro-climatic zones are currently being collated to look at the zone-wise key issues related to climate change of the different sectors as well, which will also be integrated into the SAPCC report.

Awareness programme on smokeless bogi

The Department of Environment, in collaboration with the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board conducted awareness to the general public on smokeless bogi. This awareness initiative was carried out by engaging auto rickshaws and by using banners and mega phones to decimate awareness on the harmful effects of smoke emitted by burning tyres and plastics. The inauguration of the awareness programme was held at the Chennai Higher secondary school, CIT Nagar, Chennai – 17, on 10th January



2013. The event was flagged off by Thiru M. C. Sampath, Hon'ble Minister for Environment and the worshipful Mayor, Thiru Saidai S. Duraisamy. Thiru Mohan Verghese Chunkath, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Environment and Forest Department, Dr. D. Karthikeyan, I.A.S., Chairman, Pollution Control Board, Dr. H. Malleshappa, I.F.S., Director, Department of Environment along with officials of the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board and the Department of Environment, participated in this event.. Members of legislative Assembly, Chennai Corporation officials, Government Officials and more than 500 students and general public participated in this event. The Hon'ble Minister for Environment along with the dignitaries distributed awareness pamphlets on reducing smoke to combat climate change.



Chennai Science Festival 2013 - "Environment protection"

The Chennai Science Festival – 2013 "Biodiversity and Food security" " was organized from January 30th - 3rd February 2013 at Anna Gem Science Park matriculation Higher Secondary School Campus. The mega science exhibition consisted of a total of 120 stalls exhibiting various items on the above mentioned themes. Several Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, Schools, Colleges and various Universities from Tamil Nadu participated and exhibited posters and working models related to their scope of work. ENVIS Centre, Department of Environment,



Saidapet, Chennai-15 displayed a stall with 30 posters on " Environment Protection" and a model on 'solar energy- to mitigate climate change' was also displayed by the NGC students of R.K.M. Saradha Vidhyala, Girls Higher Secondary School, T. Nagar, Chennai - 17. Approximately 1,00,000 people, including 60,000 students and about 40,000 of the general public from Chennai and urban areas visited the Science Exhibition and ENVIS staff explained in detail all the posters and the model. Competitions like quiz, elocution, essay writing, drawing competitions were conducted for the school students from Chennai City. A panel discussion with experts was also conducted on the last day.



One day training programme for the NGC teacher co-ordinators



The training programmes for the NGC teacher co-ordinators were conducted at all the 32 districts of Tamil Nadu. The programmes were organised by NGC state co-ordinator Thiru L. Durai. Dr. H. Malleshappa, I.F.S., Director, Department of Environment, along with other Senior Officers of the Department of Environment participated in the training programmes. District Collectors and Chief Educational Officers of various districts also participated and encouraged the teacher co-ordinators. A field visit was also organized in the afternoon where the teacher co-ordinators had an opportunity to learn about the green house effect, climate change, mist chamber, vermi composting, economic importance of various trees and medicinal plants. A total of 32 NGC training programme were conducted in all the 32 districts of Tamil Nadu involving around 3,200 teacher co-ordinators from 3,200 schools. The feedback was encouraging and more such programmes were requested.



BASIC Ministers meeting at Taj Coromandal, Chennai.

The environment ministers of Brazil, South Africa, India and China (BASIC) met in Chennai at the Taj Coromandal on February 15th and 16th to discuss about taking forward decisions taken at the Doha climate conference. BASIC is a platform for the four countries to coordinate on issues related to climate change. BASIC has emerged as an important group in the climate change negotiations, voicing concerns of the developing countries.

At the Chennai meeting, the ministers reviewed the decisions taken in Doha and planned steps towards reaching an equitable agreement under the Durban platform. Representatives of other important members of G-77 were invited. Bhutan, Mali, Argentina, Fiji, Nauru and Qatar (which chaired the last climate conference) are among the countries which had been invited. The meeting was convened by the Department



of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu which was designated as the Nodal Agency by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The ministers of the group meet four times a year and the meetings are being held in each country by rotation. This time the group had decided to meet in India and Chennai was chosen as the venue. Hon'ble Union Environment Minister, Tmt. Jayanthi Natarajan, Chaired the meeting and emphasized the commitment of developing countries, including the BASIC nations, to mitigate climate change, and urged the developed countries to come forward and reciprocate the gesture and efforts.

Stakeholder Consultation Workshop on Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan

A Consultation Workshop with the stakeholders with reference to the preparation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan of Tamil Nadu was held on 28th February 2013 at GRT Convention Centre, T. Nagar, Chennai. The Director of Environment, Dr. H. Malleshappa, I.F.S., welcomed the gathering. This was followed by a briefing of the implementation process of the project by Mr. Hans Enggrob, Managing Director, DHI-India. Thiru Mohan Verghese Chunkath, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Environment and Forest Department gave the key note address where he



highlighted the importance of integrated approach in management of the coastal areas from various factors including climate change. Thiru C.V. Sankar, I.A.S., Principal Secretary Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department also made a brief speech highlighting the importance of ICZM planning and its long term goals. Several dignitaries including Thiru D. Karhikeyan, Chairman, TNPCB, Thiru V. Thangavelu, I.A.S., Chairman, SEIAA, etc. also participated in the workshop.

National Combined user interaction workshop for ENVIS Centres



National Combined user interaction workshop for ENVIS Centres was conducted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India in collaboration with National Informatics Centre, Government of India, from 18th to 19th February 2013 at India International Centre Annexe, Max Mueller Marg, New Delhi. Ms. Vandana Aggarwal, Economic Adviser, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Dr. Susan George K. Deputy Director, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Shri. S. S. Gahlout, Deputy Director

General, National Informatics Centre and Shri. Anil Kumar, Technical Director, NIC participated in this workshop. The workshop was intended to discuss any issues and resolve problems, in the updating of Databases and management of Website through Content Management System (CMS) and streamlining the ISBEID programme, status of data updation and indentifying data gaps with respect to data availability. More than 100 persons from various ENVIS centre from all across India participated in this event.

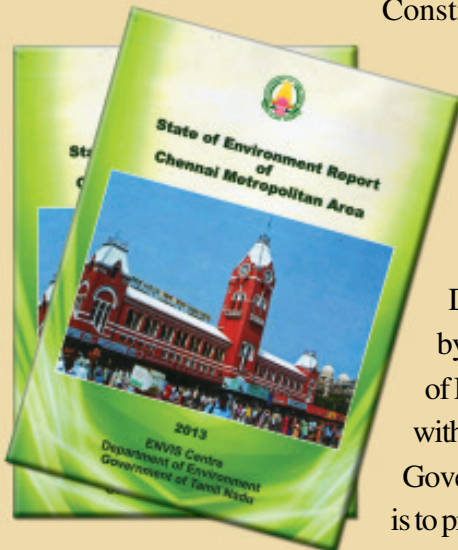


Snippets of other events

- Dr. H. Malleshappa, I.F.S., Director of Environment, inaugurated the one day workshop on Plastic Management for Environmental Conservation at Forest College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam on 28.01.2013.
- Dr. H. Malleshappa, I.F.S., Director of Environment, inaugurated the one day workshop on Natural Resource Management for Environmental Security at Kongunadu Arts and Science College, Coimbatore on 28.01.2013.
- Dr. Jayanthi M. I.F.S., Addl. Director of Environment, inaugurated environmental awareness programme at Pachaiyappa's College Higher Secondary School, Chennai on 22.02.2013.
- Dr. H. Malleshappa, I.F.S., Director of Environment, inaugurated the one day workshop on Green Cities- A way for Sustainable urban development, at School of Architecture and Planning, Anna University, on 22.03.2013.

World Forestry Day 2013

The Department of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu collaborated with the Tamil Nadu Forest Department and celebrated the World Forestry Day 2013 on 21st March 2013 at Guindy National, Park Chennai. Thiru Gautam Dey, I.F.S., Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, gave the inaugural address. Thiru Mohan Verghese Chunkath, I.A.S., Additional Chief Secretary, Environment and Forest Department gave the key note address. The presidential address was delivered by Thiru K. T. Pachamal, Hon'ble Minister for Forests and the worshipful Mayor, Thiru Saidai S. Duraisamy also addressed the gathering. Special addresses were delivered by Thiru G. Senthamizhan, M.L.A, Saidapet Constituency and Dr. H. Malleshappa, I.F.S., Director, Department of Environment. Members of legislative Assembly, Chennai Corporation officials, Government Officials and more than 500 students and general public participated in this event.



During the programme the State of Environment Report of the Chennai Metropolitan Area, published by the ENVIS Centre, Department of Environment, Government of Tamil Nadu was released by the Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Thiru K. T. Pachamal. The State of Environment Report of the Chennai Metropolitan Area was prepared with the financial assistance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The main focus of the State of Environment Report is to provide the baseline environment data, which will aid in the formulation of an appropriate policy for environmental management. Worshipful Mayor, Thiru Saidai S. Duraisamy, received the first copy of the Report from the Hon'ble Minister for Forests.



Environmental Awards 2011

The Environmental Awards were also distributed by the Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Shri K.T. Pachamal, during the International Forestry Day celebrations held on 21st March 2013 at Guindy National Park, Chennai. The following are the winners of the Environmental Awards 2011.

Environmental Awareness and Education Awards		
Tamil Nadu Scientific Research Organisation, Pudukkottai District	Aringnar Anna Virudhu	First Prize
Thiru C. Pulugandi Virudhunagar District	Sutru Suzhal Sudaroli Virudhu	Second Prize
Thiru. G. Thangaraj, Chennai Girls Higher Secondary School, Nungambakkam	Sutrusuzhal Seyal Veerar Virudhu	Third Prize
Environmental Protection and Environmental Management Awards (Organisation)		
Lanco Tanjore Power Company Ltd., Thanjavur	Dr. Gurusamy Mudaliyar Virudhu	First Prize
CDRD Trust, Nilgiris District	Sutru Suzhal Kavalar Virudhu	Second Prize
Miracle Polimers India Ltd., Coimbatore	Sutru Suzhal Seyal Veerar Virudhu	Third Prize
Environmental Protection and Environmental Management Awards (Individual)		
Thiru. K. Naveen Tiruchirapalli District	Karma Veerar Kamarajar Virudhu	First Prize
Thiru. N.M. Preamraj, Kanniyakumari District	Sutru Suzhal Pura valar Virudhu	Second Prize
Lion Dr. T.P. Ravindiran, Kodaikannal	Sutrusuzhal Seyal Veerar Virudhu	Third Prize



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