

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Mainstreaming for Climate Resilient Development

**A
TRAINING
MODULE**

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The opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Department for International Development.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACT	Action on Climate Today
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
ASAPCC	Assam State Action Plan on Climate Change
ASDMA	Assam State Disaster Management Authority
CC	Climate Change
CCIP	Climate Change Innovation Programme
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbons
COP	Conference of Parties
CRA	Climate Resilient Agriculture
CRMP	Community Resource Management Project
DFID	Department for International Development
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EREO	Enhancing Renewable Energy Options
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GESI	Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
GHE	Green House Effect
GHG	Green House Gases
GWP	Global Water Partnership
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IFAD	International Fund for Agriculture Development
IMD	India Meteorological Department
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contributions
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
MPRLP	Madhya Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project
NaRMG	Natural Resource Management Groups
NERCORMP	North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
NREGA	National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
PIME	Planning Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation
SAPCC	State Action Plan on Climate Change
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organisation

ABOUT THE MODULE

Adoption of Assam State Action Plan on Climate Change by the Assam State Government has set the path in the state for tackling the menace of climate change. The 162 strategies delineated across different sectors have been outlined considering the probable impacts of climate change on the state. While adaptation and mitigation actions have been a priority for the state, there are still more areas where it needs improved capacity building in order to ensure the effective and efficient implementation of SAPCC strategies. Gender Equality and Social Inclusion mainstreaming is one such area. Gender equality and social inclusion has been considered a significant indicator of climate resilient development globally. Keeping this in view, ACT-CCIP in Assam have developed this training manual on Gender Equality and Social Mainstreaming to facilitate capacity building of the stakeholders working towards climate resilient development.

This training manual will provide trainers, policymakers, and practitioners with background information to develop and adopt gender-sensitive climate action and include material to conduct training on mainstreaming gender and social inclusion in climate action of the state.

The chapters of the brief training module include the basic concepts of climate change, gender equality, social inclusion, the relationship between gender and climate change as well as discussions and ideas related to the mainstreaming of GESI in climate action.

Who will use the Module?

This module is intended for the people belonging to the development sectors as well as for government officials for imparting training on mainstreaming of gender and social inclusion into climate actions and policies of the state. This manual can also be used by various other stakeholders like institutions of higher education, women's studies centres, non-government organizations, etc. This manual will act as resource material at the following levels -

- Training of Facilitators/ Trainers
- Sensitization workshops on GESI mainstreaming for climate resilient development
- Community-level training (with adequate adaptation)

Structure of the Module

This training module has been organized into three chapters which include the following:

- Chapter 1:** Introduction to Basic Concepts of Gender, Social Inclusion and Climate Change
- Chapter 2:** Relationship between Gender, Social Inclusion and Climate Change
- Chapter 3:** Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in CC Action Plan

The 162 strategies delineated across different sectors have been outlined considering the probable impacts of climate change on the state



Each chapter is divided into sections which contain the following sub-sections:

Objectives

Subject

Activities

Objective of the Module

As stated earlier, the purpose of the module is to help facilitate training on mainstreaming gender equality and social inclusion in climate change actions. Since training is the process of sharing knowledge and skills among learners in a formal or an informal situation, the purpose of this module is to bring about changes in the behavior of the learners. This training module will help to gain knowledge, change in the attitude and develop skills in understanding relevant issues related to gender and social inclusion in climate change related actions and policies of the state.

How to use the Manual

This module provides a general framework for the topics and subjects related to the GESI mainstreaming, which itself is a vast sector. Considering the broader areas and contexts associated, the trainer may adapt training activities to suit their contexts and needs of the target group, based on the basic content of the module. When using the module, the trainer or facilitator should exercise flexibility and incorporate additional training materials keeping in mind local practices and methods to strengthen what is provided for in the manual. Trainers or Facilitators can make use of the local language as and when necessary. Citing examples from the local context, good practices can be incorporated.

Suggested Training Methods

The Trainer may make use of the following training methods as per the situations. These are only tentative suggestions and may include - brainstorming, discussions, lecture/talk, question and answer, role-plays, case study, demonstrations and training visits.

Intended Aim and Results of Training



Knowledge: This knowledge will help participants to acquire information and insight on the concepts of climate change and how gender and social inclusion is important for building climate resilience. The participants should be made aware of what must be known, the key learning points of a given topic. What must be known is what enhances positive and permanent change in attitude; this will help them bring about a change in their attitude on how they look into the aspects of climate change and climate action.



Attitude: This refers to a change in the perception and to look into the issue of climate change from a gender perspective. Information and knowledge of the relevant aspects will help them change their attitude towards looking into the policies and actions related to climate change, thereby, enhancing their vision to look beyond business as usual.



Skill: Training refers to the technical know-how. The different techniques that will be employed in the training process like brainstorming, participatory learning, discussion, role play, group work etc. will help the participants to learn and take home new ideas. They will get a chance to use it in their place of work. On completion, participants will notice that there is a change in their habit, as a result of gaining new knowledge and skills.

Pre-Training Session

A. Self-Introduction

The participants will get to know one another and develop trust in the trainer. The trainers will also introduce themselves.

Time: 10-15 Minutes depending on the number of participants.

Objective: To create a relaxed atmosphere for learning and sharing.

Method: The participants will introduce themselves and the sector they are working on. They can also be requested to share their expectations for the training.

B. Gender Awareness

Time: 20 Minutes

Objective: To make the participants get a better understanding of the attributes of Male & Female/Different sexes and genders.

Method

1

The participants will be asked to identify at least 5 attributes for both women and men.

2

Two columns will be written on the whiteboard as –

MEN	WOMEN
-----	-------

Under each column, the participants will list down the attributes they are thinking/identifying.

3

Once it is written ask the participants if they agree or do they want to change anything or add something new, allow some time for discussion among the participants.

4

Emphasize or try to draw out from the participants how those attributes have been shaped by society or through the socialization processor through stereotype images.

5

Next, the trainer will have an open discussion on how culture nature, sex and gender help in the formation of these attributes.

INTRODUCTION TO THE BASIC CONCEPTS



This chapter will deal with various concepts related to the areas of climate change, gender, social inclusion and climate resilient development.

Objectives

- To make the participants understand the various concepts of the relevant sectors.
- To refresh the understanding and knowledge of the participants on the targeted subjects.

Concepts of Gender and Social Inclusion

Understanding Gender:



Pre-reading: Culture: The word 'Culture' has been derived from the Latin word 'cultural' which means to cultivate or cultivating the mind. Broadly speaking culture is a way of life, the shared beliefs, customs, language, religion, social habits, music, dance, traditions etc. that help to define an identity of any social group to which an individual affirms his or her affinity. It refers to all those ways of thinking and behaviour, which is passed on from one generation to another.

An important aspect of culture is that it helps in building the socialization process of an individual. A child is born into a family without any culture. He or she must be transformed by their parents, teachers, and others into culturally and socially adept behaviours. The general process of acquiring culture is referred to as socialization. During the socialization process, the child learns the language of the culture as well as the roles. For instance, girls learn the responsibilities of daughters, sisters, friends, wives, and mothers. In addition, they learn about the occupational roles that their society has in store for them. Children also learn and usually adopt the culture's norms through the socialization process. These processes have a significant bearing on the gender sensitivity of the grownup individual in due course of time.

Activity

Aim: To acquaint participants with the differences between Gender and Sex.

What to do:

- Give each participant two pieces of sticky notes or cards.
- Ask each participant to write down what they think about the term gender and sex on the notes.
- Shuffle the papers and then ask participants to randomly pick up any of the papers from the table.
- The first participant picks up a paper and reads it loud and pastes it onto the display board or whiteboard.
- When the next participant picks up another and reads it out to the group, the trainer asks the group whether it is not similar to the one already read.
- Where the meanings are similar, they are not pasted on the board.

- This activity continues until all the papers have been read, and the list of definitions of gender as expressed by the participants is exhausted.
- Read out the list of definitions to the entire group, and as each is read, the group agrees to keep or discard definitions.

Gender:

Gender is a social construct that differentiates the power, roles, responsibilities, and obligations of women from that of men in society. It determines, to a great extent how we think, feel, and what we believe we can and cannot do as women and men. It is ascribed by society, relating to roles and responsibilities and it differs between cultures and time. Gender, which is a part of the broader socio-cultural context, refers to social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between themselves and with one another.

Gender and culture are closely related. Culture determines what the society wants and expects from women and men at different stages of their lives: gender roles. It defines the status and power relations between women, men, girls and boys. Gender attributes are the result of cultural context and socialization in society. Some of the examples include -preference for a boy to a girl child, naming systems, initiation ceremonies, marital practices, gender-based violence.

Table 1:1 Difference Between Sex and Gender

Gender	Sex
Socially constructed	Biologically determined
Learned and relative (differs within and between cultures)	Universal
Dynamic (changes over time)	Doesn't change (Can be changed)

Gender roles are cultural and personal. They determine how males and females should think, speak, dress, and interact within the context of society. Learning plays a role in this process of shaping gender roles. These gender schemas are deeply embedded cognitive frameworks regarding what defines masculine and feminine.

Gender Equality refers to the equal rights, responsibilities and equal distribution outcomes of development among women and men irrespective of their physical differences, limitations and socially described roles. By achieving gender equality, we try to ensure that both women and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities are not governed by their gender and gender roles. Gender equality comes under the purview of human rights and is an essential requisite for and an indicator of sustainable development.

Gender Division of Labour

Division of labour refers to a production process in which a worker or group of workers is assigned a specialized task in order to increase the efficiency is division of labor. Gender Division of labour may refer to the way work is divided between men and women according to their gender roles. These role expectations are often determined by the socialization process and includes tasks and responsibilities that are assigned which may later determine the market pattern.

In many societies, it is pre-determined that women are expected to perform tasks like child -rearing, house-hold chores like fetching water, cooking or in one word to sustain the household with their unpaid labour even though they may be employed outside the home in paid work. On the other hand, there is a strong belief that certain tasks are traditionally men's work. It is hierarchical where in the gender of a person, rather than the capacity determine what work the person does, when, where and at what term of exchange. Due to this segregation of work, the labour market is also segregated along gender lines, and these affect education and training too. However, in some societies and certain organizations as (in the tea industry) it is more women oriented and women form a large chunk in the labour force.

Gender Equity

It is the equal distribution of responsibilities and outcomes of development among women and men. Gender equity aims at providing social justice to the more disadvantaged gender due to social, cultural and institutional norms and limitations. In any developmental programme, gender equity necessarily needs measures to compensate for the historical and social disadvantages of women.

Gender Neutrality

Gender Neutrality refers to anything – a concept, an entity, a style of language – that is unassociated with either the male or female gender. Any gender-neutral policy or action is targeted at benefiting all genders without drawing any difference between them. Gender-neutral policies do not address existing gender relations in particular. It is an approach to planning that treats men, women, girls and boys as if they are a part of one homogeneous group.

Gender Analysis

Gender analysis is a systematic analytical process used to identify, understand, and describe gender differences and the relevance of gender roles and power dynamics in a specific context. Such analysis typically involves examining the differential impact of development policies and programs on women and men and may include the collection of sex-disaggregated or gender-sensitive data (data that is collected separately for men and women) and analysis of the existing data from a gender perspective i.e. analysing data separately for men and women. It would also include the socio-cultural norms, livelihood patterns gender division of labour and access to different facilities like energy, water, sanitation, education, health, work patterns and training. Gender analysis will also help to obtain data on issues that affect only women like maternal mortality and violence on women.

Gender analysis examines the different roles, rights and opportunities of men and women and relations between them. It also identifies disparities, examines why such disparities exist, determines whether they are a potential impediment to achieving results, and looks at how they can be addressed.

CIDA describes gender analysis as – “The variety of methods used to understand the relationships between men and women, their access to resources, their activities, and the constraints they face relative to each other. Gender analysis provides information that recognizes that gender, and its relationship with race, ethnicity, culture, class, age, disability, and/or other statuses, are important in understanding the different patterns of involvement, behavior and activities that women and men have in economic, social and legal structures.”



Gender Analysis Questions

- **Activities** – Who does what? How? When? Where? Why?
- **Accessing resources** – Who uses what? How? Where? When? Why?
- **Decision making and power** – Who controls what? How? Where? When? Why?
- **Information** – Who knows what? How? When? Where? Why?
- **Benefit sharing** – Who benefits from what? How? When? Where? Why?
- **Participation** – Who is included in what? How? When? Where? Why?

(Source: FAO, 2009)

Gender Perspective

Taking a gender perspective means considering gender-based differences when looking at any social phenomenon, policy or process. The gender perspective focuses particularly on gender-based differences in status and power and considers how such discrimination shapes the immediate needs, as well as the long-term interests, of women and men. In a policy context, taking a gender perspective is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and

programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated.

Gender Mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming is defined as "...the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality." (ECOSOC, 1997/2)

UN also defines gender mainstreaming as the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action in all areas and at all levels. Mainstreaming involves ensuring that gender perspectives and attention to the goal of gender equality are central to all activities- policy development, research, advocacy/dialogue, legislation, resources allocation and planning, implementation monitoring and evaluation (PIME) programme.

Social Exclusion

Social exclusion or social marginalization refers to the process by which individuals, communities, members of a group are relegated to the fringes of the society and are prevented from participating fully in the economic, social and political life of the society in which they live. It is a form of discrimination where individual communities, members of a group are excluded partially or wholly from participating or benefitting from economic, social, or political life. It normally occurs on the basis of caste, ethnicity, religion, gender, and disability etc. Any discrimination based on gender is a form of social exclusion.

Social exclusion normally occurs and is associated with culturally based social perceptions, values and norms. It is strongly embedded in social relationships, such that it denies communities or individuals their rights and entitlements. (E.g.: lower caste individuals are forbidden from drinking water from the pond used by upper caste). Social exclusion debar the group from enjoying the benefits of development. They are denied resources that are basic to life, causing greater levels of poverty. Further, denial of access to social services like medical treatment, education or differential treatments, systematically blocks their rights. Sometimes, individuals belonging to a particular background are denied access, entry or participation into certain areas, thus increasing the social disparity or inequality (e.g. Women denied entry to temples or any such religious places).

Fig 1: Dimensions of Social Exclusion



Fig 2: Examples of Excluded Groups



Social Inclusion

Social inclusion is the act of making all groups of people within a society feel valued and important. It is a process to ensure equal opportunities to all, to create conditions that will enable full and active participation of all individuals without any form of discrimination.

Social Exclusion and Inclusion and their role in development:

Development	
Social Inclusion	Social Exclusion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures development for all • Includes everyone in the society in the developmental process • Voices of the marginalized populations in fringe or grey areas are considered in the decision-making process • Strengthens resilient development and adaptation process • Example - Decentralized decision making, Gender Equality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obstacles to sustainable development • Prevents a particular group from being a part of the developmental process • Doesn't consider the opinions of the excluded population • Increases vulnerability towards shocks like climate change and disaster • Example - Poverty, Rural-Urban Divide, Caste-creed-religion based exclusion

Source: Sectoral Perspectives on Gender and Social Inclusion: Agriculture, www.adb.org

Concepts of Weather, Climate and Climate Change

Activity I

The trainer will ask the participants to express their idea about weather and climate in single words.

Weather

An instantaneous state of the atmosphere over a particular place for a short period of time i.e. usually 24 hours. It speaks about how the day or night is – sunny, windy, rainy etc. Weather is not a static phenomenon and changes daily or can even change within the same day. The parameters that define weather include – temperature, relative humidity, cloud cover, atmospheric pressure, wind direction and speed.

Climate

A cumulative state of the weather in a specific location, that continues over a period of at least 30 years or more. It is also said to an aggregate or average of weather in a geographic location. Climate is the characteristic of a

geographic location and governs many components like natural resource base, cropping system, biodiversity, lifestyle, livelihoods, culture, habits etc.

Difference between Weather and Climate

Fig 3: Difference between Weather and Climate



How Weather & Climate govern our lives

- Examples of day to day decisions, crops, livelihoods, lifestyle, housing, dressing

The daily weather of a place governs our day-to-day life decisions. For example, in a hot sunny day, we prefer to wear light-hued, cottony clothes; similarly, a farmer would think about drying his stock of rice grains during such a day, so that it gets dried properly and can be stored for a longer period.

On the other hand, the climate of a region governs a set of activities as a whole. For example, what crops can be grown in a particular season, cropping pattern of a state, type of housing and lifestyle, cuisine – all are directly or indirectly linked with the climatic pattern of the area. The type of crops, flora and fauna, level of sunshine available, water availability i.e. the entire natural resource base is governed by the climate of the region. Thus, an anomaly in the climatic regime impacts all such activities and characteristics of that particular location.



Green House Effect (GHE)

The term 'Greenhouse Effect' refers to a natural phenomenon occurring in our atmosphere, due to which the re-radiated solar radiation from earth's surface is trapped within the atmosphere by certain gases, thus increasing the temperature of the atmosphere.

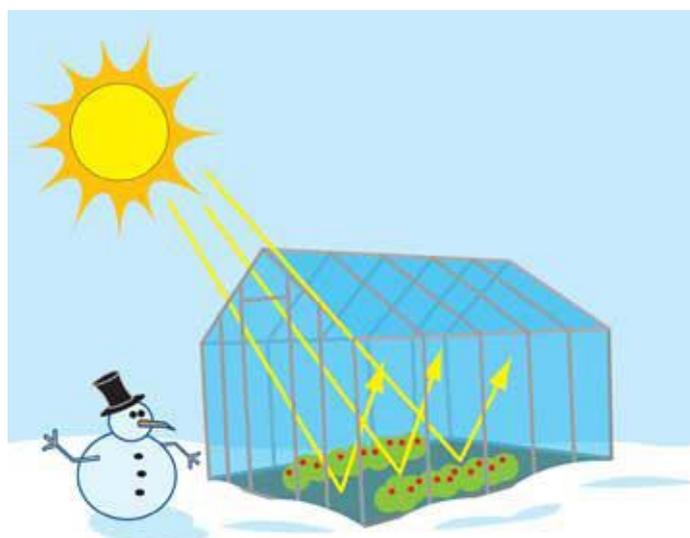


Fig 4: Green House
(<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/greenhouse-effect/>)

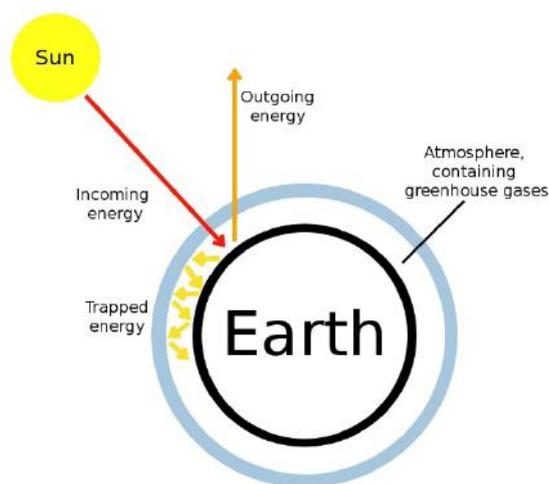
How our earth turns into a greenhouse?

Solar radiation passing through the atmosphere to the earth's surface comes as a short-wave radiation. This short-wave radiation is absorbed by the surface of the earth and re-emitted as a long-wave radiation. But, these longwave radiations are absorbed by gases like Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, Chlorofluorocarbons etc., which results in warming up of the earth's atmosphere. Thus, the phenomenon is equivalent to what happens within a greenhouse.

Green House Gases (GHG)

Various gases like Carbon dioxide (CO₂), Chlorofluorocarbon (CFC), Methane (CH₄), Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) absorb the re-emitted longwave radiation within the earth's atmosphere and hence is known as greenhouse gas (GHG).

Fig 5: Green House Effect in our Atmosphere



Source: <https://tallbloke.wordpress.com>

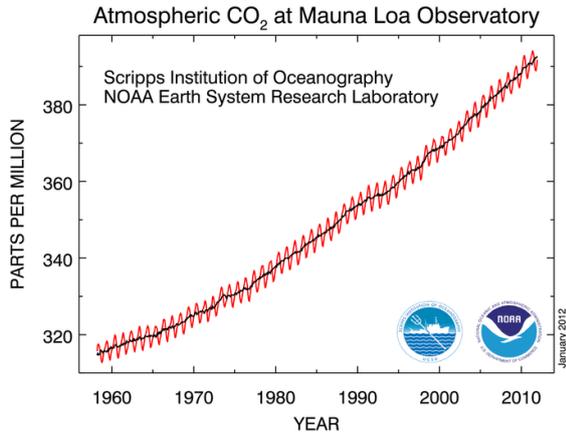
How is GHE problematic?

Under the natural regime of atmospheric constituents, GHE is a much-needed phenomenon for the survival of lives within the earth. Without this, the average atmospheric temperature of the earth would have been as low as -19°C, thus making survival of life impossible.

But, with the gradual increase in human population, deforestation, industrialization, rampant use of fossil fuel, agricultural development etc., the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has gone up. For example, CO₂ concentration has gone up from a level of 280 ppm in the pre-industrial era to more than 380 ppm following industrialization. So, with increasing amount of GHG, heat trapped within the atmosphere has also increased, leading to an increase in global average atmospheric temperature. This is known as augmented GHE, which has created problems for the earth.

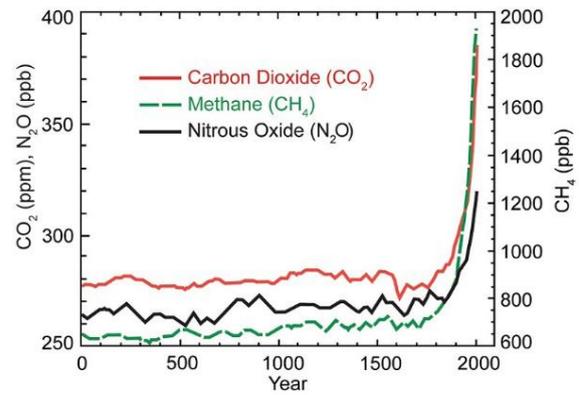
GHG concentrations

Fig 6: Atmospheric CO₂ concentration over time



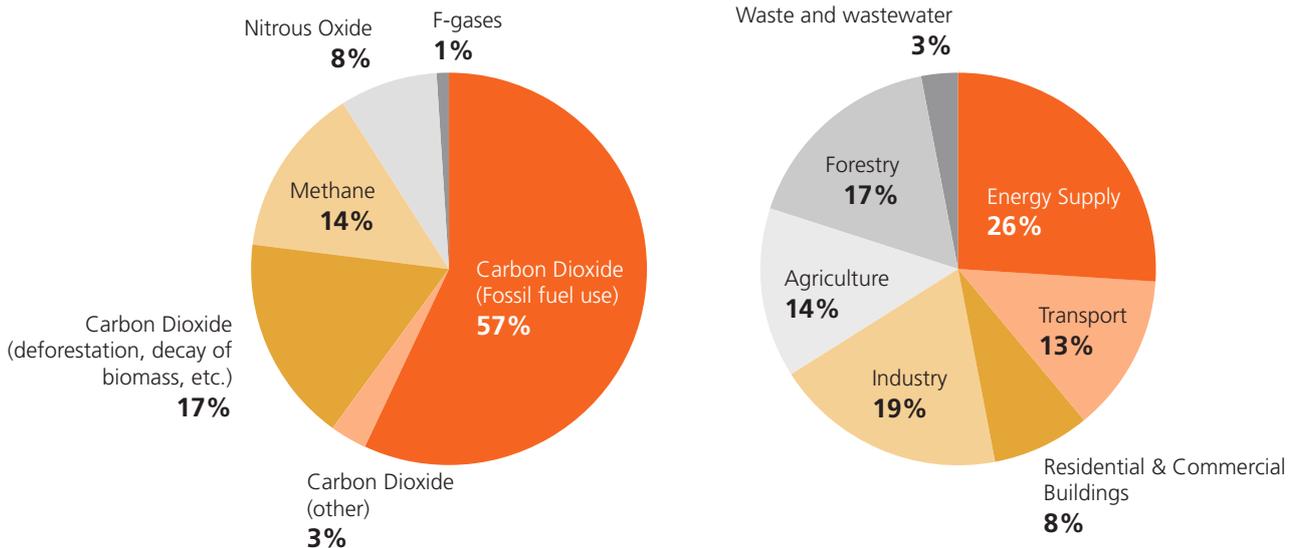
Source: U.S. National Climate Assessment (2014).

Fig 7: Concentrations of Major GHG in the atmosphere



Sources of GHG

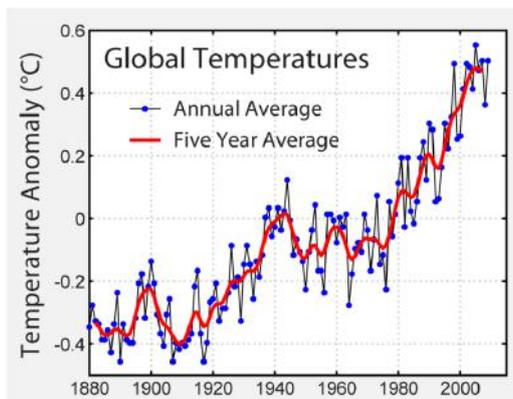
Fig 8: Sources of Green House Gases



Global Warming

In simple words, global warming refers to the increase in global average atmospheric temperature due to increased GHG concentration in the earth's atmosphere. Earth's average surface temperature has increased by about 2.0 degrees Fahrenheit (1.1 degrees Celsius) since the late 19th century. (<https://climate.nasa.gov/evidence/>)

Fig 9: Global Average Temperature between 1880-2000



Source: <http://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/graphs/>

Climate Change

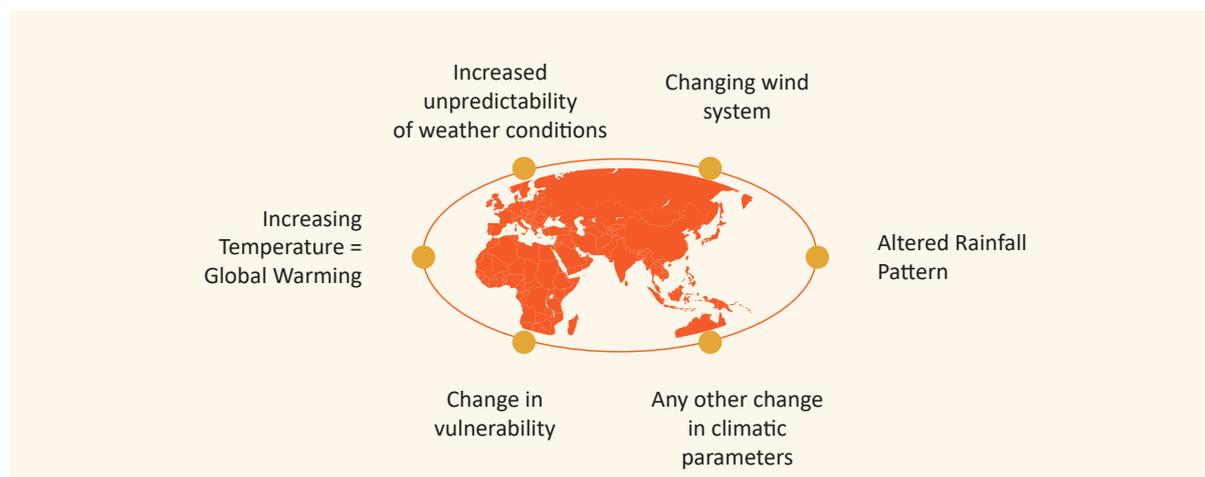
Simply speaking, climate change refers to the changes in the normal pattern of climate existing over a region. Such changes persist for an extended period, maybe a decade or longer and is identified by changes in the mean and / or and variability of different parameters. These changes may be because of natural variability or as a result of anthropogenic factors.

As we know, the climate is constituted by various parameters/components which include – temperature, rainfall pattern, wind, humidity, atmospheric pressure etc. These parameters are linked with each other in a very complex way. Hence, once, temperature pattern is altered due to an increased level of GHG, other components like relative humidity, wind pattern and direction, cloud cover, rainfall pattern etc. also change invariably. Thus, the total effect can be seen in terms of changes in the general climatic pattern of the region.

How Global Warming and Climate Change Differ?

Global Warming happening as a result of climate change, hence it is one of the impacts of climate change like extreme weather events, altered rainfall pattern et

Fig 10: Climate change and its impacts



Possible Impacts of Climate Change

Climate change is expected to have a multi-dimensional impact across the globe. As we know, climate impacts all systems existing within the Earth's bio-geo-hydro and atmosphere, it can have the following implications for us:

Environmental	Social	Economic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melting of polar ice cap and glaciers • The rise in sea level • Increased frequency of extreme weather events • Habitat Loss for species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased incidence of tropical diseases in cooler areas • Impacts on access to water and other basic amenities • Increased vulnerability of women and children in poor families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damage to crops and livestock • Reduced production and productivity • Loss of livelihood • Reduced income • The threat to food security

Heat Wave in India: Some Statistics:

- Report published in April, 2017 says that, a total of 4620 deaths has occurred in India due to severe weather conditions in last four years.
- As per Ministry of Earth Sciences, in 2016 only, erratic weather conditions in India, claimed lives of nearly 1,600 people, of which 557 were due to severe heatwave.
- 2015 witnessed 2,081 deaths due to severe heatwave in the country, while 549 people died in 2014.
- In 2013, the severe heatwave conditions killed 1,443 people, of which the unified Andhra Pradesh state registered 1,393 casualties.

Source: Hindustan Times, April 23, 2017.



Assam: Changing Climatic Pattern

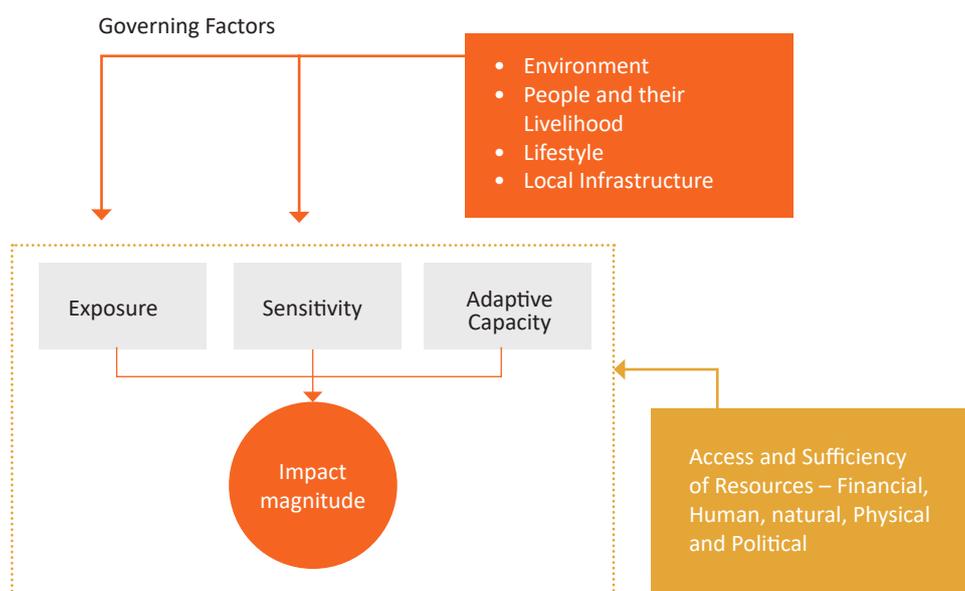
- Long-term rainfall pattern study (1901-2013) indicate decreasing trend of rainfall in 15 districts of the state. The decrease amounts to as high as 95% for these districts. (Mausam, IMD)
- Seasonal rainfall pattern showing deficit over last few years. The distribution of rainfall over the year has also been changing. (The Assam Tribune, 28 August, 2017)
- During 2nd week of August, Brahmaputra basin witnessed a major extreme rainfall event (more than 175 mm rainfall over a period of 24 hours), which lasted for more than 48 hours. This is very unusual for such extreme rainfall events.
- Gossaigaon weather station in Kokrajhar recorded a rainfall of 370.6 mm in 24 hours on 12 August, 2017. (Amar Asom, 13 August, 2017)
- Guwahati recorded highest ever July temperature in last 10 years, on 18 July, 2017. (38.4°C) (The Assam Tribune, 19 July, 2017)



Adaptation

Adaptation refers to the process of adjustment with changing climatic conditions by way of different actions, changes in habits, etc., which help in counteracting the changes that occur. It also aims at reducing the vulnerability of the human systems to the implications of climate change. Such adjustments can be anticipation based or as a response to a change that is happening and involves proper planning, inclusive development and execution.

Fig 11: Factors governing sensitivity or vulnerability and adaptive capacity



Source: Adapted from AIT-UNEP (2011) *Climate Change Adaptation Factors of choice, effectiveness, and supporting systems*. Copyright ©AIT-UNEP RRCAP, 2011, Bangkok, Thailand

Mitigation

Mitigation is defined as the process of reducing activities contributing to climate change. Example of such actions includes – reducing fossil fuel use, deforestation, industrialization, livestock farming, agriculture etc. These activities increase concentrations of greenhouse gases (GHG) in the atmosphere. By taking measures to reduce emissions of GHG, or increasing the carbon sink potentials, people can try to mitigate climate change. For e.g. developing carbon neutral Majuli will be a climate change mitigation strategy for Assam.

Climate Resilience

Resilience refers to the mechanism by which socio-ecological systems gain the ability to resist or cope with changes brought about by any external stresses like that of climate change and maintain its own functionality. It also includes the system's ability to develop better options, techniques and processes that contribute towards reducing vulnerabilities and increasing the sustainability of the system, which help in improved preparedness for anticipated and unanticipated/unpredictable impacts of climate change.

Difference between Coping & Adaptation

COPING	ADAPTATION
Short-term and immediate	Practices and results are sustained
Oriented towards survival	Oriented towards longer-term livelihood security
Not continuous	A continuous process
Motivated by the crisis; reactive	Involves planning
Often degrades the resource base	Uses resources efficiently and sustainably
Prompted by a lack of alternatives	Focused on finding alternatives
	Combines old and new strategies and knowledge

2

GENDER, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

In this chapter, we will be discussing the relationships of gender as well as the social inclusion with climate change and climate change adaptation actions. This chapter will also make the learners able to understand, why gender and social inclusion is important for the development of climate resilience.

Learning Objectives

- To understand the gender and social dimensions of climate change.
- To identify and understand the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change.
- To understand how social exclusion and inclusions are related to the impacts of climate change.

Key Issues to Focus

Climate change is gender neutral, but the impacts of the changes are different for women and men.

- Owing to the widespread entrenched gender inequality, the vulnerability of women is often insufficiently accounted in government policies, schemes, rendering them highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.
- In efforts towards sustainability, women play a major role in the adaptation process; hence their full participation is necessary. For example, in traditional communities, women are the ones responsible for storing and managing seeds, and thereby contributing to agrobiodiversity conservation, which is extremely crucial for building the resilience of the sector to climate change.
- Since men and women have different needs, so during the adaptation and mitigation process, gender finance or gender budgeting needs to be ensured.
- In adaptation initiatives, gender equality and women's empowerment measures must be examined.
- Best practices of how women have played a role in the adaptation process by using indigenous means need to be highlighted.
- Climate change can be particularly detrimental to the minority groups, indigenous communities and marginally poor communities. So, adaptation processes must be sensitive towards including their concerns and learnings.



Gender Dimensions of Climate Change

Climate change is gender neutral, but the impact of climate affects men and women differently in areas of employment, health, food security and other developmental and livelihood related issues. In this context, the needs, knowledge, priority and capacity to tackle or cope with issues associated with climate change differ due to the differential position of the women and men towards the same. This could be attributed to the socially ascribed gender roles and responsibilities, education, access to information, and access to finance. Climate change also,

significantly, impacts women and men with respect to their roles and responsibilities as well as the opportunities available to them. Studies conducted following cyclone and flood disasters of 1991 revealed that, among women aged 20-44, the death rate was 71 per 1000 for women, compared to 15 per 1000 for men (UNEP 2005).

The poor and marginal group of people are the most vulnerable to the changing climate this is because they tend to live in such areas that are prone to flooding drought and their shelters are often of poor quality thus making them more open to risks because of the total dependency on the natural resources like forest products, land, water etc. Women, being even more dependent on natural resources like firewood for cooking or water for the daily use (cooking, cleaning washing etc.) for the maintenance of their families are at the chances of being hit the hardest. But, at the same time, when there is scarcity they also develop adaptive skills to cope with the changing situations (the facilitator may ask the participants to cite e.g.). In such situations Gender disparity are at the risk of being significantly widened, as climate change eventually increases the work burden on women, thus forcing them to spend more time in family care rather than productive work.

“Women are disproportionately affected by climate change impacts such as droughts, floods and other extreme weather events. They also have a critical role in combatting climate change but need to be better represented at all levels in the decision-making. Empowering women will be a significant factor in meeting the climate challenge.” – UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres.

How climate change exacerbates gender inequalities?

Climate Change Impacts	Implication on Gender Inequality
Crop Failure	Household food provision; increasing workload, Malnutrition to women in particular (women suffer worse as they have a tendency to go hungry while providing for the family, also termed as inequitable intra-household food distribution)
Fuel shortage	Household fuel provision; more time for fuelwood collection
Water scarcity	Household water provision; contaminated water; More time and hard work required for water collection (Usually fetching water is a woman’s job so during floods it becomes difficult to go for water collection for household needs)
Livelihood Disruption	Reduction of savings, the pressure to earn more, working under the hazardous condition, migration (loss of assets, increase in unemployment)
Disaster	Higher incidence of mortality, health and hygiene, safety issues
Forced Migration	Safety and security, the increased vulnerability of women

(Source: WEDO, 2008)

Example: A case study on the climate induced vulnerabilities of the people in Assam with special reference to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe populations of the Dhemaji District in Assam reveals that flood and sandcasting following flood along with massive river erosion has led to the loss of livelihood for these marginal communities of the district. The study mentions that “better lands in the higher areas have been consolidated by well off sections while the lands near the river banks belong to the Mishing Tribal community or the Dalits. In terms of caste composition, most of the households affected by the floods are from Mishing Tribes, Bodo Tribes, Dalits followed by Other Backward Castes. Most farmers work on small and marginal farms and the average size of holdings has been falling. The small size of farms, traditional farming methods combined with low levels of mechanisation are significant factors accounting for the low productivity. Most of the Dalit households reported no education, high rates of unemployment, high engagement as agricultural labour as well as migration outside Assam following the floods every year.

As mentioned in the case study, most households own between 1 to 2 hectares of land. The mean annual income from agriculture was very low. Most people are pushed out to migrate for non-farm jobs in the area such as casual labour (NREGA), road construction, weaving and livestock rearing.³⁶

How does climate change affect the livelihood pattern and its impact on gender?

Livelihood refers to the capabilities, assets including both material and social resources, and activities required for a means of living. Livelihood assets depend on Human capital, Social Capital, Natural capital, Physical capital and Finance capital. Livelihood assets are closely related to these assets. Very often livelihoods are affected due to many external conditions and when this happens the balance between the assets get affected whereas the improvement in assets helps to transform livelihood outcomes.

Fig 12: Impact of Climate Change on Livelihood (Fishing)

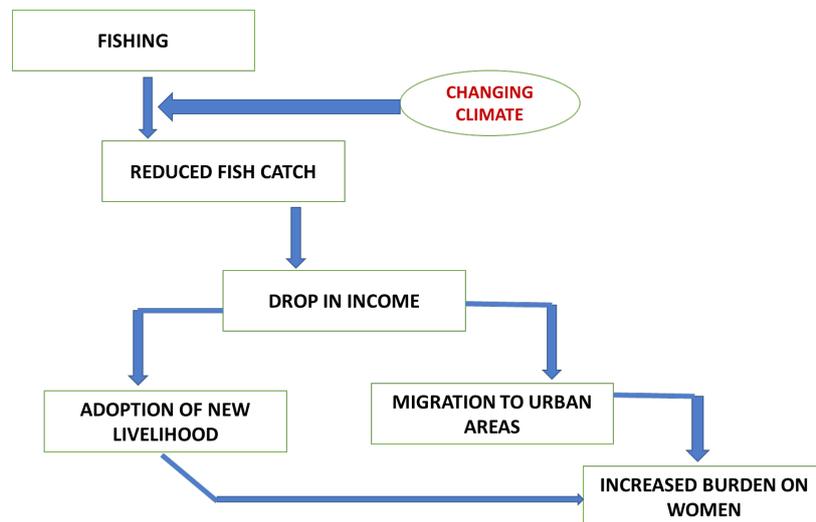
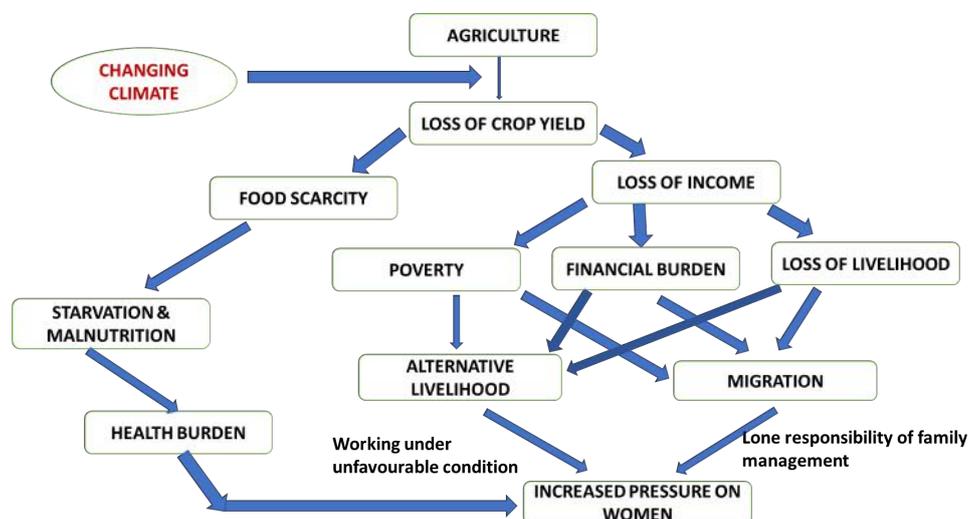


Fig 13: Impact of Climate Change on Livelihood (Agriculture)



On the other hand, loss of livestock during flood or drought and such other disasters, also lead to disruption of economic sustainability of the families leading to more hardship for the women as well as increasing pressure on men to earn more. A case study by ICIMOD titled “Gender and Climate Change in Hindu-Kush Himalayas of Nepal” reveals how climate change-related impacts have increased the hardships of women in the mountainous regions.

The case study includes examples from Humla region of Nepal, where changing climatic pattern has impacted the women folk in a tremendous way. According to the report- “Women from Dandaphaya reported that snowfall has significantly decreased in the last six years, contributing to a longer dry season. Consequently, crop production has gone down considerably, increasing famine. Men are now staying away for longer periods, working as laborers or in

trading. During those periods, women have to take over the work that men used to perform in addition to their own responsibilities related to the household.

Moreover, the trading of forest resources for income has severely reduced the availability of the resources: there are no more trees near the village. Women now have to walk much farther to get the necessary fuelwood, a task that takes about six hours every three days. Not only is this work time-consuming and gruelling, it is dangerous as the trees left are mostly located on steep slopes, and the women are always at risk of falling."³² Further, there is always the risk of physical assault, health issues like pre-mature abortions, and drop-out from education.

Climate-Induced Migration and its impact on Gender

Climate change affects societies in ways that bring about a significant change in the migration process, due to environmental hazards like floods, erosions, cyclones, drought or arid conditions.

Human migration is the movement of people from one place to another with the intention of settling permanently or temporarily. Migration can be both internal or external. Internal migration is usually popular when people move out from rural to urban areas or to cities or metros etc. External migration could be from one country to another.

The factors that may trigger migration include

- Disasters – Sudden and chronic disasters lead to distress or forced migration.
- Change in the Livelihood pattern due to unprecedented environmental changes
- Conflicts including conflicts over natural resources, ethnic conflicts, civil wars etc. lead to migrations that can either permanent or temporary.
- Degrading environment like changing soil characteristics rendering the soil unsuitable for agricultural production etc. may also force people to migrate from their native places and livelihood to other areas.

Irrespective of the triggering factor, migration has an impact on women. Evidence and reports suggest that migration caused by climate change will have a greater impact on women.³³ Indeed, it has been estimated that women constitute up to 80% of global refugee and displaced populations, and typically in emergencies, 70-80% of those needing assistance are women and children.³⁴ Based on these figures, it can be estimated that of the current 26 million climate refugees, up to 20 million are female.³⁵ When families migrate to set up permanently in a different region, journeys are mostly arduous, with risks of being trafficked on the promise of jobs or being sold into brothels or being abused. Lack of food, hygiene and proper sanitation make many women sick or exposed to health risks. Migration also increases the chances of women being exposed to sexually transmitted diseases especially where the men go to other places for employment. Pregnant and lactating women are also affected by risks of poor nutrition. Besides moving from one place to a new one affects the education of the children, thus increasing the school dropout number among the girl children. The migration process also affects the social dynamics with a change in cultural norms and instances of deserted families etc.

CASE STUDY

Migration in Pakistan



Pakistan is understood to be one of the world's most vulnerable countries to drought, and climate change is predicted to increase the intensity, frequency, duration and extent of drought in the region. Between 1998 and 2002, Balochistan province was affected by severe drought, in which three quarters of all livestock died and more than a quarter of the region's population was displaced. Two types of migration occurred: firstly, migration of able-bodied males to seek work; followed by a second phase in which whole families moved in order to survive. In the first phase, the women left behind experienced increased workloads, with additional tasks such as tending livestock, without any increased participation in decision-making. Lack of male family members was sometimes a barrier to accessing services such as healthcare. Those men who had migrated often suffered from exploitation, poor living conditions and low wages due to the oversupply of labour. Sometimes women were refused relief if male members had left to seek work, whether or not they were sending back money. When whole families moved to urban slums or relief camps, women faced challenges adapting to the new environment. Problems included harassment and lack of security, unreliable water supplies which increased their workload, and gender insensitive conditions such as lack of privacy. The long journey to a relief camp caused its own physical and mental stresses exacerbated by instances of sexual harassment on these journeys. Pressure on families was so severe that there were reports of children being offered for domestic employment, and of female children being sold.³¹

Case Study

Natural Factor Induced Displacement in Rohmoría, Dibrugarh



A project report titled 'Impact of Natural and Development Induced Displacement in Rohmoría and Lepetkata Gas Cracker Project of Dibrugarh' by Centre for Women's Studies, Dibrugarh University indicates the impact of natural disaster induced displacement in the Rohmoría area of Dibrugarh district, which is highly vulnerable to flood and river erosion. Flood and river erosion being very prominent in the area, inhabitants of the locality have migrated to other places. The study indicates changes in livelihood pattern, family structure, employment status, education family structure and such other parameters post displacement and migration. It was observed that displacement causes landlessness, loss of shelter, lack of food, loss of common resources, marginalization and breakdown of social networks. The study reveals that both natural and development induced displacement has a long-term impact on women of any age group. The impact of displacement due to natural causes like floods and erosions cause huge damage mentally, psychologically, physically and economically. Loss of land and displacements lead to conflict over resources between local people and those who have rehabilitated in to new areas. Social changes in the form of occupations, livelihood, food habits result due to displacement. Women, who are engaged in agriculture prior to displacement are forced to work as daily wage earners etc. so as to meet the financial needs. The study also reveals that occupational patterns have changed in many cases. For example, many have started pig rearing which was not accepted socially earlier. Further, erosion also causes loss of school lands thus shifting the location of the schools and this results in increase in the number of school drop outs, especially number of girl child drop outs from schools.

Implications of Climate Change on Households

Poor families and households are highly vulnerable to climate change and thus have a significant bearing on the gender roles within the family.

One of the important issues of CC is the availability of water resources. Climate change is expected to impact water resource quality and quantity. Various anthropogenic factors, together with climatic factors are expected to cause decreased water availability in many parts of our state and the nation. Under the current Indian social structure and set up, it is always the duty of the women to collect water for various household needs. Thus, water scarcity means, women have to walk a long distance to collect the required quantity of water for the family, thus leaving less time for productive work. This also increases the risks of leaving the children at home unattended as well as increasing number of school drop-outs among the girl child. The scarcity of fuelwood also forces women to go a long way to collect the same, thus increasing their risks and vulnerabilities.

Similarly, some additional, yet very significant household concerns that may arise due to climate change include food insecurity, malnutrition etc. Disruption of livelihoods, loss of agricultural productivity, water scarcity etc. may cause these issues within a family, thereby increasing the pressure on the women, who are generally seen as the manager of family nutrition and food.

Social Dimensions of Climate Change

Social inequality is integrally linked with the climate change impacts. Social inequality makes the disadvantageous people more vulnerable to impacts of climate change and they are impacted disproportionately, thus leading to the development of a further gap in social status and increased vulnerability/diminished resilience.

An important aspect of the social dimension of climate change is that it is expected to be particularly detrimental for the minority population and indigenous communities. On the other hand, indigenous women are 'doubly vulnerable' to the impacts of climate change owing to their socio-economic status as well as lack of exposure, education and limits imposed by socio-cultural norms. While minority population refers to the groups that are less in number within a population and share some common religious belief, ethnicity or linguistic identity, indigenous communities are the ones that are the first to inhabit in a particular geographic boundary and often maintain a close relationship with their natural surroundings. These groups more or less depend very closely on the resources available within their environment for their food security, livelihood etc. and thus is highly sensitive to the impacts of climate change.



Points to Ponder:

What are the other risks that can arise due to migration?

The Vicious Cycle

For example, people below the poverty line are more vulnerable to changing climate as their lives and livelihoods are mostly dependent on the natural resources, which are susceptible to the changes in climate regime. Events like flood and drought, which are induced by climatic phenomena, can have differential impacts on people below the poverty line and those who are well off. Due to lack of resources and opportunities, poor and marginal people suffers more during such disasters, which in turn increase their poverty level many fold due to loss of livelihood, scarcity of resources as well as reduction of opportunities. Thus, these acts like a 'vicious cycle'.

Poverty, social exclusion or discrimination increases their vulnerability, thereby making coping harder for them, apart from reducing their ability to influence the governance system in any decision making related to adaptation action.

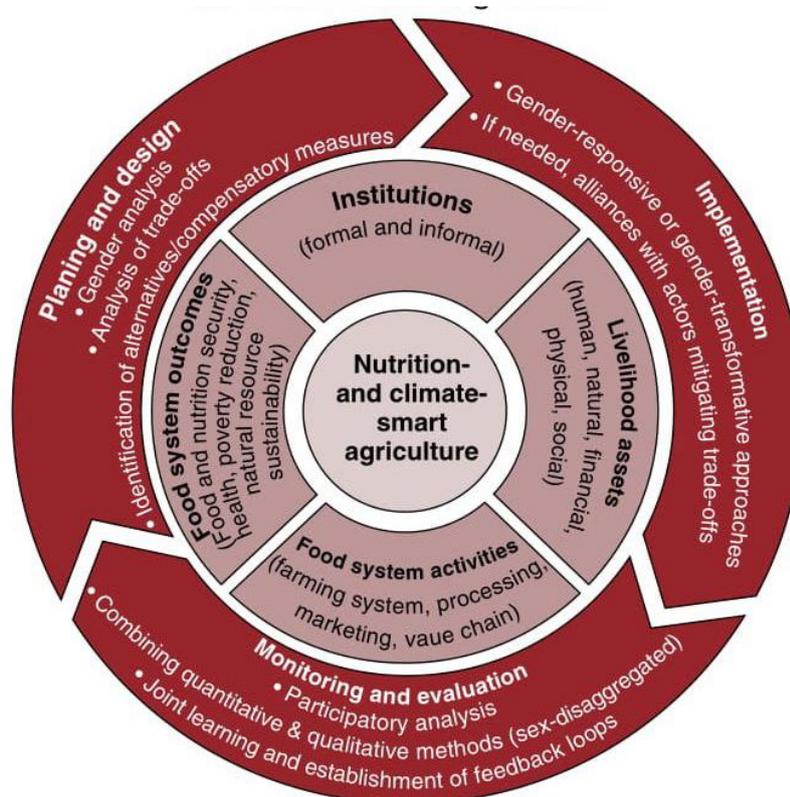
While inequality or social exclusion mechanisms enhance the vulnerability of a population towards climate change, it also reduces the group's ability to cope or adapt to changing situations and thus also have very limited scope to recover from the impacts of climate change. When some social groups or communities are denied access to community resources or opportunities due to customs or norms, available opportunities for these communities also shrink considerably, which in turn reduce their ability to withstand the changes. Thus, exclusion reduces their potential to cope or adapt.

For example, people living in char (riverine sandbars) areas of Assam are examples of the communities that are highly marginal and vulnerable to the impacts of climate induced disasters like flood. These group of people generally depend on riverine fishery and agriculture and are affected by flood every year. Poverty, lack of education and information as well as limited livelihood opportunities increase their hardship. Further, being located in geographically volatile areas with respect to flood and erosion, these communities always hit by the weather anomalies and thus are forced to migrate from one place to another. If these communities are excluded from the process and system of development within the state, their vulnerability will increase many folds. Thus, eradicating poverty and improving their socio-economic condition are the ways to reduce their vulnerability towards climate induced risks. Similarly, tribal communities like Mishing tribes of Assam, who live in riverine areas and islands like Majuli are prone to the damages of annual flood in Assam. Their experiences and traditional wisdom have given rise to traditional flood coping practices like 'chaangghar, banana rafts etc.' Now, any developmental scheme taken for these communities, dealing with their housing does not include these traditional practices, will not be fruitful towards combating the impacts of disaster like flood. A socially inclusive scheme will incorporate these traditional community knowledges and modify the housing options accordingly, thereby increasing the potential of climate resilient development within such localities.

Role and Importance of Gender and Social Inclusion in Climate Resilient Development

As has been referred to earlier, climate change impacts men and women differently and therefore, there is a need to examine the linkage of gender and climate change in resilience building. While it is important that we understand the differences among men and women in terms of their physical characteristics as well as socio-cultural attributes, the roles of each gender also need to be understood in climate change vulnerability and resilience.

Fig 14: Conceptual Framework for Enhancing Gender and Social Equity in Nutrition and Climate-Smart Agriculture



When women are also considered agents of change towards building climate resilience and are given the scope to engage within civil societies and communities at levels of local governance and allowed to lead from the front based on their capacities, exposure and experiences, climate adaptation and resilience building becomes far easier to achieve.

The status of women is considerably high in North-East India in comparison to other parts of the country and there are few matrilineal communities as in Meghalaya, yet when it comes to decision making, opinions of women often go unconsidered in at levels of governance, be it household, community or elsewhere.

This gender disparity is a severe hinderance towards effective planning and decision making where everyone's concern is taken care of and hence is an obstacle towards achieving climate resilient development. When everyone in the community, including the women, children, marginal people, physically challenged etc. do not form a part of the decision-making process, building a climate resilient community is nowhere possible. That is because, every stakeholder in the society or community has a distinct role to play and that, accordingly governs their capacity, knowledge, skills and experiences. So, without integrating these capacities, knowledge, skills and experiences, developing a holistic adaptation strategy cannot be a reality.

Questions to be asked by the Trainer:

- How can women improve their capacity to address their own vulnerability towards climate change?
- What are the appropriate mechanisms to enable full participation of women in planning and decision making in the context of climate change?
- What practices are being followed (in local, national and international context) to integrate gender sensitive indicators?
- What are the agents, institutions and systems that help in integrating gender concerns?



Poor Women's Climate Change Adaptation Needs and Priorities

The poor women of the Ganges River basin, in adapting to climate change want:

- A safe place to live:
 - Relocation of communities to safer areas
 - Solid houses built with a high plinth level to reduce inundation
 - Shelters required for people, animals and agricultural inputs/ products
- Better access:
 - To climate change information and related knowledge and skills
 - To services, such as doctors and veterinaries for safe, reasonable and fair credit and insurance
 - To communications, through safer roads and access to boats
- Other livelihood options:
 - Through knowledge and resources for crop diversification and adaptive agricultural practices
 - Through access to irrigation
 - Through locally available training.



(Gender and climate change: mapping the linkages -A scoping study on knowledge and gaps; March 2008, DFID)

Though climate change is gender neutral, structural inequalities, constructed and expected roles and expectations highlight the vulnerabilities between sexes. Despite it, both men and women have an equal and equitable role to play in combating climate change with support from legal systems, institutional changes etc. This can be achieved by –

- Gender mainstreaming
- Taking into cognizance the needs and experiences of men and women through gender analysis

The gender components cannot be merely tokenistic, but the degree and effectiveness of actions taken should also be monitored properly. The focus should be on increasing research and study on gender components for climate resilience and while doing the same, the following aspects need to be considered –

- i. Gender Sensitivity
- ii. Gender Responsiveness
- iii. Gender Transformations

Social Inclusion for Climate Resilient Development

While understanding gender components of climate resilient development are important, it is also equally imperative to understand the synergy that exists between climate resilient development agendas and socially inclusive approaches. This is where the sustainable development goals come into consideration.

The trainer will provide the list of all SDGs to the participants and will ask them to find out the scopes of gender equality and social inclusion in these goals.

These sustainable developmental goals are ambitious and focus on three interconnected elements of sustainable development respectively – economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. Since the day to day issues of people like employment, livelihood, health, food etc. are highly dependent on climate and its change can have a perilous and negative impact. Hence, in all developmental agenda, care has to be taken to ensure that no one (the poor, the marginalized, women, forest dwellers etc.) is left behind and necessarily integrated and included in the process. Awareness can be created through public policies and public awareness programmes. Since most of the socially excluded groups live in the fringe areas, some of the ways to reach out to them may be weekly/daily markets, Sunday masses, community centres through community radios, distributing leaflets and pamphlets in local language etc.

An important factor for ensuring inclusion is to understand the views of the deprived and marginal populations towards developmental agendas so that their concerns and issues can be taken care of. Also, while developing and adopting certain policies related to climate change, we need to understand and identify – where these marginal communities live and why? What are the resources that they use and how do their resource extraction and utilization process have influenced the process and impacts of climate change? Such questions and researches can help in identifying the issues, potentials and scopes for change and adaptation. This may also help the policymakers to find traditional practices and wisdom that can help in to strengthen the adaptation actions.

Traditional Flood Coping Practices in Assam:

A study by Muqqammal Research in Assam for ASDMA has found some traditional coping practices among the communities of 12 most flood affected districts of the state. These flood coping practices are mostly belonging to the communities that are away from the mainstream developmental narrative and belong to – religious minority groups as well as indigenous tribal population living in remote riverine areas. These practices are related to -

- Housing and settlement
- Food, Health and Water
- Livelihood – Agriculture and Livestock farming
- Transportation

Some of these practices include – Chaangghar, a traditional housing system, Raised Plinth in Houses, Jakon- a movable boat like structure for livestock, Movable Coop for Poultry, Traditional Culinary Practices and Traditional medicines. These practices have immense scope for integrating in disaster response planning and strategies.



Source: PTI

3

MAINSTREAMING GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN CLIMATE POLICIES AND PLANNING

This chapter aims to provide the participants an idea about mainstreaming the concepts of gender equality and social inclusion in to the climate policies, actions and planning process. This chapter also deals with various aspects of developing gender and socially inclusive strategies and plans under various sectors and will allow the participants to exercise their learnings from the entire training into identifying actions and interventions ensuring GESI mainstreaming in their respective sectors.

Objectives

- To understand the need for mainstreaming GESI in CC actions and policies
- To identify the scope for integrating GESI perspectives in the planning process in different contexts

As already mentioned, Gender Mainstreaming is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action in all areas and at all levels. It simply does not mean adopting actions and schemes that are women-centric but cater to capture the gender disparities embedded within any plan, policy or action. (The trainer /facilitator will cite e.g. on how various policies have a differentiating impact on man and woman, further, the trainer will try to elicit responses from the participants on what policies they have in their depts /organizations.) Gender mainstreaming requires a contextual analysis of the needs, priorities, roles and experiences of women and men as well as the integration of specific actions to address any gender-based inequalities that may have emerged from this analysis. (Gender Mainstreaming in the work of UNIDO)

Gender mainstreaming was formally included in the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995 and is described by the 1997 United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) as:

“the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.” (ECOSOC, 1997/2)

With the impacts and evidence of climate change becoming more and more prominent, there has been growing interest in adaptation, resilience building as well as reducing vulnerabilities in climate change agendas. Since the impacts of climate change in different genders are also noteworthy and as mentioned earlier that, structural, cultural

and expected roles are affected by gender, there is, therefore, an urgent need to mainstream GESI in policies and planning process. For effective mainstreaming of the concepts of gender and social inclusion, it is needed that field-based experiences from grassroots are brought up through research and study and, those who have been affected are taken into consideration.

Activity 1

Role play based discussions on how to influence a particular group of stakeholders on GESI mainstreaming.

Under this activity, the participants will be grouped in to representatives of different stakeholders in the decision making and developmental process. Some of the participants will play the role of the GESI advocates, either from within the government or from any external agency, who will try to convince the respective stakeholder on importance of GESI and how the same will benefit the stakeholder in question. The risks of not mainstreaming GESI will also be discussed.

From the activity, the trainer will ask the participants to list out the benefits and risks of mainstreaming and not mainstreaming GESI.

Why do we need to mainstream GESI?

Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion	
Benefits (Why should we mainstream)	Risks (Why should we not avoid mainstreaming)
Supports understanding of the extent of engagement across different population	The obstacle of sustainable and equitable development
Enhances adaptive capacity	Violates the basic principle of humanitarian right and equality
Ensures participatory and decentralized decision making	Failure to fulfil the international commitments
Promotes climate resilient development	Non-fulfilment of developmental targets
Contributes towards sustainable development	Non-conformation to the global standards of financial aids
Ensures equality and protection of human rights	Increased vulnerability and reduced adaptive capacity of the population towards CC
Gender Budgeting as a tool of gender mainstreaming helps to reduce the poverty amongst women through various income generating policies and schemes for women	Non-inclusion of economic perspective into mainstreaming would lead to gender blindness in all the policy initiatives which will result in fewer opportunities for women and economic dependency of women would remain the same.
Gender Financing will help to bridge the gap between economic and social policy outcome	Not giving focus in this area will lead to an increased gap between economic and social policy outcome
Financing for Gender equality helps to earn their livelihood which will help women to be economically sufficient (for example Self Help Groups) particularly in rural areas.	Increased economic vulnerability leading to increased poverty amongst women.
Gender budgeting and financing will improve the macroeconomic status	Not doing so will cost the overall economic status of the nation

Objectives of GESI mainstreaming

As evident from the above discussions, any action to mainstream GESI perspectives in climate change adaptation policies and practices should aim to engage and empower the marginalized and disadvantaged social groups and communities including the women in the actions and programmes so that equitable sharing of benefits through meaningful participation of all is ensured in the process.

While doing so, GESI mainstreaming process should include the following components –

- Conducting a gender analysis of policy and programmes and identifying key stakeholders
- Encouraging a conducive institutional and policy environment that facilitates GESI mainstreaming in CC adaptation actions
- Integrating GESI dimensions in all thematic and cross-cutting sectors.
- Capacity building of all stakeholders to enable women and marginalized groups in claiming their rights.
- Promoting adequate economic rights including access to employment, adequate working conditions and control over economic as well as other necessary resources.
- Encouraging effective participation and leadership of all stakeholders in the decision-making process

Points to ponder:

Are the organisation/department/agency prepared or ready enough for GESI mainstreaming? What are the criteria to find the strengths and gaps?

- Political commitment
- Technical Expertise and Capacity
- GESI accountability
- Organisational philosophy and culture

Source: GESI mainstreaming in Hariyo Ban Programme

Increasing accountability by incorporating GESI indicators in the monitoring and evaluation process at all level

How to mainstream GESI perspectives

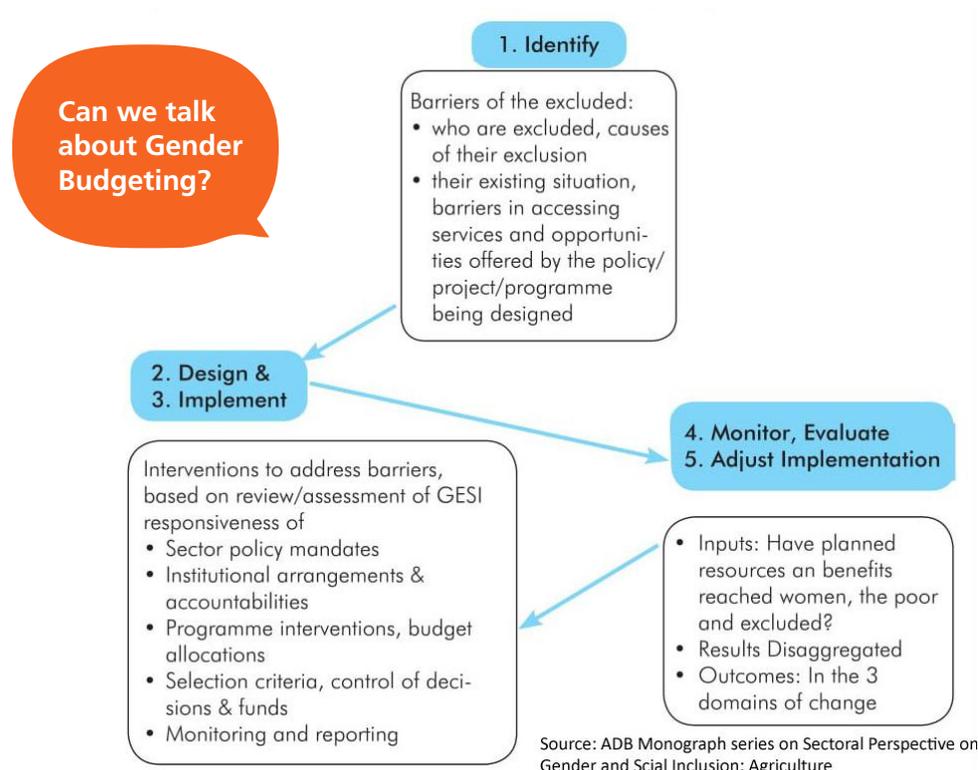
GESI mainstreaming being a very complex and cross-sectoral area, the following steps are required to ensure incorporation of the same –

1. Developing a pragmatic and well-structured plan for mainstreaming
 - i. Identification of the problem
 - ii. Formulation of objectives and targets
 - iii. Developing methodologies and approaches for realizing the targets
 - iv. Developing a plan
 - v. Estimating the financial and other resources required
 - vi. Defining actors and their roles and responsibilities
2. Collecting information about the existing status of social and gender disparities
 - i. Statistical information is broken down under various indicators including sex, livelihood, poverty indicators, number of BPL families etc.
 - ii. Analysis of the available information to identify the gaps, disparities and trends as well as the projections under the context of climate change
3. Social and Gender Impact Assessment Study - Compare and assess the current status of vulnerability with expected development or resilience resulting from the introduction of the proposed action and/or policy.
4. Designing Policies based on all the knowledge and experiences gained during the entire process, redesigning or modifying wherever necessary
5. Monitoring and Evaluation of the policy or action to analyses its effectiveness

Challenges of Mainstreaming GESI perspectives

- Inadequate participation of marginalized and excluded groups as well as women in decision making
- Failure to recognise the marginalized communities and women as key stakeholders
- Inadequate capacity and technical skills
- Lack of representation
- Difficulties in advocacy or gaining political traction
- Social norms

Fig 15: Steps for Mainstreaming Gender Equality and Social Inclusion



The trainer will discuss in brief some of the best practices across the world in GESI mainstreaming. Some of the examples may include –

- Hariyo Ban Programme, Nepal
- Joint Programme on Environmental Mainstreaming and Adaption to Climate Change in Mozambique
- Gender Mainstreaming in the Enhancing Renewable Energy Options (EREO) Project, Sri Lanka
- Solar Sister Initiative in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Increased Access to Disaster Relief for Women as an Idiom for Women's Rights; Ekta, Tamil Nadu

Best Practices in GESI Mainstreaming

Some Other Examples

Climate Resilient Seeds and Women's Traditional Knowledge: Case Studies³¹

West Bengal: In North and South 24 Paraganas district of West Bengal, farmers have gone back to growing local traditional paddy varieties. This has reduced input cost of farmers and led to higher yields in the saline floodwaters in these coastal districts, which has been very useful post-2009 cyclone Alia. Traditional varieties have proved to be more saline and waterlogging tolerant; they also grow during dry spells and are less vulnerable to pests and local climatic stresses. With cyclones becoming more frequent, unpredictable and intense due to climate change, the traditional paddy varieties are being preserved and their use is being expanded by DRCSC, a grassroots organization in the state.

Uttar Pradesh: In the eastern districts of Gorakhpur, rains have been reported to be delayed around the harvesting time of the paddy in September-October. To adapt to this, Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) has been propagating Saatha, a traditional variety of paddy that matures early, or in 60 days. It also grows well in mixed cropping along with jute and traditional coarse cereals or millets. Saatha is well suited for small and marginal farmers as it adapts well to climate change impacts. The variety requires minimal inputs. It is a rain-fed crop and if rains fail, it requires just one or two irrigation, unlike the conventional high-yielding paddy varieties. It grows well with bio-inputs and chemical fertilizers, in fact, restrict the formation of paddy grains. It is also free of pest attacks so does not need any investment in pesticides. Even weeding is done just once. After the harvest, the stalks are given as compensation instead of cash payment to agricultural wage labourers as they prefer to use these for their hut roofs. Ultimately this variety has a high cultural value and is in demand for chhatt, a popular festival, held at the time of its harvest. Though the yield is not very high, it withstands delayed rains and ensures food security during the flood season.

From a Gender Lens: Promoting and conserving traditional seeds has undoubtedly enhanced food security for both men and women. This option is preferred by villagers to the high-yielding varieties given by government outlets because traditional seeds survive saline waters better and the crop waste can be used as fodder and fuel by women. High-yielding varieties do not yield usable byproducts. Traditional varieties require less labour by women in terms of less weeding. It also enables them to do multi-cropping, especially grow local millets which are hardy and nutritious. The bajra millet harvested after saatha provides fodder. It gives women an opportunity to save their seeds, instead of buying them from the market, a task which is done by their men and all decisions regarding seeds is then predominantly with men. Women are able to exchange traditional seeds, keep the healthy ones and reclaim their traditional knowledge. Growing these varieties also fulfils their cultural needs.

Note: The facilitator will provide the points to identify

- How conserving traditional seeds helps food security?
- How traditional varieties reduce work burden of women?
- What is the role of women in storing seeds?
- What can be the possible policy intervention on the part of the government to implement such practices in your state?

Grain Banks and Women Empowerment: Case Study³¹

Drought and crop failure leads to distress among farmers and it results in migration, livelihood patterns etc. and to address this, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal have initiated the setting up of Grain Banks. Under the aegis of the programme called Madhya Pradesh Rural Livelihoods Project (MPRLP), NGOs in the State have been setting up grain banks for the past decade. In Betul district, for instance, grain banks exist since 2001 and are now seen in 30 villages covering over 700 households, the majority of which are very poor. These grain banks are particularly used during crop failure.

Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, grain banks are based on the traditional concept of keeping aside a little grain every day for use in times of distress. Such grain banks are being promoted in the flood-prone regions of Gorakhpur district in Uttar Pradesh and in the Sundarbans in West Bengal. In Gorakhpur, grain banks are located

in a central place in a village and are on a higher ground so that they are not washed away by floodwaters. Usually made of bamboo or bricks, its roof is often made with bamboo and straw – all locally available materials. Grain banks are “owned” and “managed” by women’s self-help groups and used during an emergency, including crop failure. In Sundarbans too, women’s groups manage the grain banks, deciding how much to lend and what the interest is going to be. Interest is earned in kind where borrowers return extra grain after the next harvest.

From a Gender Lens: Grain banks ensure food security for both men and women during lean periods, as also during and after disasters. Managing grain bank empower women to make decisions on running the bank. They collectively own, control, and manage a community resource and often earn respect from the menfolk. Women’s negotiation power within homes has increased because men now ask women whether they should borrow from the grain bank or not and discuss coping/adaptive mechanisms with them. Again, women’s ability to secure grains during an emergency has led to a reduction in debts, thereby giving women a higher status within households.

Note: In this case study, the facilitator can try to draw the attention of the participants towards the following aspects –

- How are these grain banks empowering women in those areas?
- How can such successful examples be mainstreamed through policies in the relevant sector?

NERCORMP initiatives in North East India

In 1999, the North Eastern Council, Ministry of DoNER, Government of India and International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) initiated a project called ‘North Eastern Region Community Resource Management Project for Upland Areas (NERCORMP)’. The objective of the project is to ‘improve the livelihoods of vulnerable groups in a sustainable manner through improved management of their resource base in a way that contributes to the preservation and restoration of the environment’. The project covered 2640 households in various districts of Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur and Meghalaya. Natural Resource Management Groups (NaRMGs) were formed as an implementing institution to increase women’s friendly activities through women’s groups in order to enhance the confidence and managerial capabilities amongst women and thereby develop the voices of women within their communities.

NERCORMP adopted various measures to engage women in the process of implementation by involving them in preparation and planning of the Community Resource Management Plan (CRMP) for the village by including women’s perceptions of their needs. Access to training and improved production method, skill enhancement, marketing interventions were equally given to women.

Gender Perspective:

Women’s involvement in the project enabled them to increase their mobility, ensure better health care which resulted in improvement in their productivity. They have started to become active participants in envisaging the future of their village, community, and themselves as a result of their access to resources and finances. Prior to NERCORMP, women did not participate in economic activities and making financial decisions, and it was limited to the family if all women took part in any. However, gender mainstreaming in the project has paved the way for women to be entrepreneurs and their participation in economic activities. Women have equal voices and hold positions in the community-based organizations such as Natural Resource Management Groups (NaRMG). Thus, the project has constructed an environment which led the way to women’s empowerment through their participation in decision making and planning process for the development of villages.

Activity 1

- How to adopt such an approach in a project to address the gender impacts of climate change?
The participants will develop a project/scheme to engage women which will empower women as well as deal with the negative impacts of climate change
- Participants will figure out women’s friendly activities to cope with climate change and will lead to a conducive atmosphere for women’s empowerment as well.

Identification of Interventions for GESI Mainstreaming in Sectoral Departments

Activity 2

Under this section, the trainer will divide the participants according to their sectors in separate groups. The groups will be given the task of identifying the areas, schemes and interventions within their own sector, where GESI is important as well as is a potential option for building climate resilience. The groups will work out the schemes, present a rough analysis of the gaps existing in that sector, formulate objectives and accordingly will list out all the approaches and methods for mainstreaming GESI perspectives into it.

The scope of GESI mainstreaming in ASAPCC

Activity 3

The groups, divided into different sectors will also be assigned to find out the strategies listed under the ASAPCC which have the scope of GESI mainstreaming. Further, they will also develop a plan for executing the strategies in the most effective way.



Source: Firstpost, PTI

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ANNEX 1

International Agreements relevant to gender and climate change

Year	International Agreement	Environmental Relevance	Gender Relevance
1948	UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR)	No specific mention of the environment but acknowledges fundamental human rights that are linked to and dependent upon a healthy environment	Establishes core human rights but with a limited gender perspective
1979	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)	Calls for governments to ensure that women participate at all levels of decision-making concerned with environmental sustainability and that women's interests and perspectives are adequately reflected in all policies and approaches adopted	The first international treaty to recognize women's human rights
1992	Agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration on the Environment and Development	This provided the first international precedent for including the gender perspective in promoting sustainable development. It adopted a gender perspective in all development and environment policies and programmes, leading to the promotion of women's effective participation in the proper use of natural resources	
1992	UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD)	The first global agreement focused on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	Explicitly addresses women's participation and 'recognises the vital role that women play in conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, emphasizing the need for the full participation of women at all levels of policymaking and implementation for biological diversity conservation' (Para 13)
1992	UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	Acknowledges human interference with the climate and aims to stabilise the concentration of GHGs in the atmosphere	The absence of any mention of gender
1994	UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)	The only legally binding international agreement dealing with land degradation	Promotes the equal participation of men and women and recognises 'the important role played by women in regions affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly in rural areas of developing countries, and the importance of ensuring the full participation of both men and women at all levels in programmes to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought'
1995	Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)	This makes the link between gender, the environment and sustainable development. Chapter K draws attention to women's poverty and the need for women to participate in decision-making about the environment at all levels, as well as the integration of gender in all sustainable development policies and programmes.	
2000	Millennium Declaration and MDGs	Includes goal on environmental sustainability (but with no linkage to gender)	Promotes gender equality but without making linkages with environment

Year	International Agreement	Environmental Relevance	Gender Relevance
2005	Hyogo Framework for Action	The first internationally accepted framework on disaster risk reduction (DRR), setting out objectives and priorities for policies and at the national level over the next decade.	Recognizes that a gender perspective should be integrated into all DRR policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those associated with existing climate variability and future climate change
2007	UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN DECRIPI)	Acknowledges rights to forests and community lands.	Establishes rights of minorities but with a limited gender perspective
2015	Sustainable Development Goals	The United Nations has listed 17 global goals to be achieved by 2030 for sustainable development.	The fifth goal is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls through programmes and advocacy.
2015	The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	The framework is a 15-year non-binding agreement which recognizes the state's primary role to reduce disaster risk in collaboration with local government, the private sector and other stakeholders.	The framework focuses on understanding disaster risks, governance to manage risk and preparedness for effective response to risks. However, there is a limited reference to the inclusion of gender-oriented programmes to manage disaster risks.

Our Partners

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PANCHAYATI RAJ

North Eastern Regional Centre
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The NIRDPR is an apex organization under the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (GOI) for training, research, action research and consultancy in rural development. It is the think tank of the Government of India on issues pertaining to rural development. The Institute serves as a forum for discussion and debate on issue of common concern, attracts academics and development practitioners from all over the country and abroad. It is recognized nationally and internationally as a 'Centre for Excellence in Rural Development' in general and 'Centre for Excellence in HRD Research and Training' by the UN-ESCAP in particular and has been actively engaged in international training, workshop and consultancy during the last four decades.

The North Eastern Regional Centre, the only branch of NIRDPR was established in 1983 at Guwahati, Assam to cater to the specific training and research needs of the region. The centre is well equipped with all the necessary modern technology and facilities to orient its training and research activities. The Centre has steadily grown since its inception and has now become a premier training and research organization in the north-east region.

CENTRE FOR WOMEN STUDIES, DIBRUGARH UNIVERSITY, ASSAM

The Centre for Women's Studies(CWS) started as a UGC Project in 1998 and in 2004 it was recognised as a full-fledged centre. Over the years, CWS has been diligently working on varied aspects and subjects such as violence against women, oral history, gender sensitisation, advocating women's issues, archiving and documenting issues on women. The Centre has been working on various projects and is presently offering a Post Graduate Diploma Course in Women's Studies and an Audit Course in Women's Studies. The Centre is also actively working on issues relating to climate change, environment and its impact on women.

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