

Preparation of State Action Plans on Climate Change for West Bengal for GIZ India

Background:

ICSD had been retained as Consultants to support the Government of West Bengal in the preparation of its State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) supported by GIZ India. In pursuance to prepare an SAPCC, the Government of West Bengal (GoWB) constituted Steering and Drafting committees through government notifications in April, 2010. The drafting committee has identified ten thrust areas that are relevant for climate change for West Bengal. For each of these, sectoral committees have been constituted with members from line departments, officials and experts. The project focused on integrating the issue of climate change adaptation in various sector policy decisions to reduce risk and enhance the adaptive capacity of the most vulnerable sectors and groups. The project duration was from 15.11.2010 to 30.10. 2011.

Donor:

GIZ India

Goals:

To facilitate the preparation of the SAPCC for the state of West Bengal as per the eight sectoral thrust areas identified during the discussions with GIZ and Government of West Bengal.

Interventions:

The ICSD team participated in discussions with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, GOI, state governments and donors in the design of action plan framework based on which the West Bengal sectoral and state action plan was prepared. An orientation workshop was held for members of Working Groups on agriculture, water and other groups. The groups were familiarised with the current scientific data and information pertaining to climate trend; specific vulnerability of the agricultural sector and the anticipated impacts. ICSD team had series of discussion with the working groups to review the status of work groups and agreed on a common outline. Data gaps were identified and strategies to fill this were discussed with the Working Group members and the convenor of the SAPCC.

Achievements:

The SAPCC report identifies the key concerns due to climate change for each sector and presents strategies that are towards ameliorating these concerns and hence adapt to climate change. It also suggests steps towards energy efficiency and increasing the renewable energy mix. Further, actions have been defined within each strategy and are budgeted for the 12th and 13th plan, i.e. for the next five and ten years. The report includes chapters on water, agriculture, biodiversity and forests, human health, energy efficiency and renewable energy, an outline for developing a climate change institute, strategies for habitats, the vulnerable regions namely Sundarbans and the hill regions. The lessons relating to process facilitation were gainfully utilized to improve the efficacy of the process to the advantage of the state partners as well as GIZ.

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