



## Odisha Mutlistakeholder Dialogue

### Climate Change –Development – Equity

The link between Climate Change and Development is being recognized across the world. The Climate vulnerability of Orissa is manifested by the increased frequency of disasters including droughts, floods, cyclones, heat waves in the recent past along with the slow onset of processes like soil and water degradation, salination etc. These have compounded the state's already acute poverty levels, undoing development. The diverse ecosystem communities in the state who depend on the natural resources and nature services for their survival, are finding it increasingly challenging to secure their livelihoods while also adapting to the changing climate variability and extremes. The Development- Climate linkage is crucial to address in the state of Odisha which is endowed with vast natural and mineral resources, which on one hand helps to build substantial industrial base in the state, while on the other serves as a livelihood opportunity for its poor. The nature of Development, however has been heavily skewed in favor of industries, marginalizing the state's poor and the vulnerable.

The impacts of Climate Change has added an additional layer of risk to the existence of these communities. The community livelihood practices which was tuned to the local resource base and to the local climate has gone through layers of change. These communities are being forced to find their way out through their own initiatives, for example, clearing forest land, changing crops and seeds, over exploiting ground water, levelling land, changing fishing gears, changing the collection and use of the forest resources, using new skills and equipment etc. Some of the spontaneous coping methods might actually be harmful in the long term (eg. deep borewells for ground water extraction). Also, recognizing that there are 'limits to adaptation' due to poor resource base, infrastructure, inadequate management skills, financial support etc, external support and facilitation by state and non-state actors in this context becomes extremely important. Development responses by multiple stakeholders viz: NGOs, corporates, media, are taking place, but in isolation and not necessarily from a Climate lens. Spaces for cross-fertilization, building collaboration, finding synergies and learning from each other on best practices also remains a challenge.

Further from a macro perspective too, a whole lot of responsibility to act on Climate Change comes to the states for implementing the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). For countries like ours, this means aggressive ground level action to deliver on our commitment, promote inclusive development and more importantly protect our vulnerable ecosystem communities.



The National Climate Action Plan and State Action Plans have never been so relevant than now, to build a resilient society. The plans are however still being reviewed and await operationalization in most of the states; the SDG trajectory for the state is still emerging and needs to be seen together with the State Action Plans and related policies to bring succor to the most impacted. Development choices of the states need to consider the climate lens so that development work becomes adaptation and contributes to long-term resilience of its people and the state.

Despite a stable government at the state for more than a decade and a plethora of programmes aimed at its poor and the vulnerable, Odisha remains challenged for an effective response to the state's reality. This needs to be critically reviewed by all the stakeholders to explore an alternate paradigm for a way forward.

### **Purpose:**

The multistakeholder dialogue is being proposed to create a platform for exploring Development- Climate links in the state programme and policy portfolio. The dialogue will also aim to share action of stakeholders (Govt, CSOs, academia, corporate etc), identify best practices in order to demonstrate Climate Change adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction at various levels in the state Climate Change - Sustainable Development agenda.

### **Objectives**

- ü Share approaches on adaptation to Climate Change among communities by stakeholders (CSOs, Govt., academia and corporates) and Identify Challenges
- ü Create checklist of actions and synergies (both at policy and practice levels) from a short term, midterm and long term perspective among stakeholders

### **Outcome:**

- ü Articulation of a framework for harmonising Development planning with adaptation planning
- ü Stimulating discourse on localizing the SDGs in the Odisha context
- ü Forging collaboration among stakeholders for addressing a common Development- Climate agenda for the state
- ü Enhancing corporate social responsibility projects towards pro poor climate friendly projects