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Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation SDC

8th Newsletter

of the SDC Climate Change & Environment Network, July 2012

Good Bye Berne! **Welcome François!**

Dear CCE Network members and CCE newsletter readers!
After being the Focal Point of the CCE network since its inception in 2009, I am now moving on to other work in the Swiss Cooperation Office in Tanzania. Although I will have less time for the CCE network, my responsibilities in the areas of agriculture, post harvest, forestry, energy and water issues will keep me engaged in CCE-related activities. My departure is tinged with sadness for leaving a job that is partly focused on what has become a truly dynamic network, but also with eagerness to do something new and to work again in a field context. I can also leave in a relaxed way as I know the CCE network will be well-supported by the **new Focal Point François Droz**, who has many years of experience within SDC – most recently as Coordinator in our Cooperation Office in Pretoria. I know François is looking forward to expanding his engagement as of August 20 in CCE activities after having been involved in climate change mitigation programmes in South Africa. I would like to welcome François and wish him all the best in his new role as CCE Focal Point!
Ueli Mauderli

See page 4 for the list of new SDC CCE trainings and reporting on CCE events supported by the network such as the SREX and the GPCC NPO Meeting!

SDC Funded Climate Change Projects & Programmes

Reducing Poverty by Enhancing Resilience of Vulnerable Peoples and their Livelihoods in Nicaragua

The overall goal of the SDC funded project is to reduce poverty by enhancing the resilience of vulnerable populations to climate change by combining strategic interventions with awareness raising and strengthening adaptation practices. The project is implemented by UNDP and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and works towards improving the understanding of local institutions of climate change, i.e. by supporting the development of a comprehensive regional climate change strategy as well as local planning and investment instruments. It promotes awareness raising on climate change at different levels and through different stakeholders such as civil society organisations, universities and churches. Also, the project enhances the resilience of smallholders and medium-size farmers whose livelihood depends on rain-fed agriculture and animal husbandry (making them vulnerable to droughts, different rain patterns and other climate change related changes). For example, proven and broadly accepted adaptation techniques in watershed management are promoted. More in the factsheet on the Shareweb.

Innovative Hydro Meteorological Stations in Burkina Faso

SDC, EPFL, Sensorscope Sàrl, the Velux Foundation, the national agency for meteorology and micro-irrigation farmers' associations are working together in Burkina Faso to test an innovative technology for hydro meteorological stations. The new technology is numeric and uses the cell phone network (GPRS) to send data to a server through the internet. The technology was developed in EPFL labs and tested over a three year period in Savanna conditions with promising results. The cost of the technology is crucial and the goal is to manufacture a station for USD 500. This cost is 10 to 20 times lower than that of conventional automatic stations. The objectives of the project for the next 18 months are threefold. First, for the National Agency for Meteorology, to test the technology and compares the results to the conventional meteorological stations. Second, to use the technology to optimise the allocation of water resources in irrigated perimeters by providing an alert system when the soil humidity indicates a need for irrigation. Third, to set up a small company in Burkina Faso that will maintain and assemble the technological components.

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Coping with Desertification in Mongolia

About 90 per cent of the total territory of Mongolia is vulnerable to desertification due to the fragile ecosystem characterised by a harsh continental climate, aridity, cold temperatures and long regeneration times. Due to changes in the land use system, overgrazing and the excessive use of forests, desertification has increased over the years. Currently an estimated 70 per cent of Mongolia is affected by desertification. The *Coping with Desertification Project (CODEP)* has been addressing this far reaching process in an integrated manner since 2007. The overall aim is to support Mongolia's capacity to improve the effectiveness of national and international efforts towards coping with desertification and to promote sustainable livelihoods in arid and semi arid areas. The project has now been strengthened with additional funds from the 0.5% bill in 2011 and 2012 to improve desertification monitoring (using satellite data and data from measuring stations), integrated water management (increasing productivity and reducing conflicts between farmers) and environmental awareness (expanding eco schools which include

waste management, energy and water saving in their curricula). More in the factsheet on the Shareweb.

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Reducing Vulnerability of Coastal Areas in Mozambique

Since the 1950s Beira's coast has been protected from tidal waves by a groyne field (hydraulic structure built from an ocean shore to interrupt water flow and limit sediment movement), but over time many of these groynes have deteriorated and are no longer effective. In 2011 and 2012 an SDC funded project is supporting the repair and upgrading (by including forecasted changes up to 2030) of groynes so that citizens are protected against flooding. Also, municipal technical staff will be trained to ensure the sustainability of the project. More in the factsheet.

Improving Food Security in Asia through Satellite-based Information and Insurance

Rice is one of the most widely grown crops in the world and it is by far the most important food crop for the poor. Over 90 per cent of the world's rice is produced in Asia where farmers grow their crops on small-holdings of the size of one or two hectares. While the Asian population is growing rapidly, commodity prices are rising and the available arable land area is decreasing. In most Asian countries, rice availability is equated with food security and closely connected to political stability. In this context, the objective of the SDC funded project *Remote sensing-based Information and Insurance for Crops in Emerging Economies (RIICE)* is to reduce vulnerability of small-holder farmers engaged in rice production in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam in two ways. First by increasing the information on rice growth areas and expected yields to help governments, agricultural intermediaries and relief organisations manage domestic rice production and distribution. Second, by providing access to insurance solutions for governments, agricultural intermediaries (e.g. cooperatives, rural banks) and individual rural farmers to alleviate the financial effects of natural catastrophes such as flood and drought on farmers. More on the project including the milestones to be achieved by 2015 on the Shareweb.

Supporting Institutional Management Processes to Ensure Climate Friendly Investments in Laos

While the recent influx of foreign direct investment (FDI) into Laos has contributed significantly to Gross Domestic Product growth, it has also increased pressure on natural ecosystems and lead to unsustainable development. In response to this, SDC started supporting the Poverty Environment Initiative (PEI) of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme in 2011. The PEI strengthens institutional capacities of government authorities in integrating environmental concerns into policy, planning and implementation processes. It is expected that through the PEI, Lao PDR will channel FDI so that it contributes to a more sustainable management of local natural resources. More.

Transforming Tanzania's Charcoal Sector

About 90 per cent of all energy consumed in Tanzania comes from biomass and charcoal alone accounts for more than 1 million tons of solid wood used in a year – trees are felled and converted into charcoal in an unsustainable and inefficient way with high levels of carbon dioxide emissions and deforestation. As most people in Tanzania cannot afford to switch to modern sources of energy which are expensive, many households continue to rely on charcoal as an energy source. Also, the production of charcoal is an important source of household income. In this context, the aim of the SDC funded project which started in 2011 is twofold. First, to work with charcoal producers (households and small scale farmers) to establish commercially viable value chains for sustainably sourced charcoal, i.e. through introducing village based participatory forest management systems and forest-friendly agriculture practices. Second, to work with high level decision and policy makers towards the design of biomass-friendly policies in Tanzania's energy sector, the legalisation of charcoal and good governance in the sector. More

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Policy Processes

Rio+20 or the Future We Want

The **United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development** (Rio+20) was held from June 13-22nd. Twenty years after the successful "Earth Summit" of 1992, the aim of this conference was to secure renewed political commitment for sustainable development, assess progress on previous commitments and address new challenges. In the current geopolitical and economic environment negotiations were difficult. Discussions on a *green economy* or finance *and technology transfers* were highly contentious. However, some positive outcomes were achieved, e.g. decision to establish a universal intergovernmental high level political forum on sustainable development, the strengthening of the United Nations Environment Programme, and the agreement on a process to design universal sustainable development goals to help define the post 2015 (i.e. post MDG) development agenda. Voluntary commitments by governments, companies and universities and the side events were considered highlights of Rio+20. One such successful side event was organised by Peru (supported by SDC) on sustainable mountain development. The Conference ended with a declaration called The Future We Want. Read the Declaration and find out more on the side event on mountains. More on SDC's at Rio+20.

Adaptation Finance – How to Get Out from Between a Rock and a Hard Place

The policy paper published by the Centre for Global Development (CGDEV) aims to address all relevant policy communities (climate, development, UN, INGOs, World Bank and private sector) involved in official transfers to finance adaptation to climate change in developing countries. It claims that although adaptation finance is about building social and institutional responsiveness to change and resilience, it is not development assistance or a charitable transfer of funds because the richer countries have a causal or historic responsibility to support poorer countries in dealing with the emissions caused by them. Based on this, the paper suggests principles and guidelines for adaptation funding and management within the Green Climate Fund and other funding programmes created by multilateral, bilateral and private funders of adaptation. Obligations of funders, the choice of recipients of funds, the management of funds, governance and transparency are key issues addressed in the paper. More in the paper on the website of the CGDEV.

Using Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Approaches for Upscaling and New Market Mechanisms (NMM)

The definition of NMM at the Conference of the Parties (COP 17) in Durban was an important step towards more streamlined and

standardised approaches in setting baselines and dealing with *additionality* in the CDM. The CDM - the main source of income for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Adaptation Fund - allows emission reduction projects in developing countries to earn certified emission reduction credits which they can trade or sell to industrialised countries who use them to meet a part of their emission reduction targets under the Kyoto Protocol. Only project activities under a programme of activities (POA), i.e. not one single local/regional/national policy or standard, can be registered as a single clean development mechanism project activity. Also, the POA must use approved baseline and monitoring methodologies to avoid double counting, etc. The study on *Building New Market Mechanisms (NMM) on Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM)* elements illustrates how the fifteen years of experience with the CDM can be used for scaling up POAs and New Market Mechanisms. It provides an overview of key methodological elements of the CDM and contributes to the discussion on how to move beyond CDM while building on its strong elements. More in the paper on the Shareweb.

Training Guide on Gender and Climate Change Research in Agriculture and Food Security for Rural Development

It is widely recognised that addressing gender issues in agriculture reduces poverty and hunger and that in order to provide food security to the worlds' growing population the agricultural sector must adapt to the impacts of climate change. The guide developed by the *Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security* outlines how to address climate change and gender issues in agricultural development in an effective way. It highlights the linkages between economic, environmental, social and institutional patterns that affect men and women in the agricultural sector in the context of climate change. Also, it provides guidance on understanding livelihood strategies and priorities of different socio-economic groups (determined by gender, wealth, ethnicity, caste, etc.) and tools to support gender sensitive participatory processes to analyse the present and plan for the future. More on the Shareweb.

Food Security, Climate Change and Social Protection

In June the UN Committee on World Food Security (CFS) published two important studies produced by its high level panel of experts on food security and nutrition: on social protection for food security and food security and climate change. The report on **social protection for food security** highlights how social protection can be used to mitigate and even eliminate food insecurity and hunger. While food insecurity is defined as the inability to secure an adequate diet at a given moment or in the future (risk), social protection refers to a menu of policy instruments that address poverty and vulnerability through social assistance, social insurance and social inclusion efforts. The report shows that in the context of development cooperation, supporting social protection policies can be a powerful way to mitigate vulnerability and tackle food insecurity. It also provides recommendations on how to use social protection more effectively to protect and promote food security, e.g. every country should put in place a comprehensive and nationally owned social protection system that contributes to ensuring the realisation of the right to adequate food for all (one possible model being the "food security floor" described); social protection systems should provide short term assistance coupled with livelihoods support for the long run; social protection instruments should support agricultural livelihoods directly in contexts where food insecure people are earning their living from agriculture, etc.

The report on **food security and climate change** claims that climate change will make it even harder to overcome global food security challenges as it reduces the productivity of many existing food systems and harms the livelihoods of those already vulnerable to food insecurity. Besides describing expected effects of climate change on food security, the report provides recommendations on how to deal with these challenges, e.g. integrate policies and programmes responding to climate change and food security (as climate change is one of many threats to food security); increase resilience of food systems to climate change; develop low emission agricultural strategies that don't compromise food security; collect information locally and share knowledge globally, etc. Download the reports on Food Security and Climate Change and Social Protection for Food Security from the Shareweb and find out more on the FAO website.

Also, get inspired by **related practical examples** from the field and read the case studies of promising approaches to resilience building from a food security perspective elaborated in preparation for a workshop on the links between disaster risk management, climate change adaptation and food security.

Climate Science & Dealing with New Realities

Technologies for Sustainable Development: Ideas from India

In May 2012 the Cooperation and Development Centre (CODEV) with support from SDC and others organised a conference to examine how science and technology can support sustainable development in developing and emerging countries. Three successful SDC supported initiatives from India were presented in the form of papers. The first paper is on **Integrated Design Charrettes** as a **mechanism to promote sustainable building design in India**. In a nutshell, this mechanism foresees 3-day interactive workshops bringing together the builder/developer, the whole design team, end-users and senior international specialists in order to develop energy concepts together. The paper argues that Integrated Design Charrettes can help establish a system to encourage builders, developers and design teams to address energy efficiency at an early stage in the design process and to enforce energy efficient strategies. Considering that electricity consumption in the commercial sector increased twofold from 2000 to 2008, it is crucial that new buildings are designed as low-energy or near zero-energy buildings. More on the Building Energy Efficiency project. Download the paper from the shareweb.

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The second paper is on **Biomass-based Gasifiers for Sustainable Rural Energy**. As half of its rural households do not have access to electricity, rural electrification is a major concern in India. In this context, biomass-based gasification appears to be a tangible solution, provided the biomass resources are managed in a sustainable way. A multi-stakeholder partnership was therefore established to develop an adapted technology for off-grid rural electrification, based on a Danish innovation: a two-stage biomass-based gasifier, the Viking. The Viking has proven to be highly efficient and requires low maintenance levels, which is a key advantage for its application in India. Download the paper. The third paper is on **building the capacity of small and medium enterprises (SME) and Research, Development, Demonstration and Deployment (DD&D) of cleaner technologies**. SMEs play a vital role in economies like India and in particular in a number of energy-intensive manufacturing sub-sectors like foundry, glass and brick. These SMEs usually use obsolete, inefficient technologies to burn fossil fuels, leading to release of high volumes of greenhouse gases. In this context SDC partnered with Indian NGOs and research institutions like TERI to develop, demonstrate and disseminate clean, energy efficient technologies in selected energy-intensive SME sub-sectors. Experiences from two of these sub-sectors—namely, the foundry

and glass industries— were presented at the Conference. Download the paper from the CCE shareweb.

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A Dangerous Climate

Most glaciers in Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador have disappeared. The number of category 4 and 5 hurricanes has doubled over the last 35 years. The Amazon could turn into a savanna soon. These are some examples of what is happening to our warming planet. Watch a video of the Inter-American Development Bank to learn more about our climate and why Latin America and the Caribbean must urgently adapt to the dangerous consequences of a changing climate.

Events and Training

GPCC NPO Face to Face Meeting

The 1st meeting of GPCC (SDC Global Program Climate Change) National Program Officers working in China, India, South Africa and Peru allowed streamlining their work and concrete thematic exchanges on adaptation worldwide while visiting adaptation key sites in the Swiss Canton Valais (report and power points): More

Global Programme Climate Change NEW Training Offer

As announced previously, the GPCC conducted a participatory revision of its training offer. Colleagues in the field can request a **tailor made training in climate change and development cooperation at country and regional level** (see offer on SDC training pages - we look forward to your demand!).
A similar exchange and learning event will take place in Switzerland on January 8 and 9, 2013 (info & subscription!) on experiences in climate change and development cooperation. In addition, five specialised modules are offered, which will be organized on sufficient demand. (Flyers on CCE shareweb)

Register for the 4th International Disaster and Risk Conference (IDRC), 26 – 30 August 2012 in Davos

Today's societies are faced with numerous interconnected, complex and emerging risks. Environmental, technical, social and economic risks are often closely linked. IDRC explores risks and disasters which severely impact human beings, e.g. natural hazards, pandemics, etc. This year's conference will bring together participants from all relevant fields to discuss the issue of **integrative risk management in a changing world** both at a strategic and operational levels. Find out more and register for the Conference on the website of IDRC.

Joint Event of the DRR and CCE Networks on IPCC's SREX

The Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) focuses on the link between climate change and extreme weather/climate events, their impact, and strategies to manage the respective risks. In response to this report, the CCE and DRR networks organised a joint event to get an overview on the SREX, its relevance to SDC staff and its partner organisations, and to initiate a discussion on key findings towards integrating risk education and resilience building strategies into development work. Find out more in the summary report on our event on the Shareweb and read the summary of the SREX.

Connecting the Dots in India: Evolving Practical Strategies for Climate Resilient Development

The Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR) organised a national colloquium in India. Key objectives of the event were to analyse policy and operational challenges in building adaptive capacities across sectors and contribute to the formulation of enabling policies / frameworks. More in the report on the WOTR website.

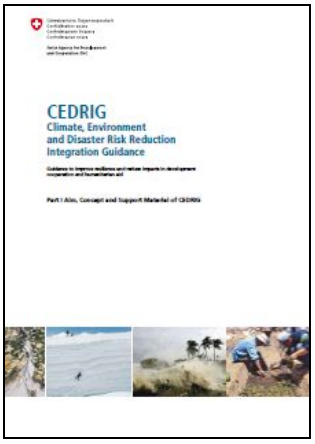
Key Resources

Below is a list of resources worth looking at:

- SAIN Policy Brief No 5 on overcoming excessive and inefficient use of nitrogen fertilizers in China
- The reports of the Multilateral Organisation Performance Assessment Network (**MOPAN)**, e.g. 2011 organisational effectiveness reports on UNEP, FAO, etc.
- The **European** Climate Adaptation Platform CLIMATE-ADAPT supports Europe in adapting to climate change by sharing information on expected climate change in Europe, vulnerabilities by region, strategies, tools etc.
- Report to Congress on **Black Carbon** in the U.S.A on the website of the US Environmental Protection Agency, in the summary report or in the overview presentation

Launch of CEDRIG

On July 6th SDC launched the Climate, Environment & DRR Integration Guidance (CEDRIG) - a support for SDC management and staff and partner organization in the identification of most important climate, environmental and DRR risks in their strategies, programs and projects and best adaptation or mitigation measures.



Special thanks go to the contributors of articles and/or **information** to this edition of the newsletter:

- **Alexandre Repetti** on the new project in Burkina
- **Yves Guinand** on RIICE
- **Markus Giger** on trainings
- **Arjuna Srinidhi** on the WOTR Colloquium in India
- **Prosanto Pal and Kira Cusack** on CODEV and India

Please send your climate change related news for the next Newsletter to: nara.weigel@helvetas.org