



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**



**Department of Science & Technology**  
Ministry of Science & Technology  
Government of India

**NMSHE** NATIONAL MISSION FOR  
SUSTAINING THE HIMALAYAN  
ECOSYSTEM

# State Media Workshop on Climate Change Reporting

Guwahati, March 07 - 09, 2019



**IHCAP** Indian Himalayas  
Climate Adaptation  
Programme

  
**CMS**  
[www.cmsindia.org](http://www.cmsindia.org)



A REPORT

# State Media Workshop on Climate Change Reporting

Guwahati, March 07 - 09, 2019

Jointly organized by **Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP)** of **Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)**, **Centre for Media Studies (CMS)** and **Department of Science and Technology (NMSHE)**

Venue: **The Lily Hotel, Guwahati**

#### **About Indian Himalaya Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP)**

(Strengthening Capacity on Climate Science and Adaptation in the Indian Himalayas)

Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) is a project under Global Programme Climate Change and Environment (GPCCE) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). In India it is anchored under the Framework Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation (2003) between the Government of India and Government of Switzerland and is being implemented as a bilateral cooperation programme with Department of Science & Technology. The IHCAP builds on capacity and knowledge enhancement related to three pillars—scientific and technical knowledge cooperation between Indian and Swiss scientific institutions; adaptation measures for vulnerable communities; and mainstreaming adaptation policies for improved action in the Indian Himalayan Region. [www.ihcap.in](http://www.ihcap.in)

#### **About Centre for Media Studies (CMS)**

Established in 1991, CMS is a not-for-profit, multi-disciplinary development research and facilitative think-tank. It endeavors to work towards responsive governance and equitable development through research, advocacy and capacity building in social development, environment, communication, media, transparency and governance issues at local and national policy levels. Its flagship programme in environment sector is VATAVARAN, a leading international festival of environmental films.

Find more details at: [www.cmsindia.org](http://www.cmsindia.org)

# CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Summary   | 1  |
| Inaugural Session   | 2  |
| Overview of State Action Plan on Climate Change<br>and Adaptation with focus on the Himalayan Region            | 3  |
| <b>Climate Change Vulnerability study in the Indian Himalayan Region<br/>with a focus on the state of Assam</b> |    |
| <b>Changing Trends of Climate in Assam</b>  |    |
| Impact of Climate Change with focus on<br>the state of Assam  | 5  |
| <b>Climate Change &amp; Disaster Management in Context of Assam</b>   |    |
| <b>Impact of Climate Change on Sericulture</b>  |    |
| <b>Nature Learning and Awareness</b>  |    |
| Field Visit   | 7  |
| Media round table on bridging the gap between media,<br>scientist and civil societies                           | 8  |
| Feedback by Participants  | 10 |
| Annex 1 – Agenda  | 11 |
| Annex 2 – Media Registration  | 13 |
| Media Coverage  | 14 |







## Summary

The tenth state level media workshop on climate change reporting was held in Guwahati, Assam from March 07 – 09, 2019. The workshop was organized by Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Centre for Media Studies (CMS).

The three-day workshop brought together climate change experts, media professionals and media students from the state of Assam. The event revolved around the sensitisation of media persons in the area of climate change and engaged in dialogues on different aspects of climate change and adaptation.

The objective of the workshop was to brainstorm and share experiences on environment reporting with a special focus on climate change. It brought together around 30 media representative and media students from the state of Assam. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Arvind Madhav Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Department of Environment & Forest, Government of Assam in presence of Shri. Abhay Kumar Johari, Member Secretary Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB), Ms. Shimpy Khurana Communications Officer, IHCAP and Ms. Annu Anand, Head CMS Advocacy, Centre for Media Studies.

Addressing the gathering Shri Arvind Madhav Singh said, “The issue of climate change cannot be solved in a short duration. A multi stakeholder involvement is required to tackle climate change”.

Shri. Abhay Kumar Johari, Member Secretary Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) said, “Assam has a unique feature in State Action Plan for Climate Change (SAPCC) and such plan is nowhere in the country – we proposed a mechanism to implement the actions which is called Assam Climate Change Management Society (ACCMA).

Ms. Shimpy Khurana Communications Officer, IHCAP presented the overview of IHCAP program. She said, “IHCAP’s media engagement plan is a great opportunity for media persons to highlight the issues related to climate change in the Himalayas and what people are doing to cope with them.”

Ms. Annu Anand, Head CMS Advocacy, Centre for Media Studies said, “The real challenge of climate change reporting is to connect changes occurring at the local level with climate science and policies. We are trying to build this capacity among journalists.”

The first day of thematic session began with Mr. Abhay Kumar Johari giving a brief about the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) where he mentioned that the Assam State Biodiversity Board is handling the climate change cell of the state that few activities were outline in the thematic area for next 5 years. Mr. Johari also gave a brief about the impact of climate change on biodiversity and livelihood.

This was followed by a presentation on climate change vulnerability study in the Indian Himalayan region with a focus on the state of Assam by Dr. Anamika Barua, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati. She said, “Assam is the most vulnerable state towards climate change as the socio– eco health indicators are very poor in the state.” She also mentioned that the state has the second lowest per capita income; low percentage area covered under crop insurance and low MGNREGA participation.

Dr. Sanjay Oneill Shaw, Scientist – E, Regional Meteorological Centre, Guwahati presented the Changing Trends of Climate in Assam. He talked about changing monsoon rainfall pattern in Assam. He also talked about the flood scarcity that has been affecting the state in the past several years.

The second thematic session focussed on addressing impact of climate change in Assam. Ms. Mandira Buragohain, Project Officer (Knowledge Management & Climate Change) of Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) spoke about Climate Change & Disaster Management in context of Assam providing an overview of the ASDMA and how the state is prepared to manage disaster. She elaborated it by giving the example of the 2018 Assam flood.

Mr. Paban Kr. Dutta, Joint Director, Department of Sericulture, Government of Assam outlined the impact of climate change on Sericulture. He also briefed about how the state’s muga silkworm is adapting to climate change. This was followed up by a nature learning and awareness session by Dr. Queen Sharma, Program Coordinator, Nature Learning Centre, Assam State Biodiversity Board, Government of Assam. The session was moderated by Ms. Shimpy Khurana, Communication Officer, IHCAP.

On the second day of the workshop, the participants visited the town of Sonarpur in the outskirts of Guwahati city to witness the Zero Budget Edible Food Forest created by Spread NE NGO (Society for Promotion of Rural Economy & Agricultural Development, Northeast). The organization works on how to grow the crops inside the forest with zero budget and zero dependence on external resources in a healthy, climate resilient and thriving environment.

The participants also witnessed the bio-intensive raised beds, high intensity planting and vermicomposting to multiple crops planted in the wild like the Naga King Chilly planted under the shade of bamboo tree as a part of the practices undertaken by the forest farm. The visit was led by Mr. Samir Bordoloi, Secretary General & Ecological Farming Expert at Spread NE.

On the concluding day of the workshop, Mr. Dinesh C Sharma, Managing Editor – India Science Wire gave an overview of media and climate change, he spoke about the mitigation policies and adaptation strategies followed in the north eastern states and the three most impacted areas like agriculture, water resources and livelihoods. Mr. Sharma shared successful climate adaptation stories from north-eastern states, as a result of some of new adaptation initiatives.

The workshop concluded with a panel discussion. It aimed at bridging the gaps between the media and the different stakeholders for better climate change reporting. The panellist include Mr. Ankuran Dutta, Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of Communication & Journalism, Guwahati University, Mr. Abhay Kumar Johari, IFS Member, Secretary, Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB), Mr. Samudra Gupta Kashyap, Senior Journalist and Mr. Dinesh C Sharma, Managing Editor – India Science Wire.

The session was moderated by Ms. Annu Anand, Head Advocacy, Centre for Media Studies (CMS).



## Inaugural Session

The three-day State Media Workshop on Climate Change Reporting for the state of Assam was held in Guwahati from March 07 – 09, 2019. This was the tenth media workshop in a series of capacity building media program aimed for the Indian Himalayan Region. The workshop was inaugurated by Shri Arvind Madhav Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Department of Environment & Forest, Government of Assam in presence of Shri. Abhay Kumar Johari, Member Secretary Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB), Ms. Shimpy Khurana Communications Officer, IHCAP and Ms. Annu Anand, Head CMS Advocacy, Centre for Media Studies.

The event began with the lighting of the lamp followed by presentation of mementos to all the dignitaries.

Ms. Annu Anand, Head, CMS Advocacy, Centre for Media Studies welcomed the participants. She mentioned that there is need to improve the coverage on climate change and environment in the mainstream media as it will help in spreading the right information and creating awareness among the vulnerable communities. Training program and workshops like these promote and sensitize media to spread awareness and give the right message about climate change. She said, “The real challenge of climate change reporting is to connect changes occurring at the local level with climate science and policies. We are trying to build this capacity among journalists.”

Ms. Shimpy Khurana, Communications Officer, IHCAP gave an overview of IHCAP and its program and also mentioned about the ongoing series of training, workshop and fellowships on climate change and adaptation. She said, “IHCAP’s media engagement plan is a great opportunity for all of you to highlight the issues related to climate change in the Himalayas and what people are doing to cope with them.” Ms. Khurana also mentioned that the aim of these kind of workshops is to empower state level environment journalist who often don’t have information about data, access to experts or releases and reports.

Ms. Khurana also shared an impact of these workshops wherein the Government of Manipur announced its media fellowship program for one year on climate change along the lines of CMS IHCAP Media workshop on Climate Change.

While inaugurating the workshop, Mr. Arvind Madhav Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Department of Environment & Forest, Government of Assam said, “The issue of climate change cannot be solved in a short duration. A multi stakeholder involvement is required to tackle climate change it needs to be break down to simplified language in order to make the people understand. The state of Assam has been facing drinking water scarcity for the past several years, the ground water has also been at low to medium level and the department is trying to develop a state water policy for Assam, informed Mr. Singh.





## Overview of State Action Plan on Climate Change and adaptation with focus on the Himalayan region

The first part of technical session began with the participants gathering to engage in presentations on various topics by senior thematic experts, scientists and policy makers. Ms. Annu Anand moderated the session, where she briefed the participants on the course of the workshop.

Mr. Abhay Kumar Johari Member Secretary Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) briefly gave an overview of the State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) and Impact of climate change on biodiversity and livelihood. Mr. Johari mentioned that India drafted its National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) in 2008. The Action Plan identifies the vulnerabilities of India due to climate change and lays out an approach to adapt to the impacts through different sources affected by climate change like water resources, agriculture, forest, bio diversity etc. The state government while preparing the state action plan on climate change were focused on the flooring issue on the state. He further stated, "The state of Assam has a unique feature in State SAPCC which is nowhere in the country – we proposed a mechanism to implement the actions which is called Assam Climate Change Management Society (ACCMA)".

### Climate Change Vulnerability study in the Indian Himalayan Region with a focus on the state of Assam

Dr. Anamika Barua, Associate Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati gave a presentation on climate change vulnerability study in the Indian Himalayan Region with a focus on the state of Assam.

Dr. Barua, defined vulnerability to climate change, she mentioned that vulnerability to climate change is the degree to which geophysical, biological and socio-economic systems are susceptible to and unable to cope with adverse impacts of climate change.

She also mentioned that in order to reduce the current risk of climate change, focus should be on the vulnerability component of risk across all scales – from state to village level, and across all sectors like – forest, water, agriculture.

A common framework for climate vulnerability assessment is developed like the IPCC 2014 (risk framework) which focuses on current vulnerability to climate change. It also measures the scale of analysis within the state/ district.

Dr. Barua also mentioned the socio-economic, demographic status and health indicator where population density, percentage of marginal farmers, livestock to human ratio, per capita income, the number of primary health care centres per 100,000 households and percentage of women in the overall workforce are to be considered for the vulnerability.



The sensitivity of agricultural production which includes percentage area under irrigation, yield variability and percentage area under horticulture crops should also be accounted for vulnerability towards climate change in the region.

She said, “For the state of Assam the key drivers of vulnerability include the socio-economic, demographic and health indicator and sub indicators shows that least area under irrigation and the least forest area available per 1,000 rural households including the number of farmers taking loans contribute significantly to climate change as compared to other states. The state also has the second lowest per capita income and low percentage area covered under crop insurance and low MGNREGA participation”.

Dr. Barua concluded her presentation by mentioning that deforestation, low per capita income, lack of alternative income such as low average days of employment under MGNREGA and low female literacy rate including poverty are the main factors towards the vulnerability of climate change.

## Changing Trends of Climate in Assam

Dr. Sanjay Oneill Shaw, Scientist – E, Regional Meteorological Centre, Guwahati presented the Changing Trends of Climate in Assam.

Dr. Shaw started his presentation by giving an overview of the functions of IMD National Meteorological & Seismological Service of India where he explained its mandated activities like observations from a national network, global data exchange, operation of forecasting system (models for all time and space scales), public weather and sector specific / climate services, disaster warning/ earthquake detection.

Dr. Shaw later briefed about the difference between Weather and Climate, where he mentions that weather is a fluctuating state of the atmosphere around us characterized by wind, temperature, rainfall, clouds etc. whereas climate describes average day-today weather for a specific location or region experienced over an extended period of time. Therefore, generally, averaging over extended period of around 30 years gives climate.

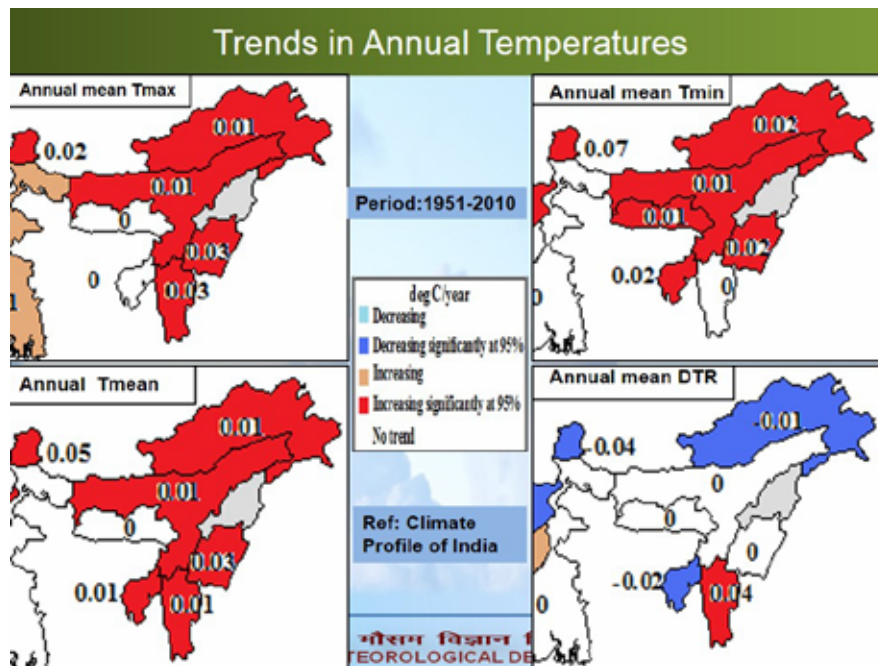
The climate has variability on all time and space scales and will always be changing. The climate change has impact on natural resources, economic activities, food security, human health and physical infrastructure. Climate has shown warming of 0.89 degree over the period 1901–2012 which is mainly attributed to anthropogenic activities (IPCC 2013).

Mr. Shaw also later showcased the different mean temperature from 1951 – 2010 with focus on the north east region of the country.

There has been an annual rise in the mean temperature in the region over these years. The state of Assam has witnessed an average rise of 0.01degree rise in temperature as shown in the picture below.

High dependence on agriculture and lack of alternative source of livelihood also increases the vulnerability of the state. Likewise, loss of forest cover and low female literacy rate reduces adaptive capacity of the state towards climate change.





## Impact of Climate Change with focus on the state of Assam

### Climate Change & Disaster Management in Context of Assam

Ms. Shimpy Khurana Communications Officer IHCAP moderated the second session of the workshop.

Ms. Mandira Buragohain, Project Officer (Knowledge Management & Climate Change) of the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) gave a presentation on climate change and disaster management in context of Assam.

Ms. Buragohain, started her presentation by giving an overview of the department which was established in 2007 under the Disaster Management Act, 2005. She mentioned few thrust areas of the department like the development of SOPs (Standard Operating Procedure), manual, rules and policies; preparation of disaster Management Plans at State, district and departmental level.

Other focus of the department includes the scientific studies and projects for development of decision support system, strengthening legal framework for hazards, risk and vulnerability assessment (HRVA) capacity building, training and awareness generation collaboration with regional, national and international level knowledge institutions

She also spoke about the scientific studies undertaken by Assam State Disaster Management Authority. Some of which were listed are the status surveys for Schools and Hospital Buildings in





Guwahati City and Retrofitting solutions conducted in Assam Engineering College; flood damage mitigation measures for Barak Valley in South Assam including effects of climate change implemented by NIT, Silchar and IIT, Guwahati; among others.

Few technology applications in disaster risk reduction by ASDMA as mentioned by Ms. Buragohain, include online Management and Information System (MIS) for search and rescue equipment inventory; development of a web geo portal on google platform with all critical infrastructures for decision support.

Ms. Buragohain concluded her presentation by mentioning that media is an important channel for dissemination of information to empower people. High-quality media coverage of climate change can deliver better informed publics and better- informed policymakers — and promote a sustainable outcome to the intergovernmental climate change negotiations.

## Impact of Climate Change on Sericulture

Mr. Paban Dutta, Joint Director (Rtd) Department of Sericulture, Government of Assam gave the presentation on the Impact of Climate Change on Sericulture.

Mr. Dutta started his talk with an overview of Assam's muga silkworm battles towards climate change. He mentioned that the muga silkworm, revered in Assam, as it produces globally famous 'Assam silk' and is unique to the northeast region in India. The state is also a major producer of another sartorial icon, the eri or enda silk. Apart from the more traditional use as a textile, silk is also a source for novel biomaterials, with applications in skin care, tissue engineering and the like.

Activities such as rearing, reeling, weaving, winding, sizing, warping and beaming of yarn provides livelihood to nearly 3.10 lakh families in Assam, with women forming 65 percent of those making a living from silk rearing and spinning activities, say experts.

Speaking on the effects of atmospheric change, Mr. Dutta mentioned that the rise in atmospheric temperature is not new and it was started from pre-industrialisation era.

"The rise in global atmospheric temperature mainly depends on increase in concentration of Green House Gases (GHG) like CO<sub>2</sub>, methane and nitrous oxide. Rising of these GHG emissions are associated with burning of fossil fuel, rapid industrialization, deforestation, agricultural activities, modernisation of lifestyle (home appliances), space explosion, grazing, wetland destruction and land use change", Mr. Dutta informed.



He mentioned that the muga silkworm performs best in the temperature range of 25-27 °C and humidity of 75-85 percent. Generally, a temperature ranges minimum of 15 °C and a maximum of 33 °C is considered as the range of temperature suitable for muga silkworm rearing. Beyond these two ranges, mortality of muga silkworm increases. Many farmers are putting off silkworm rearing by 10 to 15 days to avoid high temperatures during the commercial crop season from mid-October to mid-November.

It is very difficult to maintain the silkworms when the temperature goes above 30 degrees Celsius. During June to September the temperature can also shoot up between 30 to 40 °C.

Mr. Dutta concluded by stating, "A timely and rapid initiative is required to safeguard the interest of the muga cottage industry from decimation by climate change."

## Nature Learning and Awareness

A session on Nature Learning and Awareness was conducted by Dr. Queen Sarma, Program Coordinator, Nature Learning Awareness program of the Assam State Biodiversity Board.

Dr. Sarma spoke about the Nature Learning Centre, Assam, a project implemented by Ministry of Environment & Forest under National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) in Assam implemented by Assam State Biodiversity Board and Assam Forest Department.

The NLC focuses on various outreach programs to promote awareness on biodiversity conservation and create a cadre of trainers for facilitating participatory conservation of biodiversity and natural resources. It also facilitates ex-situ conservation of select species and identify more such sites across the state where people have been practising ex-situ conservation to maintain their cultural, traditional and religious beliefs or for aesthetic values.

## Field Visit

On the second day of the workshop, around 25 participants gathered for a field visit to Sonapur, Assam to witness the on-ground implementation of climate change adaptation techniques. The participants visited one of the climate resilient organic farms of Spread NE NGO (Society for Promotion of Rural Economy & Agricultural Development, Northeast). The visit was led by Mr. Samir Bordoloi, Secretary General and Ecological Farming Expert at Spread NE, who has been honoured with multiple awards in the field of innovative farming.

Mr. Bordoloi briefed the participants about Spread NE which started as an ecological farm learning centre where they bring youths from different parts of the north-east and train them as Green





Commandos. Since January 2017, the organisation has been holding three-day camps that gives youngsters hands-on training in organic farming located on a hill in Sonapur, called the Farm Learning Centre.

Spread NE works to share the techniques they have developed on how to grow the crops inside the forest with zero budget and zero dependence on external resources in a healthy, climate resilient and thriving environment.

Special attention is given to trapping of carbon to prevent it from releasing into the atmosphere. This is done by preparing the compost in a manner which helps carbon-trapping. Sustainable reuse and recycling practices are followed at the farm. Bamboo is used to make Bio-char which proves to be an effective fertilizer.

Following the discussion, the participants were taken on a forest-trek to witness the variety of practices undertaken at the forest-farm. From bio-intensive raised beds, high intensity planting and vermicomposting to multiple crops planted in the wild like the Naga King Chilly planted under the shade of bamboo tree, a variety of things were shown around during the trek. Participants were shown various other plants such as mahogany, gooseberries, okra, mango ginger, starfruit, etc. with special reference to them being able to withstand extreme weather conditions.

Post the trek, participants headed over for lunch and got to taste the local farm produce, followed by a discussion on story ideas. The students and media persons shared their story ideas in terms of which part of the session they found to be news-worthy. Overall, it was expressed that the participants had a unique experience and the field visit helped to broaden their practical knowledge on the subject.

## Media round table on bridging the gap between media, scientist and civil societies

On the third and final day of the media workshop, participants had the overview of climate change in media. A panel discussion on the challenges faced by media while reporting on the issue and on bridging the gap between media and other stakeholders like government officials, civil society and academicians was held at Hotel Prag Continental

The panelists included Mr. Dinesh C Sharma, Managing Editor – India Science Wire, Mr. Samudra Gupta Kashyap, Senior Journalist, Mr. Abhay Kumar Johari, IFS Member Secretary – Assam





State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) and Mr. Ankuran Dutta, Associate Professor & Head – Dept. of Communication & Journalism, Guwahati University. The session was moderated by Ms. Annu Anand, Head, CMS Advocacy.

While giving an overview of climate change reporting and status in the media, Mr. Dinesh C Sharma shared the qualities of a good climate change story among the participants. According to him, three elements are of prime importance: science, policy and ground impacts. A balance of these elements is essential for a story to have the required reach and impact. Another aspect which journalists should stress upon is the fact that climate change is a complex beat and the linkages of it with other beats such as agriculture, water, energy, economics, politics, etc. should be well acknowledged.

Mr. Sharma substantiated his talk by analysing few climate change stories and pointing out the missing elements. For a story to be authentic, credible and valuable, it should have relevant data and quotes from the various stakeholders involved. He also emphasised that the use of jargons should be avoided. “Humanise the story to interest the reader,” he adds. He concluded by citing sources of information on climate change for reporting purposes.

Mr. Samudra Gupta Kashyap spoke about the impact of climate change reporting on policy. He mentioned that it takes a lot of time to impact policy; sustained effort is needed to carry the story repeatedly. According to him, the sustained efforts do not take place because either the editors do not allow the use of time or space for this cause or the knowledge is not readily available via scientific communities, government departments and universities. Therefore, the potential of creating impact in this area remains unutilized.

Mr. Abhay Kumar Johari shared his experience, as a govt. official, with the participants. One of the expectations he has from the media is that sensationalism should stop. “There are important stories and there are impactful stories. What you print on the first page is extremely important,” he expressed.

Mr. Johari also focused on the importance of traditional knowledge and wisdom and the use of it to become a climate scientist at the ground level. He urged the participants to buy and consume local food produce as much as possible, which will help in conserving the rich biodiversity in Assam.

The relevance of community and alternative media in today’s scenario was highlighted by Mr. Ankuran Dutta. He believes that the mainstream media does not cover development stories because people do not like to read such stories. The young generation is a step further and does not want to



read newspapers, listen to radio or watch news on television. In such a scenario, alternative media is essential. “The mainstream media is about us and for us but they are not of us and by us. We should concentrate on community media. Then we can change the behaviour of the common people,” he stated. He feels that a blended and holistic approach, which ranges from conducting formative research to effective monitoring and evaluation, is required to attain the necessary impacts.

The session concluded with sharing of experiences by the participants, followed by distribution of certificates on behalf of CMS and IHCAP.

## Feedback by Participants

The State level media workshop conducted over a period of three days, witnessed active participation from the media, environment scholars and media students from the state of Assam. While some of them liked the field visit as it offered an exposure to the ground reality. Others, liked the thematic sessions by Dr. Anamika Barua on Climate Change Vulnerability study in the Indian Himalayan Region with a focus on the state of Assam and the session on bridging the gap between media, scientist and civil societies.

Few of them expressed that the workshop has helped them in understanding the nuances of climate change and how we can contribute our bit to bring a change. The workshop has also helped to understand how climate change affects our day to day life. These kind of workshops should not only be organised for media but also for students of environmental science as it will help them to get a deep knowledge on their subject. Students from environment science mentioned that the content of the workshop is a part of their daily curriculum. The three-day workshop will benefit them in the long run.

A participant mentioned the takeaways in a trending format of hashtags, #gogreen #reuse #recycle #reduce and others. Few student participants also suggested that the fellowship CMS is offering in partnership with IHCAP should not be only awarded to media persons but should also be given to the environment and media students as it will help them to write on the subject of their choice.

Overall, the participants liked the content of the workshop as it provided the wholesome knowledge of every aspect of climate change. Apart from that, during the workshop not only the problems were discussed but possible solutions were also given. There were also suggestions for organising such workshops for more often and a sustained manner.



# Annex 1 – Agenda



Department of Science & Technology  
Ministry of Science & Technology  
Government of India

**NMSHE** NATIONAL MISSION FOR  
SUSTAINING THE HIMALAYAN  
ECOSYSTEM



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**

## Agenda for the Media Workshop on Climate Change Reporting March 07 - 09, 2019, Guwahati

| DAY 1: March 07, 2019 (09:30 am to 05:00 pm)   |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| Venue – The Lily Hotel, Parampara Hall (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor), G.S. Road, Six Mile, Khanapara, Guwahati   |   |   |
| Program of Inaugural Session   |   |   |
| 9:30 am – 10: 00 am  | Registration  |   |
| 10:00 am   | Arrival of the <b>Chief Guest, Shri Alok Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam</b>  |   |
| 10:30 am   | Welcome address and introduction of the workshop by<br><b>Ms. Annu Anand, Head, CMS Advocacy, Centre for Media Studies (CMS)</b>  |   |
| 10:35 am   | Overview on Climate Change and Objective of IHCAP program by<br><b>Ms. Shimpy Khurana, Communication Officer, IHCAP</b>   |   |
| 10:45 am   | <i>Lighting of lamp by Dignitaries and other guests</i>   |   |
| 10:55 am   | Address by<br><b>Mr. Abhay Kumar Johari, IFS Member Secretary Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB),</b>  |   |
| 11:10 am   | Address by<br><b>Shri Arvind Madhav Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF &amp; HoFF), Department of Environment &amp; Forest, Government of Assam</b> |   |
| 11:25 am   | Address by <b>Chief Guest, Shri Alok Kumar, IAS, Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam</b>  |   |
|  | <b>Tea Break</b>  |   |
| Session I – Overview of State Action Plan on Climate Change and adaptation with focus on the Himalayan region (12:15 pm to 02:30 pm) Moderated by Ms. Annu Anand |   |   |
| 12:15 pm – 12:40 pm  | Overview of State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC)   | <b>Mr. Abhay Kumar Johari</b> , IFS Member Secretary, Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) |
| 12:40 pm – 01:00 pm  | Climate Change Vulnerability study in the Indian Himalayan Region with a focus on the state of Assam  | <b>Dr. Anamika Barua</b> , Associate Professor, Indian Institute Of Technology, Guwahati    |
| 01:00 pm – 01:20 pm  | Changing Trends of Climate in Assam   | <b>Dr. Sanjay Oneill Shaw</b> , Scientist – E, Regional Meteorological Centre, Guwahati     |
| 01:20 pm - 01:40pm   | Impact of Climate Change on Biodiversity & Livelihood   | <b>Mr. Abhay Kumar Johari</b> , IFS Member Secretary, Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) |
| 01:40 pm - 02:00pm   | <b>Discussion by Moderator and Q &amp; A Session</b>  |   |
| 02:00 pm - 02: 30 pm   | <b>Lunch Break</b>  |   |



| Session II - Impact of Climate Change with focus on the state of Assam<br>(02:30 pm to 04:30 pm) Moderated by Mr. Abhay Kumar Johari      |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| 02:30 pm – 02:50 pm   | Impact of Climate Change on Agriculture  | Mr. Amlan Baruah, Commissioner & Secretary (Rtd), Agriculture Department, Govt. of Assam   |
| 02:50 pm – 03:10 pm   | Climate Change & Disaster Management in Context of Assam   | Ms. Mandira Buragohain, Project Officer (Knowledge Management & Climate Change), Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) |
| 3:10 pm - 3:30 pm   | Impact of Climate Change on Sericulture  | Mr. Mukta Nath Saikia, Director, Sericulture Govt. of Assam  |
| 03:30 pm – 03:50pm  | Nature Learning and Awareness  | Representative From Assam State Biodiversity Board   |
| 03:50 pm – 04:15 pm   | Discussion by Moderator and Q & A Session  |  |
| 04:15 pm – 04:30 pm   | TEA  |  |
| 04:30 pm – 04:50 pm   | Overview of Media & Climate Change<br>Mr. Dinesh C Sharma, Managing Editor – India Science Wire  |  |
| 04:50 pm – 05:00 pm   | Vote of Thanks by Mr. Asif Alam Mazumder, Assistant Manager, Centre for Media Studies (CMS)  |  |
| DAY 2: March 08, 2019 (10:00 am onwards)  |  |  |
| 10:00 am  | Assembly at Hotel Prag Continental, Motilal Nehru Road, Pan Bazar, Guwahati  |  |
|   | Departure for field visit  |  |
|   | Field Visit: To Sonapur, Kamrup Metro District to witness the climate resilient organic farming and interact with ecological farming experts |  |
| 01:30 pm - 02:30 pm   | Lunch, Group Photograph and Informal Interaction   |  |
| 02:30 pm – 03:00 pm   | Discussion of story ideas by Mr. Dinesh C Sharma, Managing Editor – India Science Wire   |  |
| DAY 3: March 09, 2019 ( 10:00 am to 02:00 pm)   |  |  |
| Venue – Hotel Prag Continental, Summit Hall (6 <sup>th</sup> Floor), Motilal Nehru Road, Pan Bazar, Guwahati                              |  |  |
| Media Round Table on- Bridging the gap between media, scientist and civil societies (10:00 am to 02:00 pm)<br>Moderated by Ms. Annu Anand |  |  |
| 10:00 am - 12:00 pm   | Bridging the gap between media, scientist and civil societies  | Dr. Bibhab Kr. Talukdar, Aaranyak NGO  |
|   |  | Mr. Ankuran Dutta, Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of Communication & Journalism, Guwahati University                            |
|   |  | Representative From Assam State Biodiversity Board   |
|   |  | Mr. Samudra Gupta Kashyap, Senior Journalist   |
|   |  | Mr. Dinesh C Sharma, Managing Editor – India Science Wire  |
| 12:00 pm - 12:30 pm   | Experience sharing and story ideas on climate change by the participants   |  |
| 12:30 pm - 12.45 pm   | Presentation of certificates   |  |
| 12:45pm - 02:00 pm  | Lunch and departure  |  |

## Annex 2 – Media Registration

**Mr. Devajit Baruah**

Correspondent  
The Telegraph, Jorhat  
devajitbaruah@gmail.com

**Mr. Dibya Jyoti Borah**

Reporter  
Assam Talks, Jorhat  
Dibyaborah555@gmail.com

**Mr. Niranjan Mahanta**

Staff Reporter  
Amar Asom, Jorhat  
Nmahanta1234@gmail.com

**Mr. Samudra Gupta Kashyap**

Sr. Journalist  
Freelance, Guwahati  
Sgkashyap@gmail.com

**Mr. S. Lenio Krichena**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
lukrichena@gmail.com

**Mr. Mosis Wangsa**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Moseswangsa13@gmail.com

**Ms. Priyanka Das**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Daspriyanka0629@gmail.com

**Ms. Monaliza Goswami**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Monalizagoswami9@gmail.com

**Ms. Sangita Goswami**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Sangi20g@gmail.com

**Ms. Jupitora G. Momin**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
jupitoramomin7576@gmail.com

**Ms. Sentikala Longkumem**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
sentikalalongkumem@gmail.com

**Mr. Jwngthaigiri khakhalaky**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
jwngthaik@gmail.com

**Mr. Kulodip Kuma Das**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
kdxmmail@gmail.com

**Mr. Riju Ray**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Riju2645@gmail.com

**Ms. Priyanka Neog**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Priyankaneog432@gmail.com

**Ms. Jolly Sarma**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Jollysarma35@gmail.com

**Ms. Sonmani Ray**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Sonmaniray12@gmail.com

**Mr. Uddipta Das**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Uddiptadas05@gmail.com

**Mr. Arup Deka**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Arupdeka720@gmail.com

**Ms. Prastuti Gogoi**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Prastutigogoi86@gmail.com

**Mr. Manab Jyoti Patan**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Mnbpatan@gmail.com

**Mr. Tanbeer Ahmed**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
tanbeer666@gmail.com

**Mr. Ansshuman Hazarika**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Ansshu12@gmail.com

**Mr. Arunabh Barman**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Arunabhbarman02@gmail.com

**Mr. Aminul Haque**

Journalism & Mass Comm Student  
Gauhati University, Guwahati  
Aminulhaque80081@gmail.com

# Media Coverage

Inaugural and Technical Session Coverage

## The Shillong Times

ESTABLISHED 1945



climate change reporting workshop.

NEWS ALERT REGIONAL

### Assam Stands Most Vulnerable To Climate Change: Expert

By From Our Correspondent — Last updated: Mar 8, 2019

GUWAHATI: Assam stands most vulnerable among N-E states to climate change as health indicators are very poor in the state.

This was commented by Dr Anamika Baruah, Associate Professor at Guwahati while speaking on the climate change vulnerability study.

She mentioned, "Assam also has the second lowest per capita income, crop insurance and low MGNREGA participation."

"The issue of climate change cannot be solved in a short duration. A multi stakeholder involvement is required to tackle climate change", said Arvind Madhav Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Assam while speaking during the inaugural session of the three-day media workshop on climate change organised by Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Centre for Media Studies (CMS).

He also said that there was a need to prepare a module for creating a uniform sensitisation programme on the issue of climate change.

Abhay Kumar Johari, Member Secretary Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) said in his inaugural session of the three-day media workshop on climate change (SAPCC) which is a part of the actions called

## The Assam Tribune

### Multi-stakeholder involvement needed to tackle climate change'

Staff Reporter

GUWAHATI, March 9 - The issue of climate change cannot be solved in a short time. A multi-stakeholder involvement is required to tackle climate change, said Arvind Madhav Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Assam. He was addressing the inaugural session of the three-day media workshop on climate change organised by the Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Centre for Media Studies (CMS) here on Thursday, said a press release today. Singh also maintained that there is a need to prepare a module for creating a uniform sensitisation programme on the issue of climate change.

Abhay Kumar Johari, Member Secretary Assam State Biodiversity Board (ASBB) said in his inaugural session of the three-day media workshop on climate change (SAPCC) which is a part of the actions called

Pre Event Coverage

## The Sentinel

*of this land, for its people*

Link: <https://www.sentinelassam.com/news/ihcap-and-centre-for-media-studies-to-conduct-climate-change-workshop/>

### IHCAP and Centre for Media Studies to conduct climate change workshop

March 6, 2019

STAFF REPORTER

**GUWAHATI:** The impact of climate change in the Himalayan region is more pronounced than in other regions, particularly on agriculture, livelihoods and biodiversity. In this context, a three-day media sensitization workshop is being organized at Guwahati, from March 7 and 9, 2019. The workshop is being organized by Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Centre for Media Studies (CMS). The objective of the workshop is to brainstorm and share experiences on environment reporting with a special focus on climate change.

UNI  
BRIEF  
ACCURACY  
SPEED

United News of India  
India's Multi Lingual News Agency

Link: <http://www.uniindia.com/north-eastern-states-affected-in-terms-of-ecological-security/east/news/1521876.html>

### North Eastern states affected in terms of ecological security

Udaipur, Mar 08(UNI) The eight north-eastern states of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura have been affected in terms of ecological security and livelihood status, especially for vulnerable sections.

The climate change plays a crucial role in providing forest cover; feeding perennial rivers that are the source of drinking water, irrigation, and hydropower; conserving biodiversity; providing a rich base for high-value agriculture, and spectacular landscapes for sustainable tourism. Global warming and climate change is a relevant issue throughout the world, but it affects mostly the mountain regions as mountains are mostly fragile environment in earth. These changes will impact on everything from the natural landscape to human health, built infrastructure, and socio-economic conditions.

The economy of Tripura is basically agrarian and characterized by high rate of poverty, low per-capita income, low capital formation, inadequate infrastructural facilities, geographical isolation and more than 42 per cent of its population now directly depends on agriculture & allied activities.

The three days workshop organized by Centre for Media Studies (CMS) in Guwahati is aimed to brainstorm and share experiences on environment reporting with a special focus on climate change. Assam needs multi stakeholder involvement to deal climate change.

"The issue of climate change cannot be solved in a short duration. A multi stakeholder involvement is required to tackle climate change", said Arvind Madhav Singh, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force (PCCF & HoFF), Department of Environment & Forest, Govt. of Assam while speaking during the inaugural session of the three - day long media workshop on climate change organized by Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and Centre for Media Studies (CMS) here on Thursday, said a press release today. Singh also maintained that there is a need to prepare a module for creating a uniform sensitisation programme on the issue of climate change.

Shimp  
"IHCAP  
climat  
  
Annu  
report  
to bui  
  
Other  
Metec  
Office  
who s  
  
Pabar  
Dr Qu  
Biodiv  
  
The th  
specia

ing on  
am is  
por in  
crop  
  
She  
issues  
hem."  
imate  
licies.  
shop  
ds of  
imate  
r risk  
npart  
ring  
gram.

Guwahati, while  
malayan region,  
nate change as  
e second lowest  
low MGNREGA

of the IHCAP  
opportunity for  
ayas and what  
  
al challenge of  
ls with climate  
he said.

changing trends  
nagement and  
spoke on the  
r joint director  
Queen Sarma,  
e Assam State



