

Thematic Track: Climate Services

Project - The Governance of Climate Services: Improving Knowledge Networks for Resilient and Socially Just Societies (GovClimServices)

Indo-norwegian research collaboration on climate change adaptation

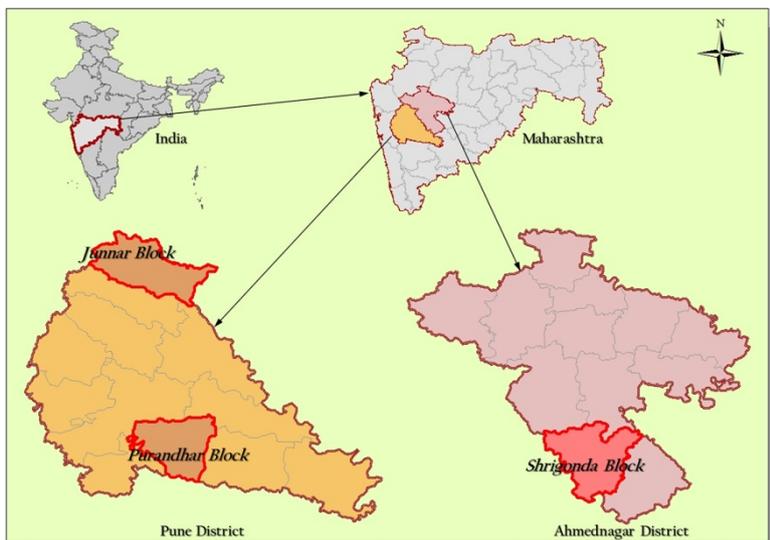
Project Background

Governance of Climate Services (GovClimServices) is a multi-disciplinary research project that analyses conditions for effective governance of climate services in India, running from year 2015 to 2018. The project is a collaboration between the Norwegian Institute of Urban and Regional Research (NIBR-HiOA), the Energy and Resource Institute (TERI), the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA), and Department of Geosciences, University of Oslo (UiO).

The project compares four Indian agro-meteorological service systems, both public and private; how they are governed and if they provide rural farmers tailored and participatory services. The project has conducted field-work in rural villages in the Monsoon belt of India (Maharashtra), starting from June 2015 (in 3 villages and with 4 service providers).

The four service providers of concern include 1) the Indian Meteorological Department – Agromet Advisory Services, now known as GKMS; 2) IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Limited – a partnership of fertilizer cooperative IFFCO and private telecom company Airtel, now known as IK – IFFCO Kisan); 3) Reuters Market Light - RML, now known as RML Agtech Pvt. Ltd.; and 4) The NGO managed system of Watershed Organization Trust (in collaboration with IMD). The project also compares the structure and operations of the public Indian climate services system (IMD-GKMS) with the public-private Norwegian system.

Study Area



Map of Project Area

Fieldwork in this study was undertaken in the three villages, Vadaj, Parinche and Pargaon. Vadaj is located Junnar block in the north-western part of the Pune district, Parinche in Purandhar block in the southern part of Pune district, and Pargaon is located to the east, in Shrigonda block within Ahmadnagar district.

Primary Objectives

To produce and disseminate high quality knowledge about the conditions for effective governance of innovative, open access and useable climate services and related learning networks, and work towards resilient and socially just society

Secondary Objectives

- a. Create public awareness and capacity about the potential of innovative climate services that are open access, equitable, socially just, legitimate, accessible, timely, and tailored, and possible involve public-private-civic partnerships
- b. Build social science climate research capacity among young (female) researchers within Norwegian/CIENS and Indian partner institutions
- c. Reinforce existing research collaboration between key CIENS institutions (NIBR, NIVA, UiO/Meteorology/Geosciences) and TERI and establish a long-term Indo-Norwegian collaborative research program with strong involvement of local authorities in India

Results

The research findings suggest that a range of weather, agronomic and market information is offered by the service providers in India through a diversity of public and private actors, diverse channels of communication and products (sms, apps, websites, voice Messages, bulletins, radio/TV). Farmers subscribing to a given agro-weather service do value the information received, and take such information into farm decisions, especially in situations of extreme weather or risk of pest attacks. However, the general spread and knowledge of agro-met information is still quite low in the villages surveyed. A set of gaps/challenges in terms of accuracy and timeliness and accessibility were observed. The costs of various types of agro-weather services is a concern to the farmers. Women do not appear as subscribers to the agro-weather services, but may receive info through their men.

In comparing the Indian and the Norwegian agro-met services systems, there are many similarities, and some differences. Effective coordination of an array of public and private actors is a precondition for effective learning and transfer of information within the agro-met networks; several coordination challenges are observed, especially in India. The systems in both countries are preoccupied with weather and agro-met forecasts (short- and medium range) and not with communication of long-range climate knowledge or information (reflecting in part farmers' key demands for short- and medium-range information).

Climate services still remain largely supply driven. Their development and delivery is based on what information is available and how efficiently it can be delivered to the end user. The development of agromet advisories is not yet a process of co-evolution, co-discovery and co-development with the end users. A potential misfit seems to exist with respect to the demands of end users and what service providers can deliver both in terms of the content and its timeliness. The decision making process of end users happens more from an unordered thinking as compared to advisories being generated and delivered from an ordered thinking perspective. Those factors that have highest influence on end user's decision rules are hard to predict and are at times fuzzy, thus making it difficult for services providers to tailor and customize their products at farm level.

The research suggests that more interaction and dialogue between service providers and farmers is a precondition for more tailored services and more effective use and uptake of information among farmers in both countries. A stronger focus on medium-range and long-range climate knowledge for

agricultural planners and extension agents would be warranted for a more adaptive agriculture to emerge.