

3rd Conference on adaptation to climate change in developing countries

OUTLINES WORKSHOP ROUND 1

1. Clouds but little rain - Local perspectives on reducing disaster risk in a changing climate

By: Cordaid, Wageningen Research University, Red Cross, Wetlands International and CARE, with Suranjana Gupta (GROOTS) and Marcus Oxley (Global Network for DRR NGOs)

Several agencies of the Dutch DRR platform will organize this session based on their experiences with DRR and climate adaptation worldwide. They've invited Marcus Oxley from the global network to present their report on "Clouds but little rain", which indicates that though climate change is discussed widely, still a lot needs to be done at community level. Further, the Netherlands Red Cross will present recent lessons learned on ways to effectively integrate climate adaptation in community based disaster risk reduction programs in Ethiopia, Indonesia and Colombia. Cordaid will show a film where community members from Central America, Bangladesh, and Ethiopia will tell their own stories on how climate change impacts their lives and how DRR can assist them. Subsequently, several other agencies will provide feedback in a panel discussion, including Suranjana Gupta from GROOTS India, CARE Netherlands and Wetlands international.

2. Managing the Water Buffer: 3R Approach in Climate Change Adaptation and Development

By: SIMAVI, RAIN Foundation, MetaMeta Research, Acacia Water, CPWC, Aqua4All, BGR

"The vision of 3R is to help people - even those that live in fragile times and difficult places - to have the confidence and cushion that their livelihood will not unduly suffer under changes in climate - but can even improve these by managing the local water buffer." With increased variability and more erratic rainy seasons the management of water buffers becomes essential - the storage of water in the soil profile, in shallow aquifers and local surface storage reservoirs.

This workshop introduces the 3R initiative. It discusses a range of techniques, summarized as 3R (recharge, retention and reuse) that can be used at scale in both humid and arid environments, in rural areas and in cities - for both development and climate change adaptation. The workshop discusses how to promote buffer management on the basis of local priorities and making use of self-financing mechanisms as far as possible. The aim of the workshop is to have more partners involved in the 3R initiative.

3. Ecosystem based Adaptation- What does it mean and what should it look like?

By: Wetlands International

Wetlands International will conduct a session to delve further into the concept of ecosystem adaptation, illustrate the concept with clear examples from our demonstration projects and share concerns on possible maladaptation practices. This session will help to explain the key concept and provide key guidance for implementing ecosystem based adaptation plans post Copenhagen that

help protect the most vulnerable people, communities and natural systems. Some attention will also be paid to introducing WI's Climate Change Adaptation Trainings, Outreach and Capacity Building for and in developing countries.

4. Micro-Insurance for crop losses and climate risks, the challenges for scaling up

By: M.P. Vasimalai, Executive Director DHAN Foundation (India) and Annette Houtekamer Eureka

DHAN Foundation is addressing Adaptation to Climate Change via numerous initiatives such as Rain Fed Agriculture Development, Renovation of Irrigation Tanks and Ponds, Coastal Resource Utilisation Conservation and Management and Development of River Basins. All these programmes educate farmers, fishermen and communities in general about the meaning and effects of climate change so that they can take active efforts in reducing the effects of this change.

Mr Vasimalai will share the issues identified by the people as well as the coping mechanisms, amongst others drought resistant crops, drip irrigation, renovation of water tanks, conservation of coastal resources and micro insurance.

On this last issue he will elaborate more and discuss the challenges pertaining to the up scaling of micro insurance pilots into a micro insurance programme for more than 11 Indian states.

5. Climate Change: What Organic Farming and Responsible Land Use Can Deliver?

By: Darko Znaor, Avalon Associated Expert and Martien Lankester, Avalon Foundation

Irresponsible land use and notably farming practices are detrimental to climate. Contrary to most other sectors, farming is both the source of greenhouse emissions (GHG) and a likely victim of climate change. Organic farming contributes to the reduction GHG emissions because it reduces the consumption of fossil fuels (notably those used in fertiliser manufacturing), reduces emissions of CO₂, methane and nitrous oxide. It also reduces vulnerability of soils to erosion, while at the same time increasing carbon stocks in the soil. Consequently, conversion to organic farming is believed to be a viable way of reducing GHG emissions. Depending on the commodity produced, organic farming emits 6-60% less GHGs than non-organic farming. However, when calculated per kg of product, in the case of substantially lower yields, organic farming can result in a higher global warming potential. The workshop will present the start-or-art regarding what organic farming can deliver in order to protect further climate change. It will also discuss various legislative, economic and informative (research, education, extension, etc.) policy instruments which should be put in place in order to stimulate adoption of climate-friendly farming practices and land use.

OUTLINES WORKSHOP ROUND 2

1. GIS-based training package for multi-hazard risk assessment

By: Nanette Kingma and Victor Jetten, department of Earth Systems Analysis from the International Institute for Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC)

The UNU-ITC School for Disaster Geo-information Management (DGIM) is committed to contribute to the Hyogo Framework for Action. DGIM has recently developed a GIS-based training package for professionals working in the field of disaster risk reduction. The training package demonstrates the utility and requirements of spatial data in urban multi-hazard risk assessment, and the problems involved. The exercises focus on elements at risk, vulnerability, hazard assessment and risk in a hypothetical case study area called RiskCity. The training package is suitable to professionals with little to no experience in working with GIS and remote sensing and gives them a clear insight in how geo-information can be used in their disaster management-related work. The package is available both in English and Spanish and is under development in Chinese. During the workshop a demonstration will be given.

2. Working towards adaptation: understanding of and building upon local perceptions of climate change and climate variability

By: Pieter Pauw - Institute for Environmental Studies (IVM), VU University Amsterdam
Marije Broekhuijsen and Gijs Aarts - Cordaid

Climate change is often considered to hit developing countries hard. Climate change amplifies existing risks and vulnerability of people and is therefore a stressor of growing importance in an already complex environment. Local communities have valuable knowledge and adaptive capacity towards, for instance, changing cropping seasons or a reduction in rainfall.

The aim of this workshop is to show different ways of measuring and understanding the perception of local people, and how this knowledge can be applied to support local communities in increasing their resilience towards climate change and climate variability. Key in this process is a combination of climate change projections and local knowledge and capacities.

The workshop focuses on Africa and is based on research and community risk assessments in Botswana, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda en Zambia.

3. Land use and Climate Change, options for mitigation and adaptation

Networkingmeeting facilitated by Klimaatbureau HIER and partners

Changes in land use can be of relevance for both mitigation and adaptation. An integrated approach is preferred. In practice, carbon storage through land use is not the most logical approach. A potential new financial mechanism to enhance soil fertility is suggested to be more applicable. It is of importance to gain a general better understanding of proceedings in this field, on both a national and international level, and both within international organisations as well as in agricultural fields.

4. Addressing climate change adaptation within a long term livelihoods programme in Rajasthan, India

By: Neelima Khetan, Chief Executive, Seva Mandir, a partnerorganisation of ICCO

This comprehensive agricultural project began in the early 1990's and supports long term improvements in the livelihoods of poor farming households in Udaipur and Rajsamand districts. The project demonstrates how an ongoing developmental approach to agriculture can have a positive impact on the climate. It began at a time when there was little talk about 'climate change'. But over time, and with some climate change impacts already evident, and the likelihood of further changes occurring, gradual adaptation to changing climate has become a key element of the project. With a focus on Watershed Development, the project promotes the sustainable management of common lands and private arable as well as non-arable lands and water to support livelihoods. Joint Forest Management is a key component.

5. The European climate debate: challenges and responses

By: Sjerp van der Vaart, Head of Office from The Netherlands Bureau for the European Parliament and with Liesbeth Spies (Member of Dutch Parliament Christian Democrats CDA), Sabina Voogd (Oxfam Novib), Hans Blokland (Former Member of the European Parliament) and Eric Massey (Researcher, Free University of Amsterdam).

The Representational Office of the European Parliament in The Hague organises an interactive workshop about the role of the European institutions, the European Parliament in particular, in the global fight against Climate Change. With a special focus on the current debate about financial support for adaptation schemes in developing countries, the Head of the Office, Sjerp van der Vaart, will introduce the most pressing issues on the European agenda, as well as possible joint European responses. A subsequent panel discussion will involve politicians and specialists from various backgrounds and offer ample opportunities for active engagement with workshop participants.
