

Climate Services for Regional Policy Planning

Date: October 15th, 2020 | Time: 15:00-17:00 hrs IST

The changing climate variability is one of the major global challenges of the 21st century, having adverse effects on all spheres of human activity. Over the past few decades, the world has experienced increasing frequency and intensity of hazards and disasters such as droughts, intense rainfall events, heat waves, storm surges etc. The frequency and intensity of such disasters are expected to further accelerate in the future due to climate change. Climate and disaster risk will have its greatest effects on the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable communities, destroying their capacity to cope and undermining the possibilities of sustainable development. In recognition of the current and future climate change scenarios, it is imperative that the government prepare and develop multifaceted strategies and initiatives for the mitigation of risks associated with the increased number of extreme events, along with the measures to adapt and expand the local/regional disaster risk reduction efforts. Since climate change is often associated with sudden or slow onset events and there exists important synergistic interactions that increase the risk of loss and damage, it is also vital to emphasize the relevance of integrated risk management approaches and to develop both short- and long-term planning.

There is an increasing demand and attention among various stakeholders in developing countries like India to take into account potential implications of climate variability and change for planning and prioritizing of development strategies and activities. Subsequently, there is a need for user friendly guidance on climate risk screening tools and their potentials for application that targets prominent stakeholders. Right kind of technologies and policies based on a sound scientific foundation are required to strengthen the capacity of communities to cope effectively with both climatic variability and changes.

Against this background, TERI tried to manifest variety of approaches and tools that could help to reduce loss and damages associated with the events and to explore the gaps and challenges related to implementation and enabling environments. In this regard, TERI in collaboration with Norwegian Embassy developed the following two climate service products under the phase 2 of the ongoing Norwegian Framework Agreement. The first product is a climate atlas in the form of a web portal called '**TERI Climate Tool**' or TCT which provides development practitioners a resource to explore and learn about changing regional climate profiles of past and future and incorporate the same in assessing the vulnerabilities and risks at multiple levels of detail. The second is a **Flood Early Warning System** for predicting urban floods for Jorhat city (FEWS-J). These tools fill the the current gap between climate information services and demands in India by incorporating the best available high resolution climate and weather risk data. These ICT enabled tools allows the beneficiaries to strengthen their ability to understand the information, enhance their preparedness and for an informed decision-making at national and local levels.

The upcoming virtual launch of TCT and FEWS-J would be followed by a short discussion on the following aspects:

- How science-based tools on risks assessments can be used by policy makers to manage climate disasters to advance climate change adaptation?
- How regional cooperation could enhance the provisioning of science based tools?
- How can scientific knowledge regarding disaster and climate risks be enhanced to support effective communication and trigger adaptation actions by individuals?
- How can an effective data sharing and communication strategy for managing and averting disasters are integrated in the developmental policy or measures?

Agenda

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1500 - 1510	Welcome Remarks by Dr Ajay Mathur , Director General, TERI
1510 - 1520	Keynote address by Sh. Jishnu Baruah , Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, Revenue and Disaster Management Department
1520 - 1530	Special Address by Ms. Camilla Dannevig , Councillor – Cooperation, Royal Norwegian Embassy in India
1530 - 1550	Launch of TERI Climate Tool (TCT- Atlas) and Flood Early Warning System (FEWS-J) for Jorhat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About TCT: Mr. Saurabh Bhardwaj, Fellow and Area Convener, TERI • About FEWS-J: Mr Prasoon Singh, Associate Fellow, TERI
1550 - 1640	Panel Discussion on Use of climate services products in policy and planning Moderated by Mr R R Rashmi , Distinguished Fellow & Programme Director, TERI
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Shri B.P. Yadav, Deputy Director General of Meteorology-Hydrology, India Meteorological Department (IMD)</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Dr. Lu Li, Research Scientist, NORCE, Norway</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub-national perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Shri M S Manivannan Chief Executive Officer, Assam State Disaster Management Authority</i> - <i>Mr. Pran Krishna Gogoi, District Project Officer, District Disaster Management Authority, Jorhat</i> - <i>Mr. K. Kalamegam, Environment Engineer, DST&E, Govt. Of Puducherry</i>
1640 - 1655	Discussion and questions from participants
1655 - 1700	Vote Of thanks by Mr. Karan Mangotra , Associate Director, ESCC, TERI

