



National Community-Based Adaptation:

Communicating CBA from the
Local to National to
International Level

2nd National Conference (NCBA 2)
19-20 April 2014
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Conference proceedings

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Abbreviations

Action Research for Community Adaptation in Bangladesh	ARCAB
Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies	BCAS
Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre	BDPC
Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies	BIDS
Bangladesh Water Development Board	BWDB
Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services	CEGIS
Climate Change Adaptation	CCA
Climate Smart Disaster Risk Management	CSDRM
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research	CGIAR
Community Based Adaptation	CBA
Comprehensive Disaster Management Programme	CDMP
Disaster and Climate Risk Management	DCRM
Disaster Risk Reduction	DRR
Gana Unnayan Kendra	GUK
General Economics Division	GED
Global Environment Fund	GEF
Independent University, Bangladesh	IUB
Institute of Water Modelling	IWM
International Centre for Climate Change and Development	ICCCAD
International Institute for Environment and Development	IIED
National Community Based Adaptation	NCBA
Non-Governmental Organizations	NGOs
Poverty-Environment-Climate Mainstreaming	PECM
Programme Partnership Arrangement	PPA
Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service	RDRS
Voluntary Service Overseas	VSO

Background to the Conference Series

Community-based adaptation (CBA) in response to climate change recognizes that long-term environmental knowledge, resilience and capacity are embedded in societies and cultures. As such, this focus has been on empowering communities to take action using their own decision-making processes. Efforts are being made to develop participatory methodologies, raise awareness of climate change and foster adaptive capacity. This is particularly important for Bangladesh in particular, which is especially vulnerable to climate change and its ensuing impacts.

Sharing experience and knowledge from pilot activities amongst practitioners, policymakers, researchers, funders and the communities at risk is essential. In this respect, the first National Community Based Adaptation (NCBA) Conference served to bring together such individuals to share research, best practices while also promoting synergies between different groups. It provided an opportunity to collect and share local level adaptation practices and knowledge so that successful practices of CBA could be integrated and disseminated at the national scale. The Conference took place at the Spectra Convention Centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and was organized by the Action Research for Community Adaptation in Bangladesh (ARCAB) and by the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS).

The goal of the Second NCBA Conference was to mainstream CBA practices through communication and knowledge management. The second conference that took place from 19-20 April 2014 was organized by ARCAB, BCAS, the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD). It took place again at the Spectra Convention Centre in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and involved both international and national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) alongside government ministries and inter-governmental bodies. This year's event was co-sponsored by ActionAid Bangladesh, CARE Bangladesh, Caritas, Christian Aid, Concern Worldwide, Islamic Relief Bangladesh, Muslim Aid, UK Aid, Voluntary Service Overseas and WaterAid Bangladesh.

Objectives of the Local and National Level CBA Conference

- Evaluate best CBA practices of different regions
- Promote successful CBA practices to other areas where applicable
- Develop common understanding on CBA among stakeholders
- Develop increased communication among the stakeholders
- Develop strong outreach component of disseminating CBA

Expected Outcomes

- Knowledge sharing amongst all relevant actors in Bangladesh
- Engagement with relevant policy makers
- Message from Bangladesh to the Eighth Annual CBA Conference in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 28-30 April

Prior to the National conference in Dhaka, the fifth Divisional CBA Conference was held on 19 February 2014 at Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS). The conference was organized by CARE Bangladesh, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Begum Rokeya

University and ARCAB. The divisional conferences have been organized by ARCAB and several Action Partners in the past. The first division conference was held in Rajshahi in 2011, the second in Khulna, third in Sylhet, and the fourth in Patuakhali. These sub-national conferences have helped in mainstreaming CBA practices through communication and knowledge management. Further reinforced by the national conference, divisional conferences have also been a tool to link the local to the national.

The national conference was attended by a wide range of policymakers, non-government organizations, research and policy institutes, those funding CBA initiatives, academics, government officials involved in adaptation and practitioners with grassroots experience of adaptation projects. In total, approximately 300 participants attended.