

Report on CBA 13 Conference

1. Conference participation and objectives

The CBA-13 [Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change, CBA-13] conference which is held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Before this conference, there are 12 conference held in different countries since 2005. The series of CBA conference aims to bring together a community of practitioners who are collectively seeking to reimagine solutions that enable transformative outcomes, through the agency of communities driving climate action.

I have participated in the CBA-13 at first time and the main objective of my participation is to understand the community base adaptation and their practices and how it's linking with policy and planning structure of a country. Apart what is the regional practice especially in South Asian countries where community base adaptation best practice could be a learning option for us and opportunities to integrate with coastal context.

2. Conference themes and strategic discourses

- a. Discourse on Climate finance: what are the mechanisms and enabling environments needed for climate finance to flow at scale to support effective adaptation?
- b. Discourse on Adaptation technology: how can long-term and existing, as well as the wave of new and emerging, technologies and practices be harnessed to build resilience?
- c. Discourse on Policy engagement: how can the wealth of learning generated through widespread experiences of local climate action best inform the policies of the most vulnerable countries?

3. Way of engagement in the conference

There are 25 session held during four day conference of CBA. Among the session the above three thematic sessions were main and apart with some session were on the issue of skill sharing, project innovativeness, open space session on burning issues and demonstration were held in the conference. I have mainly interest on climate financing session but tried to participate in other session also.



4. Major outcome on Thematic Discourses

- a. **Discourse on Climate finance:** The discourses on climate finance have been drawn some recommendations as following;
 - i. Microfinance is one of the core strategies for resource and community-based adaptation that would be mutually beneficial due to their connection to livelihoods, assets and money-generating activities used by households for consumption, coping with uncertainties and responding to new opportunities.

- ii. Community-based adaptation is a community-led process where communities' own their priorities, needs, knowledge and capacities. It combines poverty reduction with livelihood improvements, empowering communities to plan for coping with the impacts of climate change.
- iii. Apart to strengthen resource mobilization must create a linkages between climate change finance and countries' planning, budgeting and public financial management systems.
- iv. Support regional/local platforms, communities or by preference, that promote lesson-learning across countries and policy areas, especially ministries of finance, planning-and climate/environment-related institutions, and platforms in a country.
- v. GCF (Green Climate Fund) must ensure their commitment to flow at least 50% resource for adaptation that support the resilient activity fighting climate change. The fund also to be ensured for communities and their priority set of action regarding climate change adaptation.



- b. **Discourse on Adaptation technology:** how can long-term and existing, as well as the wave of new and emerging, technologies and practices be harnessed to build resilience? The conducted session have been identified the following key recommendations;

Agriculture is treated the top most sector for community to climate change adaptation. This sector also identified as most vulnerable due to climate change. The discourse in the CBA have been identified some areas i.e. Sustainable water use and management, Soil management, Sustainable crop management, Sustainable livestock management and Sustainable farming system under agriculture sector those in fact technology depended for adaptation also for resilient community in view of climate change.

Apart energy sector is a big thrust are for community resilient and mitigation strategies for communities, national and international due to climate change.

Adaptation technologies are only successful if they reach the communities whose lives and livelihoods are threatened by climate change. Technologies must be easy to access, they must be sustainable and there must be potential to scale up, modify or innovate further. However the CBA dialogue and discussion has elaborate the following technologies as very primary level effective for community based adaptation to climate change;

- i. **Mobile Phone:** Mobile technology has the power to transform the lives of people grappling with the impacts of climate change. Mobile phones can provide up-to-date market information via SMS alerts to help farmers get the best price for their produce, and with easy phone access they can agree deals with buyers in advance.

Mobile phones can also deliver climate information in real time. With timely warnings of when adverse weather will hit, how much rain will fall or when the rainy season will start, farmers can protect and maximise yields by adjusting harvesting schedules or crop choices.

ii. **Solar-powered drip irrigation:** This technology is a relevant case in point as farmers increasingly look for an irrigation solution to drought and unreliable productivity. Drip irrigation is a highly effective way of getting water and fertiliser directly to the roots of crops. It uses water very efficiently and minimises losses from evaporation. This is a crucial point as climate change increases the demand for water.

c. **Discourse on Policy engagement:**

The discourse on policy engagement with CBA practices tried to assess and making recommendation through their experience and learning generated through widespread exercise of local climate action and also linking with the policies of the most vulnerable countries. The discussion will made following assumptions regarding the issues;

- i. Government existing policy strategies and development projects and actions are not the only potential route for scaling out the community base adaptation, the private sector should also be considered. When designing a CBA pilot, there should be identified the real relationships with the relevant agents.
- ii. Delivering CBA at a larger scale requires some form of public or private institutional and funding structures. These are needed to integrate the pilot into wider programmes or processes. These must be flexible enough to allow communities to remain in the driving seat of their initiatives.



5. Our Learning

a. CBA approach in Bangladesh: Neither feasible nor achievable

Community-based adaptation (CBA) is generally described as a bottom-up planning and action-based approach to strengthening community-level initiative for increasing their adaptive capacity, focussed upon vulnerability and needs. CBA also address the local and ancestral knowledge utilization to solve the local problems, those will support the communities to build their resilient capacity in case of fighting any adverse situation especially if we call here climate change.

I have learned the CAB experience those are in fact implementing in African countries. My understand is that these communities are hard to reach areas, problems and requirements are different based on their different socio-economic context and also diversified culture are practiced.

But in Bangladesh, government are in practice absolutely top down planning process with political bias financial process which has no relation with communities' requirement. Apart the private sector don't have any interest to work with community and also government has no strategic assessment on community and their real problem related with climate change impacts.

Some NGO and INGOs are piloting a few climate change adaptation or mitigation projects and trying to claim their success as a model of community based exercise. In fact there relation forged with real community needs and addressing their resilient. The so call success on CBA piloting fail to elaborate on how these successes will be link with existing government planning strategies (as govt. practice top-down planning process) fighting climate change and it vulnerability in Bangladesh.

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