

State Action Plans for Climate Change An Overview of the Assessments

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Policy Research Workshop
'Road to Paris: Readiness of key countries for COP 21 and beyond'

6-7 January, 2015

State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCC)

- 65% of India is drought prone; 12 per cent area flood prone and 8% area cyclone-prone.
- Added to this is poverty, unemployment, low HDI indicators, high reliance on climate sensitive sectors, degradation of natural resources, high energy security – all this makes India highly vulnerable.
- ***Evolution of State Action Plan for Climate Change***
 - India's call for effective, cooperative and equitable global approach towards climate change
 - Prime Minister's National Action Plan on Climate Change 2008 – stress on co-benefits of climate actions and sustainable development.
 - National Missions on climate change
 - Impact of climate change varying across States, sectors, locations and populations
 - National priorities require to be translated to State level programmes

How did the States go about?

- Promoting climate compatible development is a joint initiative of the Centre and the States
- States to act as focal points for respective geographic areas

How Did the States go about preparing SAPCC?

- Guidance for preparations and design of formats provided by Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.
- A nodal agency was appointed at the State level for this purpose
- Engagement and support by donors. Was the role of these organisations catalysing?
- Broad understanding among the States that the Centre wants the States to focus on vulnerability and adaptation. In many cases, the motivation of the States was also financial.
- Yet, the State plans had to be aligned with the national missions.
- Wide diversity among the States, as to how they went about designing and planning

Challenges in design and planning SAPCC

- Intensity of stakeholder consultations was different
- Institutional mechanisms for steering the process
- At the Central Level – technical committee and Steering Committee for approval process.

Major Challenges experienced in design and planning SAPCC

- Conceptual
- Policy challenges
- Coordination Challenges
- Variation in scope – Mitigation vs Adaptation / Coverage of sectors/ coverage of areas
- Motivation for States to undertake mitigation?? Their own understanding of role
- A few States proactive on mitigation, talked of low carbon development models and conducted GHG inventories – but these were not considered part of SAPCC.

Challenges.....

- Are they documents of sustainable development or climate actions?
- Uncertainties relating to impact of climate change:
 - Access to regional climate science data in format and scale
 - Use of 'imported' scenarios
 - State specific climate research and evidence, including time series data not available
 - Temperature projections robust; yet precipitation projections uncertain
- Challenges of vulnerability assessment
- Connect to State development plans (both sectoral and holistic)

Financials and Investments

- Climate change actions at the State level – long wish list – different scales with different implications
- Framework and basis for prioritisation of actions
- Uncertainty of source of funding (State/ Central/ Externally aided)
- Yet, innovative processes in some States

Yet, State Action Plans on Climate Change stand out

- Largest ambitious exercise at sub-national level planning
- In most cases, the starting point was impact of climate change/ climate variability
- Involving most development departments – An act of fine balancing
- Participatory in most States
- Served to build capacities of State actors – learning by doing

The Road Ahead

- Institution of implementation mechanisms to sustain interest and consistency
- Monitoring and Evaluation – Institutional processes
- Huge capacity building needs in climate change actions at State level – How do we go about?
- Scope for enhanced collaboration among the States
 - Sharing of methodologies and processes
 - Prioritisation of actions
 - Vulnerability assessment
 - Mechanisms of coordination and cooperation – within State and with the Centre
 - Enhancing synergies and complementarities of Development Plans and Climate Actions Creative Integration

- Realignment of priorities based on Vulnerability Analysis

Summarising

SAPCCs represent a very useful and productive start

The larger question that we are still left with:

Have we lost out an opportunity for transformational planning – Re-evaluating the development path of the States in the light of climate change