

One day workshop
on
'Alignment of national Action Programme on Combating Desertification to 10 year strategy of UNCCD'



Organized under UNCCD
at
Arid Forest Research Institute, New Pali Road,
Jodhpur -342005

Dated 18th March 2015

Proceeding

One day workshop on '**Alignment of national Action Programme on Combating Desertification to 10 year strategy of UNCCD**' held at AFRI, Jodhpur-342005 on 18th March 2015

Being a party to United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), India is committed to and focuses on combating and mitigation of Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD). Though a national action plan (NAP) on UNCCD was developed in 2001 providing an overview of natural resources, the status and impacts of desertification, measures under implementation and the initiatives taken for combating desertification, but 10-year strategy adopted under CoP-8 in 2007 entails to re-align NAP and build up on key concerns and meet the strategic and operational objectives of the 10-year strategies based on the approaches like prevention, mitigation and restoration strategies. For convergence of policy goals of the various government departments and synergizing efforts for internalizing "Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030" there is need of effective coordination and participation of different sectors to highlight sectoral initiatives and bring out the impacts, issues and challenges faced due to DLDD.

The Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun has been identified as a Technical Facilitation Organization for developing the aligned NAP for the MoEF&CC. For this ICFRE is organizing a series of consultative workshops to discuss the sectoral inputs from the line departments, research institutes and NGOs under preparation of the realigned NAP document in a participatory mode. In this continuation a one day workshop on '**Alignment of national Action Programme on Combating Desertification to 10 year strategy of UNCCD**' was organized at Arid Forest Research Institute, Jodhpur-342005 on 18th March 2015 with a view to discuss the severity of the problems in north-western India focusing Rajasthan, acquire knowledge on the extent and impact of DLDD on the activities and progress of different sectors involving line departments, research institutes and NGOs of the region.

After a general introduction the workshop participants were welcomed by Sh. Saibal Das Gupta, DDG (Extension), ICFRE, who gave a brief about the workshop too. It was followed by a presentation on NAP by Dr T.P. Singh, ADG, ICFRE and NPD, NAP Alignment Project highlighting the background importance and mode of action in developing re-aligned NAP document. Dr. G.S. Goraya, DDG (Research), ICFRE





inaugurated the workshop and the inaugural function was ended with vote of thanks by Sh. N.K. Vasu, Director, AFRI, Jodhpur.

A total of 39 persons from different governments and non-government organizations and research institutions participated in this one day workshop. Eight presentations were made, 4 each in two technical sessions. Technical session I was started

with a basic lecture of Dr. R.P. Dhir, Ex Director, CAZRI putting historical background of 'Thar Desert', severity of the problems and mode of survival and livelihood in the desert region. Livestock in livelihood security and maintenance of ecological balance was highlighted by Dr. S.K. Sankhyan, CS&WRI, Avikanagar. It was followed by lectures on groundwater status in desert areas and use of remote sensing in assessing and monitoring land degradation status by Dr. D.D. Ozha, SGWD, Jodhpur and Dr. A.K. Bera, RRSC, Jodhpur, respectively.



In technical session II Prof. Rajiv Gupta, BIT&S, Pilani discussed about desert development Technologies with particular reference to some innovative rainwater harvesting techniques for the dry regions. It was followed by a lecture by Dr. C.B. Pandey, CAZRI, highlighting the problem of land degradation due to wastewater and the extent of land degradation in arid regions of Rajasthan. A details account of problems, activities of State Forest Department, Rajasthan and suggestions on combating desertification were provided by Sh Arindam Tomar, CCF, Jodhpur. It was followed by a presentation on desertification with reference to forests in Rajasthan highlighting the importance of erection of megashlterbelts as a programme on weather modification and improved livelihood in western Rajasthan.



In last, **Wrap-up Session** was started under the Chairmanship of Sh Saibal Das Gupta, DDG (Ext), ICFRE after filling of the Questionnaires (developed by ICFRE) by the participants. Points raised during the two technical sessions were further deliberated upon. In this Dr. R.P. Dhir emphasized on a mechanism to regulate grazing and community ownership as community owned mechanism has worked successfully. He has also

highlighted to bring back the wasted lands to a healthy state for improved livelihood of desert dwellers. Dr. L.N. Harsh, put emphasis on the role of agroforestry in combating desertification and use of crops with low water requirements. The workshop was finally ended with the vote of thanks by Sh N.K. Vasu, Director, AFRI, Jodhpur.

On 19th March 2013, Dr. G.S. Goraya, DDG (Research), Sh Saibal Das Gupta, DDG, (Ext) and Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG, ICFRE and NPD, NAP Alignment Project were taken to Jaisalmer to have a visit of desert areas and to get aware about the severity of the problems, status of degradation and types of livelihoods in the desert region.



Silvi-pasture work in Thar Desert areas



Cultivation of Plantago ovata in Indian Desert

Sh. N.K. Vasu, Director, AFRI, Workshop Chairman

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Details Programme
Regional Workshop on New National Action Programme (NNAP) to Combat
Desertification

Registration: 9.30-10.00			
Inaugural Session: 10.00-11.15 AM			
Lighting of the lamp			
Welcome Address		: <i>Sh. Saibal Dasgupta, DDG(Extn), ICFRE</i>	
Presentation on NAP		: <i>Dr TP Singh, ADG , ICFRE and NPD, NAP Alignment Project</i>	
Address by the Chief Guest		: <i>Dr G. S. Goraya, DDG (Research), ICFRE</i>	
Vote of thanks		: <i>Sh.N.K. Vasu, Director, AFRI</i>	
TEA: 11.15-11.30			
Technical Session I: 11.30 AM-1.30 PM			
1.	Dr. R.P. Dhir , Director, CAZRI (Ret.)	UNCCD-NAP-Some Thoughts	11.30-12.00
2.	Dr S. K. Sankhyan, CS&WRI, Avikanagar, Tonk (Rajasthan)	Role of livestock in livelihood security and maintenance of ecological balance vis a vis strategic action plan and framework towards prevention and mitigation of desertification and land degradation	12.00-12.30
3.	Dr. D.D. Ozha, SGWD, Jodhpur (Ret)	Ground water in Thar desert: Challenges and mitigation	12.30-13.00
4.	Dr. A.K. Bera, RRSC, Jodhpur	Geospatial technologies in assessing land degradation, desertification and related issues – a few case studies from parts of Thar Desert Region	13.00-1.30
LUNCH: 13.30-14.30			
Technical Session II: 2.30-4.30			
5.	Prof. Rajiv Gupta, BIT&S, Pilani, Rajasthan	Desert development Technologies: Past & Future	14.30-15.00
6.	Dr. C.B. Pandey, Head Division I, CAZRI, Jodhpur	Alignment of National Action Plan on Combating Desertification to 10 years Strategy of UNCCD: CAZRI's Role and initiatives : a concept note	15.00-15.30
7.	Sh Arindam Tomar, CCF, Jodhpur	Combating Desertification in Rajasthan	15.30-16.00
8.	Dr. G. Singh, Scientist F, AFRI	Desertification with reference to forests in Rajasthan, research achievements and initiatives	16.00-16.30
Discussion and filling up of the Questionnaires by the participants			3.45-4.15
Wrap –up Session: 4.15-5.00			
Shri Saibal Dasgupta, DDG (Extension) Dr. R.P. Dhir, Ex Director CAZRI, Jodhpur Dr. L.N. Harsh, Ex VC, Jodhpur Agriculture University Sh. N.K. Vasu, Director, AFRI			