**Summary of the GECS 2012 Training Workshop**

**The event:**

The GECS2012 TRAINING WORKSHOP was a prelude to the international conference. (<http://www.nrcs-center.org/scientific-events/gecs-2012/training-workshop/>)

It was jointly organized by

* North-South Center for Social Sciences (NRCS) <http://www.nrcs-center.org>
* Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Germany <http://www.giz.de/>
* National Council for Climate Change, Sustainable Development and Leadership (NCCSD), India <http://www.nccsdindia.org/>
* International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), UAE <http://www.biosaline.org/>
* Lexeme Consulting, Canada [www.lexemeconsulting.com](http://www.lexemeconsulting.com) &
* Eco-Consult, Germany http://www.eco-consult.com/

**The sessions and the trainers were**:

1. Integrating Climate change Adaptation into Development Planning - Johanna Kirchner, Eco-Consult, Germany
2. Adaptive Climate Change Policy Responses: The Role of Social Impact Assessment and Participatory Governance Processes, Gabrielle Kissinger, Lexeme Consulting, Canada
3. Sound Management of Soils Associated with the Use of Marginal Water in Agricultural Production Dr. Shabbir A Shahid, Salinity Management Scientist, ICBA, UAE
4. Development of Policies and Plans for Sustainable Development Strategies in Rural

Areas: Focus on Agriculture and Poverty Reduction - The Global Warming Context

Dr. Kirit N. Shelat (NCCSD, India) & Dr. Gopichandran (Vigyan Prasar, India).

The theme of the conference was “ENVIRONMENTAL MAINSTREAMING IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROCESSES (Focus on Climate Change): Key Concepts, Tools and Successful Practices over 20-21 November 2012, Marrakech (Morocco) Ryad Mogador Menara Hotel & Spa.

**Four major strands of knowledge sharing at the workshop**

1. Terminology & Concepts: Fundamentals
2. Social Impact Assessment & Applications
3. Saline soil systems and adaptive strategies
4. Micro plans for climate resilient agriculture

**Strategically important output:**

**19 Important messages internalized by the participants**

1. Ideas and perceptions follow a knowledge paradigm: Thesis > Anti thesis > Synthesis > Repeat of the earlier flow.
2. Science and scientific understanding are open-ended and evolve continually. It is therefore important to recognize the limits and limitations of present knowledge systems. Climate change and related action should be seen only as an important window of opportunity to take up large scale preventive action and enhance resilience. It is best to avoid a bandwagon approach.
3. Understand relevance & urgency of adaptation & Identify entry points, costs and political preparedness and integrate with development planning.
4. Poor are increasingly marginalized
5. Adaptation is a learning process and development planners can work best on adaptive capacities.
6. Industrialization, urban land use and diminishing profits in agriculture are three important drivers.
7. Exposure + Sensitivity = Impact and degree of vulnerability to concurrent and relative impacts.
8. Framework of integration: Overcome sustainable development and livelihood challenges

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| **Mitigation & Adaptation goals** | **National** | **Sectoral** | **Cross – sectoral** | **Community level** | **Individual level** |
| **Policies** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Plans** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Programmes** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Projects** |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Indicate
   1. Climate risks
   2. How projects can become climate resilient
   3. Climate info needed
   4. If adaptive management successfully integrated in project planning
   5. Responses to concurrent and unforeseen impacts
   6. Limits and limitations of known and unknown.
2. 11 Important SIA related protocols including SESA Guidelines, IFC performance standards, ILO Tripartite declaration, Principles of Responsible Agri Investments, World Food Security Committee considerations, Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of tenure of land, fisheries, forests aligned with national food security; OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises, Investors Network and Impact Reporting / investment Standards; UN principles for responsible investment, UN Global Compact, Equator Principles & International Association of Impact Assessment.
3. SIA is rarely embedded in adaptive and iterative policy frameworks and ex – ante & ex – post tools have to be used.
4. Soil quality and salinity profiles with special reference to root zone milieu are critical for sustainable production management.
5. They have to be monitored regularly to design irrigation and impact management strategies with respect to eco system services.
6. Poor countries do not have resources to carry out these assessments.
7. Use state of art tools for rapid and detailed assessment of salinity to guide crop development.
8. Assess the difference between the potential and actual yield to design improvement strategies.
9. Participatory governance should help overcome information asymmetry and ensure pro – poor development, distribute political powers and resources, ensure accountability and rule of law, transparency and redressal.
10. Some of the systemic linkages pertain to rural areas across country, province, district, block, village, families and the individual farmers.
11. The levels of local institutions could relate to country – specific arrangements including public governance systems at the block and the village levels and related agriculture administration systems as understood from the micro plan exercise carried out in Anand, Gujarat, India.

The most important impact of the deliberations was a significant increase in the levels of awareness on related aspects. The outcome of the coming together and the deliberations was willingness to collaborate on the aspects discussed considering the ready application / adaptability value of the aspects.