

# India-EU Experience Sharing on Adaptation Planning and Implementation

6<sup>th</sup> October 2021, 13:00 hrs to 16:00 hrs



**6<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
ADAPTATION  
CONFERENCE**  
5 OCT - 8 OCT 2021 | NEW DELHI

*Session I*

**India-EU Experience Sharing  
on Adaptation Planning  
and Implementation**

A webinar on 'India-EU Experience Sharing on Adaptation Planning and Implementation' was organised on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020, as part of the 'Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement' (SPIPA) project in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). The SPIPA project is funded by the European Union (EU) and the Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU). It is being implemented with MoEFCC as the nodal Ministry. The webinar was also part of the pre-conference webinar series of 'Adaptation Futures Conference'.

Following the release of the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008 with eight missions addressing mitigation and adaptation issues all States/Union Territories have prepared their State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) to address state specific issues on climate change. The formulation of SAPCCs has been an important milestone in developing domestic policies around climate change in India. Following the submission of India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) all the SAPCCs are being revised.

In 2021, the European Commission adopted an EU strategy on adaptation to climate change that aims to make Europe more climate resilient. The [EU Adaptation Strategy](#) focuses on three key objectives:

- Promoting action by the Member States with funding support to help build adaptation capacities and take action.
- 'Climate-proofing' action at the EU level by further promoting adaptation in key vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, fisheries, and cohesion policy, ensuring that Europe's infrastructure is made more resilient, and promoting the use of insurance against natural and man-made disasters.
- Better informed decision-making by addressing gaps in knowledge about adaptation and further developing the European climate adaptation platform (Climate-ADAPT).

There is significant potential for knowledge sharing on climate change adaptation planning, financing and implementation between India and the EU for mutual benefit. Further, there are specific examples of adaptation initiatives in the EU Member States that could be relevant for the states and Union Territories in India.

Under the Networking, capacity building and knowledge management component of the EU SPIPA project building up on the outcomes of the webinar, this session was conceptualised as one of the key thematic tracks at the Adaptation Futures Conference.

**Key insights from the session are as follows:**

**Mr. Edwin Koekkoek**, Counsellor, Energy and Climate Action, EU Delegation to India delivered the welcome address and explained the context of the session "India-EU Experience Sharing on Adaptation Planning and Implementation" under the 'Strategic Partnerships for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA) project implemented jointly by EU delegation to India and GIZ. He mentioned that the SPIPA project has MoEFCC as the nodal Ministry. He further stated that it is not enough to reduce GHG emissions, but we should focus on adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change as well. He mentioned that it is important to exchange information on adaptation between Indian states and EU Member States as both have different economic situations, geographies, etc.

**Mr. Liviu ȘTIRBĂȚ**, Deputy Head for Adaptation, Directorate-General for Climate Action, European Union shared the highlights of the EU Adaptation Strategy particularly the issue of 'Climate-proofing' action at the national and sub national level by further promoting adaptation in key vulnerable sectors such as agriculture and fisheries. He highlighted the need for preparing for slow onset events like sea-level rise, warming but also for extreme events which are expected to increase in frequency and intensity. Even in the best-case mitigation scenario we will have to deal with baked in impacts of past emissions. He highlighted the need for integrating climate action in the overall policy landscape by integrating adaptation in buildings, biodiversity, agriculture policy. The goals of the EU adaptation strategy are to make adaptation smarter, make adaptation much more systemic and to speed it up. EU is inviting in research on adaptation to prepare much better climate change risk assessment to assess the damages due to climate resilient losses. The EU is developing [Climate-ADAPT](#) as an authoritative European platform for adaptation knowledge and similar platform can be developed in India. The EU is aiming at improving quality of adaptation strategies and plans along with ensuring that local level adaptation plans are robust. Nature based solutions are being promoted in the EU as they have mitigation and other co-benefits along with adaptation impacts. Insurance protection gap in terms of percentage of losses not covered by insurance should be reduced. The EU is providing increasing support for adaptation activities in developing countries. The EU has developed a taxonomy for sustainable finance with adaptation as one of the six pillars and this is driving financing for adaptation.

**Mr. Jai Kumar Gaurav**, Senior Advisor-Climate Change, GIZ-India shared the insights from the first India-EU Adaptation Experience Exchange Webinar organized on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020. He highlighted that use of Soil & Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) for local level adaptation planning at the district and village level is important. He shared the key learnings from the break-out sessions and plenary session of the first webinar with an example of Himachal Pradesh where watershed boundaries instead of administrative boundaries have been considered for vulnerability assessment.

Similarly, the seven-step approach followed by Manipur for local vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning by using climate model outputs.

He highlighted that the consultative approach followed by France through comprehensive stakeholder consultation framework and methodology which are relevant for adaptation planning in India as well.

A detailed report of the first India-EU Adaptation Experience Exchange Webinar organized on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020 is available at: [India-EU Experience Sharing on Adaptation Planning and Implementation - CECP-EU](#).

**Mr. Liviu ȘTIRBĂȚ** then responded to the questions from the state officials. He highlighted that for increasing effectiveness of climate finance it is important to link it to local strategies. For example, in Kenya the EU Institute for Technology is working on parametric insurance products with local partners for farmers using climate data. Sharing information about early warning systems for heat waves he shared that EU member states are better prepared for heat waves as during the heat wave in 2003 around 50000 people died while 3000 people died during heat waves in 2019 as there is better awareness amongst vulnerable groups about measures to save them from heat waves.

He also shared examples of strategies to address urban flooding by using satellite imaging coupled with artificial intelligence to better identify the areas where flooding will reach during an extreme event. Improved measurements lead to highlighting two to three times more people exposed to flooding compared to earlier estimates. He also mentioned that nature-based solutions, for example water storage structures, should be promoted as they have several co-benefits and are less expensive.

It was followed by a closed session with State government officials who shared the key insights of the adaptation experiences from their respective states. The EU member state representatives and state government representatives from India shared their experiences related to adaptation in mountain, plains and coastal regions.

**Dr. Antje C. Berger**, First Secretary, Climate & Environment, Embassy of the Republic of Germany, spoke about the German strategy for adaptation of climate change. She explained various measures at the federal level and state level. She talked about the German strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change which was adopted in 2008 by the Federal Cabinet and informed about the regular comprehensive monitoring reports published. She mentioned that Germany is closely cooperating with global partners since 2009 which include India as well, and is working on climate adaptation, including forestry management in the Himalayas.

The Indo-German cooperation is now focusing on agroecology interventions where the promotion is being done for the mixed forest and trees species diversity as a part of solutions in mountain areas in Germany, and for reducing the risk of climate change, they have already increased their share of mixed forest, which was 55% in 2002 to 58% 2012.

**Dr. SP Subudhi**, Member Secretary, Uttarakhand PCB & Director, Environment. Conservation and Climate Change, Uttarakhand (TBC) presented the highlights of climate change strategies for Uttarakhand which focuses on the Climate Change Action Plan with policy changes and enhancement of regulatory activities and implementation.

**Mr. Sudhir Kumar Agrawal**, Nodal Officer, Chhattisgarh State Centre for Climate Change, presented a comprehensive overview of the ongoing climate actions in the state, including mitigation as well as adaptation actions. He highlighted the NAFCC project promoting an integrated climate adaptation strategy in the wetlands through water conservation that includes storage structure, catchment area treatment, riverbank plantation, pond bunding etc. In addition, he highlighted the activities including demand side management such as climate smart agriculture, crop diversification, irrigation efficiency etc.

**Mr. Suneel Pamidi**, Director, Department of Environment and Climate Change, Government of Kerala presented about the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) funded project to revive 300 hectares of Pokkali wetlands (100 hectares each in Thrissur, Ernakulam and Alappuzha districts) and 300 hectares of Kaipad wetlands in Kannur districts. For this extensive earthen bund have to be constructed along the margin of the rivers/backwaters (marginal bunds) and along the periphery of each paddy polders (padasekarams). An adequate number of sluice gates have been provided to regulate water level and to facilitate fish/shrimp harvest.

**Dr. RK Chauhan**, Joint Director, Department of Environment, Govt of Haryana presented comprehensive highlights of climate change adaptation strategies implemented as part of the SAPCC with focus on livelihood vulnerability assessment and mountain ecology.

While delivering the closing remarks, **Mr. Edwin Koekkoek**, Counsellor, Energy and Climate Action, EU Delegation to India, highlighted that the active participation of climate change nodal officials from the State/UT governments is highly appreciated. He stated that the project will continue to have the conversation and knowledge exchange among the officials from India and the EU and EU Member States.

**Recording of the complete session:** [https://kestoneimspvt-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/abhishek\\_mt\\_kestoneglobal\\_com/EWlYIcj1lJk-FYAI01qVcBYIaqErdFHmaRO6UeUnrQug?e=Jhodua](https://kestoneimspvt-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/personal/abhishek_mt_kestoneglobal_com/EWlYIcj1lJk-FYAI01qVcBYIaqErdFHmaRO6UeUnrQug?e=Jhodua)

