

## **Climate Adapted Village – to know, to do, to sustain**

The poorest and most vulnerable people in developing countries are already experiencing the effects of climate change and weather conditions. Adaptation to climate changes is a process which requires constant planning, adjustment and learning in order to manage the risks posed by climate change. Existing coping strategies may not be sufficient in order to tackle the long-term changes. Hence, in addition to analyze what risks people are exposed to, it is also crucial to analyze the quality of options they have for coping and managing risk.

With the above background in mind, DF initiated in 2012 a tool for adaptation initiatives, called Climate Adapted Village (CAV) with the aim of increasing the ability of communities to plan and initiate activities that will make them more flexible to changes.

### **The tool**

CAV is a participatory awareness and planning tool based on both community knowledge and scientific analysis of main climate threats in the community. The main feature of CAV is that community members are part of the whole process from assessment to planning to implementation and management of the adaptation plan and funds. It takes a landscape approach, such as the area of a micro watershed, as the unit of analysis and planning.

DF's CAV approach to adaptation is focusing on interventions in rural areas and on natural resource management. In addition, it aims to support the economic and organizational capacity of communities in order to improve their flexibility and opportunities.

### **The Process**

**CAV** consists of three steps to address climate change adaptation.

1) **TO KNOW:** CAV starts with awareness. This means building knowledge of the community members on climate change issues and what measures can be taken to address hazards. It is not only using traditional knowledge, but also scientific. In practice this process is carried out through a Participatory Vulnerability Assessment, which gives good and systematic information about the issues in the community. The assessment is also a basis for planning.

2) **TO DO:** Once the participatory vulnerability assessment is undertaken, the communities start to prepare an adaptation plan or adjust the current project plan accordingly. This plan consists of chosen activities, such as soil conservation and agroforestry, diversification of genetic resources, integrated pest and disease management, local political advocacy.

3) **TO SUSTAIN:** In addition, organizational capacity, lobbying and advocacy are promoted for better governance of the community plan and for finding various sources of funding, support and resources. The aim is that the community groups will be independent and carry out their plans without only DF funding.

## **Results so far**

The CAV approach has gained significant progress in terms of sensitizing vulnerable people and building their adaptive capacity. CAV will eventually help local governments to get political and economic support to community-based adaptation and mitigation initiatives within and outside the community.

At the moment, DF is piloting CAV in vulnerable farming communities in Honduras, Guatemala, and Nepal and the communities are in the first year of implementation of their 3 year plans.