




<p>Climate Change Adaptation and Climate Resilient Development in India</p> <p>Strengthening the capacities of communities and institutions to adapt to climate change in semi-arid and rain-fed regions</p>	
<p>Many rural communities in India are highly dependent on the annual monsoon to provide the necessary rain for their crops. Without irrigation, and in the context of increased monsoon variability due to climate change, millions of people face enormous challenges. The project supports rural communities by promoting livelihood resilience, adaptive capacities and risk reduction in the context of climate change and disasters.</p>	<p>Theme Climate Change</p>
<p>The poorest communities worldwide and in India suffer the most from the consequences of climate change as they often inhabit areas where weather events such as droughts, storms and floods occur more frequently. Also, the fact that the poor live with low income and rely on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture for their livelihoods adds to their vulnerability.</p> <p>An integrated response</p> <p>The project is expected to generate new knowledge on enhancing the adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities and local institutions to adapt to the impact of climate change.</p> <p>The key elements of the project, implemented in the semi-arid areas of the Deccan Plateau, spread across three States, include:</p> <p><i>Watershed Development & Ecosystems Management</i> as a means to reduce risks, mitigate the impact of extreme meteorological events, increase productivity, conserve biodiversity, improve the quality of life and stabilise and enhance nature-based livelihoods.</p> <p><i>Adaptive Sustainable Agriculture</i> which promotes low use of external inputs and greater use of indigenous seeds to increase land productivity and reduce the cost of cultivation. This is combined with agro-meteorology and water budgeting to make agriculture sustainable, efficient and adaptive.</p> <p><i>Agro-meteorology</i> uniquely combines locale-specific meteorological advisories and agro-advisories (based on village-level automatic weather stations) that provide timely information to farmers so that they can plan their agricultural activities accordingly.</p> <p><i>Water Budgeting</i> helps communities visualize and plan their crops based on their existing needs and requirements of water and water availability.</p> <p>Biodiversity concerns are integrated into the project which builds awareness in the community about the importance of promoting, conserving and protecting local biodiversity.</p> <p><i>Diversification of livelihoods</i> in areas/sectors which are less dependent on climate.</p>	<p>Region India</p>
	<p>Partners Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)</p>
	<p>Starting point / Background information In ecologically fragile and rain fed regions of India, land degradation, local climatic variations and frequent droughts led to severe depletion of land, water and biomass resources. This has forced large numbers of rural households to abandon their villages and become "ecological migrants".</p>
	<p>Project target Enhance capacities of rural communities to adapt to the impact of climate change.</p>
	<p>Target group The project is being implemented in six clusters, comprising 53 villages and 10'000 households spread across three States (Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra).</p>
	<p>Costs CHF 4'900'000</p>
	<p>Duration 04/ 2009 – 03/2014</p>
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