



# Adapting to Climate Change and Water Security in Asia

## Day 2

June 19, 2013

Climate Change and Water in Asia



### Opening Session

Economics of Climate Adaptation: Bhim Adhikari and Bui Dung The

Economic analysis of climate change adaptation is an emerging field that provides valuable information for a variety of stakeholders about potentially beneficial investments and policies. During this panel, the benefits and challenges of using economic tools for adaptation research was explored by the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics, Lahore University of Management Sciences in partnership with the World Wide Fund for Nature, Centre for Chinese Agricultural Policy, Chiang Mai University and Hue College

of Economics in collaboration with the Royal University of Phnom Penh and the University of the Philippines Los Banos/SEARCA. Some of the challenges that teams are experiencing include distinguishing between development and climate change issues as well as accurately characterizing and analyzing adaptive capacity in economic models. To address these challenges, researchers discussed the importance of using qualitative data to enhance quantitative findings.

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### Session 2

Climate and Hydrological Modeling: Charlotte Mc Allister and Philippus Wester (ICIMOD)



The focus of this session was to highlight a variety of modelling tools that can be used to study climate variability and water availability across a variety of habitats. An important focus was on the ways in which these models can be used to support adaptation strategies of communities across the world. The presentations also broke the 'myth' around modelling and showed how, freely and widely available tools can be used to develop advanced models. A general consensus across the presentations was that models need to be integrated with other disciplines to give them a holistic perspective.



### Session 3 Roundtable on Methods

The post lunch session constituted two round table discussions- climate modelling and use of economic methods in climate change, water and adaptation research in Asia, being pursued by the different groups present in the room. Facilitated by Mark Redwood, Charlotte MacAlister and Bhim Adhikari from IDRC, important messages that came out from the former, was the need to see how these models could be made relevant to local communities; through the use of low cost participatory community monitoring systems apart from the use of readily available low cost technologies and datasets from google earth, other portals and LANDSAT images. The other challenges highlighted in both this as well as the economic methods discussion, articulated how the lack of high quality primary data could impact results related to selecting the appropriate model. There were further deliberations on means of integrating the qualitative and quantitative models, significance of ground-truthing and means of communicating results of these models in local languages wherever the research is being undertaken.



It was suggested that creating a common database, facilitating training and cross learning along with collaboration with appropriate organisations, working on

similar issues would be beneficial towards building capacities of researchers to enhance the quality of the research and overcome the challenges faced.

### Session 4 Communicating Research

Effective communication about climate change research makes the results useful for communities, academics, and policymakers. To engage these audiences, researchers can use both their own communication skills and work with communications specialists to help develop targeted messages. These messages need to be simple, pre-tested, and evaluated on an on-going basis to ensure they stay relevant. A multi-pronged approach including electronic and social media will help reach as many stakeholders as possible over the long term.

Many researchers indicated that incorporating stakeholders in the study at its inception will help create a sense of ownership and build support for the findings. Researchers should develop a communications strategy at the beginning of their activities to identify what type of information various stakeholders need, when they need it, and the most appropriate means to deliver this information.



### DAY 2 in Pictures



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