

# Project Inception Workshop Report

**Capacity strengthening of multi-actors to limit climate  
change impacts and enhance resilience (CAP-RES)**



**13th April, 2023  
Multipurpose Hall, Independent University  
Bangladesh (IUB)**



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bangladesh ranks as the 7th most vulnerable country to climate change. With the growing severity of climate crises, the vulnerable communities are facing difficulties to adapt to the impacts of climate change. It needs no telling that enhancing capacity to build resilience is crucial to combat the disastrous impacts. Bangladesh has already been undertaking adaptive measures but the country is confronted with challenges in terms of implementing the initiatives. Capacity building of multi-level stakeholders and coordination among them are needed to confront the climate-induced challenges.

The International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) is acknowledged globally for leveraging its long-term experience of working on research, capacity building, and advocacy on climate change and environmental issues affecting vulnerable communities in the country who are most impacted by climate change. With a view to enhancing adaptivity and building resilience, ICCCAD has undertaken a project in collaboration with Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), with the financial support of Embassy of Sweden titled “Capacity Strengthening of multi-actors to limit climate change impacts and enhance resilience (CAP-RES)”.

To conduct an exchange of dialogue on the project objectives, ICCCAD has organized a project inception workshop. All the project staff, relevant ICCCAD members, and representatives of the Swedish Embassy were present at the inception event. The participants learned about the project through five presentations on- 1, Basic information of CAP-RES project, 2 Research grant and fellowship, 3. Youth program, 4. Locally Led Adaptation, 5) Capacity building and Advocacy and 6) Branding and communication of the project; presented by the project manager and coordinator of each project component. Audience feedbacks were requested after each presentation was delivered. The feedback were appreciated and will be considered in the project implementation period.

As a Remarks from the funding agency Ms. Nayoka, the first secretary of the Embassy of Sweden Acknowledged the contribution of ICCCAD to capacity building and knowledge production and advised to focus on measuring the impacts of capacity building. Prof. Saleemul Huq closed the event with his closing remarks saying that “the problem of climate change has just begun and no country in the world is fully prepared to deal with the disastrous impacts of climate change alone. But it is a matter of pride that Bangladesh is ahead in terms of acknowledging the climate change issues through taking actions.”

The project team expressed their gratitude to the participants for their time and valuable feedback and assured all to complete the project professionally as their commitment towards building resilience against climate change impact.

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# INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Bangladesh is characterized by high levels of climate vulnerability. Communities in this country are dependent on natural resource-based livelihoods, are increasingly at risk from a wide range of climatic shocks and stresses. Adaptation to climate change is therefore a high priority for all as delineated in the several national plans, policies and programmes. In recent decades, Bangladesh has adopted several policies, plans and strategies for coping with climate change. NAPA, BCCSAP, SOD, CCGAP, Eighth Five-year plan, Delta plan, Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan are some the important ones.

But lack of capacity of government officials and CSOs at local and national level; lack of experts in project designing; lack of proper monitoring and evaluation system; structural inequalities, Inadequate Youth's Participation in Climate Change Action etc. has emerged as obstacles in the implementation of these plans.

Given the overall circumstances, ICCCAD has designed a project in collaboration with Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), with the financial support of Embassy of Sweden titled "Capacity Strengthening of multi-actors to limit climate change impacts and enhance resilience (CAP-RES)". The specific objectives of the project are (1) creating an enabling environment and fostering individuals to enhance their knowledge of climate change issues and problem-solving skills; (2) generating factual evidence from local practices to scale up at the global level; and (3) improving institutional efficiency and effectiveness in decision-making and implementation of climate interventions.

On April 13 2023, the project team has organized the inception workshop at Multipurpose Hall, Independent University Bangladesh (IUB) to officially launch the project. All the project staff, relevant ICCCAD members and representative of Swedish Embassy were present at the inception. The workshop brought all the relevant stakeholders together to facilitate an exchange of dialogue on the project's scope and goals.

# DISCUSSION SUMMARY

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The inception provides the participants with an overview of the project, its objectives, and activities and also took their reflection to identify effective implementation processes for the project.

As a moderator of the event, Ms Gausia Islam Keya, Research Associate, ICCCAD started the event with welcoming all. Prof Mizan R Khan, Deputy Director of ICCCAD provided his opening remarks through expressing his gratitude to the government of Sweden for being at the forefront of environmental leadership. Special guest Pro-Vice Chancellor of Independent University Bangladesh (IUB), Prof Niaz Ahmed Khan expressed institutional solidarity towards the project. He also upheld the fact that capacity building is crucial to tackle the ever-growing impacts of climate change and addressed the importance of this project.

Followed by the opening ceremony a brief presentation on the project was presented by Mr. Juel Mahmud, Project Manager of CAP-RES project. Three more presentations on Youth Programme, LLA and Capacity Building (the three big component of the project) were also presented by its respective coordinators.



**"Local level realities are crucial to understand to ensure effective policy implementation"**

**Dr. Mizan R. Khan**

# PRESENTATION & FEEDBACK

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The workshop presented five presentations on the several components of the project and after every presentation audience feedbacks were requested through sticky notes to get more ideas to identify the effective implementation processes for the project.

## A) BRIEF PRESENTATION ON CAP-RES PROJECT

Mr. Juel Mahmud, Project Manager shared overall ideas about the goal, objectives and activities of the project. As per his presentation the aim of this project is to build the capacity of different level of actor to reduce the impact of climate change He focuses on individual and institute level capacity building opportunities of CAP-RES project. He describe the main activities to fulfill the objectives under the project- Research Grant and Fellowship; Education, Knowledge and Awareness through Youth Programme; Research, network and knowledge generation through LLA program, Capacity building, and Advocacy.

The project Manager also presented the budget overview. Lastly, he demonstrated the organogram of the ICCCAD team.



## B) PRESENTATION ON RESEARCH GRANT AND FELLOWSHIP

Mr. Juel Mahmud, Project Manager again presented the plan of Research grant and fellowship program. The program includes-

### (1) Mentorship and Financial Support to the Students and Young Researcher for Conducting Research

The project will provide both financial and technical support to 10 university students and young researchers to conduct research on the themes of LLA and L&D in each four-year period to improve the quality and scope of research on these topics. Candidates from outside of Dhaka will get the priority.

### (2) Grant for Masters in Climate Change and Development Programme

Financial support will be in the means of tuition scholarships or stipends to 20 students in 4 years under the Climate Change and Development (CCD) Programme. ICCCAD in collaboration with IUB has initiated an international Master's programme on Climate Change and Development (CCD), which could enrolment of early career researchers, NGO professionals, private sector representatives, as well as Government officials.

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### (3) Providing Internship opportunity

Internship will also be offered to the graduate/masters level students at ICCCAD for 6 months so that they can build their capacity by using the ICCCAD in-house research programme. During these 6 months they will conduct research on the issues related to climate induced L&D and LLA and will produce some knowledge products like research article, policy brief, blog article etc.

Finally, the application process and the evaluated criteria were discussed. An open call through social media and ICCCAD website will be initiated to publish the circular. An evaluation committee consisting of 3 members (1 from ICCCAD, 01 from IUB and 01 from outside of ICCCAD and IUB) will meet twice a year and evaluate the application as well as the submitted report/thesis. As per committee's recommendation, project team will start working the with selected candidates.

## FEEDBACK FROM THE AUDIENCE



- A strong follow-up should continue for those who will complete their research successfully
- Call for application can include gender focused issues arising from climate
- In addition to financial support, it would be great if ICCCAD provides technical support (i.e., research method)
- The opportunity of internship should go beyond IUB
- Maintaining gender balance

## C) PRESENTATION ON YOUTH PROGRAMME

Mr Shohail Bin Saifullah, Youth Focal, ICCCAD briefly discussed regarding the youth programme of the CAP-RES project. According to his presentation the youth part has two component; Rise Mentorship and Youth innovation fund. The RISE programme includes training programme for the youth to exchange knowledge. The agenda is to build the capacity of the youth so that they can interact with policymakers and decision makers to discuss climate policies in the country. Two individuals will be selected to represent themselves as young negotiators at UN conventions.



RISE Mentorship Programme



- 1- Youth Fund to Incubate RISE Participants
- 2- Youth Fund for Sponsoring Innovative Idea/ Campaign Competitions for University Clubs
- 3- Youth Fund to Catalyze Youth Projects

## FEEDBACK FROM THE AUDIENCE

- Ensure inclusion of youth from remote areas as well as specially promote capacity building of girls from those places should consider in high priority
- Terms of references for every innovation fund should be clear
- Foster healthy competition while encouraging youth groups/networks to complement coordination with each other
- This program should be meaningful to youth organizations in remote area
- All Gender and PWD should be ensured on selection process
- The participants should be involved in action research, dialogue, roundtable etc.
- The participants should get long term recognition
- The innovation fund should be monitored strongly
- Duplication should not let happen between the youth and capacity building programs
- The fellowship program can be like this- 1st year: local level mentorship program, 2nd year: selective youth participant can be a mentor for next generation and 3rd year: engaging them at local level to national level





## D) PRESENTATION ON LOCALLY LED ADAPATATION (LLA)

Mr. Savio Rousseau Rozario, Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) Focal, ICCCAD presented a tentative plan of LLA program. He started with providing a brief overview of LLA program. The LLA program of the project includes-



The research is an important part of the LLA program. He shared the idea of how to select the research location. The idea is to select the climate hotspots of the country. The research will also render special focus on women, child, and youth.

## FEEDBACK FROM THE AUDIENCE

- Forest department officials can also brief on early warning systems and how they can coordinate or provide shelter for fisherman who are caught in the storm while out fishing
- More policy makers/local government representative should be included in the project
- Knowledge sharing plan should be linked with project log-frame. If so, we can see where from sharing of knowledge is being impacted over time.
- Study can be done on local best practices on climate change adaptation
- Prioritize vulnerable location where academia and practitioners give less attention
- The Publications media should be more accessible for the youth
- The project can do partnership with a youth-led organization at rural area to execute the Action Research
- Capacity building of the local level stakeholders through LLA is a must need.
- Ensure that ICCCAD is not duplicating existing work, rather identifying gaps, in policy implementation scaling up of sustainable practices etc.



## (E) PRESENTATION ON CAPACITY BUILDING & ADVOCACY



Mr. S M Saify Iqbal, Capacity Building Focal, ICCCAD presented the capacity building activities under the CAP-RES project. The border topics of the capacity building part are Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) and Loss and Damage (L&D). Building capacity on LLA will ensure accountability and transparency. And L&D will less the confusion among people between addressing adaptation and addressing Loss and Damage and also support in accessing the L&D Finance. Topics covered under LLA and L&D were also discussed in the presentation. As part of the advocacy plan, policy dialogues will be conducted and side events at COP will be organized- Mr. S M Saify Iqbal added.

## FEEDBACK FROM THE AUDIENCE

- Target people of LLA need to clarify well.
- Local level innovation is more responsive to the challenges faced by women and girls
- Need assessment for the target groups (vary accordingly) to design tailor-made sessions
- The project should document the challenges and learning while dealing with the local government representative as relationship building is quite difficult with them
- The project should document the best practice and weak practice (What worked well and what won't) in the short courses.
- The advocacy initiatives are great



## (F) PRESENTATION ON COMMUNICATION

Mr. Magnus Mayeen Ahmed, Communication Focal of ICCCAD presented the communications and branding strategy of the project. He stated that key messages from various activities of the project will be showcased on social media following a specific template with a view to increasing awareness. The planned activities include posting success stories, email campaign, Facebook boosting. The progress of the communications strategy will be assessed through social media reach, social media engagement, and the number of the followers. The branding strategy was also discussed.

The logo guidelines will be finalized to create a recognizable brand strategy and project's color palette will also be finalized withing the colors of ICCCAD and SIDA

### FEEDBACK FROM THE AUDIENCE

**"Instagram should include in communication strategy as its international reach is high"**





## Remarks from the funding agency

After listing all the presentation and feedbacks Ms. Nayoka, first secretary of Embassy of Sweden shared her remarks. Acknowledging the contribution of ICCCAD to capacity building and knowledge production, she advised to focus on measuring the impacts of capacity building. She urged to focus on ensuring the sustainability of the projects. Lastly, she suggested organizing reflection meeting frequently to conduct self-assessment



## Closing of the workshop

Prof. Saleemul Huq closed the event with his closing remarks saying that “the problem of climate change has just begun and no country in the world is fully prepared to deal with the disastrous impacts of climate change alone. But it is a matter of pride that Bangladesh is ahead in terms of acknowledging the climate change issues through taking actions.” Dr. Huq also addressed the need to engage the youth to prepare them as the future negotiators. He also mentioned that CAP-RES project will build the capacity of the multi actor to strength the resilience.

## ANNEX : PARTICIPANTS LIST

SL	Name	Designation	Organization
1	Nayoka M. Backstrom	First Secretary	Embassy of Sweden
2	Rehana Khan	Senior Programme Officer, Gender Equality, Democracy and human rights	Embassy of Sweden
3	Mostafizur Rahman	Programme Officer	Embassy of Sweden
4	Prof. Dr. M. Omar Rahman	Pro. Vice Chancellor	Independent University (IUB)
5	Dr. Saleemul Huq	Director	ICCCAD
6	Dr. Mizan R Khan	Deputy Director	ICCCAD
7	Sarder Shafiqul Alam	Program Coordinator	ICCCAD
8	Juel Mahmud	Project manager	ICCCAD
9	Maria Aktar	Assistant Project Manager	ICCCAD
10	S.M. Saify Iqbal	Program Coordinator, CB	ICCCAD
11	Sumaiya Binte Selim	Program Coordinator, Gender	ICCCAD
12	Fahad Hossain	Program Coordinator, LUCCC	ICCCAD
13	Adiba Binte Kamal	Program Coordinator, Resilient	ICCCAD
14	Shohail bin Saifullah	Program Coordinator, Youth	ICCCAD
15	Magnus Mayeen Ahmed	Program Coordinator, Communication	ICCCAD
16	Farhin Rahman Reeda	Research Officer	ICCCAD
17	Madiha Chowdury	Senior Research Officer	ICCCAD
18	Noor E Elahi	Program Coordinator, Partnership	ICCCAD
19	Nusrat Noushin	Program Coordinator, L&D	ICCCAD
20	Savio Rousseau Rozario	Program Coordinator. LLA	ICCCAD
21	Sarah Farheen Khan	Program Coordinator, NBS	ICCCAD
22	Tasfia Tasnim	Program Coordinator	ICCCAD
23	Mohzabeen Mahfuz	Research Officer	ICCCAD
24	Habibur Rahman	Research Officer, CB	ICCCAD
25	Rawnak Jahan khan Ranon	Research Officer	ICCCAD
26	Afsara binte Mirza	Research officer	ICCCAD
27	Md. Hafizur Rahman	Program Coordinator	ICCCAD
28	Dr. Nazneen Islam Khan	Program Coordinator, Health	ICCCAD
29	Maliha masfiqua Malek	Research Officer	ICCCAD
30	Md. Mehedi Hasan Tuhin	Web & IT Officer	ICCCAD
31	Md. Ahsan Habib	IT support Officer	ICCCAD
32	Naznine Nahar	Project Officer	ICCCAD
33	Mahira Rodoshee	Research Associate	ICCCAD
34	Gousia Islam Keye	Research Associate	ICCCAD
35	Fateen Fateh	Program Assistant	ICCCAD
36	Fauzia Ahmed	Intern	ICCCAD
37	Afra Sayara Rahman	Intern	ICCCAD
38	Abu Kaium Aunik	Intern	ICCCAD
39	Allin Mohona Biswas	Intern	ICCCAD
40	Yasar Ahmed	Intern	ICCCAD
41	David Maartensoon Dilrosun	Visiting Researcher	ICCCAD