

The World Food Summit (1996) defined food security as “All people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences to maintain a healthy and active life”.

There is growing concern on food security as the world’s natural resources are overused, degraded and affected by climate change. According to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, “there can be no food security without climate security”. He added that if the glaciers of the Himalayas melt, it would affect the livelihood and survival of 300 million people in India and China and up to one billion people throughout Asia. Africa’s small farmers, who produce most of the continent’s food and depend mostly on rain, could see harvests drop by 50 percent by 2020. With the world’s population increasing, farmers will have to produce 40% more grain in 2020 to feed the expected 7.5 billion people that year (International Food Policy Research Institute, 1999). Although there are many programs and projects worldwide that aim to ‘modernize’ agriculture and double the food supply by emphasizing on mechanization, pesticides, fertilizers and biotechnology, these technologies are often not tailored to meet the needs and present conditions of small farmers particularly with the challenges of climate change.

In recent years, IIRR, Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V. (WHH-Country Office, Nepal) and Rural Reconstruction Nepal (RRN) have been working on a course that addresses challenges in climate change and food and nutrition security for small holders. More holistic ecosystem based approaches are being promoted to address food security, nutrition and livelihoods in a sustainable manner. This year, IIRR, WHH and RRN join efforts in holding the training course in Nepal to take advantage of the rich range of experiences offered by civil society organizations and the development community in Nepal. Food security efforts in Nepal have received special attention as the many parts of the country are facing food deficiency and crisis.

Course Description

This course is jointly designed and organized by IIRR, WHH and RRN with special focus on international participants and South Asian country participants (i.e. Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Nepal). The course is designed to provide a general understanding on emerging issues, challenges and opportunities with regards to global, regional, national, community and household food security issues and impacts. The course focuses on the four dimensions of food security namely: availability, access,

TRAINING SCHEDULE **9-18 September 2013** **Kathmandu, Nepal**



Photo credits: Julian Gonsalves

utilization and stability. Participants are to critically analyze the challenges of climate change on food security including the identification of adaptation and mitigation measures to address this. They also learn how to strengthen and sustain food security projects to ensure that efforts to improve access, availability, utilization and stability of food are adapted and continued by farmer households and the community.

Methodologies

The roving workshop exposes participants to approaches in a range of ecosystems: rain fed/irrigated rice based systems, community forestry, and freshwater systems. At each location, participants will do community level assessments, study how local communities and local organizations respond to local needs and eventually synthesize their experiences. IIRR, WHH and RRN facilitators provide critical technical inputs of food, nutrition and climate change dimension at each specific ecosystem. A participatory training approach is used where both facilitators and participants share their knowledge and experiences in the field.

Target Participants

1. Local and international NGO staff
 2. Government and extension personnel
 3. Researchers and faculty members
- who are senior managers, development planners, facilitators, trainers, resource persons, coaches/mentors

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, the participants shall have:

1. Articulated the working concepts, principles, tools and interventions on food security;
2. Increased awareness on global, national and local food issues affecting forest dwellers, smallholder farmers and fisher folks;
3. Described strategies for the active mobilization of food security stakeholders;
4. Identified best practices to strengthen and sustain food security projects; and
5. Developed an action plan to improve current food security efforts or introduce new initiatives on food security.

Module 1. Understanding the concept of Food Security and Climate Change

This module provides an overall understanding of global issues and its interconnections with food security, climate change and disaster risk. It defines food security concepts and explores the effects of food insecurity on a country's poverty level and nutritional status. Participants are introduced to the concept of ecosystem resiliency and agro-ecosystem analysis as a useful tool for planning and implementing food security projects. An in-depth discussion on social and institutional issues will highlight the important role that institutions play in food security including the importance of collective action and property rights in addressing issues of food insecurity.

Module 2: Managing Challenges in Food Security

This module is a two-part activity. The first part discusses the conceptual frameworks for understanding the interplay of local environment and food security considerations such as local socio-cultural, gender and institutional contexts in human nutrition and overall development. An overview of ecosystems and landscape based approaches to food security and livelihood is also provided. The second part is characterized by field visits to key ecosystems and communities to observe and analyze various food security considerations using participatory approaches. Guided discussions are conducted after every visit for the purpose of surfacing learnings and observations.

Module 3: Strengthening and Sustaining Food Security Projects

This module provides participants an overview of participatory approaches that are useful in enhancing and up scaling food security and nutrition projects in consideration of climate change challenges. Participants

sharing of experiences in specific participatory tools is encouraged.

Module 4. Action Planning

Participants are to prepare an action plan identifying food security programs/activities taking into account their national or community's food security context to strengthen people's resilience in coping with threats to food security. Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures are to be integrated in the action plan.

When and where

The course will be held at Hotel Park Village Resort Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu, Nepal from 9th to 18th September 2013 with field visit at RRN's Regional Training centre at Chitwan district near the popular Chitwan National Park of Nepal. Participants are expected to arrive one day before the start of the course. The training site is an ideal environment for learning and reflection with Nepali cultural experience. A Field visit of rural and urban environments enriches the participants' learning experience. Course participants are expected to arrive one day before the start of the course.

Course Fees and Related Terms

The course fee of USD1750 includes course-related materials, field and agency visits, airport transfers, and twin sharing occupancy accommodation. Fees do not include international airfares, laundry, and incidental expenses. A minimum pocket allowance of USD100 per week is suggested for incidental and personal expenses. Food includes three full meals and two coffee breaks. For local participants, the training fee is USD1250. Early registration discount rate is offered based on first come first. Applicants are encouraged to secure financial support from their organizations or donor agencies. IIRR/WHH/RRN reserves the right to cancel the course 10 days before its schedule if the required quorum is not met. This will be immediately conveyed to the applicants. Course fees will be refunded in full.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Roving workshop
- Highly participatory methods (simulation exercises, focus group discussions, workshops, video showing, case stories, games, etc.)
- Participants are active key resource persons, facilitators and learners
- Action planning

How and when to Apply?

For more information and to receive an application form, contact:

Dulce Dominguez, IIRR

Email: dulce.dominguez@iirr.org

Deadline for application: August 20, 2013

Deadline for payment: August 27, 2013

Celeste Bajracharya, Rural Reconstruction Nepal

Charles Pradhan, Rural Reconstruction Nepal

(RRN), Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel: 977-01-4004976, 4004988

Fax: 977-01-4004508

E-mail: Charles@rrn.org.np, Celeste@rrn.org.np