

Adaptation Learning Highways

Bridging the gap between planned adaptation
and local knowledge and capacities



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‘UNPREDICTABILITY’ – appears to be the ‘New Climate Regime!’

How do we make use of local knowledge and improve adaptation planning and strategies to address the climate change-induced uncertainties ?

How do we bridge ‘know how’ with ‘do how’?



THE CONTEXT: PEOPLE & LANDSCAPE

Features of upland agriculture in NER

- Rain-fed/weather dependent
- Majority of upland families involved in traditional farming or shifting cultivation
- Majority of the farmers unschooled, Below Poverty Line category
- labour-intensive and ITK-based
- Women play significant role
- Little use of modern agri-inputs (chemical fertilizer, pesticide) tools and technology
- Low production but highly diverse food basket



Current Scenario

Communities are responding to changes **on their own** by **using traditional knowledge and coping Practices**

‘Islands of research activities’
– with very little coordination between research agencies and the policy makers/govt

Hence **gaps exist** between local needs, research and policy actions

New tools & approaches

Adaptation Learning Highways, a process that aims at connecting the missing links among **key stakeholders**:

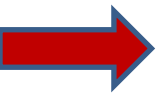
Community
scientists/technical experts
Government/policy makers

... to help formulate **effective adaptation strategies and action plans**

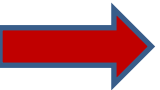
WHAT ARE THESE ALH PLATFORMS?

ALH consists of three inter-linked horizontal and vertical DIALOGUE platforms used for mainstreaming grassroots concerns into local planning and adaptation strategies.

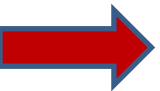
These are:



Community to Community (C2C) Knowledge exchange Forum



Community to Scientists Interface (CSI)



Forum for Interaction with Policy makers (FIP)



Visualization of ALH tools in Action (Stage One)

C2C Knowledge Exchange FORUM

It comprises of reps from
farming community, TIs &
govt officials as ‘observers’

❖ Ground Situation Assessed

Community perceived issues & concerns
identified, discussed and analyzed

Community coping mechanisms and
practices peer-assessed and verified

Needs expressed and **gaps in support
systems identified** for enhancing
community adaptive capacity to change



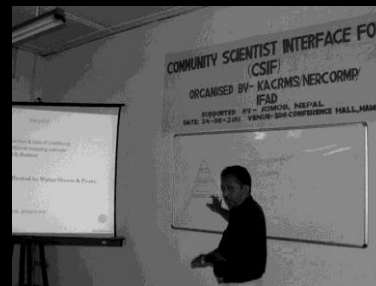
Visualization of ALH tools in Action (Stage Two)

Community-scientists Interface

- ☐ Grassroots issues, assessed, validated
- ☐ Recommendations for Policy Action proposed

Scientists/experts & technical groups discuss community-raised issues, concerns & needs;

Assess promising community coping practices, **suggest measures** for improving community mechanisms etc.



Visualization of ALH tools in Action

Forum for Interaction with Policy Makers (FIP)

PROCESS – STAGE THREE

Community concerns identified by the communities & assessed by scientists/expert groups are placed at the local policy-making forums for action

Policy and governance support **enhance community capacity** for adaptation;

Reduces risks from adverse effects of climate hazards

Out Come

Process begins for local adaptation planning and strategies



Does ALH offer solution?

Not really, but it shows how to find solutions.

The process clearly shows how indigenous knowledge can be harnessed to improve local adaptation plans, actions and capacities by **institutionalizing** it in the local planning process.





THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION