Community Based Adaptation

The experience of Practical Action

www.practicalaction.org.uk



Implementing CBA

- Our experience is at community level
- We have been working in areas affected by increasing climate variability, in Kenya, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Pakistan and Peru
- Until around 8 years ago, we focused on increasing livelihood security of people living in marginal agro-ecological zones, at risk of climate-related hazards, such as drought, floods, landslides
- Around 1998-9 it became clear that 'normal' patterns of drought frequency and rainy seasons were being disrupted
- The issue was no longer about helping people cope with a challenging but static situation – the climate situation was changing and the future was uncertain



Brief outline of climatic challenges in Practical Action's project areas

- Semi arid central Kenya: increasingly dry conditions make maize cultivation and cattleraising less productive
- Bangladesh: heavier monsoons increase flooding levels and period of floods beyond normal coping strategies
- Nepal: more frequent flash flooding in hillside areas, and longer dry seasons mean land is often eroded, and maize does not fruit well
- Peru: severe cold spells in the high Andes causing death to alpacas and killing potato crops



Our approach to community based adaptation – so far

- First helping local communities understand what is happening to the climate and why
- Second, communities discuss their ways of coping with weather-related disasters
- Practical Action works to strengthen coping strategies, and diversify livelihoods, bringing external knowledge to link with local knowledge

Kenya adaptation strategies









Bangladesh adaptation strategies



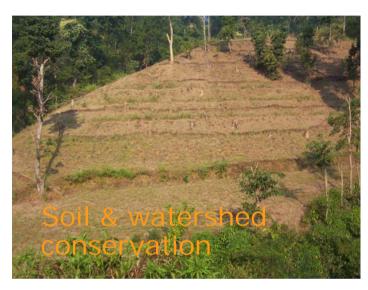






Rachel Berger | September 2007 | Rome NWP workshop

Nepal adaptation strategies







Peru – adaptation activities

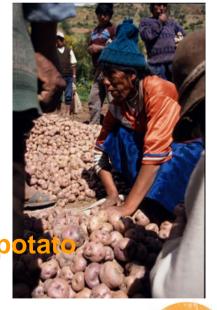






proved pasture

Conserving podiversity



PRACTICAL ACTION



Coordination and linking at district level

- Links with local government and other stakeholders are made, to improve access to information and resources, and ensure continuity of support after project ends
- Raising awareness on climate change and its local impacts is important – local government knowledge is often limited
- There is interest and willingness to work with us and with communities



Incentives ensuring coordination between stakeholders

- Pre-requisite is trust and belief in the organising body
- Workshops at local level, providing transport and meals
- Providing information and guidance that is relevant to people's regular work
- Establishing district- and national-level networks for sharing experiences – very active in Nepal, Bangladesh and Peru

Scaling up: A case study of Bangladesh

- Practical Action is about to begin implementing a new 5 year strategy
- Adaptation to climate change, climate proofing all our programme work, and advocacy for funding for the least developed countries are principles at the core of the strategy
- At country level, more detailed programme strategies have been drafted
- Part of the strategy for Bangladesh is presented an ambitious 5 year plan to scale up community level adaptation based on sustainable agriculture through the work of other institutions

Scaling up: A case study of Bangladesh – Changing policy

- Community based extension system, supported by the government line departments to update technical skills and other private agricultural service providers through channelling technical inputs
- Local government listens to the voices of the small farmer producers' groups, and facilitate implementation of CBOs plans
- Linking NGOs with the government line departments research institutes and private service providers
- Establishing Rural Technology Centres as a local source of traditional and scientific knowledge and skills
- National and international NGOs and donors critically examine the Rural Community Extensionist model



Scaling up: A case study of Bangladesh – Changing practice

- National Research Institutes take up the research needs of smallholders on food production, processing and marketing
- IRRI-Bangladesh take up farming systems going beyond rice and adopting livelihoods approach
- Government and NGOs allocate resource to promote exchange visits and farmer to farmer extension.
- Local NGOs and CBOs work in direct partnership in project design and implementation, involving the target beneficiaries in decision making process
- Research institutes provide update training courses for local NGOs
- Local government supports agricultural information resource centres
- Donors finance projects following this model



Feeding lessons learnt into the NWP

- Practical Action always aims to produce 'knowledge products' for our target audiences
- Communities, partners, local government, line departments, international development agencies – our main targets
- We produce local language material, web material, videos
- Format of the NWP submission not very demanding, but back up material is needed, and not always available
- In return NWP needs to be more accessible, and needs to be able to reformat submitted material

The role of regional and international organisations and networks

- There are active networks and regional fora is impressive
- Electronic networks run by IDS and IIED
- Regional meetings key agents include IIED and IDRC
- There is emerging a small but expanding group of development professionals and scientists working to expand knowledge, share information and discuss the issues
 - IDRC-led workshops to encourage research ideas
 - Regional workshops set up by IIED for 2008 (under CLACC programme)
 - Regional workshop on CBA run by BCAS and HED in Dhaka
 - UK workshop led by Practical Action to be an annual event
- These networks are easily accessible



Addressing the gaps

- Key areas of challenge
 - Raising awareness on the nature of CBA and communicating good practice at all levels
 - Raising adequate funding within the international community
 - Working out delivery mechanisms for adaptation programmes
- Roles for Parties:
 - Identifying vulnerabilities and types of adaptation measures appropriate in each location – draw on NGOs and CBOs
 - Integrating adaptation into all policies and programmes
 - Commitment to decentralise funding to local level
- Roles for NWP
 - Working to make relevant technological information available/accessible to local level
 - Through UN bodies, working to support parties to change policy and practice to support resource-poor communities

