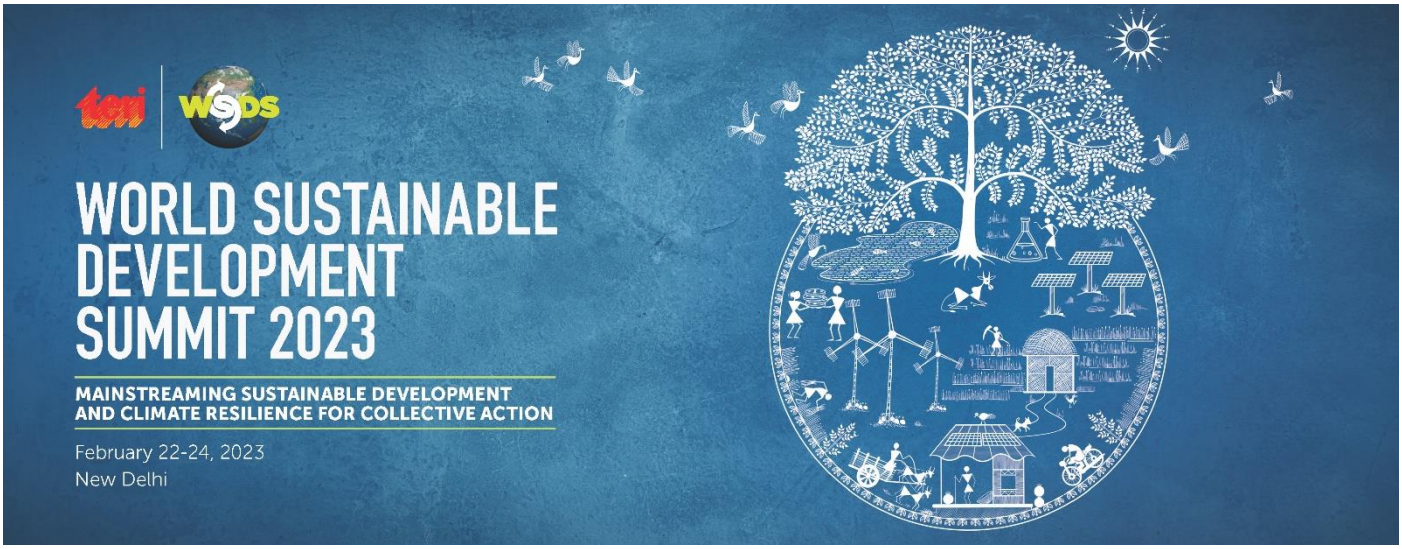

ICAT | INITIATIVE FOR Climate Action Transparency

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Frameworks in India

THEMATIC TRACK (GROUP A)

Venue: Marigold Hall, India Habitat Centre (In-Person and Hybrid)

Date: 23 February 2023 (Thursday)

Time: 11:30 AM – 01:00 PM (IST)

Suggested Citation

World Sustainable Development Summit (2023), Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Frameworks in India, Thematic Track (Group A) (Rapporteur: Sakshi Bajpai), New Delhi: The Energy and Resources Institute.

Actionable Messages

Message 1: Engaging domestic stakeholders across all relevant ministries is critical, especially in sectors such as agriculture, health, and water. An M&E framework is an integral part of the Enhanced Transparency Framework (ETF), and is also important for mobilizing finance.

Message 2: It is important to incorporate mitigation components into the adaptation-based MEL framework for the agriculture sector to make it a more valuable and rounded product. Additionally, the framework should also include remote sensing and GIS, and new technological tools into the operation of MEL.

Message 3: There should be focus on developing sector-specific frameworks, prioritizing institutional capacity building, scaling up framework and indicator development, and emphasizing the importance of capacity building of personnel to ensure effective implementation and use of the MEL frameworks.

Message 4: While there are limitations in terms of time and resources for most projects, integrating both adaptation and mitigation components in one system can give a comprehensive picture of progress being made in addressing climate change impacts. It is important to prioritize developing these frameworks and continue to emphasize the role of agriculture in developing countries.

Message 5: Government of India's Agriculture Ministry is working on a project called Agri-Stat that aims to enhance data infrastructure on various data points about farmers across the country. A collaboration with the Government of India to access this data and incorporate it into the framework was discussed.

Narrative

The thematic track session titled, "Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Frameworks in India" was conducted as part of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) - the annual flagship initiative of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The aim of the session was to introduce the MEL tool, developed by TERI under the ICAT project, as well as taking in feedback from all stakeholders for the operationalization and further strengthening of the MEL framework. Particular focus was given to benefits, challenges, and potential implementation of MEL frameworks. The moderator for the session was **Ms Suruchi Bhadwal, Director, Earth Science and Climate Change Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**. Discussions on various topics unfolded, which included: role of MEL frameworks in enhancing accountability, transparency, and effective implementation of policies and programs related to sustainable development, the challenges and opportunities in developing and using these frameworks in the Indian context, and exploring the potential of emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and big data in improving monitoring and evaluation practices.

The session started with the welcome remarks by **Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director-General, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI),** who highlighted the need for partnerships to strengthen monitoring and evaluation activities and scale up interventions on mitigation and adaptation. **Dr Henning Wuester, ICAT Director** shared his views on the Global Perspectives with Initiative for Climate Action Transparency. He introduced ICAT and its partners, including donor countries, partner countries, and other organizations. He emphasized the importance of data and metrics to drive climate action, especially in climate adaptation. **Dr Henry Neufeldt, Head, Impact Assessment and Adaptation, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre** gave a brief presentation on the Introduction to Initiative for Climate Action Transparency in Adaptation. He discussed the work done in the Adaptation Initiative for the ICAT project in five partner countries: Bangladesh, India, South Africa, Kenya, and the Dominican Republic. Dr Neufeldt also highlighted some specific areas of focus in each country, such as domestic climate finance tracking in Bangladesh, agriculture and irrigation in India, multi-hazard early warning systems in South Africa, agriculture implementation of a National Climate Smart Agriculture strategy in Kenya, and agriculture and tourism in the Dominican Republic. Capacity-building modules developed for stakeholders and project developers in Bangladesh were also discussed in the presentation.

Soon after, a session on various presentations on MEL frameworks in India, chaired by **Dr Lindy Charlery, Advisor, Impact Assessment and Adaptation Analysis, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre** was organized. The first presentation was given by **Mr Amlan Mishra, Research Associate, Earth Science and Climate Change Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** on the National MEL tool on Agriculture and Project Learnings by the TERI Project team and funded by ICAT. In the presentation, he mentioned the vulnerability of the agricultural sector to climate risks and hazards, such as temperature rise, reduction in rainfall, cyclones, floods, and droughts. Mr Mishra also highlighted the three sub-national case studies in the states of Odisha, Puducherry, and Telangana to understand the local-level actors and implementing agencies involved in driving adaptation projects, which helped understand the different ecological contexts in the country as well as the different stakeholders and implementing entities in different policy contexts. Following the presentation, Mr Mishra shared comments from **Mr Sukanta Sahoo, DGM, NABARD** on the proposed MEL framework. According to Mr. Sahoo, while the MEL framework is primarily adaptation-based, it is crucial to include mitigation components for the agriculture sector to make it more comprehensive and valuable for implementing agencies such as NABARD. He also suggested exploring the integration of remote sensing and GIS, along with other technological tools, into the framework. The second presentation was given by **Ms Smita Chakravarty, Research Associate, Earth Science and Climate Change Division, The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)** on MEL Framework Development on Health under the NPCCHH Project funded by GIZ. She discussed the key highlights of the MEL framework for The National Program on Climate Change and Human Health. Ms Chakravarty discussed the methodology to guide the MEL process using a combination of top-down and bottom-up approaches. The preliminary list of indicators and the way forward were also presented.

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion on "Benefits, Challenges and Potential Implementation of MEL Frameworks." **Dr Alex Fisher, Director, Climate Ambition, Climateworks Foundation and Chair, ICAT** initiated the discussion by acknowledging the challenge of introducing a monitoring system that questions the current

system by giving an example of how in 2014, they found out that they were going to miss their targets on greenhouse gas emissions, and it took a massive effort to get all the ministries to contribute. He mentioned that the challenges are more on the adaptation side than on mitigation, and many countries are still grappling with what they need to do.

The next speaker on the panel was **Dr Lindy Charlery, Advisor, Impact Assessment and Adaptation Analysis, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre**. The speaker mentioned the importance of mitigation in addressing climate change, but noted that more has been done in this area than in adaptation due to different challenges and clearer definitions. He emphasized the importance of agriculture in developing countries and the need for frameworks to address climate change concerns. Following this, **Mr Rajeev Chawla, Chief Knowledge Officer and Advisor, Agriculture Ministry, Government of India** spoke about the importance of incorporating data in the MEL frameworks by quoting an example of a project named Agri-Stat, launched by Government of India's Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare. The aim of this project is to create a database to provide data about farmers across the country. Mr Chawla highlighted the need for collaborating with Government of India to access the data and incorporate it into the MEL frameworks.

Ms Johanna Jagnow, Project Manager, Climate Adaptation & Finance, Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ India) described the experience of working in two states, Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, to develop M&E systems for their State Action Plan on Climate Change. She mentioned that the department of environment in both states highlighted the need to select indicators that are easy to monitor, so the team focused on data that was already being collected. Ms Jagnow concluded by saying that the goal is to institutionalize the M&E system so that it will be used by the states and departments. The last panelist was **Mr Jagjeet Singh Sareen, Principal, Dalberg Advisors, Dalbergs' Climate Works.** Mr Sareen mentioned Dalberg, a consulting firm that aims to derive data and insights through AI capabilities and make it public for use. According to him, the firm aims to bring its capacities to inform policymaking and investment decision-making in various sectors impacted by climate change and hence, hopes to get more partners on the way to address climate change in a practical way.

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“	Monitoring and evaluation (M&E) frameworks will help stakeholders report on progress. We have been working with GIZ and ICAT on these elements. Still, there is a long way to go, and we would need partnerships to be strengthened to be able to scale up these activities. Unless and until you monitor and evaluate, you don't know where you are or what is giving you the best results, so you have to understand whether what you're doing is great or not, which will only come through M&E. ***Dr. Vibha Dhawan*** ***Director-General, TERI***
“	The notion of using data and matrix to drive the climate actions has to be better understood and listened carefully. You cannot manage if you cannot measure what you want to achieve. M&E framework is the key to mobilize finance and is a critical part for the implementation process. ***Dr. Henning Wuester*** ***Director, ICAT***
“	When national governments set climate goals and objective strategies, they have to be implemented at local levels and much more than in the case of mitigation this is absolutely critical for adaptation. Engaging with the sub-national and non-state actors is the fundamental requirement to achieving the objectives. It is important to make sure that the reporting is carried out from the local levels all the way back to the national levels, where it can be analysed for necessary action. ***Dr. Henry Neufeldt*** ***Head, Impact Assessment and Adaptation, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre***
“	MEL frameworks are needed for both adaptation and mitigation. For India, we need MEL for capacity building. ***Ms. Suruchi Bhadwal*** ***Director, Earth Science and Climate Change Division, TERI***
“	It is always challenging to bring in an MEL or a monitoring system if you don’t trace the incumbent system. We will need the MEL system to show us the progress. ***Dr. Alex Fisher*** ***Director, Climate Ambition, Climate Works Foundation and Chair, ICAT***
“	A lot more has been done in the mitigation sector because of clear definitions and different sets of challenges that mitigation faces as compared to adaptation. In India’s case, the MEL framework has to be developed by integrating mitigation components with the adaptation components into one M&E system to get a complete picture of climate change, its impacts, and the progress being achieved. ***Dr. Lindy Charlery*** ***Advisor, Impact Assessment and Adaptation Analysis, UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre***
“	Government of India initiated a major project called Agri-Stat, which gives data points of framers required for the MEL framework. Data is a crucial component of any MEL system. ***Mr. Rajeev Chawla*** ***Chief Knowledge Officer and Advisor, Agriculture Ministry, Government of India***
“	Departments need indicators that are easy to monitor in MEL systems. So, the first step is to check the linkages of indicators with other schemes and programs in the other departments. The next step is to have major stakeholder consultations with those departments. The actions must be institutionalized. ***Ms. Johanna Jagnow*** ***Project Manager, Climate Adaptation & Finance, GIZ India***
“	We are all learning. MEL frameworks can help us focus on our body of work. Let us build an organic link with the farmers in India and discuss whatever we know about climate change impacts with them, and how they’re trying to address the same. ***Mr. Jagjeet Singh Sareen*** ***Principal, Dalberg Advisors, Dalbergs’ Climate Works***