

Establishing/strengthening the state Climate Change Centre at Dehradun, Uttarakhand under NMSHE

The Himalaya is most vulnerable to climate change compared to other mountains and other parts of the globe. There are evidences that at least parts of the Himalaya are warming at a considerably higher rate than the global average. Almost 90% of Uttarakhand is mountainous and here people are dependent on natural ecosystems. The Government of India (GoI) has established two missions focused exclusively on the Himalaya, namely National Mission for Sustainable Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) and National Mission of Himalayan Studies (NMHS) in continuation of the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC).

State Climate Change Centre (SCCC)-Uttarakhand was established in Dehradun on 8 June 2016. The centre has been able to make significant contributions regarding climate change. SCCC has been supplemented with the supporting institutions such as, Climate Action Group (CAG), Sectoral Working Groups on Climate Change (SWGCC) and Knowledge Management Group (KMG). The results of the impact assessment models leading to climate Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA) of the state up to block levels provided the scientific evidence base for formulating Climate Actions for various sectors. The state is to integrate the Climate Actions into the development planning process incorporating Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). In the process, there has been awareness raising and capacity enhancement of major stakeholders. Uttarakhand in collaboration with Climate Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) and other partners has developed climate VRA for

the entire state up to 95 blocks. SCCC has also suggested climate change agenda for the 12 sectors, such as agriculture, forest, disaster, etc. Presently, some adaptation pilot projects are being implemented in the state in partnership with United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and GoI.

VRA would provide a top-down evidence base for climate actions. This would need to be aligned with bottom-up community-level vulnerability and to draw clear linkages between climate impacts and current policies to help policy makers formulate meaningful policies and plans for climate-resilient development.

The objectives of the SCCC are as follows: (1) Collation of available scientific information. (2) Development of detailed climate vulnerability and risk analyses. (3) Improved scientific evidence base and coordination mechanisms between scientific research and academic institutions for collecting scientific data. (4) Climate change adaptation governance framework which includes the Government, private sector, NGOs and people. (5) Documenting traditional knowledge of communities. Under this there are three pilot projects: (a) Building climate change resilience of forest dependent communities; (b) Climate resilient practices for springshed restoration, rainwater harvesting and solar pumping treatment in Kalsi block, Uttarakhand; and (c) Mapping and demonstration of early warning system for landslide preparedness in Bhagirathi Valley, Uttarakhand. (6) Evaluation of policy alternatives for development plans with regard to key sectors. (7) Creation of awareness pro-

grammes and training with respect to the climate change.

Projects in progress: (1) NMSHE project for a period of 5 years, entitled 'Establishing/Strengthening State Climate Change Centres' sanctioned in August 2016. (2) Establishing/strengthening state climate change centres – sanctioned in August 2016. (3) MoEFCC–UNDP–SDC project 'Strengthening state strategies for climate actions' – for three years starting from 2016. Under this there are three pilot projects: (a) Climate resilience for forest-based community (in progress); (b) Rainwater harvesting; (c) 'Spring water rejuvenation'.

Reports and publications include: Ongoing reports and publications: (1) Upgradation/revision of SAPCC; (2) Fine-tuning of VRA; (3) Climate Action Agenda – for nine sectors, i.e. agriculture, water, health, disaster risk, forest, energy, road, transport and animal husbandry and livestock.

Future plan of action and strategy include: (1) Further strengthening of SCCC; (2) Enhancement of capacity-building programmes; (3) Developing climate change cells within each of the sectors; (4) In-house capacity development for incorporating VRA into Knowledge Portal and its maintenance.

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