Indigenous Peoples Climate Change Assessment in North East India

THINGREIPHI LUNGHARWO

People and Land Scape

- Comprise of Eight state (Manipur, Assam, Tripura, AP, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim)
- Extension of Eastern Himalaya (255,000 sqKm total population 39, 263,769)
- Home to more than 220 tribals (12 % of the total tribal population of India)
- Indigenous have their own institutions and land tenure
- Located in remote hill areas and highly marginalized
- Primary occupation is shifting cultivation

Features of upland agriculture

- Majority of upland families involved in traditional farming (shifting cultivation) Jhum in local

- Low production but highly diverse food basket
- Rain-fed/weather dependent
- Labor-intensive and ITK-based
- Women play significant role
- Little use of modern agri-inputs (chemical fertilizer, pesticide) tools and technology

Indigenous Peoples involved in Assessment

- Meghalaya (Garos and Khasi)
- Manipur (Tangkhul Naga)
- Assam (Karbi)

Practitioners

Scientist from:

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research

- Regional Agricultural Research Station
- Krishi Vikyan Kendra (KVK)
- Project Staff
- Lead Farmers

Communities Perception

- Changing rainfall Pattern
- Increase pest
- Cold tolerant crops not good anymore
- Opportunity to grow heat tolerant high value crop (king chilly, sugarcane. Banana) performing well

Process of identifying ITK in adaptation

- **Participatory Rural Appraisal:** general awareness and assessment of the community socio–economic conditions and status of NRM
- **Participatory Assessment:** specific to climate change and adaptation knowledge
- **Community knowledge Exchange:** peer review of their practices
- **Community-Scientist Interface:** dialogue and join validation and identifying promising areas and for up scaling.

Value of Integrating ITK in Adaptation

- Indigenous Knowledge is empirical and time tested under specific natural climatic conditions
- It is cost effective and provide wide range of choices for responding to urgent climate change impacts
- It is dynamic, contextual and sustainable
- It can accelerates in designing appropriate approaches, tools and technologies for the communities

Identified Good Practices

- **Shifting Cultivation as risks management practice**
- Practice of **varietal** shift/ wide range of crop choice
- **Alter base** or **unburnt mode of** jhum system
- Traditional pest management practices

Recommendation of Good Practices and Tools

- **Participatory appraisal/assessment:**

- it creates awareness, built community cohesion and better planning
- gives better insights of ground realities to the practitioners

- **Community knowledge exchange:**

- gives opportunity to learn new knowledge , review /validate the existing practices .
- Learn faster through interaction and judge better their situations and contexts and enhance adaptive capacities

- **Participatory Mapping:**

-good tool for land use planning and natural resource

Recommendation of Good Practices and Tools

- **Bottom up approach:**

-create confidence and trust

- **Community Scientist Interface:** identify range of practices and promising research areas

- **Full and effective participation in policy & action plan development:**

- enhances the effectiveness of the action plan.

- reduce conflict in the implementation

- more target oriented

Why I choose this story?

- **Holistic NRM:** shift from Sectoral to convergence /integrated approach
- **Inclusiveness: IP's** Participation has routinely been overlooked in the development of action plan on climate change
- **Capacity Building:** very little attention is paid in terms of investment and governance
- **Reach the Unreached:** minimal or no access to technology, resources and services to cope with the changing situations
- ITK potentially contributes to address the urgent impacts of climate change

Thank you