



Creating and sharing knowledge
on Community Based Adaptation
(CBA)

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Top-Down Approaches to Adaptation

Until recently, most efforts on adaptation focused on national planning and top-down approaches based on climate change modelling.

Remarkably, little attention has been paid to the knowledge and experience held by communities themselves on how to cope with a changing climate.



What is Community Based Adaptation?



Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) aims to **increase the resilience** of the world's poorest communities to the impacts of climate change.

CBA **begins by identifying** them.

These are generally **very poor, depend on natural resources and occupy areas already prone to shocks such as floods or droughts.**

Once a community's vulnerability has been established the process of engagement with the communities can begin.





The use of **genuine participatory processes** is important as CBA is to fit with community practices and build on existing practices or those used in the past.

Community led process are based on local priorities, needs, knowledge and capacities which can **empower people** to cope with and plan for the impacts of climate change.

CBA as a participatory process need **time to develop and flexible funding** as they rarely fit with the pre-determined calendars, budgets and outputs demanded by governments and other donors.

Local knowledge as well as **scientific knowledge** must go into CBA planning processes.

CBA learning itself requires practice.

Some key principles of CBA

Challenges

- Despite growing agreement about the importance of CBA as a crucial approach to adaptation, only **few strong case studies and evidence-based analyses** exist to guide CBA programs. **More work is needed to build best practices and models for effective CBA.**
- Other challenges include:
 - Finding practical ways to **scale up** CBA initiatives
 - Finding better ways to **draw out and communicate lessons from CBA more widely.**
 - **Maintaining the balance between community driven approaches and more top down global approaches to CBA.**





Group Exercise I

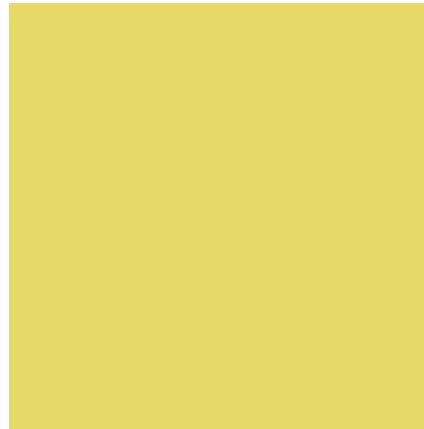
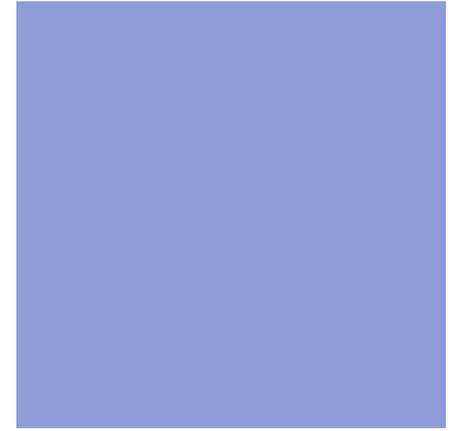
Each group to identify and discuss two CBA examples

Have they shared the knowledge of CBA with wider stakeholder community?
How?

+

Have the local and national planning processes used the knowledge generated? How?

ARCAB Research Program



Creating and Sharing Knowledge on CBA

September 2012

www.arcab.org



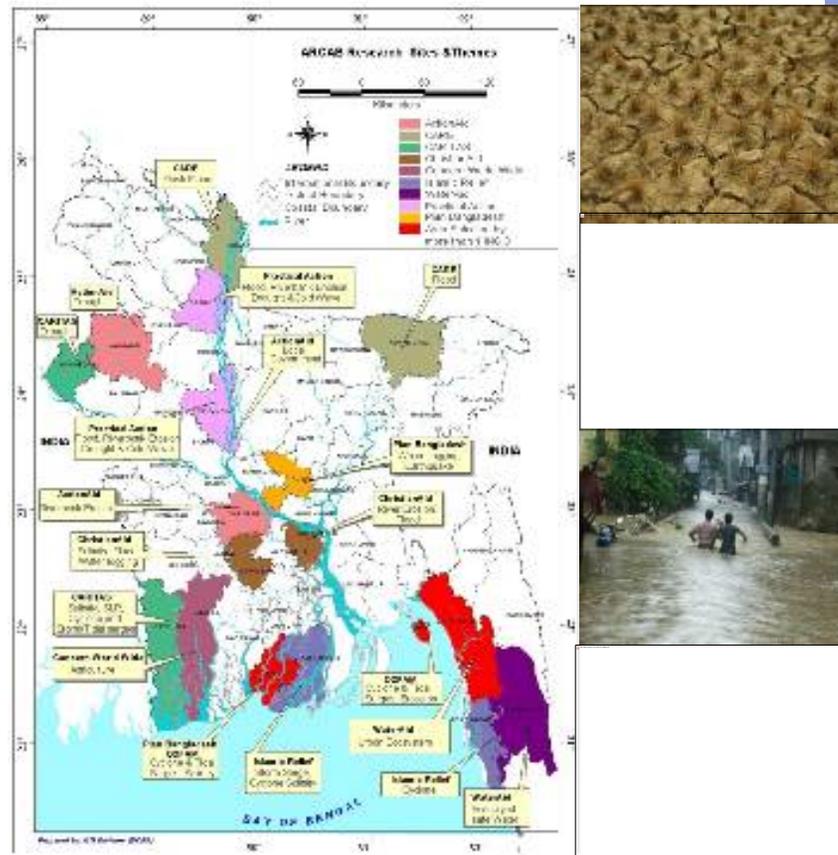
Action Research for Community Adaptation in Bangladesh (ARCAB)

Long-term programme of action research (learning by doing) focused on CBA.

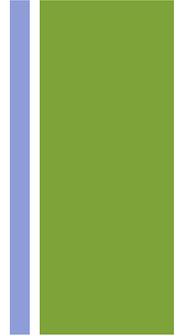
Two major activities:

1. Interventions carried out in five major Livelihood Zones that correspond to five major ecosystems, (parts of the Ganges-Brahmaputra River flood plains, coastal and hill systems-West and East, as they are very diverse), the Northwest, the Haor and Northeast Flash Flood Zone, Riverine Flood Plains and chhars, and Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). There are 20 sites.

2. Rigorous research and monitoring carried out to ensure high quality scientific outputs.



ARCAB objectives

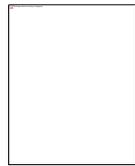


- The objectives of the programme:
 - **Gather** traditional knowledge on CBA,
 - **Generate** empirical knowledge on CBA through undertaking action research, participatory monitoring activities etc.
 - **Produce** high quality scientific knowledge for dissemination, and methodologies and participatory monitoring systems for replication in similar conditions both nationally and internationally
 - **Inform** and influence the national planning processes to be more attentive to local and community needs.

Collaboration at ARCAB Sites

Layer One: Action Partners

- 10 international NGOs working on CBA
- 20 sites from different ecosystems across Bangladesh selected for ARCAB research
- work with partners to design research that evaluates the effectiveness of CBA activities



PRACTICAL ACTION
Technology challenging poverty



CONCERN
worldwide



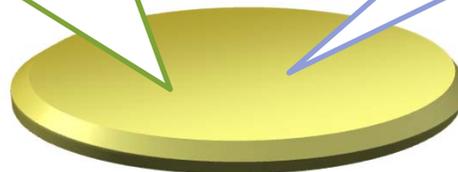
christian
aid



WaterAid



Research Partners



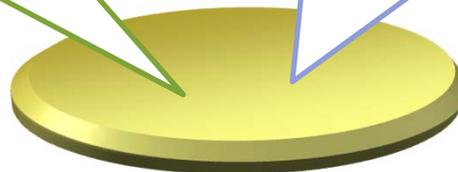
Collaboration at ARCAB Sites

Layer Two: Research Partners

- International, national, and regional institutions bring their expertise to the evaluation of projects at ARCAB sites
- The ARCAB research partners operate in more than 100 developing countries.
- Researchers work with Action Partners to design short, medium, and long-term research plans across many themes related to CBA



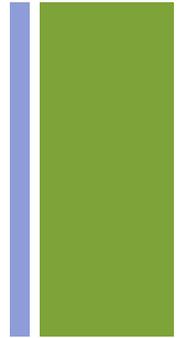
Action Partners



Other collaboration

- **Layer 3 – Capacity Building Partners:** strong capacity building and training programme- local and national levels training will be provided by **PRIP Trust** and international training will be provided by **ICCCAD** through short-courses on CBA.
- **Layer 4 – Knowledge Management Partner: UNEP's Bangkok-based Regional Adaptation Knowledge Management Platform** will be ARCAB's Knowledge Management Partner.
 - Includes a website, regular newsletters, project reports, research reports and peer reviewed scientific publications in national and international scientific journals
- **Layer 5 – Key International Partners:** This will involve **donors**, including those that have not contributed to the project's funding. They will be able to use the project to learn how to use their funds for adaptation and will support to replicate the lesson to other similar communities around the world.

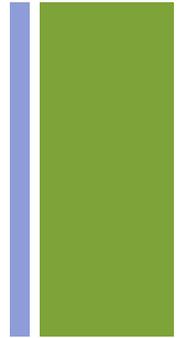
Research Themes



Many themes have already been selected, and more may be chosen based on need and interest



Research Teams

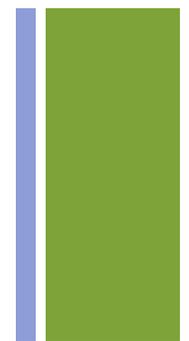


*Oversees overall research program
(often from outside Bangladesh)*

Manages team based in Bangladesh

*Carries out data collection and may
be embedded within Action Partners*

Research Timeframes



Each research team will develop a research plan to achieve goals and generate knowledge across three timeframes

Short Term



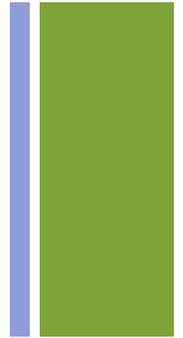
Medium Term



Long Term

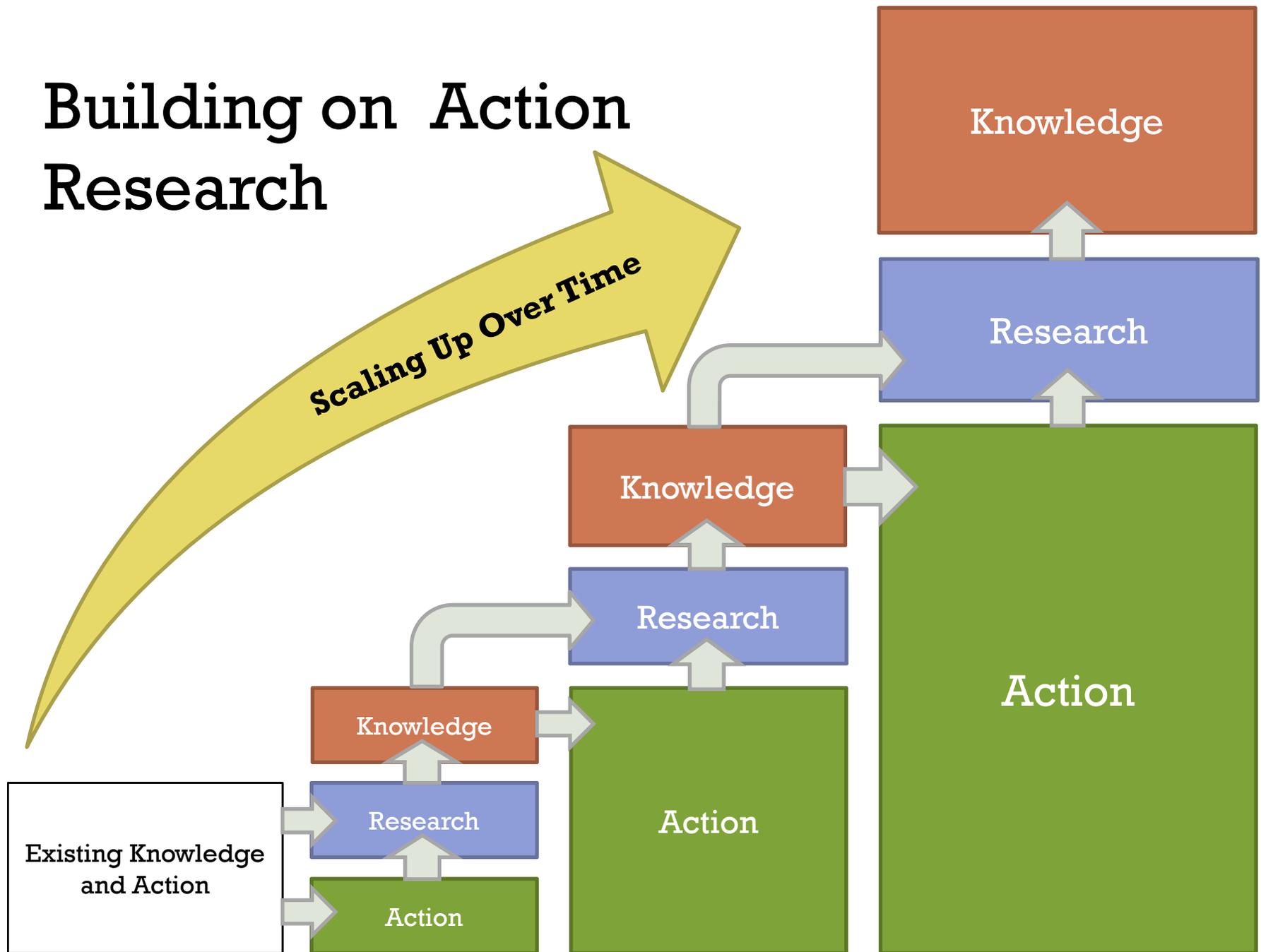


Course of Action



- 2011 (year 1) -**Baseline year** - initial action and research design were carried out by the partners and communities.
- Outcome was a “**Participatory Monitoring & Evaluation**” design (with indicators to be used for both “participatory” as well as “external” monitoring).
- **The initial action interventions** have started from the start of 2012 (year 2) (looking at adaptation deficit in DRR and development interventions).
- Currently, full action and research designs are being carried out
- Research for basic studies has started simultaneously
- Some of the initial results will be presented at the annual CBA conference in Bangladesh-April 2013.

Building on Action Research



ARCAB – An International Initiative



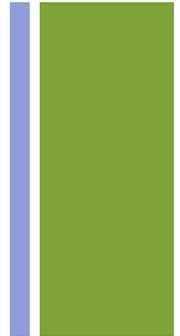
- Although located in a single country it involves a **number of international Action Partners and Research Partners** and with **lessons meant to be shared with other developing as well as developed countries**, particularly other deltas and similar ecosystems.
- They **operate in more than 100 Countries** across the world,.
- ARCAB will also **provide exposure visits for staff and donors** who come to Bangladesh. ARCAB international research partners will be involved through **workshops, field visits, and sending postgraduate students**.
- The International **CBA conferences** are now held every year in Dhaka. The participants will be able to visit ARCAB sites, hosted by ARCAB action partners. In this way, knowledge about adaptation processes could be spread internationally through large number of participants in the CBA conferences.

ARCAB: working with governments



- Guiding principles of ARCAB **involve strong cooperation and collaboration with the Bangladesh government** to accelerate their efforts to reduce climate vulnerabilities.
- ARCAB interventions will be designed to relate and support the government initiatives such as **National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA) and Bangladesh Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (BCCASP)**.
- Being an action research programme, ARCAB has the privilege to support the BCCASP to ground its goals e.g. **disaster risk reduction, livelihood support, capacity building of the vulnerable communities**, including participatory monitoring; multidisciplinary research approach for seeking appropriate context specific adaptation technologies; awareness rising and producing scientific data and knowledge on adaptation.

Results/ Emerging Impacts



- We have done a **pilot project of local financing and planning of adaptation** (Action Aid- ARCAB Action Partners)
- **Shared at a meeting held in Dhaka on 8th September** with a large group of stakeholders organised under ARCAB umbrella, including senior officials from government (Ministries of Local Govt, Environment, Finance, Planning,etc).
- **Request from the Local Government Ministry to help them prepare a proposal for submission to the Bangladesh Climate Resilience Fund** to fund them to scale out local adaptation planning and budgeting.
- **ARCAB team will work closely with the communities and Local government ministry to strengthen their capacity on local adaptation planning.** This is part of ARCAB's "Scaling-up" and also "Mainstreaming" objectives.

Group exercise II

Discuss how ADB can involve in CBA

Each group to identify two key methods for the ADB to involve in CBA

For more information and updates on ARCAB, please visit

www.arcab.org

