

Reorienting Watershed Planning Process

A Methodological Experience

Introduction



- Watershed development is a well-known strategy for ecological restoration and poverty alleviation in dryland regions across India.
- In its current form it already addresses several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), however fails to adequately respond to impacts of climate variability and change, resulting in unintended consequences; furthering maladaptive processes and rendering investments inappropriate.
- Thus attention needs to be directed towards reconceptualization of watershed development planning process by integrating climatology and participatory vulnerability assessments into the regular planning process to define appropriate adaptation measures.
- This approach was tested across 3 Indian states—Telangana, Karnataka and Maharashtra.



Approach to Climate Proof Watershed Plans



Implications on Policy & Practice

- Application of this approach across three Indian states has proved this approach has the potential to be up-scaled.
- The approach can be integrated into any natural resource management/Livelihood program.
- Integration of this approach facilitates systematic capacity building of stakeholders demonstrating adaptation planning and implementation at scale.

Adapted from *Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect our Waters*. Environmental Protection Agency. March 2008.

Findings

- The integration of climatology and participatory vulnerability assessments, help make changes in watershed treatments and livelihood options that are climate compatible.
- This approach helps design community specific livelihood intervention i.e. addressing socially differentiated vulnerability and adaptive capacity.
- Integration of community vulnerability assessments aids in adaptation tracking of projects thereby allowing for mid-course corrections.
- Insights from the climate analysis coupled with community engagement enables long term planning to help reduce risk and utilize opportunities



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