



3-day Training Program on
Socioeconomic Drought Management through Community Engagement

September 14-16, 2021

Summary Report

Jointly Organised by:

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India

Plot no. 15, Pocket-3, Block-B, Sector-29, Rohini, Delhi -110042

&

Swayam Shikshan Prayog

102 First Floor, Gayatri Building, Baner, Pune – 411045 Maharashtra



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Background of the programme

In water scarce, drought prone areas, climate change impacts rural poor families the most and among them women and most vulnerable households. Women need a combination of strategies - to ensure livelihoods, better health and nutrition. Besides incomes, they need access to social protection, recharging of water resource, building of assets and infrastructure through NREGS and relief programmes. Similarly, wherever agriculture is carried out by farmers using water efficient, inputs that organic and growing of food crops instead of cash crops, it meets many ends as families are likely to have more secure food & income round the year. In times of the recent economic lockdowns combined with climate change, these farms provided essentials and acted as a fall back for small farmer families.

Short term responses may include restarting agriculture or small trades and enterprise while long term productive actions will include -"go to market" linkages with livestock, enterprise -such as milk business, poultry etc and developing agro value chains. Besides forging linkages with micro finance institutions and banks to access seed/working capital.

Once selected and trained, women are effective as last mile responders in the context of recovery. They can mobilize CBOs, women's groups, farmer - producer groups. The case in example is the last mile as resource persons like Krishi Mitra. Bridging the gap, these community level resource persons can facilitate outreach of programmes and assess their efficacy using social audits with most vulnerable households.

SSP has developed the practice, expertise and the network to support the design and implementation of community engagement platforms and collaboration. Close the gap between communities/beneficiaries and government, facilitating these programmes and addressing barriers is key to outreach of information and funds. Community facilitators such as Krishi Saheli can be adopted in the future as part of the agricultural sector reforms to enhance leadership of women in agriculture and drought management.

The training was jointly organised by Swayam Shikshan Prayog, Pune, Maharashtra, in collaboration with National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Objectives of the Programme

- To discuss the causes and effects of droughts on the community and finding out the solutions for risk reduction.
- To find the ways of developing the Drought Resilience Community.
- To call attention to the importance of women leadership in Climate Resilient Agriculture & Poverty Reduction.



- To address the diversifying livelihoods through enterprises and access to finance & markets
- Building recovery to resilience through Community Engagement and partnership with institutions.

Participants

1. Representatives of the State Governments and UTs
 - i. Department of Revenue
 - ii. Department of Agriculture
 - iii. Department of Water Resource
 - iv. Department of Irrigation
 - v. Department of Finance
 - vi. Department of Rural Development
2. Academia from IUIN Network and other Universities/Institutions.
3. IRSA, NRSA & Survey of India
4. Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India
5. Nodal Officers of Disaster Management, Government of India Ministries
6. Open to all the stakeholders and community.

Themes:

Day 1: Droughts & Climate Change

Day 2: Weather Forecasting and Drought Management

Day 3: Community Initiatives in Drought Management



Jointly Organized by
National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)
Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India
Swayam Shikshan Prayog, Pune, India

3 DAYS
TRAINING
PROGRAMME

Socioeconomic Drought Management
through Community Engagement


Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal
Executive Director, NIDM
 
Prof. Santosh Kumar,
Head, GIDRR, NIDM

Speakers

14th September 2021 @ 11:00 - 01:00 PM	15th September 2021 @ 11:00 - 01:00 PM	16th September 2021 @ 11:00 - 01:00 PM
 Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta Professor & Head SDDRM, NIDM  Dr. S.D. Arora, Secretary II & Head, Urban Meteorology and Climate Cell, IMD, Govt of India  Ms. Sureshjana Gupta Head, Disaster Management Commission	 Shri. K. Pradhan (IAS) Sec. General, CID NIDM, India  Mr. V.C. Mahajan Liaison Officer and Board Member, SSP  Ms. Prema Gopalan Founder and Executive Director  Ms. Manoj Khad Community Leader Maharashtra	 Ms. Shikha Patel Founder Director SD-SPARC  Ms. Rama Mathur Development Professional  Ms. Neeraj Shukla Associate Director Program, SSP  Ms. Anjana Saini Community Leader Maharashtra  Shri. Anand Kumar Principal Secretary Rajasthan  Prof. Santosh Kumar Head GIDRR & DRR NIDM

Supported by

Dept of ECE Dept of R & D
Swayam Shikshan Prayog, Pune, India

Programme Coordinators :


Mr. Ali Haider,
J.C., NIDM
 
Mr. P. Chaturvedi,
Program Manager, SSP

Conducted through




Youtube links



**Stay Protected
from Corona**



**Wear your Mask
Properly**



**Follow Proper
Hand Hygiene**



**Maintain Social
Distancing**



**Get
Vaccinated**

Agenda of the Training Program

Day-1 (September 14, 2021)

Session Theme	Resource Persons	Time & Duration
Welcome Address	Mr. Ali Haider, JC, NIDM	11:00 - 11:05
Opening Remarks and Course Overview	Prof. Santosh Kumar, Head GIDRR & DRR, NIDM	11:05 - 11:15
Inaugural Address	Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal, Executive Director, NIDM	11:15 - 11:30
<p><u>Panel Discussion</u></p> <p>Facilitator: Ms. Prema Gopalan, Founder Director, Swayam Shikshan Prayog</p>		

Droughts & Climate Change	Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta, Professor & Head, ECDRM, NIDM	11:30 – 11:55
Weather Forecasting and Drought Management	Dr. S. D. Attri, Scientist G & Head, Urban Meteorology and Climate Cell, IMD, GoI	11:55 – 12:20
Community Initiatives in Drought Management	Ms. Suranjana Gupta, Huairou Commission	12:20 – 12:45
Open House (Q & A)	Led by Moderator	12:45 – 12:55
Vote of Thanks	Ali Haider, NIDM	12:55 – 1:00

Day-2 (September 15, 2021)

Session Theme	Resource Persons	Time & Duration
Recap of Day-1	Ms. Suranjana Gupta, Huairou Commission	11:00 – 11:10
Welcome Address	Mr. Ali Haider, Jr. Consultant, NIDM	11:10 – 11:15
<u>Panel Discussion</u>		
Facilitator: Ms. Suranjana Gupta, Huairou Commission		
Humanitarian Assistance and Implications of Droughts	Shri B. Pradhan (IAS), Sec. General, CEO, NHRC, India	11:15 – 11:40
Diversifying Livelihoods through enterprises and	Mr. V. C. Nadarajan, Livelihood Expert and	11:40 – 12:05



access to Finance & Markets	Board Member, SSP	
Women Leadership in Climate Change	Ms. Prema Gopalan, Founder and Executive Director, SSP	12:05 – 12:30
Climate Resilience Farming Model	Ms. Malan Raut, Women Farmer, Maharashtra	12:30 – 12:55
Open House (Q & A)	Led by Moderator	12:55 – 1:10
Vote of Thanks	Mr. Ali Haider, NIDM	1:10 – 1:15

Day-3 (September 16, 2021)

Session Theme	Resource Persons	Time& Duration
Recap of Day-1 & 2	Ms. Ratna Mathur, Development Professional	11:00 – 11:10
Welcome Address	Mr. Ali Haider, Jr. Consultant, NIDM	11:10 – 11:15
<u>Panel Discussion</u>		
Facilitator: Ms. Ratna Mathur, Development Professional		
Building Recovery to Resilience through Community Engagement	Ms. Sheela Patel, Founder Director, SPARC-SDI	11:15 – 11:30
Community Resilience to Droughts through Government Participation	Ms. Naseem Shaikh, Associate Director, Program, SSP	11:30 – 11:45



Community Livelihood in Droughts	Ms. Anjana Sable, Community Leader, Maharashtra	11:45 - 12:00
Open House (Q & A)	Led by Moderator	12:00 - 12:10
Closing Remarks	Shri Anand Kumar, Principal Secretary, Rajasthan	12:10 - 12:40
Valedictory Address	Prof. Santosh Kumar, Head GiDRR & DRR, NIDM	12:40 - 12:55
Vote of Thanks	Mr. Ali Haider, NIDM	12:55 - 1:00

About Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP)

Mission

To promote inclusive, sustainable community development by empowering women in low income climate threatened communities/regions. Swayam Shikshan Prayog repositions women's collectives by training them as farmers and entrepreneurs and thereby increasing their economic and social resilience.

Swayam Shikshan Prayog formally launched in 1998, drawing strength from our early learning during the community-led reconstruction partnership after the Latur earthquake in 1993. The Latur crisis was a case study for post-disaster rehabilitation & an early learning in disaster reduction. Beyond that, it gave Swayam Shikshan Prayog an opportunity & impetus to mobilize rural women for large, community-centered efforts. These women were recognized for the extensive infrastructural reconstruction accomplished in the disaster-struck communities. In time, Swayam Shikshan Prayog mobilized these women into self-help groups.

Swayam Shikshan Prayog is focused on revitalizing rural economies by putting women in charge. The heart of approach is transforming grassroots women from beneficiaries to decision makers. Women are at higher risk of vulnerability across any social or economic parameters. This risk increases manifold in rural India. Lack of access to formal education, skills, business training & family support, coupled with time, mobility & decision making constraints add to the complexity of the challenges faced by grassroots women. Therefore, their approach focuses on building robust partnership ecosystems that empower grassroots women to access skills & entrepreneurship opportunities, financial & digital literacy, technology & marketing platforms. Their work, by choice, is centered in low income, climate threatened communities across Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Assam, Odisha & Kerala.



About National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) was constituted under an Act of Parliament with a vision to play the role of a premier institute for capacity development in India and the region. The efforts in this direction that began with the formation of the National Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM) in 1995 gained impetus with its redesignation as the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) for training and capacity development. Under the Disaster Management Act 2005, NIDM has been assigned nodal responsibilities for human resource development, capacity building, training, research, documentation and policy advocacy in the field of disaster management.

Both as a national Centre and then as the national Institute, NIDM has performed a crucial role in bringing disaster risk reduction to the forefront of the national agenda. The Institute believes that disaster risk reduction is possible only through promotion of a "Culture of Prevention" involving all stakeholders. The Institute works through strategic partnerships with various ministries and departments of the central, state and local governments, academic, research and technical organizations in India and abroad and other bi-lateral and multi-lateral international agencies.

NIDM is proud to have a multi-disciplinary core team of professionals working in various aspects of disaster management. In its endeavor to facilitate training and capacity development, the Institute has state-of-the-art facilities like class rooms, seminar hall and video-conferencing facilities etc. The Institute has a well-stocked library exclusively on the theme of disaster management and mitigation. The Institute provides training in face-to-face, on-line and self-learning mode as well as satellite based training. In-house and off-campus face-to-face training to the officials of the state governments is provided free of charge including modest boarding and lodging facilities.

NIDM provides Capacity Building support to various National and State level agencies in the field of Disaster Management & Disaster Risk Reduction. The Institute's vision is to create a Disaster Resilient India by building the capacity at all levels for disaster prevention and preparedness.



Patron
Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal
Director, NIDM



Inaugural Address
Prof. Santosh Kumar
Head, GiDRR, NIDM



Special Address
Prema Gopalan Executive
Executive Director, SSP



SSP
MANTRA TO MANAGE RISK



सत्यमेव जयते



Speakers

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Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta Professor & Head ECMAS, NIDM	Dr. S.D. Adhi, Scientist II & Head, Urban Meteorology and Climate Cell, IMD, Govt.	Ms. Surajjane Gupta Head/You Commission	Mr. R. Pradhan (IAS) Sec. General, OIS MHC, India	Mr. V.E. Natarajan Lifeline Expert and Board Member, SSP	Ms. Prerna Gopalani Founder and Executive Director	Ms. Malini Rajit Community Leader Maharashtra	Ms. Shikha Patel Founder Director SIS JALAC	Ms. Ketra Mathur Development Professional	Ms. Hassem Malik Associate Director Programs, SSP	Ms. Anjana Sable Community Leader Maharashtra	Shri. Anand Kumar Principal Secretary Rajasthan	Prof. Santosh Kumar Head GORE & DRR NIDM

YouTube Links:

Day 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BLTUGvnmwtec>

Day 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJrXpJWj2BA>

Day 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28Uy2npyKv4>



DAY WISE SUMMARY

Day 1 - TOPIC: Droughts & Climate Change

The programme started with Prof. Santosh Kumar, Head GiDRR & DRR, NIDM, delivered the key note address. He stressed the critical challenges in addressing climate change and drought management is crucial while engaging communities. In this context, NIDM partnered with SSP Maharashtra to give insights and experience of grassroots initiatives in drought management. Drought is a silent disaster like COVID-19 pandemic. Apart from meteorology, hydrology or agriculture, we need to know how community is affected by drought.

Most important thing is that how today we are going to discuss in three days that how we can go for community engagement in the management of drought and its impact in pre disaster planning. IPCC report says 50% of economy will be affected by drought.



Prof. Santosh Kumar highlighted that the pattern of drought is changing and how it is impacting the lives, food and animals. We can stop these while learning lessons and best practices from other states and across the globe. ***Climatic prone area is shifting to South and Western India. North East India never experienced drought, now they are experiencing both drought and flood as in the case of Bihar.*** So the drought will be a major factor for 50% of the economic losses. So, in

this context we need to prepare up there connecting the changes which we are observing across the country.

In her speech, Prema Gopalan, Executive Director, Swayam Shikshan Prayog (SSP) explained about SSP's work in climate threatened regions. She highlighted that SSP has chosen to work with low income communities, especially empowering women within climate hit regions over 25 years. ***The experience of drought encompasses and affects the vulnerable families, and within that we have realized that women are affected the most, whether it is in terms of food security, health or livelihoods and it points to the fact that we need to look at the most vulnerable households within the community affected by drought.***



Prema emphasized that the objectives of this training workshop going to be an event to learn not only our lessons but also challenges and share good practices from how we have engaged with affected communities. She briefed how SSP enabled communities to empower and organized in collectives, farmer groups and community institutions to work together with panchayat to play key role in managing natural resources, not just in a short term basis but in a long term basis.



Dr. S. D. Attri, Scientist G & Head, Urban Meteorology and Climate Cell, IMD, GoI, shared various services provided by IMD and how the extreme events are monitored and disseminate information at village level. He said forecasting is required for different people for different purposes so



IMD provide different type of the forecast for three hours and six hours live and what will happen next six hour then short range forecast from up to 48 hours in advance.

IMD is delivering services for impact based forecast and risk based warning with new different type of strategy data, artificial intelligence and big data. Dr Atri said, IMD also provides district level standardized precipitation index and this is being shared with district team and all stakeholders.

Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta, Professor & Head, ECDRM, NIDM as a co panellist started the deliberations on drought management in relation to climate change. According to Dr. Anil Gupta an audit is needed to understand the impact of climate change. He pointed out that many times we take climate change as a shelter to hide our mistakes or the poor implementation of certain programs. As drought is considered as a meteorological hazard, but drought should give adequate emphasis on non-climatic actors as well.



According to the 5th report says that globally and not only one country but almost all the countries the efforts on addressing climate change has been very significantly inadequate. In fact that is a warning sign that we have been putting our back that we have done this or we have done that. ***Whether it is the climate finance mechanism or implementation of climate action plans at the local level and adaptation and mitigation both the effectiveness of the implementation is very inadequate and the distinction between adaptation and mitigation.*** In the past decade the entire focus was on greenhouse gas mitigation. Because of the financial mechanisms and other things the achievements were quite inadequate and suddenly the entire focus has moved on, adaptation.

To address drought we need to have short term, medium and long term strategy and we cannot stop talking about mitigation that is equally important in terms of reducing the risk of future climate change. For example, at the National Institute of forestry developed different models in agriculture but that is not applied and tested in Bundelkhand itself. The significant gap between the available technological models and the ground implementation is very disturbing trend.

We should also look at the mitigation cost of drought, because drought is affecting agriculture and leading to the socio economic slowdown. But it is also equally important that the impact of drought on ecosystems and forests. The forests and ecosystems lead to the loss of carbon sequestration potential and loss of carbon sequestration potential. This will further lead to aggravating drought scenarios for the future. So basically we will have to look at the entire cycle that climate change is leading to the situation of aggravating drought.

The focus of drought management has been on relief compensation and looking at alternatives outside the natural resource management domain. However, the recent focus of the Government of India in the past few years, has more towards equal or even more focus on proactive interventions and drought proofing. So now the drought affected districts are asked to prepare, besides the drought contingency plans, they're asked to prepare the drought proofing plans also.

When it comes to drought proofing plan there are certain strategic developments at international and national level. We should not leave aside because those will have direct and indirect



implications on these efforts also, for example in 2019 India hosted the 14th confidence of parties of United Nations Convention on combating desertification.

I think UNCCD is the, the biggest policy body, a global level that discusses about the land, the issues of land productivity. The drought desertification, and also related with the water within the ecosystems. The previous or the ongoing thought process of drought, the conventional approaches of dealing with drought need to be revisited, and a new thought process need to evolve.

Give the land back to nature, how the new agriculture will have the new shapes, whether we are going to have vertical farms, or whether even if we do not talk or even if you do not want the new land users in our cities that is urban agriculture is growing very fast. Now, almost all the big Indian cities including all the metros we find the agriculture within the city is a new land use, run very fast.

The entire framework of drought, risk management will need to be looked at how ecosystem community and disaster risk reduction has to be seen in. How do we maintain the importance of traditional knowledge and looking at the drought is very important.

There are the examples of promoting agriculture and the countries like Libya and others were with very minimum amount of water. They have been promoting good cropping systems with effective use of the drip irrigation and even the Indian entrepreneurs in agriculture sector are very popular in many other countries, even outside India.

It is very important lesson to learn in Rajasthan as Prof. Santosh Kumar also referred to register in managing drought with less than 400 mm and 3000 mm rainfall in Kerala people are not able to manage drought. So I think we will need to start questioning on the management of water, or rather mismanagement of water. Drought is not just an issue of water but it is also a land issue. We need to bring the land resource management at the centre stage of drought risk management. People traditionally known that it is the land that is very important bit is because water is a product of land.

We should learn how much water is actually required for a particular crop and we do not waste water is still in India, where even when the land is under irrigation. There are people who are suffering because the people on the head side take lot of water and the people at the tail side of the canal, do not get water. If you look at the irrigation potential of Gujarat, then it gives a very clear idea that there are certain aspects which have been kept outside the core domains of drought management.

Another aspect that the issues of disasters like floods, heat, forest fire, I think all the disasters, along with drought have inter implications. Like, we find that many of the flood prone districts of the country, drought also a serious issue.

We need to move towards an integrated understanding of risk. Maybe seasonality changing and we face different kinds of disasters, but this multi headed nature also gives an important idea of having a new thought process for drought mitigation.

When we revisit our drought management strategy, we should also look at that kind of inevitable changes in terms of technology and society. Now robotics and automation is becoming very



common and the approach of route forecasting and monitoring has to be based on applications of these technologies which we otherwise call as disruptive technology. At the same time, the society is also under the likely to undergo a disruptive change.

The year 2025 going to see entirely a new source society that will be highly technical so these are certain points, with which we will need to revisit the socio economic broad management framework in the country.

Taking the point from the speakers, Prema Gopalan, Executive Director, SSP has mentioned that speakers have taken the audience through a comprehensive journey from drought mitigation to adaptation, and also looking at how we really need to focus on the social and economic changes surrounding growth and not keep the focus only on water, or any technical aspects and how these changes are impacting people.

Suranjana Gupta from Huairou Commission briefed about what Dr Atri talked about daily district wise forecasting services that are being provided in 694 districts is quite remarkable and the fact that they're looking at impact based forecasting crowdsourcing information as that stood out in his remarks.

We know that there are some areas which are semi-arid which isn't suitable for water intensive agriculture say so we have to pay attention to those things as well. Dr Atri also talked about the entire ecosystem and mitigation to combat future drought, and of course this sort of integrated understanding of risk and idea of scaling up good practice.



Suranjana shared her experience in documenting women's groups work across Huairou Commission network. Huairou Commission is a global network as a movement of grassroots women led development, to promote sustainable resilient development, particularly in communities that are low income and marginalized.

She stressed that the grassroots women's efforts to mitigate the impacts and adverse effects of climate change, which includes both drought and uneven unpredictable weather patterns, which they are experiencing and particularly in relation to rain. Drought is different from other kinds of disasters that are generally focused, when we talk about disaster management, much of disaster management is focused on rapid and sudden onset disasters.

We are talking about a very slow process in which the drought unfold and the impacts are also continued for long after drought as a meteorological phenomenon and the impacts continue at community level for a long time so it makes the whole process of early warning and action more complicated in the sense that you don't really have the kind of clear triggers that you might have when you put out a cyclone warning as to how people should sort of change their behaviour.

The other interesting piece is that because it's such a long prolonged protracted phenomenon, the drought and the response and the ability to deal with it also very closely linked to the development



processes. The development priorities that local communities have so it's very tightly intertwined and entangled with what you have to do in an ongoing basis to look at development processes, whereas the conventional disaster management is looking at a more sort of short term preparedness warnings preparedness and response. So we've been looking at it very close to development, and particularly it has a relationship with poverty reduction and development in underserved and underprivileged communities.

I think a very important thing to point out here is that why there has been losses are not adequately addressed in disaster management policies and strategies because the focus tends to be on asset loss which is more easily monetizable, and we can count assets, Suranjana said.

There are a huge amount of displacement and migration that take place as a result of jobs. For example, in Mumbai in one of the largest slum areas people have pointed to specific settlements that came up in the 1960s and 70s as a result of migration from villages in Tamil Nadu experiencing severe drought over multiple years so. So there is this whole problem of how people get displaced, and have to migrate, and those people generally end up again in underserved communities in urban informal settlements, where they're struggling to make a living.

She said she was engaged in preparing some documentation work of Huairou Commission, and she looked at several initiatives in different countries that women's groups are engaged in combating the impacts of drought in Kenya, Uganda, Brazil in semi-arid areas where very poor communities face water shortages and unpredictable and water scarcity due to drought.

The insights is that when women's groups have money that they are able to control, and to deploy, and they're given technical support, they are able to map risks, analyse and what is most important is to mobilize communities and demonstrate solutions on the ground for other women to learn for, and test out so they have this ability to experiment solutions.

The test and demonstration of resilience practices are very important, even when government programs available or government processes decision making processes which they can influence, without going through a process of testing and demonstrating publicly their own solutions and their own leadership, they are not able to enter government decision making processes or access government resources. The ability to demonstrate solutions are very important both for the learning of communities and women's groups as well as to show externally to government actors.

She highlighted the idea of women's groups and how they're supporting social protection programs in different countries. In many countries governments are working very closely with women's groups to identify beneficiaries. But during the COVID pandemic, we have seen in India in the National Employment Guarantee program, women's groups assisted Gram Panchayats by helping people to create job card, get other goods taking them to the office and so they actually provided end to end support in accessing social protections and put out a lot of information on what were the kinds of other entitlements available to families so like free rations. So the kitchen gardens have been shifting the food basket.

They've been shifting cultivation patterns, and we've seen for example, in many places including in Uganda where in the area the agenda which is actually a place where a lot of farmers were growing



sugarcane, men farmers have been convinced to reduce the sugarcane production and going for more short cycle crops. And you can see the same in Morocco where women are convincing men to move their cultivation patterns to provide more land to grassroots women to control, so that they can grow food crops that are both providing nutritious food for families, and supplementing household incomes, when the surplus is sold in the market.

“So demonstrating practices becomes very important as part of building the leadership, and as demonstrating solutions which can be scaled up”.

The idea of women's groups and how they're supporting social protection programs in different countries are some of the points shared by Suranjana. In many countries governments are working very closely with women's groups to identify beneficiaries. But during the COVID pandemic, we have seen in India in the National Employment Guarantee program, women's groups assisted Gram Panchayats by helping people to create job card, get other goods taking them to the office and so they actually provided end to end support in accessing social protections and put out a lot of information on what were the kinds of other entitlements available to families so like free rations.

So in many countries women's groups are providing, not only support to the government but identify and make sure that the poorest beneficiaries the most vulnerable and not left out of government systems and back entitlements are actually delivered to them.

In addition to the kinds of food relief and caregiving, women are providing family support. The community based groups or the women's groups and the panchayat is coming together to solve problems at the local level. The partnership with local government and women groups should focus on making a lot of investment around in developing platforms that can act as a convergence point to bring together, information technology and finance that can be channelled to local grassroots organizations in order for them to deal with jobs.

I think the other important observation from the documentation work that I've done, in many countries in India, Brazil, Kenya and Uganda, the agricultural research institutes and the agriculture extension of machinery was actually created to support cash crops and provide technology for large farm holdings and farm owners were usually men so small holding farmers women doing agriculture were generally left out of the system. And these women groups in which we saw a lot of innovation around trying to manage drought where women were demonstrating solutions but there was not enough attention from government, in terms of providing support and technical inputs.

In all these countries we've seen a pattern where gradually through the demonstrations that women have done through the negotiations on-going dialogue with these institutions, women's groups have slowly shifted the orientation to these agricultural Institutes and the agricultural extension system to support them and start providing technical resources. We know in India also, as well as in several other countries those women's groups gradually being recognized as experts and being seen as resource persons who can disseminate information on how to do farming in these kinds of water scarce situations.

Suranjana ended her speech saying the conversation was exciting from various stakeholders presented in the training and we should continue these dialogues. In terms of recommendation,



Suranjana highlighted what Prema Gopalan mentioned that the community based groups or the women's groups and the panchayat is coming together to solve problems at the local level.

The partnership with local government and women groups should focus on making a lot of investment around in developing platforms that can act as a convergence point to bring together, information technology and finance that can be channelled to local grassroots organizations in order for them to deal with jobs.

Prema concluded the Day1 session while summarising that the drought management is long term, but we need to deal with short term and medium term. ***The drought recovery to resilience process is really important and she requested participants to share, not just challenges, but the areas, which you think are missing. Like all disaster management the focus is on the visible and drought is invisible and silent, we need to relook how we perceive drought as disaster.***



DAY 2 - Topic: Weather Forecasting and Drought Management

The second day started with the recap of 1st day interactions and dialogue by Suranjana Gupta. She said the speeches were very exciting lessons and insights on drought management and from weather and climate information side what kind of services are available, how the government is looking more at in fact-based forecasting, what kinds of information are available at district level recently at sub district levels as well. Dr. Atri and Anil Gupta presented about the issues of integrated approaches and looking at drought risk at multiple levels, and kinds of risks that arise out of drought.



She said that we are going to hear more from the community today, how they are looking at the vulnerability and how community institutions community leaders are building adaptive resilience capacities to transform their circumstances and advance development in ways that actually protects communities from the adverse impacts of drought.



She said in her experience with SSP in Maharashtra, they are working on One Acre Model substantially improves the food or nutritional security or the house living under the local village level economy level as well with the additional surplus for grains as well as vegetables and fruits coming out in front. I will add here access to finance, which has been facilitated through access tokens or not which provides funds for testing and demonstrating appropriate technologies for authority.

The other interesting point in the case of SSP is the emerging farmer producer organizations, which helped aggregating producers from several layers in and around different regions villages, helping them with supply of inputs in an aggregated manner, as well as marketing supplies in high quantity, storing and selling. In livelihoods, then they get transformed into enterprises more organized labels are, by and large defined as ones which support, do your household individual families.

Suranjana said, Prema talked about how community based institutions are looking at aggregating livelihoods and prepare them to enter the markets, and build incomes and well-being and how government should support community in their work.

Prema gave a summary of what shared from yesterday, both about climate change and the shift from climate mitigation to adaptation. Journey that SSP had in the last 25 years, huge focus moving the needle from disaster to development to poverty reduction we have been able to do this in partnership with govt.

We need to look at not just what are the damages and losses, whether it's in terms of agriculture or in terms of livestock, or infrastructure, but we need to look at what are the social resources that exist in the communities. The impact of climate change, which is absolutely a global problem can lead to local solutions where whereby we are seeing that the problem of drought is then on by communities, and women are seen as problem solvers.

Need to look at strategies, especially in the drought affected areas which are socially equitable. When we are planning for water management it's not an option not to look at the schedule casts and dalits lives in a smaller settlements where they don't get water, so it could done by water management, which can be done easily at strategies like water budgeting.

Prema said, in the last five years, hundred thousand women and their families took pieces of land, and cultivate four crops. So this is both a means of livelihood and offered food security. So that's the first point I want to make that when we invest in women's leadership, so the problem of drought, which impacts both life livelihoods water resources and wellbeing is taken up holistically by supporting women groups. This has been done with structured support from getting women to join village level committees. So they see the convergence point and then more very actively community decision making. Even the most vulnerable households are organized in groups, and women from these groups, mainly the migrants the landless labor and dalits that they are part of community decision making.

It is also important that women are economically empowered and decision makers and promote leadership at local level. Due to this, in three districts 1 million people, 1 million households were impacted positively.



When the team of SSP and women leaders joined together with more than 3000 GPs to create community preparedness and COVID resilience plan they joined the covid action committees and district, officials and block officials cooperated really well to see that the social protection programs. MREGA, ration cards and job cards for migrants.

And we had a huge success story image from nearly 500 villages declared COVID free villages. Remarkable success is due to the frontline workers of ASHA, Anganwadi, health workers and women groups. Community leaders empowered in decision making could provide very much support for social protection entitlements. Community leaders empowered in decision making could provide very much support for social protection entitlements. More than 25000 households could access this because of the facilitation. We have women's groups and their representatives and resource persons to train sustainable agriculture for women in Maharashtra 4 lakh women trained on sustainable agriculture.

Suranjana summarised the points of the speech done by Prema. The government and other institutions need to look at, communities, not only as the place where there are challenges and problems but as resources and look at community knowledge and the solutions that are arising from local women's groups and community based organizations as resources, and as solutions that government can draw on, and build upon, and you've provided several examples of how collaboration and partnership between government resourced or government resource persons and communities actually enhance outcomes and impact of government programs, and then you talked about the collaboration between the government, the local women's groups and in the local committees, which did some fantastic work.

The long term investment in building women's groups capacities to deal with different kinds of challenges, and particularly drought has led to strengthening their capacities to deal with multiple shocks and stresses and you could see very clearly during the crisis, how groups that have been focused on building livelihoods of enterprise and agriculture and dealing with job could very quickly, reorganize themselves and deploy whatever resources and relationships, they had to collectively address the problems and challenges, coming up as a result of the long drawn out covert crisis.

And it is also important the scale of work that women are already doing. So we're not only talking about isolated good practices we're talking about fairly large numbers. Look at three districts in India or four lakh women who are already trained by government to do work on sustainable agriculture. So we already have some sense of how these processes are moving forward and how they need to be scaled up. The challenge is to accelerate the scaling up process with collaboration and cooperation among different kinds of stakeholders.



Malan Raut, a farmer and leader from Latur District explained how she became a successful agri entrepreneur and leader after testing and demonstrating different agriculture practices. After getting training on organic farming, she successfully experimented different varieties of climate resilient crops and convinced her family to join in her farming. ***She had to do negotiations in her family to do actually test out new solutions to change the cropping pattern to gain access to land to cultivate differently.***



Malan diversified the crops she's feeding the family she's changed her status within the family as she negotiated renegotiated a position within the community.

She is showing very clearly how that our social, economic challenges that prevent people from building more resilience to drought and how she's been one of the leaders, who's been at the forefront of actually bringing about change not just technical change in the way that she does that this is agriculture, but also social change in the way that she is changing the mindset of people within our household and within her community.

So these examples from leaders at the forefront of the fight against drought and reducing the impact of drought on communities shown that how advanced their work as they are innovating and feeding their families. They are working on livestock on agriculture diversifying their income streams.

Prof. Santosh Kumar thanked every speaker for bring the insights from the field. ***These women from margin to the centre become zero to hero. The two case studies which was presented in terms of the power of women groups and I salute these remarkable leadership. It is not just economically empowering but also breaking many social norms. So that is very interesting and how government of itself can see these kinds of changes as a positive change.***

Normally we say that water management is largely with agriculture products but a study said that 70% of any of any crop contribution is of women. But when it comes to defining the farmer they get marginalized. Suppose we make on the culture credit card system, which was there long back it was brought in and I've seen in many of the states there that time that women were not included that they didn't have an equal support. So the support we are talking about they can't access any loan or any support from the government.

Community system came as a help for support Gram Panchayat need expert and advice as so many government programs are already there. We need to link it like vermin compost, management of livestock to the public policy or credit worthiness or something like that. All those things can go to the women, those who are actually engaged in such kind of farming.

Recognition is very important and Santosh mentioned, that we have seen success stories from Maharashtra that is possible in other states also that how those things can be brought in and offline, the government of instance are also looking at that that would expose that how these changes are there and how that can be brought in. He highlighted some the points basically in the drought guidelines with equipment long back in 2010 by the National Disaster Management Authority and that guideline and acknowledged such kind of initiative in the public guidelines is the kind of power we are in the state we're willing to take up. So, if that is still missing that can be incorporated and also can be revised.

Another point Prof. Santosh Kumar highlighted about the drought manual should be strengthened and study various economic issues, livestock, livelihoods and water.

Suranjana intervened and pointed out that the money for climate change at local level is missing. ***There is so much to be done and communities are doing at local level, create context specific solutions that we discussed here and continually adapt those new solutions to new challenges***



that climate change. More recently the climate crisis has shown up for us that we need flexible resources at local level for groups to actually quickly mobilize support to adjust these new challenges. Looking at a much more integrated approach of how do you address food and livelihoods.

On scaling up climate risk solutions by communities, Prema highlighted that for socially inclusive strategy we would need different kinds of approach whether it's related to livestock, or promoting enterprises, or infrastructure. **While tackling drought management is to look at the annual plans of Gram Panchayat to involve women to state their priorities and to be able to further implement to give allocate resources of funds and give ideas of how these same programs, MREGA etc can be used differently to benefit that community.**

The role of men and women is crucial in local level planning and they should be consulted and incorporated in the budget. For example, last year, because of our recovery work in COVID, with the ground franchise supported by UNICEF Mumbai, we had an excellent opportunity to input into the ground level plan. For example, in a roads to be constructed to the primary health care unit or equipment for health care, which was very much needed could be put into the ground similarly, the kind of jobs that women could take up or given priority, and their skills are built. These are some of the small examples but the recommendation for the annual plan for preparedness at the district and block level.

The other point is that the frontline workers, and community leaders work together are astounding. For example, the ICDS units and the PDS was a hugely successful program, because we coordinated both with the block development office and the Tahsildar because the drought relief programs are usually only with the collector and the Tahsildar.

Prime Minister's 10 point program also very strongly recommends community engagement and leadership. We have technology, the outreach and the weather information and schemes, which can be helping preparedness. The combination which is very powerful and it's absolutely the way forward to see that the cooperation partnership on one hand, but also to see use these existing programs, and technology to reach people.

Suranja said that the whole idea of pulling together converging resources that are already present at the district level, at the block level at village level so these resources that we have to deal with drought, are the women's groups, the frontline workers and the officials who can come together, collaborate and make creative coordinated response to crisis.

Another point Suranjana highlighted from yesterdays and today's discussion that on the need to combine the benefits of technology scientific research with the walk and everyday experiential knowledge of grassroots women and their groups of their experience as Prema mentioned, the importance of looking at district level plans and inputting into those plans, as well as aligning priorities of communities and context specific issues that need to be addressed with the district, and the GP plans as there's a there's a space and entry points to be influenced by communities.

On mechanism of communities in influencing district level planning process, Prema said communities provide inputs to village level plans, but making inroads at the block level is also a must, because a lot of funds and schemes and decisions related to schemes at the block level. So



rather than focus only at the district level it's really important grassroots leaders, community groups, youth groups women's groups to actually approach the block offices, and to be able to be part of the plan.

Naseem Shaikh explained that SSP and communities understand the district level priorities, and then they organise meetings with the block level officials to make them like they reflect their targets and priorities. We focus on that priorities and targets into villages and bringing into the village level planning.

Suranjana ended the second day programme saying that an informal mechanism that the SSP has created to gauge the district, block, and village district and block level planning processes that's important.

DAY 3 - Topic: Community Initiatives in Drought Management

Ratna Mathur provided a summary of 2nd day programme highlighting examples of women partnership with local government and part of planning process, leadership initiatives in drought resilient agriculture, leverage of resources and creating sustainable communities.



The 3rd and final day started with the speech of Sheela Patel, Founder Director, SPARC and Slum Dwellers International said that natural disasters - floods, droughts, wars, riots, loss of land have all led to migrations/ displacements. Important to open our minds to the logic of people's actions and movements and how we shape our responses to them require long term commitment to collaborate with communities and align actions at different levels local to global to solve problems. Can state policies alone produce outcomes? They can only produce enabling environments or frameworks in which to function. Local communities and the local face of the state must work together.

Sheela said, in SDI and SPARC's work we have only succeeded when groups and networks - aggregate their actions to make big impacts. ***Solutions are like recipes - you need to have good ingredients, good methods and good fuels for making good food - which can be adapted to different contexts but the foundation of the 'recipe' has to be solid.*** Development, poverty reduction and dealing with climate change are two hands of a 'namaskar' for the poor. We need strategies to protect poverty reduction and prevent the erosion of development gains for the poor.

Sheela Patel opined that droughts, floods, riots and loss of lives lead to migration. Long term commitments are needed at policy level. At government level policy framework local communities are missing and they should work together with govt. Every aspects of the work we have done only succeeded when groups and networks work together.

In SPARC like SSP women's collective form City federations they are mobilised at state, national, South Asia and Globally as SDI invited to share local solutions that other people can learn. Solutions like a recipe. If you want to cook good food you need ingredients, fuel. But if you go to diff places



everybody doesn't get all ingredients, so you need to substitute. Frontline workers are significant in crisis. Women make big changes at family level, using organic farming and they are bringing money and getting recognised.

Prema mentioned about highlights of various speakers insights and said poor can't solve problems alone, they need to be organised, develop solutions by owning their problems, women groups can act as effective communicators. ***Trust relations between communities and govt really matters and their voices need to be heard. In turn, women groups are most effective communicators, only govt support needed to bring in changes.***



Naseem explained how they designed a process for enhancing access to government programs at village level

1. SSP and Grassroots women first spend time understanding government programs - land, agriculture, water and livelihoods

2. Block and village leaders are trained to familiarise them with these programs - to ensure that they know how to ensure that

the most vulnerable can access government programs

3. Regular dialogues with officials - give feedback and solve problems experienced by women's groups, communities and families

Community data on vulnerable families collected and communicated by women's groups to government was a powerful mechanism for delivering government resources to the most vulnerable. It is a challenge to keep rebuilding relationships with new officials when officials are transferred. We need to institutionalise engagement mechanisms disaster cannot just be handled at the time of the disaster - need investment in preparing and dealing with impacts over a long timeframe.

"Organized groups and leadership of women and their collaboration with panchayats and government institutions are critical to problem solving". Suranjan Gupta.

It's wonderful to learn how grassroots and government collaboration can deliver huge impact at scale, be it in any disaster - drought / Covid-19. Grassroots women's groups and their networks must be further supported by the government to build long-term resilient recovery. Grassroots women offer a basket of solutions to their communities reaches all groups.

Ratna thanked NIDM for organising this wonderful training programme as excellent process through and particular time to Major General Bindal, Professor Santosh Kumar and Dr. Atri, Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta and of course to Mr. Ali for facilitating this so well.

Ratna Mathur summarised few key learning from the last two days how we think about the socio economic impact or the socio economic factors related to drought.

As the drought, we understood is much more than water or shortage of rain. It is the entire management of land, and the ecosystem and the entire process of governance and how that



happens. There are multiple layers of coordination, which are required and we need to build upon the existing government resources, and some of the excellent systems which have been put in place by the government. We need to demystify, some of the technical definitions and some of the technical tasks, which the disaster response authorities are supposed to do.

Ratna said it is imp poor communities are organised as collectives to have a voice. Climate change are really affecting the poorest, whether its hunger, drought or flood people require strategies, support and network. Collective solutions to be done together and bring their trust, listen to them.

Naseem spoke about drought and it leads to migration. In her experience of 2014 and 2015 drought SSP's approach is empower women as leaders, taking them in the centre of planning and development come in collectives and network and bring changes at local level. If we want to make changes at larger level, we have to work with govt. SSP enabled women to explore and study various programmes and schemes through continuous training. Reaching resources is very easy, vulnerable communities get resources to save water need to do drip irrigation, so SSP give climate fund to address this and later apply under MREGS and get back money for water distribution, tankers. Equal distribution planning is done with Gram Panchayat. Pressure of local government also came down and a cool relation developed as conflicts reduced within communities and government and ensured equal distribution of resources.

In COVID lockdown, thousands of migrants returned. Women leaders did assessment on migrants' arrival, food requirement for families of the most vulnerable. These data send to local government and accordingly they plan to reach out the resources. Due to this, around 5000 job cards were prepared and arranged rations for those who have don't have it.



Anjana spoke about her initiatives in Latur districts. She became a good trainer and leaders after learning from SSP's approach and she is a good entrepreneur, farmer and facilitator. She said how they mobilised marginal farmers and formed agriculture group organised dialogues with gram panchayat, KK, Agriculture departments. The regular dialogues helped government and communities to respect and trust each other and slowly built a good relationship. Now officials call the leaders and explaining various schemes available and help them to apply for each category. Like Rashtreeya Anna Suraksha schme they got support for vermi bed, organic farming in 3 villages 150 women. Agri sevaks now calling and informing to give application and now they are coming to village and take application.

In COVID time, they gave digital training as we can't visit villages due to lockdown. We started meeting online and provided information on various schemes and how to give application online. We applied and got bio gas scheme which usually never achieve target. So we told women that we have animals and we can use the gas for lights and slurry for farming. Access of programmes for tree plantation, MREGS card, drip, and sprinkler are promoted accessed by marginalised communities. She said they also keep records of which date we applied for various schemes and how many families got it. They follow up with government officials on the sanction of the scheme as per application on regular basis and government officials also help and cooperate.



Ratna said as Prof. Santosh Kumar said yesterday that these leaders have broken the image of traditional women now they are farmers and leaders.

Suranjana highlighted that national guidelines and training curriculums demand rewritings as investment in building the relationship should be on-going basis during disasters and we have to keep engaging communities and develop relations.

Prema said the leadership thru the SSP network there are more than 3000 such leaders across Bihar, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamilnadu as we have worked in after disaster and we would like to stress again disaster provide a great opportunity to learn and to get organised. We saw after COVID, having trustful relations with Gram Panchayat and government. More than 500 villages in Maharashtra and 100 villages in Bihar community are already working. They knew exactly what to do to address migrants and widows, approached ration shop and rich farmers to provide food and distributing seeds to farmers. From COVI relief we have educated more than 10 lakh households due to UNICEF support and at the grassroots level support of GP we could easily achieve this. It is necessary in investing in leadership in climate hit region with women leadership in farmer groups and cooperatives. After disaster there is no time to prepare and COVID brought us prepare all the time.



Sheela Patel said they are encouraging elected representatives to support women to produce solutions. The more we understood how to respond to specific things, arrange telephone numbers of seniors and juniors. They know how to support how to act in crisis. In Mumbai we used to do this in COVID. We work with police, neighbourhood groups and everybody worked together. It comes regardless whether its festival, disaster or crisis. Let us make

normal relationship between unusual institutional arrangements.

Devkanya, leader from SSP explained how they have mobilised communities in village action groups and developed leaders in various sectors. She said they formed Village Action Groups with 10 leaders in every village and linked with Block leadership. Block leaders work with government department and exploring new schemes, organise workshop and training with different department officials and provide linkage to the most vulnerable families as they don't know about various programmes. Job card, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Sheme, Jeevan Suraksha scheme, Kisan scheme, support for widows and differently abled are some of the schemes we facilitated.



While ending the three days Training programme, Prof. Santosh Kumar said in climate change context and drought, community solutions and models that are shared for the last three days was more motivating and good learning. **He said the 1st takeaway is how the women made from zero to hero. Now they are entrepreneurs and leaders with the support of SSP. Secondly,**



Women, most vulnerable, landless, widows are the main stakeholders. Water, livestock and agriculture is very important and women are integral part of this. How to provide support in these sectors, what facilities to create, how to bring women and interact with govt is very crucial in building relationship and developing resilient communities is a big task. Now lot of new schemes linked mitigation and resilience fund are introduced.

We need to look at how climate pattern is changing. Drought is coming to new regions, north east to south and new adjustment is needed. Look at IPCC report and urban drought is also emerging and how to address this. Linking with various livestock, dairy, agriculture in drought prone areas is necessary.

Prof Santosh highlighted 3 days learning as new socio economic engagement as climate migration, drought, pandemic women are proactively playing to reduce the risk.

Drought management - how community is addressing and how to bring women at the centre in climate change we need to have a perspective in planning. It is very important to look at socio economic environment for contextual planning in drought management. No displacement and no replacement where sustainability is the matter.

Prema concluded in her remarks that SSP got a new opportunity to share at NIDM platform. This is the first time SSP is on NIDM platform and we got good learning in 3 days. To keep this NIDM and SSP will take it forward. *Resources of our country need to be used and grassroots should be included in development planning. As Jharkhand official said drought monitoring and planning we need not only effective information using digital technology but also on the same page can we have feedback mechanism to plan much better by involving CBOs and groups so there will be a two way effective outreach and feedback.*

Mr. Ali from NIDM gave vote of thanks to all participants and organisers for this successful event.



Key Lessons and Highlights

Engaging communities in crisis

The three days training event was concluded with various contributions and insights from all the speakers and practitioners. It was clear that engaging communities in addressing drought and climate change is very crucial and looking at economic impact drought is something needs to look in.

The drought impact around 50% of the economic loss in the country there should be short, medium and long term strategies for mitigating drought. Drought is not an issue of water but it is also an issue of land, so land resource management is very important in addressing drought.

The district wise forecasting services provided to 694 districts are quite remarkable and the fact that they're looking at impact based forecasting crowdsourcing information.

Women leadership and drought management

Swayam Shikshan Prayog has travelled with communities from drought mitigation to adaptation, and they are showing us to develop women leadership in building resilient safe communities. The women's groups have money that they are able to control and they have given technical support to map risks and analyse the issues of climate change. Mobilisation of grassroots communities and demonstrate solutions on the ground is very important while working with local government and scaling up best practices.

The community based groups and local government is coming together to solve problems of disasters and climate change. The partnership with local government and women groups should focus on making investment in developing platforms that can act as a convergence point to bring together, information technology and finance to channel to local grassroots organizations.

Women leadership should be recognised as resource persons and knowledge generators as they have lived for years with drought and introduced innovative solutions in mitigating risk..

Women Resilient Farming Model

The One Acre farming in Marathwada region in Maharashtra is a success story that improves the food and nutritional security at local level and the surplus going to market and get additional income. Emergence of farmer producer organizations strengthened their market and value added produce to become a good negotiator and leaders in value chain.

A socially equitable strategy should be developed in drought affected communities, while planning for water and land management. Water budgeting would be helpful for scheduled casts and dalits to have decision making and access to resources. The problem of drought, which impacts life, livelihoods and water resources, can be easily led by women groups with support from government. It is also important that women are economically empowered and decision makers and promote leadership at local level.

The case study of Swayam Shikshan Prayog with women leaders who joined together with more than 3000 Gram Pancgayts to create community preparedness and COVID resilience plan have impacted a lot and accessed social protection programs such as MREGA, PDS, and job cards for migrants. Community leaders empowered in decision making could provide support for social protection entitlements. It was evident that SSP led grassroots communities has mobilised 25000 households to access various government programmes.



The government and other institutions need to look at, communities, not only as the place where there are challenges and problems but as local resources and solution providers. It is very clearly during the COVID pandemic, how groups focused on building livelihoods and agriculture, dealing with daily job and reorganize themselves and deploy whatever resources to collectively address the problems and challenges.

Local Partnership

On converging resources that are already present at the district/block level/village level there should be coordinated and collaborative effort to respond to any crisis. The importance of looking at district level plans and inputting into those plans need to be addressed with the district, and the GP plans to be influenced by communities. Rather than focusing at district level it's really important for grassroots leaders and community groups to approach block offices and to be able to be part of the plan. Policies can only produce enabling environments or frameworks in which to function and local communities and the local face of the state must work together.

Trust relations between communities and government really matters and their voices need to be heard. Community data on vulnerable families collected and communicated by women's groups to government was a powerful mechanism for delivering government resources to the most vulnerable. Women make big changes at family level, using organic farming and they are bringing money and getting recognised. By owning their problems, women groups can act as effective communicators.

Climate change are really affecting the poorest, whether its hunger, drought or flood people require strategies, support and network. Collective solutions to be done together and bring their trust, listen to them.

Women Leadership

The leadership thru the SSP network there are more than 3000 such leaders across Bihar, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamilnadu worked in after disaster got a great opportunity to learn and get organised. It is necessary in investing in leadership in climate hit region with women leadership in farmer groups and cooperatives.

Women, most vulnerable, landless, widows are the main stakeholders in SSP's programme and water, livestock and agriculture is very important as women are integral part of this. Providing support in these sectors is very crucial in building relationship and developing resilient communities.

As new socio economic engagement in climate migration, drought, pandemic, women are proactively playing to reduce the risk. To bring women at the centre in climate change, we should have a perspective in planning.

Challenges

The main challenge is to accelerate the scaling up best practices with collaboration and cooperation among different stakeholders. The long term investment in building women's groups capacities to deal with different crisis and particularly drought has led to strengthening their capacities to deal with multiple shocks and stresses.

The drought guidelines prepared long back in 2010 by the National Disaster Management Authority need to be revised and explore opportunities for community engagement. The drought manual should be strengthened and study various economic issues, livestock, livelihoods and water issues.

On scaling up climate risk solutions by communities we would need different kinds of approach whether it's related to livestock, or promoting enterprises, or infrastructure. Local government should involve women and



communities in making annual plans at panchayat level and their priorities should be given importance while allocating resources to benefit for the community.

Technology and the outreach of weather information can be help preparedness but it necessary to consult communities and reaching the information at last mile.



PROFILE OF SPEAKERS

Prema Gopalan



Prema Gopalan is the Founder and Executive Director of Swayam Shikshan Prayog a learning and development organization that has empowered over 200,000 rural women as entrepreneurs, farmers and community leaders. Since 1998, Prema through Swayam Shikshan Prayog has built a robust ecosystem that enable women led entrepreneurship and leadership in emerging high impact sectors clean energy, agriculture and nutrition, health and sanitation in climate hit regions across seven states in India.

Prema has advised international institutions such as the World Bank and UNDP on climate resilience and development programs and women's leadership. She is the long-time advisor on community resilience to the Huairou Commission, a global coalition promoting grassroots women leaders in development and policy-making around the world.

Prema is an Ashoka Globalizer, a Synergos Fellow and received Schwab Foundation's Award of Outstanding Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2019. She and SSP have received many global and national awards including UNDP's Equator Prize 2017 and UNFCCC Momentum for Change Lighthouse Activities Award.

Sheela Patel



Sheela Patel is the Founder and Director of Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) and Slum Dwellers International (SDI). Sheela is also the Ex Chair, Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA).

Sheela has rich experience in transforming the lives of poor communities and seeing them as equitable partners. She has inspired and founded global organizations of the poor on both sides of the urban and rural divide. She is passionate about championing Locally Led Action that highlights poor peoples' action for change.

Suranjana Gupta



Suranjana Gupta is the Special Advisor on Community Resilience at the Huairou Commission, a global coalition focused on grassroots women-led resilient development. She has been closely involved in the development of Huairou's global program on Community Resilience. Over the years, Suranjana has had opportunities to undertake a range of assignments within and outside the Huairou Commission. These include: policy advocacy, partner engagement, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation, training and connecting practice to policy. Suranjana has an M.Sc. in Development Studies from the London School of Economics and an M.A. in Sociology from the University of Mumbai.

VC Natarajan



VC Natarajan is a practicing Management Consultant since 1992. Major areas of interest include rural finance, livelihoods and enterprise.

He is an alumnus of IIM Ahmedabad with MBA and TNAU, Coimbatore with M.Sc (Agriculture) in Agricultural Economics. Early in his profession, he had served as an Officer with Indian Overseas Bank for 4 years and PRADAN, New Delhi for 3 years.



He has advised National & International Development Organisations as well as Grassroots NGOs on Rural Finance and Livelihoods related project / program management.

Presently he is on the Board of SSP.

Ratna Mathur



Ratna Mathur is a development professional with more than two decades experience on strategic programme planning, management and policy, focussing on Gender and Inclusion across Health, Livelihoods, and Education sectors. She has held senior leadership positions with Sir Dorabji Tata Trust and CARE India among others. A strategic analyst and learner of innovations on participatory development, her collaborative approach is focussed on partnership building in teams, organisations and networks. She works as a consultant on policy, organizational development, and evaluations.

Naseem Shaikh



Naseem work with SSP as a facilitator and leader to address climatic and disaster risks across India. Her two decades of rich experience enriched her knowledge and insights on grassroots women's roles in building back better in crisis and disaster situations. Naseem has the opportunities to lead from the ground in building alliances and strengthening network of grassroots women leadership, influencing policy makers for recognising women as change makers and resource persons across India.

She spent the last two decades in conceptualizing and centre staging rural women's leadership in community driven initiatives in food security and nutrition, water, sanitation and sustainable farming.

Anjana Sable



Farmer from Latur, Maharashtra, mobilised rehabilitation efforts for migrant workers across 34 villages, and is responsible for successfully facilitating the same for more than 360 of the most vulnerable migrant families. 4 years of experience in mobilising grassroots women Leader in Agriculture and Agri allied business, working with 4500 families in Latur District.

Malan Raut



Malan Sambhaji Raut, women leader and innovator from a marginal family in Latur district, Maharashtra. She has contributed significantly towards innovative agriculture practices in different climatic conditions. Good listener and implementer Malan has created a Farm Field for learning, experimenting and innovating climate/drought resistant agriculture varieties.



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