Linking adaptation planning and implementation from community level to national level

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Summary

• Who we are and why we are here
• Implementing adaptation at community level
• Linking communities with local government
• National governance of adaptation – challenges and opportunities
Who are we?

• International NGO focusing on reducing poverty through the use of appropriate technologies

• Working in South Asia, Eastern and Southern Africa, Latin America

• Programmes on rural livelihoods, access to energy and water, urban livelihoods

• We have been engaged with the NWP for 2 years
Community-based adaptation – in practice

- **Increase understanding** of the climate changes people perceive
- **Build on local knowledge** and coping strategies for environmental change and weather-related disasters
- **Reduce vulnerability** to climate hazards
- **Strengthen resilience** to shocks, and underlying social and economic hazards
- **Build adaptive capacity** – enabling communities to take control of their future: diversify livelihoods, facilitate participation in decision making processes, linking people with external knowledge
Peru – adaptation activities

- Improved pasture
- Conserving potato diversity
- Animal health training and shelters for livestock
Example: Peru

- Improved grassland management and diversity of potato varieties \textit{increase resilience} to drought and severe frost

- Improved animal heath care \textit{reduces vulnerability} of livestock to extreme weather

- Increased ability of farmers to make management decisions and link with local government to access advice and resources builds \textit{adaptive capacity}
Practical Action’s approach to Scaling up

• Bottom-up approach.
• Links communities with local government and other stakeholders
  – to improve access to information and resources
  – to ensure continuity of support after projects end.
• Raising awareness on climate change and its local impacts amongst local officials and politicians
• If we provide information and guidance that is relevant to people’s regular work, then it will be taken on board
Replication of what works

This can be achieved in several ways:
• In other similar localities,
• By other institutions and organisations

The challenge for community-based adaptation: must be location specific
• Need to relate approaches that are worthy of replication, with context specific activities
• These must be defined by the communities as stakeholders
• Hence the crucial importance of participatory approaches.
Replication through mainstreaming

‘Mainstreaming’:  
- Meaning adoption of good practices
- Dissemination of relevant knowledge and technologies
- Building of capacity amongst a variety of stakeholders:  
  - local NGOs  
  - community leaders  
  - local/district government  
  - Local private sector
Gaps: 1 ecosystem management

Need to incorporate sound ecosystem management into adaptation planning at all levels

• Climate change directly affects natural ecosystems and the services they provide

• Not just visible ecosystems (forests, coral reefs) but less visible – e.g. soils

• Loss of ecosystem services will affect global food production and water availability
Filling the gap of knowledge on ecosystems

- Need to increase understanding of the independency of economic and social development and healthy ecosystems
- Incorporate measures for sound management and restoration
- Technical panels supporting adaptation planning would need to include expertise on this issue
Gaps: 2 Conflict resolution

- Water in particular will become a scarcer resource
- Conflict over access to water is certain to increase
  - at regional level (Himalayas, Andes, many parts of Africa)
  - at local level, where upstream and downstream communities will fight over scarce water resources

- Adaptation requires improved water resource management and peaceful conflict resolution
- Need for wider recognition of the importance and value of conflict resolution in the process of adaptation planning
Challenges to scaling up

1 Approaches that reflect local needs

- Scaling up community level approaches must involve all tiers of government and other institutions
- A major challenge: government approaches to service delivery that support the most vulnerable communities
- Example: community-based extension
- Improved livestock health is crucial in strengthening resilience

YET

- Most governments favour top-down approach which fails to deliver to communities in remote areas
Challenges to scaling up
2 Listening to local voices

• commitment of local government to
  – listen to the voices of small farmer producers’ groups
  – facilitate implementation of plans developed by local communities which meet their priorities

• Local NGOs and CBOs working in partnership with local government

• target beneficiaries involved in decision making processes, project design and implementation.
Challenges to scaling up

3 Changing practice

- Changing policy at national level is one challenge

- Changing practice is another

- National Research Institutes must take up the research needs of smallholders
  - climate change is ongoing and will require ongoing review of appropriate technologies for adaptation strategies
Barriers and constraints to creating an enabling policy environment

Assumptions:

- Adaptation is policy neutral

- Demonstrating successful adaptation, and widely disseminating the findings, building national capacity, will lead to scaling up and integration into government programmes

- This is unlikely to be sufficient: example of agriculture
Agriculture and adaptation: policy conflicts

- Small-scale farming is crucial livelihood option for a majority of the world’s poorest people
- Recent IAASTD report concluded that small-scale farming and agricultural biodiversity are crucial to future global food security as climate changes

YET

- **Firstly** government and international institutions (WTO) support privatisation of plant genetic resources
- **Impacts at local level**: farmer seed saving community level plant breeding is illegal
- **Secondly** corporations pressurise governments to favour genetically modified food crop development
- **Impacts**: agricultural biodiversity threatened through contamination by pollen from trial crops
National level adaptation

- The poor and marginalised tend not to receive benefit from government services: they belong to groups that government actions normally fail to reach.

- Frequently, they face challenges that demand locally relevant technologies.

- For these reasons, sector based, nationally-applied adaptation programmes are unlikely to meet the needs of a country’s most vulnerable people.
Funding for Adaptation

- Adaptation funding will be delivered via national governments.

- Without specific focus on the most vulnerable, adaptation funding will fail to support the poorest.

- To meet this challenge, participatory governance principles will need to be embedded in institutions that prioritise and distribute adaptation finance.
Avoiding the pitfalls: Governance principles to support CBA

(i) Prioritise the adaptation needs of the most vulnerable through enhancing adaptive capacity and reducing vulnerability.

(ii) Recognise that responses will have to be based on local assessment of risks, needs and circumstances and be relevant to local people and communities.
(iii) **Localise** adaptation planning and implementation and disbursement of adaptation finance to enable participatory planning and implementation.

(iv) **Transparent** planning and implementing of adaptation actions

(v) **Representation** of key stakeholders at all stages of adaptation - planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting.
Linking community planning with district government: Nepal

- Practical Action has provided training for village Development Committees to undertake vulnerability and capacity assessments
- Facilitated consensus building between groups of villages to establish core problems and strategies
- Village level needs were incorporated into district government plans
Enabling communities to access decentralised funding (Peru)

- The national decentralised planning and participatory budget system facilitates local planning
- Practical Action has worked to support local community organisations to establish priorities for funding
- Local and international NGOs supporting indigenous and other marginalised groups has led to development of detailed, municipality-specific plans across the country
Building capacity of provincial level government (Zimbabwe)

- Practical Action ran workshops and trainings for provincial government in techniques of participatory planning
- This led to training of government staff at district level to facilitate community based planning
- Teams from district government went out to villages to facilitate community based planning
Funding and Adaptation - Synergies

Funding adaptation

- Prioritisation and monitoring of resources

Community based adaptation (adaptive capacity, resilience and vulnerability)

- Adaptive capacity: the tools to respond to emerging climate change

Processes that enable community participation in decision making
International Funding via UNFCCC and Technical Support from Regional Resource Centres

Participatory Planning

Local / District Government

Civil Society Umbrella Bodies

Civil Society

Implementation of Adaptation Resources

Partnerships between communities and implementing agencies

Civil Society

Private Sector

Government Extension

Monitoring / Accountability
International Funding via UNFCCC and Technical Support from Regional Resource Centres

Participatory Planning

- Local / District Government
- Civil Society
- Civil Society Umbrella Bodies

Monitoring / Accountability

Adaptation Resources

Implementation of CBA
Partnerships between communities and implementing agencies

National Stakeholder Forum

Private Sector

Government Extension

Civil Society

PRACTICAL ACTION
Technology challenging poverty
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PRACTICAL ACTION
Technology challenging poverty
Conclusions

- Funding for adaptation (when it comes) is for governments to spend for the benefit of their people.

- The poorest and most vulnerable people will be worst affected, so they should receive the benefits of funding.

- For adaptation to be relevant to their needs, they must be involved in decision making and resource allocation.

- There is plenty of experience from NGOs and some governments and existing international funding processes to show that civil society is capable of engaging in this process.