

## ICAT WSDS Concept Note

### *“Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Frameworks in India”*

The changing climate and the risks associated with it make adaptation imperative for all countries. India, being a large developing country in the tropics with diverse agro-climatic regions and a long coastline, is extremely vulnerable to the consequences of a changing climate. The IPCC AR6 report estimates that yields of wheat, pulses, coarse crops, and cereals in India is likely to fall by almost 9% by 2050s, which has the potential to impact livelihoods and availability of food besides leading to other implications including price spikes. These price spikes would threaten the food affordability, food security and economic growth of the country.

The Agricultural sector, along with its allied activities, such as logging, forestry, and fishing, is a vital sector of the economy, given that the agricultural sector contributes key inputs and products to all sectors of the national economy. Approximately 43% of the population is dependent on agriculture as their main employment source, with the agriculture sector constituting 16% of the total GDP of India in 2019. Irrigation is also the largest user of India's water reserves, utilizing up to 78% of total water reserve, making the agriculture sector the biggest user of water in the country, followed by domestic sector (6%) and industrial sector (5%).

These risks have necessitated the need for extensive resources, that are being targeted at not only designing activities and projects specifically addressing adaptation but also at ensuring that adaptation is integrated into the development planning to help reduce risks associated with climate change.

Under the National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC) India extended financial support to all States and Union Territories (UTs) in 2015, with the objective to address climate risks and build climate resilience. The country identified a National Implementing Entity (NIE), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) for implementation of the NAFCC projects tasked with the identification of interventions, their appraisal, sanction, release of funds, monitoring, and evaluation as well as capacity building of relevant stakeholders. While these projects have been established, monitoring and evaluation frameworks that indicate the progress in work related to these projects are needed. The Initiative Climate Action and Transparency on Adaptation (ICAT-A) seeks to identify some of these projects that are being implemented in the country to develop frameworks for monitoring, evaluation, and learning from the processes of implementation that are underway.

The Initiative on Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) aims to support countries with custom made tools and methodologies to create frameworks for effective reporting on climate action

while adhering to the country's development priorities. Globally, monitoring and evaluation frameworks are being developed to track the progress of development programs. They are considered as standardized tools which assist in reporting outputs, outcomes and impacts of a project and help in establishing accountability. Monitoring and evaluation in adaptation projects not only helps in tracking the progress of interventions but also points out needs for adjustments. They help countries arrive at understanding whether they are doing the right things, doing them correctly and what could have been done differently. Effective frameworks can help governments understand<sup>1</sup>:

- Successful adaptation actions which reduce vulnerability
- Addressing urgent adaptation needs
- Results of climate policies
- Increase in resilience of communities

The overarching goal of a National Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework for tracking adaptation in the Agriculture Sector should be to effectively assess the performance and progress of policies, projects, schemes, initiatives underway at the national and sub-national level which cater to agriculture and allied sectors, as well as glean learning to be implemented on other adaptation initiatives. MEL approach is an important component of the adaptation process which involves a detailed collection of information that enables stakeholders to check the progress of policies, schemes, and interventions. Evaluation is a systematic assessment of the performance utility of an intervention at a particular point of time. It helps in assessing the effectiveness of policies and schemes. The learning component of the MEL, focusses on what can be changed based on the information received from monitoring and evaluation. Therefore, the MEL framework in this document has been designed across the following objectives; while also considering the overarching goal of the framework -

- To create a platform which maps the climate adaptation initiatives in the agriculture sector at both national and sub-national level.
- To adopt a bottom-up approach for climate action transparency in agriculture which takes cognizance of learnings from grass root levels including experiences and knowledge of local stakeholders such as farmers, communities, local NGOs, CSOs and project managers
- To design a set of indicators against which the progress, performance and effectiveness of agriculture sector initiatives and their contributions across 5 components being targeted by adaptation interventions – (1) Bio-Physical, (2) Socio-cultural, (3) Technological, (4) Economic and (5) Financial can be mapped.

The tentative agenda for the event is to introduce the MEL tool developed by TERI under the ICAT project, as well as taking in feedback from all stakeholders for the operationalization and further strengthening of the MEL framework.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.adaptationcommunity.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Adaptation-Briefings-2-Monitoring-and-Evaluation-of-Adaptation-An-Introduction.pdf>