



Oxfam to campaign globally on green climate fund and highlight the issue at COP 16 in Mexico

Women agriculture producers need this money more than any other group

New Delhi, March 24. In order to push for establishing a “Green Climate Fund” to help poor communities adapt to Climate change and to ensure a right mechanism for its implementation, Oxfam International has decided to place climate finance on top of its campaign agenda this year. Besides urging for allocation of money in a fair way, OI has also decided to campaign for poor women agriculture producers across the globe including in India.

Thirty representatives of the popular mobilization group of Oxfam International from 16 countries including South Africa, Germany, Mexico, UK, USA etc. met in New Delhi last week to thrash out the future of their popular mobilization strategy and to come up with concrete plans to sustain the momentum generated by the climate hearings organized by it along with its partners and allies last year.

The meeting, hosted by Oxfam India, discussed the next level of global climate change campaign strategy in order to come up with concrete proposals for influencing the dialogue at the Mexico–COP-16 Summit scheduled in November 2010.

Oxfam International has been actively involved in the climate change campaigns around the world and it uses popular mobilization as a technique to engage people worldwide on economic justice issues. Last year, it held a series of climate hearings in as many as 30 countries mobilizing 1.6 million people as a way of putting pressure on world leaders that climate change impacts the poor.

During the year 2009 Oxfam mobilized around 1.6 million people from over 30 countries who had participated in climate hearings from more than 800 organizations. At a Global Hearing in Copenhagen the voices of climate witnesses/ testimonies from different countries gave a call for fair, ambitious and binding deal.

A series of six public hearings in India, aimed at giving an opportunity to people from the grassroots to testify on the effects of climate change were organized in the Himalayan ecosystem- Rishikesh, Urban poor - Mumbai, coastal areas- Pondicherry, rain-fed areas- Jaipur and flood affected areas- Patna. “The public hearing ratified that communities and people’s lives are devastated by climate change and women are the most affected. So, it is only logical that we have a campaign with women agricultural producers at the centre,” says Nisha Agrawal, CEO, Oxfam India.

Pointing to a study done by Centre for Budget Governance and Accountability (CBGA) with the support of Oxfam India, Nisha said a national adaptation fund was needed for the country and proper allocation and utilisation of funds at both national and international levels can be ensured only by constant and consistent lobbying.

Climate Finance (Facts & Figures)

Copenhagen accord -- Rich countries commit to pledge \$ 10 billion fast start finance each year 2010, 2011, 2012 and \$ 10 billion from 2020

But Oxfam estimates that developing countries need \$ 200 billion each year from this year.

(\$ 100 billion for adaptation + \$ 100 billion for support of low carbon development (mitigation))

As part of an exposure trip, the delegates also visited six villages around Jaipur within a radius of 70 Km for learning, sharing and understanding climate change at grassroots level affecting the poorest community with special focus on women.

During the visit to the villagers- Suriya, Suraj Ka Kheda, Badpatharaj in Niewai tehsil of Tonk District, Bapugaon, Mahachandpura and Badbaghpura in Chakshu Tehsil of Jaipur district, villagers /farmers narrated the stories how the decrease in rainy days from 120 days to 60 days, intense rainfall and longer gaps in rainy events, frequency of droughts are more, less water in wells, local rivers are dried up, failure of harvests and changes in crop diseases, bio-diversity, decrease in livestock population in last 10 to 15 years all these affected the food security and livelihood specially women in the villages.

Kamla Devi Meena 65 of Suriya village told the visiting delegates that they have observed that the seasons are now unpredictable Prabhati Devi of Suraj Ka Kheda Society of Niwai, who have a joint family of 13 members, said that there are some traditional indicators in the village to predict the rainfall in a certain year. She said that ground water also depleted— earlier around 15-16 years back water was available at 6 feet depth but now it is at 50 feet. 7 out of 15 wells in the village are dried now which has increased water problem in the village. Mr. Deva Lal Bairwa of Bad Pathraj Village of Tonk said that due to bad condition of agriculture and non-availability of employment to all family members throughout the year, many people have to force for migration.

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