



Report of the Mahanadi state level stakeholders workshop, 7th February 2015



DECCMA India team



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About DECCMA Working Papers

This series is based on the work of the Deltas, Vulnerability and Climate Change: Migration and Adaptation (DECCMA) project, funded by Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) through the **Collaborative Adaptation Research Initiative in Africa and Asia (CARIAA)**. CARIAA aims to build the resilience of vulnerable populations and their livelihoods in three climate change hot spots in Africa and Asia. The program supports collaborative research to inform adaptation policy and practice.

Titles in this series are intended to share initial findings and lessons from research studies commissioned by the program. Papers are intended to foster exchange and dialogue within science and policy circles concerned with climate change adaptation in vulnerability hotspots. As an interim output of the DECCMA project, they have not undergone an external review process. Opinions stated are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the policies or opinions of IDRC, DFID, or partners. Feedback is welcomed as a means to strengthen these works: some may later be revised for peer-reviewed publication.

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**Proceedings of DECCMA India State level stakeholder workshop held on
7th February 2015 at The New Marrion Bhubaneswar,India**

A state level stake holder workshop was held on 7th February 2015 at New Marrion, Bhubaneswar for Mahanadi delta. The objective of the workshop was to sensitize different stakeholders about the DECCMA project and to seek their participation for collecting & collating data and information relevant to the project. The meeting was attended by the representatives from Jadavpur University(JU),Country Lead DECCMA–India, Chilika Development Authority, Department of Health & Family Welfare, Odisha State Disaster Management Authority(OSDMA), ICZM Project-Odisha, Water Resource Department, Forest and Environment Department, Department of Revenue and Disaster Management, Experts, Scientists, Academicians, leading NGOs and representative from NET-COAST which is confederation of 10 local NGOs. There were 48 participants from 23 organisations in the workshop (the list of participants is appended with this report). For better understanding and participation of the stakeholder workshop the deliberation was in local language i.e. Odia.

Objectives of the Workshop

The objective of the workshop was to sensitize them about the project and to get the following inputs from the diverse participants.

- What they would want from the project that would be relevant to the issues / problems in the case areas
- What are the problems / issues / challenges that prevent issues being effectively addressed?
- What their priorities are that are relevant to the project
- What the best method of engagement would be between them and the project
- Are there any stakeholders who are not present but are relevant

- To get preliminary ideas about governance issues / barriers to policy and legal implementation ((WT 1.2 and 1.3)
- Identification of / discussion of national adaptation options (including identification of key pieces of literature that shape policy makers choices/decision making) and introduce idea of doing this at different time horizons (WT6.1.2)
- Scope adaptation finance initiatives (WT6.6.1)
- Preliminary thoughts on conceptualisation of relationship between biophysical and socio-economic drivers of migration (5.1)
- Start to engage stakeholders to buy into the project and to think about the end point i.e. the development of adaptation fund proposals.

The structure (Agenda) of the meeting is appended with this report.

The workshop started with the welcome address by Mr. G.Rajesh, IFS, Addl. Chief Executive, Chilika Development Authority, Bhubaneswar. This was followed by self introduction of the participants.

Dr. Tuhin Ghosh, Country Lead DECCMA–India, Jadavpur University (JU), Kolkata, India gave a

PowerPoint presentation on the DECCMA Project. Considering the fact that the stakeholders present were hailing from different fields and expertise, he introduced the multidisciplinary approach of the DECCMA project and explained in detail the Objectives, Work Packages, Areas of focus, Adaptation, Migration & Gender specific issues, expected Outcomes and more importantly what could be best possible role of the participants and their engagement in the DECCMA project.

This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation by Dr. A. K Pattnaik, IFS, Chief Executive, Chilika Development Authority on the Mahanadi Delta. He introduced the expanses of Mahanadi delta, the geomorphology, socio-economic issues, the possible stakeholders from the delta, livelihood, disaster and its impact on the Mahanadi delta and the people. He also mentioned about the biodiversity and important coastal ecosystem in Mahanadi delta. At the end of his presentation he elaborated the data requirement in connection with the implementation of the project and requested all the participants to extend their cooperation to sharing data for the smooth implementation of the project.

This was followed by an Oral presentation on Adaptation Plan in Odisha by Dr. Kamal Lochan Mishra, Chief General Manager, OSDMA, Government of Odisha. He discussed the adaptation options under this sector. He explained in detail about how adaptation and preparedness could make a lot of difference. He cited the example of super cyclone which divested the Odisha coast including the Mahanadi delta in the year 1999 and claimed 9000 valuable human lives. Whereas due to preparedness and evacuation of the villagers from the vulnerable areas to multipurpose cyclone shelters during the serious cyclonic storms Phailin and Hudhud which were encountered in the years 2013 and 2014 respectively, there was no loss of human lives. He explained in detail the disaster adaptation and mitigation measures under climate change action plan of Government of Odisha and the role of Odisha Disaster Management Authority.

This was followed by a PowerPoint Presentation on alternative livelihood under ICZM Project-Odisha by Dr. N.C.Biswal, Fisheries Expert, ICZMP, Odisha. He explained how the livelihood of local fishing community in Mahanadi delta is adversely affected due to various conservation measures and depletion of the stock. For conservation of Olive Ridley the ban on fishing is clamped for more than five months. One of the objectives of the ICZM Project is to create alternate livelihood for the fishing community. He explained the various livelihood programs that have been carried out under the project like; hygienic dry fish making, poultry, dairy, marketing, community based ecotourism, freshwater fish culture etc. He mentioned that these pilot activities are carried out through 700 self-help groups in the fishing villages whose livelihood is adversely affected due to ban on fishing.

This was followed by a PowerPoint Presentation by Mr. Durga Prasad Das, Secretary, Pallishree, Convener NET-Coast, a consortium of ten NGOs working in Mahanadi delta areas. He explained the activities that are being carried out by NET-Coast. He presented various socio-economic issues including livelihood of the Mahanadi delta community. He also mentioned that, water logging is a bigger problem for the community in addition to the frequent flooding and cyclone. He also explained the various adaptation measures by the community from the Mahanadi delta areas.

Group Work

The participants were divided into four groups and the following issues were discussed and each group was asked to make a presentation based on the outcome of the discussion. The list of the participants of each group is appended with this report.

- Identify the reasons for migration in Mahanadi delta
- Preliminary thoughts on conceptualisation of relationship between biophysical and socio-economic drivers of migration
- Identify national / state adaptation options (including identification of key pieces of literature that shape policy makers choices/decision making) and introduce idea of doing this at different time horizons
- What are the problems / issues / challenges that prevent issues being effectively addressed, or policy choices being implemented?
- Are there problems with governance (legal, institutional, policy) framework that promote or inhibit certain kinds of adaptation by people in the case areas?
- Get preliminary ideas about governance issues / barriers to policy and legal implementation

Each group recorded the outcome of the discussion on above issues on a flip chart and made a presentation. They selected a group leader who made the presentation on behalf of the group. The summary of the findings of the groups is as follows;

- There has been an increase in frequency and intensity of extreme climatic event like cyclones, floods and drought. They cited the example of occurrence of super cyclone in 1999 and two severe cyclonic storms i.e. Phalin and Hudhud during 2013 and 2014, which indicates that the extreme climatic events are becoming more frequent.
- Due to salinization, the cultivation of paddy which happens to be a major crop of the deltaic area is adversely affected.
- Change in cropping pattern and decrease of productivity
- Decrease in fishery resources due to un-sustainable fishery practices
- The educated people are migrating out of the village to the cities within and outside the state for better employment opportunity and better education and health services.
- Due to coastal erosion some of the villages like Satabhaya, Podompeta, Penta, Ramayapatna are severely affected. The villagers from Satabhaya are relocated by the Government, this creates severe socio-economic stress on the relocated villagers.
- Lack of technology and expertise for adapting to the problem of salinization and water logging.
- Abnormal erratic monsoon
- Wages disparity between rural and urban labour force
- Lack of awareness of Government Schemes
- The left behind women and children of the migrating labourers face lot of hardship i.e. the children are deprived of education facility and the women also face a number of social problem.
- Lack of opportunity for vocational training to adopt alternate livelihood.

Suggestions made by the groups for adaptation;

- Construction of multi purpose cyclone Shelters to cover all vulnerable villages
- Improvement of drainage system to prevent water logging which is a perennial problem in a number of deltaic villages
- Shelter belt plantations including mangrove plantation in suitable areas which would act as bio-shields
- Promotion of salt tolerant paddies in the areas affected by to saline intrusion.
- Empowerment of women through micro enterprise activities in SHGs mode through skill building.
- Alternate livelihood activities for the fishing community
- Improvement of sanitation and drinking water facility to the deltaic villages
- Documentation of the adaptation mechanism traditionally followed by the local communities.
- Construction of cold storage and godown

The group presentation was followed by question and answer session which was moderated by Dr. Tuhin Ghosh and Dr. A. K Pattnaik, IFS. There was an active participation of the floor.

Dr. A. K Pattnaik, IFS, summarised the group findings and also mentioned the key points that emerged from the group exercise. Dr. Tuhin Ghosh highlighted the need for active engagement of the stakeholders and to make the project a success.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Mr. G.Rajesh, IFS Addl. Chief Executive, Chilika Development Authority.