

**One day consultative workshop**  
on  
**'Alignment of National Action Programme on Combating  
Desertification to 10 year strategy of UNCCD'**



Organized under UNCCD NAP Alignment Project

at

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education,

New Forest, FRI Campus,

Dehradun-248006

Dated 22<sup>th</sup> April 2015

### **Proceeding**

One day workshop on '**Alignment of national Action Programme on Combating Desertification to 10 year strategy of UNCCD**' held at ICFRE, Dehradun-248006 on 22<sup>th</sup> April 2015

### **Introduction**

Desertification refers land degradation on dry lands in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions, caused by anthropogenic and natural factors. Dry lands cover about 69% of the country's land (228 M ha), of which 36% is affected by desertification, making 25% of geographical area. Parts of Rajasthan, Gujarat, southern Punjab and Haryana and portions of Deccan Peninsula in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra are affected by land degradation.

- These regions are characterized by low and erratic rainfall, frequent droughts, high evaporation, intense heat and strong winds.
- High population of livestock and humans have to negotiate with low biomass productivity, scarce natural resources resulting in both insecurity of fodder and food under stress environment.
- The inhabitants of these areas are economically weak with fewer livelihood options.
- The country does not have a specific policy or legislative framework for combating desertification DLDD, however, several Ministries have programs and schemes addressing DLDD in isolated fashions.

### **Stakeholder consultation for India's National Action Programme under UNCCD**

Land degradation as defined by UNCCD is “reduction or loss, in arid, semi arid and dry sub humid areas of biological or economic productivity or complexity of rainfall cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from land uses or from a process or combination of processes, including processes arising from human activities and habitation patterns such as: soil erosion caused by wind water and/or; deterioration of the physical, chemical and biological or economic properties of; and long term loss of natural vegetation”. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) adopted in 1994 aims at adaption and can, on implementation, significantly contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), as well as sustainable development and poverty reduction by means of arresting and

reversing land degradation. The convention promotes sustainable land management (SLM) as solution to global challenges.

India as a party to (UNCCD) is committed to and focuses on combating and mitigation of desertification, land degradation and drought. India's NAP of 2001 provides an overview of the status of natural resources in the country, the status and impacts of desertification, measures under implementation and in particular, and the initiatives taken for combating desertification. In 2007 during CoP-8 UNCCD adopted the 10-year strategy. This requires all parties to formulate and align their NAP and build up on key concerns and meet the strategic and operational objectives of the 10-year strategy.

India is strongly committed to achieve net reduction in area under desertification and also to make the country land degradation neutral by 2030. Desertification, Land Degradation and Drought (DLDD) issues are being addressed through a number of programs implemented by various central Ministries/ State Governments. Keeping in view the 10 year strategy of UNCCD and the fact that India has already undertaken a number of schemes and programs in the recent past to address the issue of DLDD, it NAP is sought to be aligned to the UNCCD strategy by 2014. This among other things will also help in showcasing India's achievements with respect to DLDD.

The NAP alignment will be based on a three pronged approach - Identifying prevention, mitigation and restoration strategies; Mapping convergence of policy goals of the various Government departments and synergizing efforts for internalizing " Land Degradation Neutrality by 2030" goal in the planning, implementation and monitoring processes in the various programmes/schemes of different ministries/departments/organizations and mobilizing financial resources and identifying new and additional sources of finance. This requires effective coordination and participation of several sectors like agriculture, rural development, water resources, panchayati raj, renewable energy, forest and environment etc to highlight sectoral initiatives and bring out the impacts, issues and challenges faced due to DLDD in meeting the sectoral goals. The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun has been identified as a Technical Facilitation Organisation for developing the aligned NAP for the MoEF&CC. In this regard ICFRE is undertaking the preparation of the NAP alignment document, through a participatory process. This includes a series of consultative workshops to discuss the sectoral inputs from the line departments, research institutes and NGOs. Four such consultative workshops have already been held in various parts of the country. The fifth one day

consultative workshop on '**Alignment of national Action Programme on Combating Desertification to 10 year strategy of UNCCD**' was organized at Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun on **22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015** to discuss the issues related to DLDD with respect to north region of the country.

### **Inauguration of Workshop**

At the outset Shri Saibal Dasgupta, Deputy Director General (Extension), ICFRE welcomed the participants representing different line departments from Haryana, Punjab, Uttarakhand and officers and scientist representing different divisions of ICFRE and Forest Research Institute, Dehradun. Shri Dasgupta briefly introduced the theme of the workshop and discussed the background of the consultative process adopted for the preparation of India's NAP. He also informed the participants about the first NAP which was developed in 2001 by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) with respect to combat desertification and land degradation and highlighted the current issues related to DLDD for which the New National Action Programme is focusing under the 10 year strategy of UNCCD.

The welcome address followed by a presentation by Dr T.P. Singh, ADG, ICFRE and NPD, NAP. Dr. Singh presented the background of the consultative process and discussed the contents of the India's NNAP with the participants. He also informed the participant about the regional consultation process adopted for the preparation of NNAP and requested the participants for their active participation in discussion and for providing information as per the desired content format for NAP.



Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Executive Director, Climate Parliament highlighted the issues related to UNCCD and DLDD. He discussed the various operational objective of UNCCD 10 year strategy with the participants. Dr. Kumar in his presentation brought out the importance of UNCCD and discussed the possible ways for developing effective coordination among the different departments and ministries for the effective implementation of UNCCD.



The chief guest Dr. Ashwini Kumar, Director General, ICFRE, Dehradun congratulated the organizers for holding the one day consultative workshop at Dehradun on the occasion of

Earth Day. He said that Earth is the unique gift of God where life exists with life support systems unlike other planets. Of the 7 million life forms on the planet earth, human is the most important and others are subservient to him. Excessive use of the natural resources, though, is leading to degradation of the resources and ultimately the Mother land. He also said that about 2/3 rd of the earth is covered with water, 10% with snow and the remaining quarter is the moist, semi moist and arid mass of land. Of the total geographical area of India, 47% is arid, semi arid and dry sub-humid, which is will be talked about during the UNCCD interaction workshop today under DLDD umbrella. Out of the Rhio Meet during 1992, three conventions namely the desertification and land degradation, Biodiversity and the Climate Change has emerged. These conventions are very much interlinked by cause-effect relationship and ecosystem deterioration leading to mass migration.



Dr. Kumar said that the UNCCD is an important Convention as the land is the infinite production base for biodiversity and also a sink for GHG that helps mitigation of climate change impact, partly. He informed the participants about the SLEM project which have been completed at ICFRE successfully and highlighted the Baseline Report, Monitoring and Evaluation and Best Practices documents published by the project unit. He mentioned about the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Nation Reports which have been submitted by the ICFRE to UNCCD.

Dr. Kumar highlighted the imperativeness of the process of NAP alignment with respect to combating desertification and land degradation. During his speech he said that for the long term availability of natural resources and associated ecological services sustainable utilization is important. Dr. Kumar informed the participants about the existing linkages among climate change, land degradation and biodiversity conventions. He further said that issues related to climate change and land degradation require socio-economical and political solution. While concluding his speech he requested the participants for their active anticipation in the technical sessions of the workshop for the improvement and fine tuning of the NAP to combat desertification.

The workshop was attended by 30 personals representing different line departments, officers and scientists representing states such as Punjab, Haryana and Uttarakhand. During the technical session four presentations were made by the UNCCD-NAP project consultants. Dr. P. Narain, consultant, Land management, Dr. Lalit Kumar Sharma, consultant, Natural Resource Management, Ms. Rashmi Bajaj, consultant, Policy and Institutions and Mr. Ridhima Sud, consultant, communication and coordinator presented the different section of the NAP document.

The **Wrap-up Session** was chaired by Shri Saibal Dasgupta, DDG (Ext), ICFRE. During the wrap-up session points raised by the participants during the technical sessions were further deliberated upon for the fine tuning of the NAP contents. Dr. Savita, DDG (Education), ICFRE, Dehradun highlighted the issues and recommended the possible ways for the improvement of the NAP. She emphasized upon strengthening of the forestry section and also suggested additional activities in the proposed activities under the action plan of the NAP for 2015-2030. The workshop was concluded with the vote of thanks by Dr. Anita Srivastava, Scientist-E, BCC Division, ICFRE, Dehradun.



## Details Programme

### Consultative Workshop on Alignment of National Action Programme (NNAP) to Combat Desertification with 10 Year Strategy of UNCCD

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2015

VENUE: National Forest Library and Information Center, FRI, Dehradun

<b>Registration: 9.30-10.00 AM</b>	
<b>Inaugural Session: 10.00 AM -11.30 AM</b>	
<b>Welcome Address</b> <i>Shri Saibal Dasgupta , DDG (Extn), ICFRE</i>	
<b>Presentation on New National Action Programme (NNAP) to Combat Desertification</b> <i>Dr. T.P. Singh, ADG (BCC) &amp; NPD, NAP Alignment Project, ICFRE</i>	
<b>Talk on Developing synergies among different stakeholders towards prevention and mitigation of desertification, land degradation and drought</b> <i>Shri Sanjay Kumar, Executive Director, Climate Parliament</i>	
<b>Address by the Chief Guest</b> <i>Dr. Ashwini Kumar, DG, ICFRE</i>	
<b>Vote of Thanks</b>	
<b>HI TEA: 11.30-11.45 AM</b>	
<b>Technical Session I: 11.45 AM -1.15 PM</b>	
Presentation on Chapter II of NNAP <i>Dr. Pratap Narian, Consultant</i>	11.45-12.00
<b>Discussion</b>	12.00-12.15
Presentation on Chapter III of NNAP <i>Dr. Lalit K. Sharma, Consultant</i>	12.15-12.30
<b>Discussion</b>	12.30-12.45
Presentation on Chapter IV of NNAP <i>Ms. Rashmi Bajaj, Consultant</i>	12.45-01.00
<b>Discussion</b>	01.00-01.15
<b>LUNCH: 1.15-2.15 PM</b>	
<b>Technical Session II: 2.15 PM - 5.00 PM</b>	
Presentation on Chapter V of NNAP <i>Dr. Pratap Narian, Dr. Lalit K. Sharma, Ms. Rashmi Bajaj, Consultants</i>	2.15-2.55
<b>Discussion</b>	2.55-3.15
Presentation on Chapter VI of NNAP <i>Ms. Rashmi Bajaj, Consultant</i>	3.15-3.30
<b>Discussion</b>	3.30-3.45

Presentation on Chapter VII of NNAP <i>Ms. Ridhima Sud, Consultant at MoEFCC</i>	3.45-4.00
<b>Discussion</b>	4.00-4.15
<b>Concluding Remarks</b> <i>Shri Saibal Dasgupta , DDG (Extn.), ICFRE</i>	4.15-5.00
<b>TEA</b>	