



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

#We4Resilience

2023

HARMONISED ACTIONS FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE

29-30 NOV. | *The United Service Institution of India*
New Delhi



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**CONFERENCE
PROCEEDINGS**

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From Being Vulnerable to Being Resilient

Harmonized actions to empower
inclusive progress

Dear Participants,

The National Conference on 'Disaster Risk Reduction, Nutrition & Food Security, Social Inclusion, and Strengthening Civil Society Learnings' was an affirmation of collaboration and commitment. Your contributions have been invaluable. This event brought together subject experts, practitioners, and thought leaders working with the community to build their resilience to disasters.

During the event, we explored new ideas and exchanged knowledge that help communities to promote inclusive growth. From lively discussions to interactive workshops, each part moved us ahead in our journey together. This conference provided an opportunity to comprehend concepts, understand problems and challenges as also gave many insights for solutions for a better future.

Throughout the conference, insightful discussions unfolded, fostering a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of disaster risk reduction, nutrition, food security, social inclusion, and civil society empowerment. As we reflect on the outcomes and the way forward, let's translate our shared vision – PM's 10-point agenda into action. Together, we can turn challenges into opportunities and vulnerability into resilience.

I extend my gratitude to the organizing committee, speakers, and contributors for making the event a great success. Your efforts have left a lasting impact.

In these pages of conference proceedings, a good effort has undergone for synthesizing the knowledge and insights with an objective to inspire the public policies, and practitioners towards building resilient communities. Let's continue to champion resilience as a lifestyle and build a brighter future together.

With warm regards,

Mr. Rajendra Ratnoo (IAS)
Executive Director
National Institute of Disaster Management

Inaugural Session:

The National Consultation on 'Harmonised Actions for Building Resilience' opened with a kind greeting from Ms. Rucha Thakkar, laying the stage for a dynamic dialogue. acknowledging participants from every corner of the

nation, she handed the floor to Mr. Joseph Mathew, who explained the history of We4Resilience and India's strategy for mitigating climate change and disaster risk.



Context of the Conference:

The conference, 'Harmonized Action for Building Resilience to Climate Change,' emphasized the escalating impact of hydro-meteorological hazards. Hosted by Caritas India, the Global Program India operates as a community-led partnership supported by the Government of Germany and Caritas Germany. Benefiting communities across 17 districts in Assam, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal, the program aims to build resilience through community-based disaster risk reduction, and strengthening community-based nutrition and food security, and ensuring social protection through awareness generation and support in availing social protection schemes. Social inclusion and civil society learning are two main pillars of this project and are a continuous part of any activity being undertaken in the project. As a part of the project communities.

The We4Resilience campaign, launched in 2021, fosters collaboration among community members, volunteers, local leaders, civil society organizations, and government, to shape scalable community-based resilience-building models. The campaign focuses on community-based disaster risk reduction, nutrition and food security, promoting dialogue among stakeholders for effective strategies. This transformative event encourages discussions and collaborations among experts, practitioners, government representatives, civil society organizations, and communities. After contextualization by Ms. Rucha Thakkar and Mr. Joseph Mathew, Miss Anmol Grace and Mr. Thangsha Sebastian led the conference proceedings.

Welcome Address



Fr. Jolly Puthenpura, Asst. Director of Caritas India, delivered a warm welcome address at the two-day National Conference, extending greetings to esteemed dignitaries, guests, and community representatives. The event, organized in collaboration with NIDM, UNICEF, Sphere India, and Action Against Hunger received gratitude for the presence of state disaster management authorities, government officials, think tank members, and state steering committee members. Fr. Jolly emphasized the significance of the We4 Resilience campaign as a national platform for learning, networking, and sharing multi-sectoral approach.

Fr. Jolly highlighted Caritas India's commitment to human-driven solutions, focusing on reflections on impacts and adaptive capacity. Further, Fr. Jolly addressed the issue of the poor and vulnerable being excluded from government schemes, emphasizing how the campaign empowers communities and strengthens networks for disaster risk reduction (DRR) and nutrition food security (NFS).

The Global Program India, operating at micro, meso, and macro levels across 17 districts of Assam, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal, was described as fostering resilience at both community and institutional levels. Fr. Jolly outlined the program's inclusive approach, targeting the international agenda of leaving no one behind. Over the last three years, the program maximized the impact of governmental actions in resilience building, nutrition and food security management, and inclusion of marginalized sections. Fr. Jolly expressed optimism that the event would serve as an interactive learning and reflection platform for Civil Society Learning, ensuring the voice of people at the grassroots level is respected.

Keynote Address

Dibyendu Sarkar, retired IAS Officer with 35 years of service in West Bengal, with expertise in rural development and government programs like Mahatma Gandhi NREGA. In his keynote address, emphasized the four pillars of the Global Program India: Disaster Risk Reduction, Nutrition Food Security, Social Inclusion, and Civil Society Learnings. Mr. Sarkar presented a Harmonized Actions framework aligning with 17 SDGs, addressing India's climate challenges. He stressed prevention, preparation, and mitigation. The speech explored localized solutions for climate adaptation, migration, social protection, integrated farming, and community-based nutrition and food security management.





Inaugural Address:

Mrs. Nandini Saraswati is West Bengal Civil Service Officer with over 20 years of expertise in Public Administration, Disaster Management, Rural Development, and Skill Building.

During the inaugural address, Mrs. Nandini shared insights from her experiences in the Sundarbans, underscoring the importance of collaborative efforts between the government and NGOs to building community-based resilience. She highlighted the pivotal role of NGOs as facilitators, working hand in hand with communities to empower them.



Special Address:

Mr. Abanikanta Sahoo, Chairperson for the Odisha State Food Commission possesses a comprehensive educational background in Mining Engineering and has held significant leadership roles in various government and mining organizations, In addressing the global concern of malnutrition, Mr. Sahoo emphasized Odisha's efforts under the National Food Security Act.

Mr. Sahoo then invited the dignitaries for the Book Release and Acknowledgments. The session concluded with the release of the We4 Resilience National Conference book, symbolizing the collective journey.

Introduction to We4Resilience Campaign:

This campaign wants to make communities better prepared for disasters and able to bounce back quickly. It's all about sharing knowledge and Dialogue with community members and government officials. The goal is to spread awareness and get everyone involved, especially disaster-prone areas.

The campaign started in Assam, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal and later included other states. Different kinds of activities were organized like training people, putting up posters, and having SAMVAD (dialogue) in villages, districts, and states.

Campaign activities at various levels:

Village level ("3 days in a village")

- Joint Consultation with District Inter-Agency Groups (IAG)
- Recommendations to concern District Administration
- Compiled Recommendations for State Consultation

- Day 1: Orientation to Community on DRR/NFS/SI
- Day 2: Poster Exhibition for Awareness in Schools/Anganwadi
- Day 3: SAMVAAD/Community Dialogue on DRR/NFS/SI
- Recommendations to concern Local Government Authorities
- Compiled Recommendations for District Consultation

District level

- Joint Consultation with State Inter-Agency Groups (IAG)
- Recommendations to concern State Government Authorities
- Compiled Recommendations for National Consultation

State level – 4 States (Assam, Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal)

- Joint Consultation with National Inter-Agency Group (IAG)
- Recommendations to concern Government Ministries
- Best Practices & Learnings for International Consultation

National level

Outcomes

- Marginalized families living in disaster-prone areas adopt resilient practices and contribute to the development and implementation of integrated risk management plans.
- Intensified mutual learning between civil society organizations and decision-makers in governance and administration on empowering animation, dialogue, inclusion, nutrition security, disaster resilience, and climate adaptation.



Technical Session 1: Harmonized Action for Resilience Building

Miss Babita Pinto, Head of Programs at Caritas India, moderated the session. She highlighted the four pillars - disasters, food security, food sovereignty, social inclusion, and partnerships, guiding the audience on the importance of synergizing actions across the country

Local to Global SDGs Progress and Resilience Commitment

Key Points Discussed:

- Addressed food crisis, insecurity, and climate change, with highlight on the dynamic and unknown nature of risks, she specifically pointed 300% increase in disasters over the past 30 years and India's advancement in Disaster Risk Reduction, with a focus on strengthening systems and disaster risk financing, while also discussing progress in Sustainable Development Goals acceleration and identifying transition areas.
- Ms. Ranjini Emphasized to take actions in alignment with the Government of India's focus on localizing SDGs and integrating them into planning and monitoring.



Ms. Ranjini Mukherjee
Disaster Risk Reduction Specialist,
United Nations Residents
Coordinator's Office



Social Protection - Key to Resilience Building

Key Points Discussed:

- Modern Concepts of Social Inclusion: analysed new methods for enhancing social inclusion and the relationship with it and social protection and participation.
- Less Emphasized Aspects of Social Protection: Highlighted crucial but often overlooked elements of social protection, such as skill development and migration management.
- "3P+T" Functions and Risk Assessment: Introduced the "3P+T" functions of social protection (Protection, Prevention, Promotion, and Transformation) and discussed social risk assessment metrics, including life cycle, economic, environmental, and social risks.

Mr. Samanjit Sengupta

West Bengal Civil Service (WBCS)
(Executive), Senior Personnel Manager, WB
Pollution Control Board, Environment
Department, GoWB

Caritas India's Approach to Resilience Building

Key Points Discussed:

Dr. Jaison addressed marginalized groups while emphasizing the critical role resilience building plays in development. Caritas India intends to utilize local resources in its community localization-based disaster risk reduction initiatives. Multi-sectoral methods, a focus on local capacities, and the impact of the Global Programme on damage reduction are important factors. The necessity of multi-sectoral collaboration in resilience development at various levels was emphasized.



Dr. Jaison Varghese

Senior Program Lead- Global Program
India, Caritas India



Learning and experience sharing by community members on the resilience-building

Key Points Discussed:

Mr. Niranjana Uranw thanked Caritas India and shared the success of Rampur village in Purnea, Bihar, under his leadership. With support from the Global Program India (GPI), progress was achieved in education, nutrition, and social inclusion, showcasing the impact of community engagement and collaborative efforts.

Mr. Niranjana Uranw

Mukhiya, Rampur Gram Panchayat, Purnea
district, Bihar

Learning and experience sharing by community members on the resilience-building process

Key Points Discussed:

- **Project Context and Traditional Skills:** Ms. Prerana emphasized the need to recognize traditionally acquired skills, highlighting weaving as a key activity for Mishing women.
- **Success Story of Ms. Nandita Doley:** Shared the inspiring success story of Ms. Nandita Doley, a weaver supported by the Women Development Centre during the 2023 floods.
- **Role of Social Protection and Empowerment:** Discussed the crucial role of social protection in sustaining livelihoods and empowering marginalized communities through initiatives like the Global Program.



Ms. Prerna Rajkonwar
Coordinator
Women Development Centre in Assam

Way Forward as summarized by the moderator.

1. Local to Global SDGs Progress:

- Address food crisis, insecurity, and climate change.
- Emphasize the unknown nature of risks and a 300% increase in disasters over 30 years.
- Highlight India's focus on Disaster Risk Reduction and progress in SDGs.

2. Social Protection for Resilience:

- Analyze methods for enhancing social inclusion.
- Highlight less emphasized aspects of social protection.
- Introduce "3P+T" functions and discuss social risk assessment metrics.

3. Caritas India's Resilience Approach:

- Address marginalized groups and emphasize local resource utilization.
- Implement multi-sectoral methods and focus on local capacities.
- Highlight Global Programme impact on damage reduction.



Technical Session 2: Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Building – Future of Disaster Risk Reduction

Mr. Sarbjit Singh Sahota, Emergency Specialist, UNICEF India, started the session as a moderator with a presentation on ECO-DRR Programme- Complexity to Clarity. He shared The surge in climate disasters necessitates effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) strategies. ECO-DRR, combined with Nature-based solutions (NbS), taps into ecosystem resilience for impactful disaster mitigation. NbS employs natural processes for environmental challenges, while ECO-DRR integrates ecological principles into risk reduction. Together, they emphasize ecosystem preservation for heightened community resilience. Initiatives like reforestation and wetland restoration contribute to disaster resilience, biodiversity conservation, and community well-being. Implementing scalable ECO-DRR programs requires careful consideration, and incentive regimes can aid in this complex process.

India's Climate Change – Challenge and New Paradigms in DRR

Key Points Discussed:

- Climate-induced disasters and their impact on Odisha's Bay of Bengal Villages: Mr. Ranjan Panda discussed the profound impact of climate-induced disasters, especially sea intrusion, affecting communities in Odisha.
- Challenges in Rehabilitation Efforts: Emphasized the inadequacy of current rehabilitation efforts for displaced people due to climate change and the need for more comprehensive solutions.
- Advocacy for localized approach and legal frameworks: Advocated for programs with a localized approach prioritizing 'people first' and 'nature first,' supported by financial assistance and legislative frameworks encompassing 'just rehabilitation' and 'safe migration' beyond state borders.



Mr. Ranjan Panda, Convenor at Combat Climate Change Network, India & Convenor at Water Initiates



Ms. Monisha Majumdar
Thematic Associate -PSS, Caritas India

Combating Climate-Induced Migration: The Sunderban Story.

Key Points Discussed:

- **Insights from Sunderbans Study:** Ms. Monisha Majumdar shared key insights from a study by Caritas India, CAFOD, and partners on climate change, human trafficking, and migration dynamics in the Sunderbans region.
- **Impact on Migration Patterns:** Emphasized the impact of climate change and its role in shaping migration patterns, noting a significant difference in city migration considerations between Bangladesh and India.
- **Gender-Specific Initiatives and Collaboration:** Emphasized the need for gender-specific initiatives and cross-border collaboration to address the impact on livelihoods and distinguish between voluntary and distressed migration in the Sunderbans.

“There is a difference between choice to move and have to move.”

Climate Change Adaptation: Localized Solution

Key Points Discussed:

- **Effects of Climate Change:** Dr. Atul Pandey highlighted the significance of climate change, describing it as constant change affecting temperature, humidity, clouds, and rainfall, with extensive effects on sectors like agriculture, fisheries, health, and energy.
- **Advocacy for Adaptation Strategies:** Advocated for adaptation strategies, stressing the need for sustained mitigation and accelerated actions. Urgent priorities included energy planning, emission reduction, and promotion of solar and wind energy.
- **Green Initiatives and Afforestation:** Recommended monitoring urban growth, fostering green infrastructure, and prioritizing local manufacturing of electric vehicles. Massive tree-plantation initiatives like Jal Jeevan Hariyali in Bihar were acknowledged for improving air quality and achieving carbon sequestration.



Dr. Atul Aditya Pandey
Professor, Patna University, Member
Global Program India State Steering
Committee, Bihar



Ms. Karon Shaiva
Chief Impact Officer & MD, Chief Impact
Officer & MD - Idobro Impact Solutions,
Managing Trustee - RISE Infinity Foundation,
Governing Council - Maha PECOnet

Resilience Building through Risk Transfer

Key Points Discussed:

- **Risk Mitigation through Insurance:** Ms. Shaiva stressed the vital role of insurance, including life and medical coverage, in mitigating financial risks during disasters.
- **Volunteer Engagement with Insurance:** To address volunteer hesitancy, she introduced the concept of volunteer group insurance, emphasizing its role in motivating individuals to contribute, especially during crises.
- **Beyond Insurance: Social Capital and Sustainability:** Ms. Shaiva advocated for creating social capital, formalizing volunteer status, and called for individual and collective action for a greener world, highlighting the broader dimensions of resilience beyond financial protection.

“Think different, act together, social capital is the way forward”

Climate Resilient Infrastructure

Key Points Discussed:

- Inter-government Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Findings: Dr. V. Suresh Babu highlighted undeniable climate warming per IPCC, emphasizing diverse impacts on vulnerable rural communities.
- Holistic Solutions: Advocated for comprehensive rural solutions spanning agriculture, shelter, health, education, energy, water, sanitation, and home-based products.
- Climate-Resilient Infrastructure: Stressed the need for climate-resilient infrastructure investment, citing potential 4% global GDP growth by 2030 and NIRD & PR initiatives promoting resilient structures and policy frameworks.



Dr. V Suresh Babu,
Associate Professor NIRD, Guwahati

Scalable Community Models on Resilience Building: Low-cost Lightning Arresters



Mr. Chhota Lal
Field Animator,
Bihar Water Development Society

Key Points Discussed:

- Bihar's Challenges: Mr. Chhota Lal highlighted Bihar's diverse challenges, including natural and human-induced hazards like floods, droughts, earthquakes, fires, and a significant concern—lightning.
- Lightning Impact and Government Initiatives: He emphasized the alarming impact of lightning, with Bihar witnessing 443 fatalities in 2020. The state government's response includes utilizing technology such as the Indra Vajra Application for timely alerts and Comprehensive initiatives of Caritas India "SAMVAD" and "We4Resilience".
- Holistic Mitigation Approach: Mr. Lal outlined a holistic strategy for Bihar, encompassing community empowerment, infrastructure development, awareness campaigns, and community-based / replicable/scalable technological solutions to effectively mitigate the impact of lightning.

Scalable Community Models on Resilience Building: Integrated Farming Systems

Key Points Discussed:

Integrated Farming Success: Mr. Lingaraj Nayak's integrated farming in Khantakhuada village, supported by Balasore Social Service Society, boosted small and marginal farmers' livelihoods with climate-resilient paddy seeds, diversified cultivation, and increased profits.

Rural Upliftment: Mr. Lingaraj's journey underscores how education and resources can transform rural communities, showcasing improved crop yields and livelihood opportunities in Andola Gram Panchayat.



Mr. Lingraj Nayak,
Community representative,
Village Khantakhuaba, Andola Gram
Panchayat, Odisha



Ms. Rumi Phukan
Community Leader,
Village Panchnoi, Dejo Gram Panchayat,
Lakhimpur district, Assam

Learning and experience sharing by community members on -Building resilient women-led business

Key Points Discussed:

- From Flood Victim to Entrepreneur: Mrs. Rumi Phukan in flood-prone Panchnoi, Assam, transformed into a resilient entrepreneur after Caritas India's support in 2017.
- Caritas India's Catalyst: Caritas India's assistance marked the start of Mrs. Phukan's journey, providing not just relief but also technical support for preparedness and sustainability.
- Resilience Icon: Mrs. Phukan is now a symbol of female-led businesses, actively promoting resilience entrepreneurship in her village in Lakhimpur District.

Way Forward as summarized by moderator Mr. Sarabjit Singh Sahota

- **Need for Risk Informed Urban Programming.** Climate-induced distress migration and its myriad consequences for children, women and the elderly (caregivers) demand the creation of urban solutions (interdisciplinary, multi-sectoral action) to address escalating climate risk
- **Aligning actions with the government's focus on localizing SDGs.**
- **Modern concepts of social inclusion, "3P+T" functions for social protection.**
- **Addressing marginalized groups, multi-sectoral methods, and local capacity focus.**
- **Success in education, nutrition, and social inclusion through community engagement.**
- **Recognizing traditional skills, and social protection's role in sustaining livelihoods.**
- **Resilience and innovation in the humanitarian sector, recognizing women's leadership.**
- **Advocated for agricultural resilience, sustainable farming, and civil society's role.**
- **Understanding gap, positive shift in civil society's attitude, and collaboration for holistic development.**
- **Comprehensive engagement, active participation, civil society's substantial role, minimum standards for development.**
- **Rich discussions, each organizational unit's significance, the evolving funding landscape, imperative of addressing nutrition.**



Technical Session 3: Defining the Scope and Strategies of Addressing Nutrition and Food Security and sovereignty - Challenges and Opportunities to build resilience

The moderator Mr. Vinya Iyer, CEO, Action Against Hunger shares his gratitude towards Caritas India for inviting him to moderate the panel between distinguished speakers. He is overwhelmed to be part of so many distinguished guests who brings experiences from the field. He also shares about the importance of POSHAN and its sustainability. With that he invites the first panelists to share on the given topic.

Rejuvenating Traditional Food Systems - a Journey of Odisha Millets Mission

Key Points Discussed:

- UN Decade of Ecosystems: Dr. Radhakrishna Panda discusses the global initiative for ecosystem resilience during the UN Decade of Ecosystems (2021-2030).
- Climate-Resilient Ecosystems: He introduces the concept of climate-resilient ecosystems, emphasizing their role in sustaining communities and citing the decline in ecosystem services.
- Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EBA): Dr. Radhakrishna concludes by highlighting the importance of Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for climate resilience, stressing participatory planning and specific strategies for diverse ecosystems.



Dr. Radhakrishna Panda
Director, Green India, Odisha



Dr. Sujeet Ranjan
Associated Director-Nutrition, Tata Trust

Community-Based Nutrition Management: Public-Private Partnership

Key Points Discussed:

- **Tata Trust's Nutrition Focus:** Dr. Sujeet Ranjan outlines Tata Trust's journey since 1882, emphasizing Nutrition as a key area aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and recognized by the government and WHO.
- **Critical Role of Nutrition:** He stresses the critical role of Nutrition in unlocking every child's potential, impacting immunity, pregnancy safety, disease prevention, and longevity.
- **Positive Trends and SAM Address:** Dr. Sujeet acknowledges positive trends in malnutrition reduction, credits efforts from Tata Trust, government, and civil society. He commends the government's protocol for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and discusses WHO's guidelines, concluding with Tata Trust's ethos: "Together we can make a difference."

Food Systems and Resilient Building; Caritas India's Experiences

Key Points Discussed:

- **Indian Agriculture Vulnerabilities:** Dr. Haridas V.R. discusses vulnerabilities in Indian agriculture, especially for marginal land farmers with limited irrigation, emphasizing the impact of erratic monsoons on food security amid environmental, natural calamities, and socioeconomic challenges.
- **Caritas India's Resilient Agriculture Focus:** Caritas India prioritizes ecological integrity, focusing on resilient agriculture and democratized food systems. Their strategy involves localizing agriculture, enhancing small farming systems' resilience, boosting productivity, and restoring nature's balance.
- **Climate-Resilient Farming and FIT Concept:** Dr. Haridas advocates for climate-resilient farming, critiques chemical fertilizers, and introduces the FIT concept (Formation, Informing, Transformation). The FIT concept emphasizes community-managed organic farming, sharing success stories, and highlighting Caritas India's commitment to sustainable, inclusive agricultural practices.



Dr. Haridas VR
Thematic Lead - Climate Justice,
Caritas India

Nutrition Resilient Building Approach in Global Program



Ms Sneha Jha
Thematic Lead Nutrition & Food Security - Global Programme India, Caritas India

Key Points Discussed:

- **Global Program Strategies:** Ms. Sneha Jha outlines Global Program India's strategies, emphasizing micro-level engagement with families, meso-level collaborations with civil society and the government for capacity-building, and macro-level policy advocacy dialogues.
- **Focus Areas and Sustainable Models:** She highlights focus areas such as capacity building for Community-Based Organizations, WASH, Anaemia, and Adolescent Health, emphasizing the importance of sustainable models and widely accessible knowledge solutions.

Nutrition Resilient Building Approach: Ms. Jha introduces Ms. Sukumari, a community influencer from Rayagada, Odisha, discussing her impact and exploring the interconnectedness of nutrition security with health, care, and education under SDG 2. Caritas India's Global Program aims to enhance food and nutrition security through a system-strengthening approach, involving community control bodies as catalysts for positive change.

Nutrition Resilient Building Approach

Key Points Discussed:

- **Community Engagement:** Ms. Sukumari Hikabadi, a community representative from Rayagada, Odisha, actively participates in Global Program India meetings and plays a key role in promoting nutrition through kitchen gardening.
- **Training and Recognition:** She received training on Food and Nutrition Security through the global program, recognizing the importance of nutrition and establishing a Nutri garden in her village.
- **Proactive Community Leadership:** Ms. Sukumari actively imparts her knowledge and experiences to others, particularly within her Kui tribe in Papikhal village. She emerges as a proactive community leader, setting a remarkable example for development and nutrition awareness in the community.



Ms. Sukumari Hikabari
Community representative, District Raygada, Odisha

Building Resilient Health and Food Systems through Community Governance Ownership



Mr Robin George,
Program Lead - Sabal,
Caritas India

Key Points Discussed:

- **SABAL Program Focus:** Mr. Robin underscores SABAL's key focus on livelihood, food supply, and nutrition, with a special emphasis on POSHAN.
- **Community Governance Empowerment:** He highlights the vital role of community governance ownership for broad impact, sustainability, and the empowerment of local leaders.
- **Sabal Arogya Mitras as Millet Ambassadors:** Introducing Sabal Arogya Mitras, traditional healers, and practitioners, recognized by the government as Millet Ambassadors, showcasing their role in resilient health and food systems.

Community Voices - Building Resilient Health and Food Systems through Community Governance Ownership

Key Points Discussed:

- **Transformative Impact in Ghota Village:** Nandalal Chote Dande, Secretary of the Gram Parivartan Fishing Collective, highlights Ghota village's transformative journey empowered by the Sabal program. He emphasizes economic growth and increased awareness as key outcomes.
- **Ramdas' Community Leadership Journey:** Ramdas, a Poshanmitra (nutrition volunteer), shares his impactful journey from unemployment to community leadership through the SABAL program, particularly during the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.



Mr Nandalal Chote Dande



Mr. Siddharth Jaiswal,
CEO of BPD- Birsa Agriculture University
Society, Ranchi, Jharkhand

Food Sovereignty and Resilience Building: India's approach and strategies

Key Points Discussed:

- **Nutrient Decline in Crops:** Dr. Jaiswal highlights the decline of nutrients in vegetables and crops, especially in hybrid seeds. He points out the impact of pesticide use in soil, leading to nutrient deficiencies and contributing to health issues.
- **Importance of Natural Farming:** Dr. Jaiswal advocates for natural farming practices, emphasizing the integration of livestock, especially native breeds, for essential inputs like cow dung and cow urine. He differentiates between organic and natural farming, asserting that natural farming is the more sustainable and beneficial approach.
- **Amrit Krishi Benefits:** He discusses the benefits of Amrit Krishi, emphasizing its growth without pesticides or fertilizers for at least 15 years. The zero-tillage system, increased productivity from the first crop, higher nutrition levels in crops, and extended shelf life of products make it a compelling choice for sustainable agriculture.

FARM Northeast Program

Key Points Discussed:

- **Northeast India Agriculture Focus:** Mr. Prabal highlights three goals for Northeast India agriculture—upscaling, climate resilience, and agro markets.
- **Challenges Addressed:** He discusses challenges including climate change, land degradation, knowledge gaps, market access issues, and migration impacting the region.
- **Sustainability Initiatives:** The initiative promotes trellises for kitchen gardens, shifts from traditional to diversified cropping, and aims to engage the younger generation in farming for future sustainability.



Mr. Prabal Sen,
Program Associate-Northeast Zone,
Caritas India



Mr. Ratan Lal Deka
Field Programme Associate in Arunachal Pradesh

Community Voices, FARM Northeast Program

Key Points Discussed:

- **Mr. Ratan Lal Deka,** provides a brief overview of the project, emphasizing the upscaling of models that contribute to sustainability, behavioral change, and adaptability in the region.



The panelists launched a book studying the Millet culture in Rayagada.

Moderator's Note

(Mr. Vinya Iyer, CEO, Action Against Hunger):

- Gratitude and POSHAN Emphasis: Expresses gratitude and highlights the importance of POSHAN for sustainability.
- Efficient Panel Transition: Ensures a smooth transition between panelists for a comprehensive discussion.
- Session Overview: Covers diverse topics, offering insights into ecosystem resilience, nutrition management, and sustainable farming. Emphasizes soil nutrients, addresses malnutrition, and stresses community involvement for lasting change and sustainability.

Way Forward

1. Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EBA):

- Advocate for the promotion and implementation of Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for climate resilience.
- Emphasize participatory planning and specific strategies for diverse ecosystems.

2. Nutrition Focus and Collaborations (Tata Trust):

- Strengthen efforts in nutrition as a key area aligned with SDGs.
- Continue collaborations with the government and civil society for capacity-building and policy advocacy in nutrition.

3. Resilient Agriculture and Organic Farming (Caritas India):

- Prioritize ecological integrity in agriculture, focusing on resilient agriculture and democratized food systems.
- Promote climate-resilient farming, critique chemical fertilizers, and implement community-managed organic farming.

4. Community Engagement for Food Security (Carita India):

- Implement micro-level engagement with families, meso-level collaborations with civil society and the government for capacity-building, and macro-level policy advocacy dialogues.
- Focus on sustainable models and widely accessible knowledge solutions for food and nutrition security.

5. Community Governance Ownership and Resilient Health (Sabal Program):

- Strengthen community governance ownership for broad impact, sustainability, and the empowerment of local leaders.
- Recognize traditional healers and practitioners as Millet Ambassadors for resilient health and food systems.
- Advocate for transformative initiatives in villages, emphasizing economic growth, increased awareness, and community leadership programs for addressing challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Stresses the critical role of nutrition, acknowledges positive trends in malnutrition reduction, and introduces Tata Trust's ethos.

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Technical Session 4: Resilience Building: Collaboration for Impact – The Civil Society Engagement

Mr. Vikrant Mahajan, the moderator, highlighted the crucial role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in enhancing community resilience. He emphasized their ability to understand grassroots issues, innovate, and develop effective strategies tailored to specific community needs. Mr. Mahajan stressed the interconnectedness of resilience, development, and risk reduction, noting that resilience cannot stand alone. He called for collaborations to make development risk-free and address the links between disaster, climate change, and development.

Road map of GO – NGO coordination

- Resilience building: Preparedness Process and Challenges: Dr. Amir Ali Khan emphasizes prioritizing resilience to earthquakes, water, and climate-related hazards. He also highlighted challenges like population growth and unplanned development hindering earthquake preparedness, with this Dr. Amir advocated for capacity building.
- Collaborative Approaches:
 - Advocates for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and stresses the collaborative strengths of government (GO) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).
 - Emphasizes community engagement, flexible interventions, and collaboration in emergency response, proposing a road map for GO-NGO coordination.
 - Proposes tools such as a network portal, clear communication channels, a centralized coordination hub, and co-developed technology to facilitate effective collaboration.
- Local Knowledge and Civil Society: Suggests leveraging local knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and emphasizes the crucial role of civil society in enhancing government efforts for disaster resilience.



Dr. Amir Ali Khan
Associate Professor, National Institute
of Disaster Management

Civil Society Learning -Possibilities for Collaborative Actions

Key Points Discussed:

- **CSOs' Pivotal Role:** Ms. Babita Pinto highlights the crucial role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in shaping the nation's socio-political and economic landscape.
- **Advocacy for Collaboration:** Advocates for collaborative efforts between CSOs and the state, emphasizing the need for a unified framework to address national and regional issues.
- **Humanitarian Strengths:** Highlights CSOs' humanitarian strengths, emphasizing their dynamic role in community-government relations and support for organizations like Sphere India and the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.



Ms. Babita Pinto
Head of Programs, Caritas India

Technology Transfer -Role of Civil Societies



Col Sanjay Srivastava
Chairman,
Climate Resilient Observing Systems
Promotion Council (CROPC)

Key Points Discussed:

- **Lightning Hazards Awareness:** Colonel Prof. Sanjay Srivastava highlights the challenge of lightning hazards and rural education gaps, emphasizing the need for basic lightning knowledge and risk awareness.
- **Advocacy for Scientific Solutions:** Advocates for affordable scientific solutions, urging citizen science programs, and promoting the 112 India app for quick responses.
- **Collective Disaster Management:** Stresses the importance of collective disaster management efforts, emphasizing public awareness and trauma management, especially for farmers.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination: Caritas India's strategies and approaches

Key Points Discussed:

- **Resilience and Innovation Advocacy:** Mr. Anjan Bag emphasizes the imperative for resilience and innovation in the humanitarian sector, drawing on his extensive experience in Disaster Management.
- **Caritas India's Comprehensive Approach:** highlights Caritas India's exemplary humanitarian leadership, guided by a comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure and innovative, localized approaches to address multifaceted challenges.
- **Empowering Local Leaders:** Stresses the importance of recognizing and encouraging women's leadership at the grassroots level, advocating for the active engagement of local actors and empowering Community-Based Organizations and NGOs for effective disaster response and recovery.



Mr Anjan bag
Thematic Lead -HADRR, Caritas India

Role of Civil Society in addressing Nutrition and Food Security challenges



Mr. Sanjeev Dham
Deputy CEO, MAMTA

Key Points Discussed:

- **Holistic Nutrition Strategy:** Mr. Sanjeev Dham, Deputy CEO of MAMTA-HIMC, calls for a holistic strategy to address persistent malnutrition challenges in resource-poor Indian settings.
- **Agricultural Resilience and Diversification:** Advocates for agricultural resilience, sustainable farming, and climate-resilient crop research, highlighting the importance of diversifying crop production for balanced diets and food security.
- **Civil Society's Role in Global Nutrition Advocacy:** Emphasizes the crucial role of civil society in addressing malnutrition, climate change, and hunger through active advocacy, community engagement, and fostering global-local connectivity.

Responses

Key Points Discussed:

- **NGOs-Government Dynamics:** Father Bimal, Director of SWAD in Odisha, discussed the dynamics between NGOs and the government, pointing out a significant understanding gap.
- **Positive Shift in Civil Society:** Emphasized a positive shift in civil society's attitude, recognizing the importance of collaboration between NGOs and the government.
- **Balanced Mechanism for Collaboration:** Advocated for a balanced mechanism, emphasizing the active involvement of NGOs, government bodies, and civil society for more effective collaboration in addressing diverse challenges and promoting holistic development.



Fr. Bimal
Society for Welfare Animation and Development (SWAD)

Responses



Dr. Sanjay Habada (Rtd IAS)
Global Program India, Odisha State Steering Committee Member

Key Points Discussed:

- **Comprehensive Engagement and Active Participation:** Advocated for comprehensive engagement, stressing the necessity of active participation from diverse stakeholders.
- **Role of Civil Societies in Governance Dynamics:** Highlighted the substantial role of civil societies in influencing governance dynamics.
- **Importance of Minimum Standards and Social Mobilization:** Highlighted the importance of minimum standards in various developmental aspects and emphasized the need for social mobilization, particularly with community involvement.

Way Forward

1. GO-NGO Collaboration Roadmap:
 - Prioritize resilience to earthquakes, water, and climate-related hazards.
 - Advocate for Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and collaborative approaches.
 - Leverage local knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and emphasize the crucial role of civil society.
2. CSO Advocacy for Collaboration:
 - Acknowledge the pivotal role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).
 - Advocate for collaborative efforts between CSOs and the state.
 - Highlight CSOs' humanitarian strengths in community-government relations.
3. Technology Transfer for Disaster Management:
 - Address rural education gaps and raise awareness about lightning hazards.
 - Advocate for affordable scientific solutions and citizen science programs.
 - Stress the importance of collective disaster management efforts.
4. Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination:
 - Advocate for resilience and innovation in the humanitarian sector.
 - Highlight Caritas India's comprehensive humanitarian approach.
 - Empower local leaders and engage organizations for effective disaster response.
5. Civil Society in Nutrition and Food Security:
 - Call for a holistic strategy to address malnutrition challenges.
 - Advocate for agricultural resilience and climate-resilient crop research.
 - Emphasize civil society's crucial role in addressing malnutrition and climate change.
6. NGOs-Government Collaboration Dynamics:
 - Recognize a positive shift in civil society's attitude towards collaboration.
 - Advocate for a balanced mechanism involving NGOs, government bodies, and civil society.
7. Comprehensive Engagement and Minimum Standards:
 - Advocate for active participation from diverse stakeholders.
 - Emphasize the substantial role of civil societies in influencing governance dynamics.
 - Highlight the importance of minimum standards and social mobilization with community involvement.



Technical Session 5: Conference way forward discussion for joint initiatives

Responses from government representatives



Dr. V Suresh Babu



Mrs. Nandini Saraswati



Mr. Samanjit Sen Gupta

- **Strengthening GO-NGO Collaborations:** Mrs. Nandini Saraswati highlighted the inseparable relationship between government and non-governmental organizations (GO-NGO), emphasizing the need for meaningful change through collaborative partnerships, to be manifested in subsequent conventions and training sessions.
- **Coordinated Approach to Resilience Building:** Mr. Samanjit Sen Gupta focused on the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in fostering a coordinated approach to resilience building. He proposed bridging the gap between people and the government, moving from mapping to profiling stakeholders, and advocated for inclusive knowledge exchange platforms to prevent duplication of efforts.
- **Community Mobilization and Shared Visions:** Mr. Dibyendu Sarkar stressed the importance of reaching communities beyond textbooks. He introduced the Saturday Resilience Campaign, emphasizing the mobilization of youth and concentration on earthquake disasters. Mr. Sarkar advocated for shared visions with community members, aspiring to create climate-sustainable societies.

Responses from community representatives



Ms. Rumi Phukan



Ms. Sabina

- **Promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs):** Ms. Rumi Phukan expressed a desire to encourage more women and communities, specifically by promoting the formation and growth of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs).
- **Women's Empowerment and Education Advocacy:** Inspired by Ms. Sabina's journey, the action point involves future collaboration with Caritas India in focusing on women's empowerment and advocating for education, especially in communities with conservative views on girls' education.

Responses from Civil Society Networks Organizations



Ms. Nupur Tyagi
Manager- Knowledge and Capacity Sharing
Sphere India



Mr Luit Goswami
Director, RVC



Mr. Sanjay Pandey
Director, Yugantar

- **Enhanced Collaboration between Government and NGOs:** Advocate for a more structured and collaborative mechanism between government bodies and NGOs to address challenges effectively. This includes establishing clear communication channels, standardized protocols, and regular consultations to bridge understanding gaps.
- **Inclusive Knowledge Exchange Platforms:** Promote the creation of inclusive knowledge exchange platforms to facilitate better coordination between Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the government, and communities. This involves profiling stakeholders to prevent duplication of efforts, reinforcing community sharing, and strengthening thematic and technical capacities through collaborative interventions.
- **Community-Driven Resilience Campaigns:** Implement community-driven resilience campaigns, focusing on mobilizing youth and addressing specific disaster scenarios such as earthquakes. This includes involving community members in shared visions, aiming to create climate-sustainable societies beyond traditional educational approaches.
- **Promoting Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs):** Encourage the establishment and growth of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) to empower women and communities, fostering sustainable agricultural practices and enhancing livelihoods.
- **Women's Empowerment and Education Initiatives:** Develop initiatives that focus on women's empowerment and education advocacy, particularly in communities with conservative views. This involves creating pathways for education and empowerment, drawing inspiration from personal stories like Sabina's.

Response from Corporate Social Responsibility



Dr. Sujeet Ranjan, the Associate Director of Nutrition at TATA Trusts

- Dr. Sujeet Ranjan, the Associate Director of Nutrition at TATA Trusts, offered a comprehensive response to the discussion:
- **Mission-Oriented Nutrition Strategy:** Encourage organizations to adopt a mission-oriented approach to address nutritional challenges collectively.
- **Adaptability in Funding Landscape:** Emphasize stakeholder adaptability to navigate evolving funding patterns and explore diverse sources.
- **Collaboration and Collective Responsibility:** Call for collaborative efforts, stressing the collective responsibility to tackle nutritional challenges.
- **Promote Research and Policies:** Advocate for initiatives supporting research and policies to drive positive outcomes in nutrition.
- **Commitment at All Levels:** Highlight the essential need for commitment from all stakeholders to turn discussions into concrete actions for improved nutrition and well-being.

Responses from communities



Ms. Puni Mahopatra, Animator -SWAD, Ganjam District, Odisha

- **Empower Farmers for Land Ownership:** Initiate programs and policies empowering farmers with rightful ownership of their lands to address malnutrition and enhance community well-being.



Ms. Suraj Patil, PESA Act-President, Chiktalai village, Khalwa, Block- Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh

- **Promote Land Ownership for Farmers:** Implement policies and interventions addressing land rights and access to empower farmers with rightful ownership, contributing to sustainable agriculture, and livelihoods, and achieving a malnutrition-free status, especially among children.

Response from Caritas India



Fr. Jolly Putthenpura, Assistant Executive Director, Caritas India

- **Prioritize Self-Reliance and Empowerment:** Strengthen initiatives that prioritize self-reliance and empowerment, as demonstrated by successful case stories, contributing to resilience in diverse communities.
- **Embrace Creative Resources and Innovation:** Emphasize the importance of creative resources, localization processes, and innovation to foster sustainable growth and resilience.
- **Global Responsibility for Environmental Conservation:** Advocate for global responsibility in addressing climate change and environmental conservation, recognizing the interconnectedness of resilience and environmental well-being.
- **NGO Role in Community Support:** Reinforce the essential role of NGOs in serving and supporting communities, highlighting their contribution to human well-being, safe livelihoods, and shared societal responsibility.

Way Forward



**Shri Rajendra Ratnoo, IAS,
Executive Director of NIDM**

Shri Rajendra Ratnoo, IAS, Executive Director of NIDM, extended appreciation to Caritas India for providing opportunities to witness inspiring stories of transformed lives in villages. He praised Odisha as a commendable model of growth and emphasized the importance of raising community awareness to safeguard people from disasters. Shri Ratnoo recognized the crucial role that organizations like Caritas India play in enhancing the well-being and resilience of communities.

Further, Shri Rajendra Ratnoo highlighted the Prime Ministers ten-point agenda for Disaster Risk Reduction as a way forward:

1. **Comprehensive Risk Assessment:** Implement a nationwide risk assessment to identify and prioritize vulnerabilities, ensuring a thorough understanding of potential disasters and their impacts.
2. **Community-Based Early Warning Systems:** Develop and strengthen community-based early warning systems, integrating technology and local knowledge to provide timely alerts for various types of disasters.
3. **Capacity Building and Training:** Invest in extensive training programs at the community and institutional levels, enhancing the capacity of individuals and organizations to respond effectively to disasters.
4. **Infrastructure Resilience:** Prioritize the construction and retrofitting of infrastructure to withstand various disasters, ensuring resilience in the face of earthquakes, floods, cyclones, and other hazards.
5. **Ecosystem Restoration and Conservation:** Undertake initiatives for ecosystem restoration and conservation to mitigate environmental degradation, promoting sustainable practices for long-term disaster risk reduction.
6. **Inclusive Policies and Legislation:** Develop and enforce inclusive policies and legislation that integrate DRR principles, considering the needs and vulnerabilities of all segments of society, including marginalized communities.
7. **Public Awareness and Education:** Launch nationwide campaigns to raise public awareness about disaster risks, preparedness, and response, emphasizing the importance of individual and community-level actions.
8. **Innovative Technology Integration:** Explore and integrate innovative technologies such as GIS mapping, remote sensing, and data analytics to enhance disaster risk mapping, early warning systems, and response strategies.
9. **International Collaboration:** Strengthen collaboration with international organizations, neighboring countries, and global initiatives to share knowledge, resources, and best practices in disaster risk reduction.
10. **Post-Disaster Recovery and Rehabilitation:** Develop robust plans and mechanisms for post-disaster recovery and rehabilitation, focusing on rebuilding communities with resilience, inclusivity, and sustainable development at the forefront.

Vote of Thanks



Dr. Jaison Varghese, Caritas India

Dr. Jaison Varghese of Caritas India extends heartfelt gratitude to the esteemed dignitaries and the heads of think tanks for their invaluable presence and contributions to this gathering.

The insights and expertise provided by these dignitaries have enriched our collective understanding, fostering a spirit of collaboration and a shared commitment to our common goals. Caritas India is genuinely thankful for everyone's time, wisdom, and passion for the issues that unite us.

The presence of all the dignitaries has elevated the discourse and provided inspiration for the path ahead. We eagerly anticipate continuing this journey together, leveraging our collective strengths for the betterment of the communities we serve.



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