



Adaptive capacity, People's participation & Agroecology

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- **Measuring adaptation & resilience:**
Strengthening *adaptive capacity*
- Many CAN members including ActionAid work with projects & programmes to strengthen resilience & adaptation in countries around the world.
- *Measuring adaptation & resilience is tricky.*
- If there are late rains, drought, floods, cyclones, the usual indicators of yields, income, food security will go down - even if the intervention has helped.
- Difficult to measure *what would have happened* if you hadn't made the intervention.



Diamniadio, Senegal

Credit: Clément Tardif/
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- M&E indicators to monitor resilience projects can take a different approach to normal project indicators.
- Work to strengthen farmers' resilience, i.e. adaptive capacity.
- Interventions to strengthen resilience & adaptive capacity can be used as a proxy indicators for resilience. Including:
 - ✦ People's participation
 - ✦ Agroecology



Faridpur, Bangladesh

Credit: Teresa Anderson/
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- **PARTICIPATION: a key principle for adaptation approaches & policies**

- Solutions must reflect peoples' real needs.
- People's participation in analysis & implementation of challenges, opportunities & solutions.
- Paris Agreement preamble.
- Participation needed to safeguard land rights, food security, gender responsiveness etc, and to avoid interventions that could harm communities.



Rasuwa, Nepal

Credit: Teresa
Anderson/ ACTIONAID

- **Empowerment & participatory tools**

- Solutions & approaches must not entrench power imbalances, but should seek to help the most marginalised members of the community, who are usually most impacted.

- Especially women & marginalised communities. The most impacted peoples are often the most silenced.

- Gender-specific challenges of climate change.

- Participatory tools in communities to encourage group reflection & analysis.

- Implementation and M&E by/ with communities.

- Empowerment is a means and an end.

- *Empowerment, skills and solidarity to work together can be powerful tools for change.*



Faridpur, Bangladesh

Credit: Teresa Anderson/
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- **Locally-specific plans could include:**

- Agroecology.
- Crop diversification, seed banks, grain banks.
- Livelihood diversification, local markets.
- Flood-proofing
- DRR, emergency response planning & training, Early Warning Systems, farmer weather info systems.
- Restoring ponds, mangroves, planting wind breaks, community forest management.
- Changing livestock practices.
- Preventing erosion & landslides.
- Infrastructure eg bridges, toilets.



Faridpur,
Bangladesh

Credit: Teresa Anderson/
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- Analysis of policies & practice at local, regional & national level may include recommendations on:
- Agroecology
- Extension services
- Collaboration on weather information service for farmers.
- Zoning
- Disaster preparedness
- Education & raising awareness
- Embankments
- Cyclone shelters
- Local services



Bakhu, Senegal

Credit: Teresa Anderson/
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- **Policy makers must open the door**

- Policies & budget expenditure at local, national and international level must reflect peoples' real needs.

- NAPs, NDCs & GCF projects must actively engage communities - esp women farmers - and other ministries (eg Climate, Env't, Agriculture, Water, Disaster management, Finance, etc) in planning and implementation.

- Plans should not be developed by unaccountable consultants copy-pasting, without meaningful ongoing engagement between policy makers and the communities, farmers & CSOs.

- CSOs have a key role to play in facilitating communities to undertake their analysis, and representing their findings to governments.

- Governments must recognise and welcome these voices as they develop adaptation & climate policies.



Coalition of Women Farmers (COWFA), Malawi meet with government to discuss the National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

Credit: Chikondi Chavbuta/
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- **Indicators for participation & empowerment to strengthen adaptive capacity can include:**

- Number of communities holding meetings to analyse challenges & develop solutions.
- Number of communities with women's groups.
- Community-proposed solutions are supported & funded.
- At least 50% of participants in community organisations are women.
- At least 50% of leadership roles in community organisations are held by women.
- Evaluations, focus groups, surveys asking "Are you worse or better off than you would have been without the intervention/ project."
- Number of meetings between policy makers and representatives of communities & women farmer groups.
- Number of government process meetings to which community, women farmer, stakeholder & CSO reps are invited.



Synthian, Senegal

Credit: Teresa Anderson/
ACTIONAID

AGROECOLOGY: probably the most effective approach for adaptation in agriculture

- Agroecology is especially appropriate for women smallholder farmers who do not have easy access to credit to buy inputs.
- Adding compost, manure and mulch to soils improves soil health, soil biota (biodiversity) increases organic matter.
- Increases water carrying capacity of soils, retains water for longer.
- Crops can grow for longer and produce better yields even when rainfall is limited.
- Seed and crop diversification helps farmers to spread risk and reduce losses.



Marse, Nepal

Credit: Teresa Anderson/
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- **Indicators to measure adaptive capacity through agroecology can include:**

- Number of trainings held.
- Number of farmers using agroecology.
- Number of extension workers training and supporting farmers on agroecology for adaptation.
- Number of extension workers reporting adaptation/ resilience benefits of agroecology among the farmers they visit.
- Policies & measures (PAMs) that support uptake of agroecology & shift support for chemical inputs that weaken soils & resilience.
- Area of land managed using agroecological approaches.



Ngwarr, The Gambia

Credit: Teresa Anderson/
ACTIONAID

- **RECOMMENDATIONS to the KJWA:**

- Require & enable adaptation projects & policies to draw on principles of participation and agroecology.
- Develop principles, guidance or criteria for climate action in agriculture that safeguards: food security, adaptation, absolute & equitable emission reductions, ecosystem integrity & gender-responsiveness.
- Facilitate increased support levels for adaptation.
- Draw on knowledge from other UN processes that have confirmed the benefits of agroecology e.g. Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

Adaptation policies must respond to people's needs and give them the tools to voice their priorities.

Thank you.



Bady, Senegal

Credit: Teresa Anderson/
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