

## COPING WITH EXTREME CLIMATIC EVENTS: ANALYSIS OF HOUSEHOLD AND COMMUNITY RESPONSES FROM SELECTED HOTSPOTS IN INDIA

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*This paper brings into focus how and why a developing country like India whose primary objective is livelihood protection needs to bind climate change issues with wider developmental issues. We reinterpret sustainable development as a practical approach that addresses issues pertinent to LIFE. Though global climate change is important in the long run, in our opinion climate derivative weather is also an essential resource for India's economic well being in the short term.*

*Analyzing existing levels of climate variability and extreme events that pose significant risks to economic activities pursued by individuals as livelihood options in the river basins in India, we present here a vulnerability assessment of the households and communities. The study areas cover flood prone villages in the Mahanadi River basin and drought prone villages in the Sabarmati River basin. Our main sources of information are socio-economic field surveys carried out during 2003-2004 in the selected hotspots. Based on qualitative and quantitative assessments of the responses and of the reactive coping strategies, we show that adaptive capacity goes beyond just income and access to regular infrastructure. Adaptive capacity is a complex combination of institutional governance, management and technology. Based on our survey results we show the potential for an integrated strategy that can respond to climate change and to traditional development strategies, but which can also increase the likelihood of people's participation in making the developmental efforts sustainable. The research findings that we present here have been validated by the feedback of the stakeholders' engaged in direct dialogue.*

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