

Training Program: Building Capacity of Local Journalists on Climate Change

Bundelkhand is one of the most climate sensitive areas in India. With over 80% of the population dependent on agriculture, climate change is posing a growing threat to the livelihood security of the rural community in this region. Increasing droughts and reducing crop yields are pushing people into extreme poverty. While many ongoing research initiatives are studying impacts of climate change on communities and packaging adaptation models in India but the communication of the same at the grassroots level is very limited. To overcome these challenges, Development Alternatives has initiated a pilot project under its Shubhkal campaign – 'From Information to Knowledge and Action' to bridge the existing communication gap between the community and scientific experts and policy makers through strengthening the capacity of community radio reporters, citizen journalists (village level community informers / reporters) and local print journalists. Mentioned below are the objectives, expected learning outcomes and schedule for the two 3 day capacity building training programmes scheduled in September and November 2012.

Objectives:

- To strengthen the capacity of community reporters, citizen journalists and print journalists to understand the impacts of the changing climate on agriculture and other sources of livelihood.
- To build their capacity to ask the right questions to local scientific experts and policy makers regarding climate change information which will then be communicated to the community
- To train them to capture the local concerns, knowledge and practices from the community to communicate back to the experts and policy makers which would help in making more robust policies relating to climate resilient development

Expected Learning Outcomes:

- Increased understanding of the participating reporters to discuss key issues and debates around climate change at the local and state level
- Increased understanding of the participating reporters and their ability to convey the relevance of these issues to their local listenership
- Provide participating reporters with better access to information resources and contacts (especially with local scientific experts and policy makers) to help them in their reportage
- Increased interest and confidence of the participating reporters in accessing, interpreting, translating and discussing information and experience on climate change that is relevant to listeners in their broadcast areas

Training Details

Resource Person: Mr Joydeep Gupta, Director, The Third Pole

Participants: Community Radio Reports, Local Media and Institutional Magazine Reporters and Community based Citizen Journalists.

Venue: TARAGram, Orchha

Time: 1st Batch (29 sep, 30 sep and 1 Oct 2012) and 2nd Batch: (6, 7 and 8th November 2012)

Language: Hindi

(All the cost will be bear by Development Alternatives groups)

Training Workshop Agenda Outline:

1st day

2 hours:

- Introduction including detailed discussion on the participants' understanding of climate change using local examples in the local context
- Provision of resources available to improve this understanding (link to the Earth Journalism Network, Forum of Environmental Journalists in India etc.)
- What is mitigation? What is adaptation? Where does the audience fit in?

2 hours:

- Causes and effects of climate change using local examples – water supply, agriculture, heat waves, irregular rainfall, flash floods, increase in frequency and intensity of drought, new diseases etc.
- Related issues such as deforestation

1 hour:

Current and potential adaptation strategies - migration, crop diversification, water harvesting, tree planting etc.

1 hour:

Local beliefs about climate change – correct and incorrect, including conceptual issues about the difference between weather and climate and how that can be presented in the local language

2nd day:

Field trips to test the new understanding and reporting techniques when dealing with villagers, scientific experts, policymakers etc.

3rd day:

3 hours:

Mock interview sessions with journalists taking on the role of villagers, experts, policymakers etc.

3 hours:

Story ideas to be developed and discussed through group work in a mock newsroom situation