

**Call for inputs**

**Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights   
in the context of climate change**

**“Access to information on climate change and human rights”**

1. What kind of information should be collected and shared to identify and prevent negative impacts on human rights arising from climate change and climate change response measures? What kind of information can be particularly challenging to access and why?

Bangladesh is a small country with a 147570 km area and within this small area, there have 30 agro agro ecological regions (AEZ). After independence of Bangladesh since 1973, agriculture was a paramount importance in the economy. About 90 percent of the population depended directly or indirectly on agriculture for their survival with contributed 60% of GDP. But the contribution of agriculture has been gradually declining due to negative impacts on human rights arising from the changing situation of climate change.

In addition it has added the shift from agriculture to so called development and industrialization is bringing different and unprecedented catastrophes in the lives of people. Destruction of the biodiversity, environment, health, and rights of the farmers and women had their tolls. Continuous lack of attention and proper planning led to strong decisions and proved detrimental to the greater interest of agriculture as a sector and those of farmers as a productive population. Polluting both terrestrial and aquatic environments by modern agriculture through the use of chemicals, pesticides, and herbicide destroys the biological foundation of farming and renders food sources toxic. As a result naturally available food for all living beings including humans and animals is destroyed. The degradation of soil health has been attributed to larger crop removal due to increasing crop intensity, growth of modern crops, soil erosion, soil salinity, soil acidity, deforestation, nutrient leaching, and minimum manure application, numerous studies have shown.

In the context of changing climatic situation pesticide based agriculture goes as toxics against poultry and livestock keeping by small farmers. They are forced to keep the hen, ducks, cows, and goats inside home when the large or middle scale commercial farmers are spraying pesticides in their fields. This discourages free ranging poultry keeping.

These rampant uses of pesticides create many health hazards like cancer, skin cancer, different organ cancer, kidney damage, liver damage, genetic defects, fetus damage, congenital anomaly, and birth defects. Many children are born with heart defects, neurological defects and so on. The use of pesticides in vegetables is likely to grow further in the future unless appropriate and known alternatives, such as those developed by biodiversity based ecological farming or conventional integrated pest management approaches are developed.

In this circumstances of changing climatic situations it is needed preventive and curative measures as resilience and adaption of climatic response.

# Key areas of climate change response

1. Understand the role of stand in the context of climate change situation
2. Control of chemical based corporations and MNCs
3. Privatisation of natural and biological resources
4. Introduction of technologies detrimental to environment, ecology, seed, biodiversity, life and life support systems
5. Corporate control of science and research.
6. Indigenous techniques and community innovations to adopt climate change situation.
7. Climate resilient PGR and NGR for different agro ecological regions
8. Micro-credit or micro-finance undermining crucial need of the community in the areas of agriculture, food and nutrition and productive economic activities.

In the context of changing climatic situation the rampant use of toxic chemicals at almost every workplace is putting the huge number of the country's workforce at high health risk. Indiscriminate use of chemicals is a common phenomenon in Bangladesh. According to a survey conducted recently by Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE), at least 21 people die in Bangladesh due to toxic chemicals each month. Citing different studies in Bangladesh, "Around 85 per cent farmers exposed to toxic and hazardous pesticides and other chemicals during their work while more than 30 per cent of them become seriously ill."

The national polices related to agriculture, environment and biological diversity particularly challenging to access. In addition there are some international treaty like Intellectual Property Rights are also challenging. It is because peoples have no access to change the national policies and international treaty.

1. Are existing approaches to collect, share and monitor information on climate change and human rights sufficient for the public to assess the magnitude of actual and potential negative impacts on their human rights, and the adequacy of States’ responses to these risks? How can these approaches be improved?

The climate change situation is linked to the growing concern that conventional agricultural practices have negative consequences for environment, ecology, biodiversity and genetic resources and consequently, on livelihoods and rural development. If not changed immediately the effects could be very serious and severe for rural landscapes and food and nutrition and provision of the basic needs of life – reality that cannot be ignored by development practitioners since it could thwart even the modest development goals. The signing of the Convention of Biological Diversity by the States in 1992 and formulating of the plan of action known as Agenda 21 had heightened the strategic need to work in the area of agriculture and food sovereignty in designing programmes and activities to address the need of rural development.

Through participation of peasants and policy influence both at national and global level will be should be monitored and improved.

1. Are there undue barriers to obtain access to information on human rights and climate change that is up to date? (eg, language and technical accessibility, use of technology, grounds for non-disclosure, other?)

While globally the appreciation for ecological agriculture is gaining popularity, yet the threats to biodiversity are appearing due to climate change with link to corporate agro-business and introduction of transgenic crops. This is a serious barriers and threat to the food systems, and the conditions of food production. Unless we have a strong example of alternative way of ecological food production it will be disastrous for all. A successful agricultural programme must succeed in the farmers' field and not in any enclosed project area.

The technical knowledge, farmers own local langue, innovative climate adaptive local skills could play very effective role in the changing climatic situaiton, Women are the natural leaders in biodiversity-based agriculture. They will greatly contribute to the leadership and empowerment of women. In each and every development activity, the design of the programme must ensure that it integrates and empowers women. For example, ensuring the seed conservation and regeneration, poultry and livestock at the farming household level, harvesting of sweet and fresh water from rivers or rain, fuel wood collection, is impossible without explicit leadership of women and their knowledge. Women automatically become natural leaders of the sustainable agriculture and food sovereignty even in the changing climatic situaiton.

1. Are there examples in which international cooperation effectively supported public access to information on climate change and human rights? What are the challenges in implementing UNFCCC Articles 4 (public access to information) and 6 (public awareness), and Paris Agreement Article 12 (public access to information), and other international instruments and processes that can support/contribute to international cooperation on access to information on climate change and human rights?

The UNFCCC Articles 4 (public access to information) and 6 (public awareness), and Paris Agreement Article 12 (public access to information) more or less supportive on access to information on climate change and human rights.

The Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD) have access on climate change and human rights for the ecological farming communities.

1. Are there concrete examples of, or specific challenges for business to communicate information on risks, including in different countries, in relation to climate change and human rights? What are the barriers for the rights holders to access to this information and to evaluate the adequacy of an enterprise’s response to these risks? Are there specific examples of State regulation that have significantly improved access to information held by private actors on climate change and human rights?

We have to revisit the Right to Food and Nutrition in order to benefit the community as well as enhance our ability to generalise our experience of Nayakrishi (Biodiversity based ecological agriculture) useful for policy makers. Nayakrishi Andolon is the biodiversity based ecological agriculture movement in Bangladesh led by farming communities. Over 300,000 farming families involved with this peasant movement is life oriented farming and cultural practice that brings joy to our spirit. Nayakrishi evokes our individual and collective socio natural beings and facilitates experiencing the world as an intimate part of our beings. Nayakrishi aims are

1. Detoxification of land, water, air, and food chains.
2. Achieving seed & food sovereignty through biodiversity based ecological farming
3. Defending farmers seed systems and knowledge practices
4. Resist privatization of natural resources and life forms

Incessant growth and industrial urbanization coupled with profiteering and marketing of harmful technologies and toxins is the major challenges to survival we are facing today. It is now widely recognized that undermining the sustainability of a nation by causing environmental and ecological destruction and climatic disaster could quickly lead us towards planetary destruction.

1. What are the impacts on human rights of inadequate access to information from public authorities and/or business? Are there concrete examples of, or specific challenges in, collecting and sharing information on disproportionate levels of actual and potential harm from climate change and climate change response measures (disaggregated data on Indigenous Peoples, women, children, local communities, persons with disabilities, older persons, persons living in extreme poverty, others)?

Nayakrishi Andolon is a concrete example that have developed an effective approach that squarely lies in the conservation, management, and use of local seed and genetic resources and adopting and improving production techniques suitable for farmers' seed in a diverse ecological environment effective in the changing climatic situation, . Hundreds of local varieties of rice, vegetables, fruit, timber crops etc., have been reintroduced within a short period. For example, farmers in the Nayakrishi area regenerated at least 2800 varieties of rice in the three seasons of Aus, Aman and Boro. These are collected in the three Community Seed Wealth centres and 19 Seed Huts in the three agroecological zones of Bangladesh. They also cultivate hundreds of different varieties of vegetables, pulses, oil seeds, fruits, spices, and timber and also preserve various plants, herbs, and aquatic plants that are useful as food, fodder, and medicine.

The idea of climate change and human rights is linked to the growing concern that conventional agriculture brought toxics and this practices have negative consequences for environment, ecology, biodiversity and consequently on livelihoods and rural development. If not changed immediately the effects could be very serious and severe for destroying communities and food, nutrition and provision of the basic needs of life – reality that cannot be ignored by development practitioners since it could thwart even the Sustainable Development Goals.

A successful agriculture programme must succeed in the farming system for enhancement of biological diversity and livelihood improvement with no more consider on any form of toxics. Women will be the leaders in and will greatly contribute to the leadership and empowerment of women. The design ensures that it integrates and empowers women for toxics free nation in the context of changing climatic situation.

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