

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

— REVIEW AND WAY FORWARD

A Study Report



Voluntary Action Network India (VANI)

Sustainable Development in India — Review and Way Forward

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Prepared by

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VOICE OF THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

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Preface

India has emerged as one of the fastest growing economies of the world and is widely regarded as one of the biggest beneficiaries of the Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation (LPG) process. While India continues to enlarge its global footprint and assume a greater role in international affairs, the Indian voluntary sector has been criticized for being largely disengaged from policy concerns and decision making processes at an international level. The resultant insulation leads to a lack of awareness among many NGOs, especially those working at the grassroots, about various international commitments and developments which directly or indirectly affect them.

Also, due to the prevailing dissonance between the policies formulated at an international and national level and praxis, many positive experiences and good practices of domestic NGOs remain unacknowledged by policy makers.

For the past decade and a half, the international development agenda was shaped by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). However, the MDGs were widely criticized for being a process led by international governmental and non-governmental organisations, where the onus of meeting quantitative targets was placed solely on developing countries, with no or little regard for quality and sustainability.

Currently, the global community is discussing the framework and modalities of a new global development compact to succeed the MDGs in 2015. This process has so far been extremely inclusive, holding consultations with various stakeholders and emphasizing the need to develop sustainable goals which shall form the basis of action for both developed and developing countries.

In this scenario, the institutions of SSC such as BRICS, IBSA and G20 have assumed greater significance as they need to ensure that the specific issues and challenges of developing countries are adequately articulated and represented so that the agenda is comprehensive and dynamic and not based solely on parameters set by developed countries. With this in mind, VANI conducted research studies on four thematic issues namely Sustainable Development, Financial Inclusion, Inclusive Growth and Corruption and Governance. These themes were identified as central to the international development agenda as well as to the voluntary sector in India after widespread consultations with partner organisations and other stakeholders through various meetings. The objective of these studies is to establish linkages between global thematic campaigns and Indian grassroot movements and thereafter carry out advocacy at three levels: concerned line ministries, global thematic networks and multilateral forums.

As an outcome of the study, four reports were prepared namely "Bringing People in From the Cold-Ensuring Inclusive Growth in India", "Critical Review of Financial Inclusion-In G20 Countries with Focus on India", "Sustainable Development in India-Review and Way Forward" and "Corruption and Governance in India-Review and Way Forward". The research for each report was carried out by the leading thematic NGO in that field. In this regard, I would like to thank Confederation of Voluntary Associations (COVA), Development Alternatives, Society for Participatory Research in Asia (PRIA) and Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA) for their participation in the study and in particular Dr. Mazher Hussain, Mr. Roberto G Lescrauwaet, Mr. M. Murali Krishna, Mr. Manoj Rai and Mr. Rahul Banerjee for authoring the various reports.

I would also like to thank Dr. Mrs. Jyotsna Singh and Ms. Divita Shandilya of VANI for coordinating and finalising the study and Mr. Rajkumar Sharma for his help on the design and publication of the reports.

I would like to thank Dr. Axel Harneit-Sievers, Director, India Office, Heinrich Boll Foundation and Ms. Shalini Yog, Programme Coordinator, Heinrich Boll Foundation for their valuable inputs and continuing interest in the development of this project and the Heinrich Boll Foundation for supporting the project.

We hope that this study will not only help fill the lacunae that exist among Indian voluntary organisations about the policies and decision making processes at an international level but also act as a representative voice of the sector, domestically and globally.

Harsh Jaitli
Chief Executive Officer

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1.0 Historical Pathways to Sustainable Development

"Eradication of poverty is a vital part of the goal of an environmental strategy for the world" - was stated and emphasized in 1972 by the then Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi at the UN conference on Human Environment held at Stockholm. In today's context, the concepts of interrelatedness and that of a shared planet are not restricted to environmental issues alone, but apply equally to environmental protection and human development as both are inextricably linked and vital to each other. Almost three-fourths of the world's people are living in less-developed countries and one-fifth of the people are below the poverty line. Future of Sustainable development can only be achieved with a better understanding of our common concerns and shared responsibilities.

The Brundtland Commission (1987) defined Sustainable Development as "development, which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". The notion of sustainable development was integrated in our national and international policy agendas during the 1992 Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro. Since Rio, there have been extensive efforts to operationalize sustainable development by

Agenda 21, established at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, or "Earth Summit", in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, is the blueprint for sustainability in the 21st century. It is a commitment to sustainable development, which was agreed to by many of the world's governments. Agenda 21 addresses the development of societies and economies by focusing on the conservation and preservation of our environments and natural resources. It is an influential document, in which long-term vision was designed for balancing economic and social needs with the capacity of earth's resources and eco-system.

governments, international organizations, local authorities, business, citizen groups and individuals. India has remained at the forefront of global sustainable development policy formulation and has supported the development of global agreements and policies that are fair and equitable. Some of the major international agreements that India has been a signatory to and their relevance to the context of sustainable development are discussed below.

The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) Convention came into effect in 1997 and all member countries affected by the problem of desertification have an obligation to prepare an action plan to address all issues concerning desertification and drought. Eradication of poverty is a key concern in dry lands; hence, it is important to protect the land from deforestation, fragmentation, degradation and drought that could exacerbate the vulnerabilities of the population in these areas. India has been designated as the host country by the

UNCCD for the Asian Regional Action Programme on Agroforestry and Soil Conservation, under the Thematic Network Programme (TPN). India also enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 and notified the Rules in 2004, to give effect to the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including those relating to its third objective on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS). India was one of the first few countries to enact such legislation. The Act is to be implemented through a three-tiered institutional structure: National Biodiversity Authority (NBA), State Biodiversity Boards (SBBs), Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs) at the local level, in line with the provisions for decentralized governance contained in the Constitution.¹

India signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 10 June 1992 and ratified it on 1 November 1993. It acceded to the Kyoto Protocol in August 2002. Under the UNFCCC, developing countries, such as India do not have binding Green House Gas (GHG) mitigation commitments through application of the Principle of Common, but Differentiated Responsibility and Respective Capability (CBDR). As agreed in Copenhagen, India communicated to the UNFCCC Secretariat, its voluntary mitigation actions to reduce the emissions intensity of GDP by 20–25 percent by 2020 in comparison to the 2005 level,² excluding the agriculture sector. The Government's stand on climate change is in accordance with the principles of equity, and common, but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities as enshrined in the UNFCCC. The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), released on 30 June 2008, outlines India's strategy to meet the challenge of climate change. The National Action Plan provides for eight missions that will enable the country to adapt to climate change and enhance the ecological sustainability of India's development path.

Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) is the result of World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) held at Johannesburg in 2002. The importance of achieving internationally agreed development goals embedded in the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and international agreements since 1992, was very strongly re-emphasized in JPOI (including United Nations Millennium Declaration, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biodiversity, Convention to Combat Desertification and non-binding targets of the Forestry Principles).

1. <http://www.cbd.int/countries/profile/default.shtml?country=in#facts>

2. moef.nic.in/downloads/public.../UNFCCC%20Submission_press_note.pdf

The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), was adopted in 2001 with the objective of protecting human health and the environment from POPs, and came into force in 2004. India signed the Convention in 2002 and ratified it in 2006.³

The Constitution of India and relevant amendments that have been incorporated over the years, reinforce the policy and legal basis of sustainable development in India. The Preamble, which lays down the 'basic features' and remains the 'soul' of the Constitution promises to all Indian citizens justice encompassing the social, economic, and political equality of status and opportunity and the dignity of the individual. The pillars of sustainable development are embedded in the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution, which lay down the framework for social justice in India. Article 21 conferring the Right to Life has been subject to the broadest interpretations by the judiciary to encompass right to clean environment, right to livelihood, right to live with dignity and a number of other associated rights. The Directive Principles of State Policy often referred to as the 'conscience' of the Constitution are intended to ensure 'distributive justice' and that political democracy in India is accompanied side by side with social and economic democracy.⁴ In addition to the State mandate to ensure social and economic justice, the Directive Principles also enjoins a duty upon the state to protect and improve the environment and safeguard the forests and wildlife.

The National Environmental Policy (NEP) of 2006 articulates the spirit of 'sustainable development'; it states that only such development is sustainable, which respects ecological constraints and the imperatives of social justice. National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was launched by GoI in June 2008, with an objective to address vulnerability to climate change and enhance capacity at central and state levels. The Indian Forest Act, 1927 was formed to consolidate the law relating to forests, the transit of forest-produce and the duty leviable on timber and other forest-produce.⁵ The Government of India set up Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) on 1st March 2002 under the provisions of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001. The mission of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency is to assist in developing policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles, within the overall framework of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 with the primary objective of reducing energy intensity of the Indian economy.⁶

3. <http://www.unido.org/index.php>

4. *Report of the National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2002)*

5. <http://envfor.nic.in/legis/forest/forest4.html>

6. <http://www.beeindia.in/>

2.0 India's Outlook on Post 2015 Development Agenda

The millennium development goals were set mainly for developing nations, and were also criticized as the goals and targets did not address the raising environmental concerns and issues. Hence it is important to have holistic developmental goals which address social, economic and environment issues. India has also initiated steps for identifying the sustainable development challenges & issues and developing a framework for addressing them. During the national consultation on Post 2015 Development Agenda, Government of India presented a set of preliminary views on the issue of post-2015 Development Agenda.⁷

1. The post-2015 development agenda must remain rooted at its core on poverty eradication, which was identified at Rio+20 as the greatest global challenge.
2. The 'development' agenda must remain 'growth-focused', aiming to encourage and support robust economic growth in developing countries, which is important for employment generation and social inclusion.
3. It is of utmost importance that unlike the MDGs, the post-2015 framework should apply both to the developed and developing countries, so as to create a more equitable set of responsibilities and obligations.
4. The key problem of rationalizing the unsustainable patterns of consumption in the developed countries must be addressed meaningfully in the post-2015 development agenda.
5. Being an agrarian country, India is concerned about the increasing Climate Change issues, as it is affecting the agriculture economy of the country. Agriculture is directly connected with the livelihoods of millions of people dependent on it and India would resist any attempt to interrupt into the national policy space to regulate agriculture.
6. Access to energy is a key enabler for development. Rio+20 committed support for universal access to sustainable modern energy services.
7. Gender empowerment, gender equality and gender mainstreaming remain important priorities for a global development agenda. Enhanced participation of women in decision-making, in particular in elected bodies at local levels, needs to be prioritized.
8. Education continues to be a key priority for developing countries, particularly access to education, both at the primary and also at the secondary (and tertiary) levels. Simultaneously, technical and vocational training is required for diversifying economies and creating productive employment for all.

7. May 2013; United Nations; National Consultation Report Post 2015 Development Framework, India

9. Increase access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. Rio+20 also noted that management of water ecosystems must be done within respective national boundaries.
10. Food security is fundamental to developing countries, especially those with large populations.

Despite impressive progress in the achievement of MDGs, the goals and targets under them would remain relevant for developing countries even in the post-2015 period. It is important therefore that the post-2015 development agenda retains the core development priorities embodied in the MDGs. Given the cooperative nature of the entire agenda, it should be ensured that the post-2015 development agenda does not translate into conditionality for aid and financial assistance for developing countries.

India's involvement as a BRICS nation also substantiates these views of the post-2015 developmental agenda. The recent creation of a BRICS Development Bank of \$ 100 billion and another reserve currency pool worth over another \$ 100 billion is indicative of the view that aid conditionality often diluted the larger goal of MDG focus areas.

The Co-Chairs of Open Working Group (OWG) have also emphasized that focus areas related to the "unfinished business in the MDGs"—poverty eradication, food security, education, health, gender, and water; should be included as goals in the new framework, along with the newer issues, such as climate change, ecosystems, oceans, sustainable consumption and production, energy, industrialization, infrastructure, economic growth and employment, human settlements.⁸

3.0 Sustainable Development Challenges

1. Poverty

India has been moderately successful in reducing poverty. The Rangarajan report of the expert group to review the methodology for measurement of poverty, has hiked the poverty limit to INR 47 per day in cities, stating that people spending below that would be considered poor. The report also states that those spending less than INR 32 per day in rural areas would be considered poor.⁹ The Poverty headcount ratio at national poverty line (percentage of population) in 2005 was 37.2 percent and it got reduced to 21.9

8. <http://www.iisd.ca/vol32/enb3213e.html>

9. http://planningcommission.gov.in/reports/genrep/pov_rep0707.pdf

percent in 2012. Despite the country's meteoric GDP growth rate (about 9%), poverty in India is still pervasive; especially in rural areas where 70% of India's 1.2 billion population lives. It is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and yet its riches are hardly redistributed across the population. Urban poverty in India is a direct effect of rural migrations fleeing poverty. This creates a massive unemployment and underemployment issue but also a disproportionate housing problem.

Each and every single person of this democratic country is entitled and has the equal right to avail basic needs (food, cloth and shelter). Populations below poverty line are not provided with proper sanitation facility, good & quality food, safe drinking water because of which they become vulnerable and are exposed to health related

problems. For instance, according to 'World Malaria Report, 2013' developed by WHO - the positive cases per 1000 population are only 2 in India but if we compare the country with the rest of the South-East Asian countries, the prevalence of Malaria is more in India. According to India Health Profile 2012 by WHO, prevalence of malaria (per 100,000 populations) in India is 1523 and for

South-East Asia it is 1462. Nearly all possible effects of poverty have an impact on children's lives. Poor infrastructure, unemployment, lack of basic services and income reflect on their lack of education, malnutrition, violence at home and outside, child labor, diseases of all kinds, transmitted by the family or through the environment.

Though the government spending on health has increased over the last few years and has been an important element in reducing poverty, much more attention is required for the poverty-health linkage. Child malnutrition and under-nutrition, in particular, remains high, and improvements have been much lower than what would be expected given India's pace of GDP growth.

Poverty in India - Statistics

- 6.53% - Unemployment rate (2009-10)
- 50% of Indians don't have proper shelter;
- 70% don't have access to decent toilets (which inspires a multitude of bacteria to host their own disease party);
- 35% of households don't have a nearby water source;
- 85% of villages don't have a secondary school
- Over 40% of these same villages don't have proper roads connecting them

Sources:

- <http://www.poverties.org/poverty-in-india.html>
- http://planningcommission.nic.in/data/datatable/0814/table_112.pdf

Both environmental degradation and poverty alleviation are urgent global issues that have a lot in common, but are often treated separately. However, there is often a mainstream belief that for poor countries to develop, environmental concerns have to be sacrificed, or is a luxury to address once poverty is alleviated. Therefore, the approaches to such issues require rethinking. The overloaded phrase "sustainable development" must recognize the interconnectedness between human beings and the environment if true environmental and social justice is to be obtained. According to Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), if the poor world were to develop and consume in the same manner as the West to achieve the same living standards, "we would need two additional planet Earths to produce resources and absorb wastes ... and good planets are hard to find!"¹⁰

2. Insecurities of basic services - Energy - Food - Water

Striking rates of economic growth notwithstanding, more than half of the population is suffering from hunger, lack of access to no safe piped water, electricity. Overcoming these problems requires a combined approach in which food, water and energy are treated as a nexus, rather than as separate, standalone issues, which has too often been the case in the past.¹¹

CASE STUDY - Managing the Energy – Food – Water Nexus

Punjab, the heart of Green Revolution and the bread basket of India is located in the north-western part of the country. This is a semi-arid state, endowed with alluvial aquifer – an aquifer that has been over-exploited for over 30 years now. The Punjab government gives free electricity to farmers for groundwater pumping, but the amount of this electricity is strictly rationed through separation of feeders into agricultural and non-agricultural feeders. There is a strong political resistance to metering and hence rationing came up as the second best option. Punjab State Electricity Regulatory Commission (PSERC) was set up in 2000. Since then, it has encouraged the electricity utility to do better energy accounting, lower their technical losses and to improve quality of power to farmers through installation of High Voltage Distribution Systems (HVDS). Here, the main policy lever for controlling groundwater use has been rationing of electricity, thereby forcing farmers to invest in efficiency enhancing measures such as use of energy efficient pumps and laser levelers.

Source: <http://aditimukherji.wordpress.com/2013/04/15/managing-the-water-energy-food-nexus-in-india-insights-from-three-indian-states/>

10. The Global Issues <http://www.globalissues.org/article/425/poverty-and-the-environment>

11. <http://blogs.adb.org/blog/food-water-energy-nexus#sthash.kMeFXyGU.dpuf>

While food, water, and energy are complex enough issues on their own, the interplay amongst them makes finding solutions even harder as food and energy production requires massive amounts of water. India is the world's largest groundwater user. By far the most important factor explaining this is the regime of power subsidies that India has evolved to support agricultural growth. As a result, agriculture, groundwater and electricity sectors in much of India are now bound in an undesirable nexus of mutual dependence where the growth of one sector (agriculture) is being supported by unsustainable trends in the other two sectors (groundwater and electricity), so much so that even growth in agriculture is now threatened. India has moved from 65 to 63 in the Global Hunger Index, making a marginal improvement since 2012, but continues to languish far behind other emerging economies. The score for the country improved slightly from 22.9 in 2012 to 21.3 this year. As has been the trend, within SAARC countries too, India continued to trail behind Pakistan and Bangladesh on the index. According to the Global Hunger Index Annual report, 2013 (GHI), 43.5% of children under five are underweight and the level of hunger in India remained at 'alarming levels'.

CASE STUDY - Successful Initiatives: Water Panchayat in Rajasthan, India

Rajasthan is one of the driest states in India with regular recurrence of drought. Traditional water harvesting structures that were used to store and conserve water faced a gradual decay as increasing population pressure, deforestation, large-scale migration and a dependent mentality took hold. Large parts of the State were listed as dark zones as ground water table was extremely low. Responding to the crisis, Tarun Bharat Sangh (TBS) was established in Alwar district in March 1975 with a mission to harvest and conserve water through revival of traditional water harvesting structures called johads and construction of new structures. The TBS mobilized people by undertaking pad yatras and holding Panchayat meetings. The organization extended its activities to a holistic treatment of the catchment area of its water structures by taking up afforestation work. Over the years, TBS has built more than 4500 water harvesting structures based on indigenous technology and with locally available material. The community maintains these structures. In the process, the carrying capacity of land for fuel, fodder and food grains has increased considerably. Agricultural land under cultivation in the villages falling in the watershed has increased from around 20 per cent in 1985 to close to 100 per cent at present. Diversification of livelihood opportunities especially dairy industry is clearly visible in the area. Five rivers of the area viz..Arvari, Ruparel, Sarsa, Bhagani & Jahajwali that had dried up earlier have become perennial.

Source: South Asia Environmental Outlook– 2009, UNEP

Madhya Pradesh is the best example of an agrarian state which has been adversely affected due to climate change. 70% of its rural population is engaged in agricultural and allied activities and this population depends hugely on the sector for livelihoods. An impact assessment study done on vulnerability and adaptation in 4 districts of MP on agriculture showed that there has been decline in crop quality. For wheat and soybean specifically, the potential yield is already low due to higher temperature in MP as compared to northern India. There has been a 14-20% decline in wheat productivity and 14-17% decline in soybean productivity .¹²

Adaptation assessments have suggested that options for reducing the negative impacts are wide spread adoption of resource efficient farming practices, promoting and reviving traditional drought coping mechanism and traditional water harvesting structures.

Energy and water are key instruments for agricultural production and their interlinkages pose significant management challenges. Lack of appropriate energy policy and policy to deal with management of groundwater has not only contributed to over-exploitation of groundwater; it has also resulted into a nexus. Analyzing the growth in use of groundwater and energy for pumping coincides with India's overall development policy of attaining food security. However, much of the debate on water- energy nexus as an indirect approach for groundwater management has focused on the energy side of the nexus, ignoring the role of agriculture policies, especially those dealing with gaps in market linkages for agricultural products and role of minimum support price, which have greater influence on farmer's choice of cropping pattern and hence excessive groundwater use. Policies governing agriculture and energy are apparently dictated more by political doctrine rather than sound management strategies for sustainable resources development.

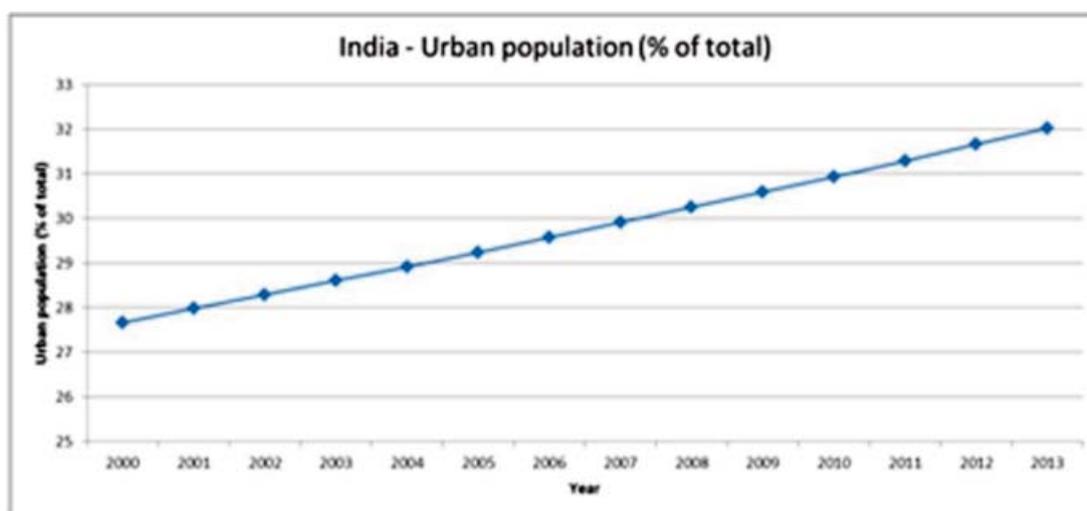
3. Rapid Urbanization and Industrialization

India has witnessed rapid urbanization in the last few years, it was 28.9 percent in 2004 and in 2013 it is 32 percent.¹³ 300 million Indians currently live in towns and cities. Within 20-25 years, another 300 million people will get added to Indian towns and cities. This urban expansion will happen at a speed quite unlike anything that India has seen before.¹⁴ The growth generates

12. SKMCC, EPCO. 2014. *Madhya Pradesh State Action Plan on Climate Change (MP SAPCC)*. Pg. 52.

13. *The World Bank Data*; <http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS/countries/IN?display=graph>

14. *The Challenges of Urbanization in India; The Planning Commission-Approach to the 12th Plan*; http://12thplan.gov.in/12fyp_docs/17.pdf



Source: World Bank Data

pressure on public infrastructure, including basic health and sanitation services creating a disorganized urban landscape, and constitutes a social crisis that can result in major health risks and pose threats to sustainable development. One of the elements which lead to creation of urban slums is the rapid growth in urban population, which is at high risk from outbreaks of contagious diseases, such as tuberculosis, malaria, dengue, cholera, typhoid and plague resulting from poor environmental conditions.

Increased vehicular fleet, industrial expansion, persistence of older vehicles and technology, and lack of effective regulatory enforcement have contributed towards rising pollution levels in almost all Indian cities. The unprecedented rise of Urbanization and development activities, land degradation, and inadequate infrastructure for waste water disposal are major reasons that lead to rapid deterioration in water quality in the majority of rivers, streams, and lakes in India. According to Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), during 2005-06, out of 115 sewage treatment plants in major Indian States, 35% continued to discharge polluted water beyond the stipulated norms. Inter-sectoral impacts may also arise when industrial effluents flow directly to agricultural land, affecting soil and groundwater while possibly contaminating drinking water wells. One of the key challenges is the rapidly increasing amount of municipal solid waste (MSW) in Indian cities. The annual estimates from various studies suggest that MSW generation in India ranges between 40 MT and 55 MT.¹⁵

15. TERI, 2009, *Teri Energy Data Directory and Yearbook*, New Delhi, India: The Energy and Resources Institute

CASE STUDY - Recycling Waste In Namakkal, India

Namakkal is a town in Tamil Nadu, situated on the highway from Salem to Dindigul. It is the first municipality in the country to privatize all the components of solid waste management, by the institutionalization of the door-to-door collection with segregation at source, vermi-composting and sale of recyclable waste from inorganic waste. Namakkal has the distinction of being the only zero garbage town in the country. In order to actively achieve this, they follow a ten point charter:

- Extend the scheme of door-to-door garbage collection (with segregation) to the entire town and make the streets and roads garbage-free.
- Introduce night sweeping at the bus stands and important roads, etc., and maintain cleanliness round the clock.
- Extend the scheme of door-to-door garbage collection and sweeping to holidays and Sundays.
- Make the plants and burial grounds beautiful and attractive through NGOs and voluntary agencies.
- Remove encroachments on all the roads and streets.
- Prevent road-side hotels, lorry repair shops, etc. on the national highways and plant trees.
- Remove stray animals from the town.
- Levy service charges on hotels, kalyana mandapams (or wedding spots), commercial complexes and garbage generating industries.
- Manufacturing of vermi-compost from organic waste through voluntary organizations/ private agencies on BOT basis, sell the inorganic recyclable garbage and convert the component yard into Nandanvanam.
- Engage two 'mop-up' teams with two auto model carriers to remove the waste then and there, round the clock, and make the town garbage free.

The experiment has been successful due to its holistic approach, with all the agencies cooperating under the leadership of the District Collector. The committee includes the district administration, the municipality, a consortium of NGOs, women self-help groups, schools, market associations, industrial associations, RWAs and rag pickers. Although Namakkal is a small town with a population of 60,000 to 70,000, it has two major industries - body building 60 per cent CNG tankers in the country and a very large and well organized poultry industry. Hence, if no effort was made, the town would have virtually turned into a garbage dump. Now, awareness has been created and every citizen accepts the responsibility of keeping the town clean and ensuring that nothing is thrown anywhere except in a bin.

Source: Development Alternatives

Along with the increase in waste generation there is also change in the composition of waste generation (CPCB, 2005).¹⁶ Plastic waste is a growing environmental concern. The plastic consumption in India, as per estimate in 2008 by CPCB was 8 MT/annum, out of which about 5.7 MT of plastics are converted into waste annually i.e. 15,722 tonnes of plastic waste is generated per day with a per capita generation of 5.7 Kg/annum. According to recent estimates, 6.23 MT of hazardous waste are being generated by 36,135 units in the country, as compared to 4.4 MT reported for 26,566 waste generating units in 2006.¹⁷

The Gross Domestic Product or GDP is the indicator of the performance of an economy. Industrialization has a major role to play in the economic development of the under developed or developing countries. The role of industrialization in the development of a country can be analyzed as follows: increase in per capita income; growth in international trade; high level of investment; generation of employment. As part of India's national manufacturing policy (NMP), the country is seeking to boost the sector's growth and ramp up its share in the country's GDP to 25 per cent from the current 15-16 per cent in the next decade. The target is to create 100 million jobs by 2022.¹⁸

The growing trends of industries also depict a negative impact on environment, human health, surface & ground water and air. These alarming trends call for an urgent response through prioritizing the environment into developmental plans and processes, termed as Environmental Mainstreaming. Efficient and responsible use of natural resources will be a new engine to power a socially equitable and environmentally benign economic growth.

Decoupling the use of natural resources from economic growth is an essential guiding concept to utilize existing options to meet human and economic needs with fewer and cleaner resources. In business-as-usual scenarios, it is seen that human resource use in minerals, ores, fossil fuels and biomass could triple to 140 billion tonnes per year by 2050, unless the rate of resource consumption can be decoupled from that of economic growth.¹⁹

16. CPCB, 2005, *Solid Waste Generation in Indian Cities*, New Delhi: Central Pollution Control Board, Government of India. Available at www.cpcb.nic.in

17. CPCB, 2009, *National Inventory of Hazardous Wastes Generating Industries and Hazardous Waste Management in India*, New Delhi: Central Pollution Control Board, Government of India. Available at <http://www.cpcb.nic.in/wast/hazardouswast/InventoryofHW.pdf>

18. http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2014-01-23/news/46514147_1_manufacturing-sector-wef-india-adda

19. UNEP (2011) *Decoupling natural resource use and environmental impacts from economic growth*, A Report of the Working Group on Decoupling to the International Resource Panel.

In essence, two key aspects of decoupling are necessary for any national growth plan, namely, resource decoupling and impact decoupling. The relation between decoupling and development is that the rising economic and environmental costs of resource depletion and negative environmental impacts have affected the economic growth and development trajectories of some countries like South Africa, Germany, China and Japan. This has led to them adopting policies that commit both governments and industries to reduce the amount of resources used for each unit of production (to increase resource decoupling) and reduce negative impacts on the environment (to implement impact decoupling).

Through its assessments over the last six years, the International Resource Panel (IRP) has drawn attention to current practices and future opportunities for ensuring the sustainable management of the natural resource base of economic and social development through decoupling economic growth from escalating resource use and environment degradation.²⁰

4. Ecological degradation and biodiversity loss

India alone holds about 8 percent of the world's biodiversity, high percentage of endemic floral and faunal species, and four biodiversity hotspots. This biodiversity is under severe threat both within and outside the protected area (PA) network, due to the loss and/or fragmentation of its habitat to competing uses. Critically Endangered species in India, according to the Red Data Book of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), there are 47 critically endangered species in India (As of 5 September 2011).²¹ The global struggle against poverty and hunger cannot be won without enhanced conservation, and sustainable natural resource management. India has taken a number of proactive measures related to biodiversity conservation. Since 1991, the government has committed funds, particularly in the field of PA management, for eco-development (integrated conservation and development), along with site specific package comprising measures for conserving biodiversity through local community development.²² Ecological degradation can lead to a scarcity of resources, such as water and farmable land. Land degradation is a serious issue in the country. Deforestation, drought and

20. 2014, *International Resource Panel, Managing and Conserving the Natural Resource base for Sustained Economic and Social Development*.

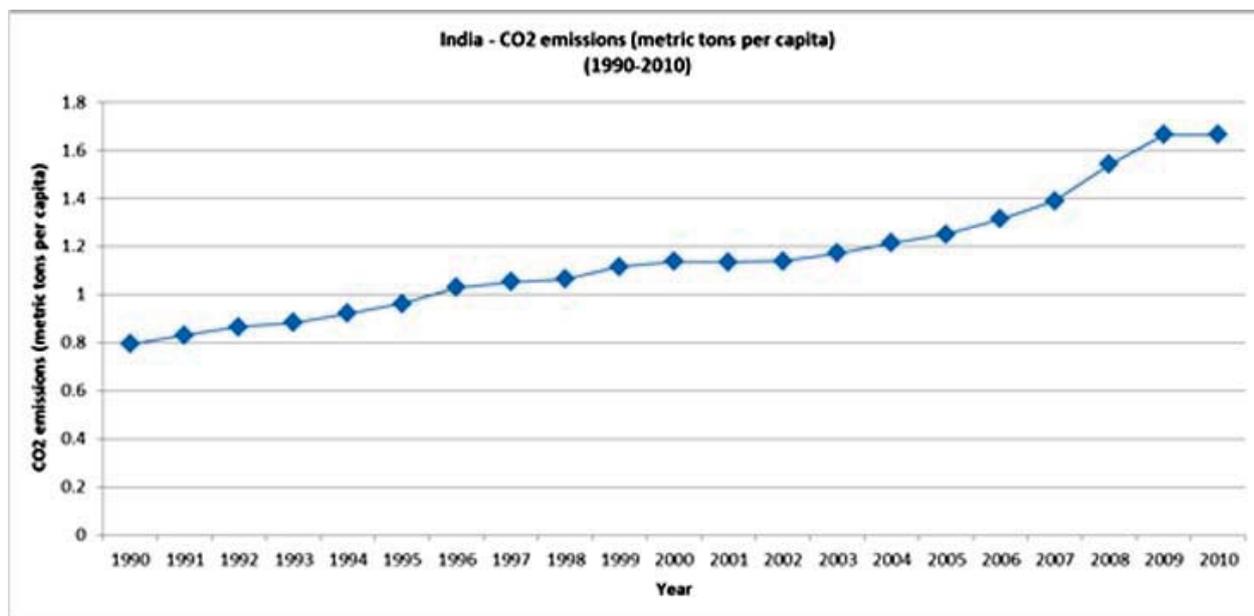
21. 2012, "Extinction Animals (Press Release)"; Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India

22. 2011; Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India; *Sustainable Development in India: Stocktaking in the run up to Rio+20*, Pg 59-60.

improper or inappropriate agriculture are typically considered to be the main causes of land degradation. With India's food security under threat, with nearly 81 million hectares facing desertification, environment minister Prakash Javadekar said that the government was working on a plan to "stop and reverse" the "serious threat". The minister said that India would become "land degradation neutral" by 2030 if all critical stakeholders – ministries of environment, agriculture, water resources and land resources – worked together on a common implementation strategy.²³

5. Vulnerability to Climate Change impacts, Natural Disasters and Hazards Risks

Climate change and natural disasters pose a key challenge to sustainable development. Climate Change is impacting natural ecosystems and is expected to have substantial adverse effects in India, mainly on agriculture on which 58 per cent of the population still depends for livelihood, water storage in the Himalayan glaciers which are the source of major rivers and groundwater recharge, sea-level rise, and threats to a long coastline and habitations. Climate change will also cause increased frequency of extreme events such as floods, droughts and cyclones. These in turn will impact India's food security problems and water security.²⁴ Changes in climatic conditions can have serious implications on agricultural production, agriculture dependent livelihoods and food. Freshwater availability is also at risk due to potential glacial melt and



Source: World Bank Data

23. <http://epaperbeta.timesofindia.com/Article.aspx?eid=31818&articlexml=India-to-be-Land-Degradation-Neutral-by-2030-18062014019010>

24. India, Ministry of Finance, Economic Survey, 2012-13, pp. 256-57

changes in river flows along the Himalayan range. An increase in the emission of harmful Co2 gases has also been observed; in 2004 it was 1.2 metric tons per capita and had increased by 40 percent approximately to 1.7 metric tons per capita in 2010.

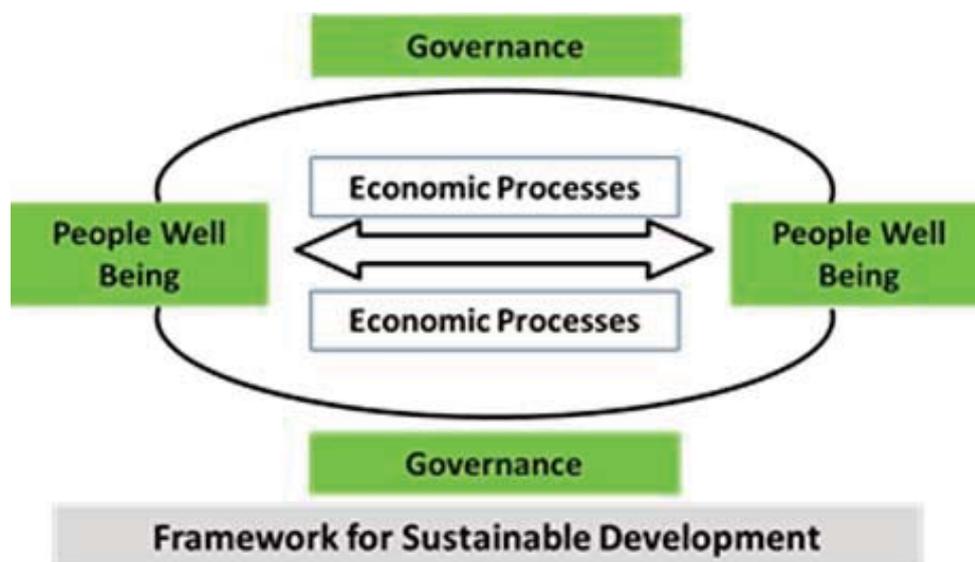
Vulnerability to climate change and natural disasters also has a strong linkage with poverty and has the potential to create multiple stresses over the stresses that already exist. It is, therefore, essential that the country adopts measures aimed at building resilience to such risks.

4.0 Framework for Action

Emanating from the UN Rio+20 outcome document "The Future we want", and discussed at the Open Working Group (OWG), three overarching principles can be derived as the basis for a new global development narrative to guide the post-2015 agenda for all countries and stakeholders, from heads of state to local communities.

- Leave no-one behind;
- Uphold equity and prosperity for all;
- Sustain prosperity for all present and future generations within planetary boundaries.²⁵

These need to form the basis of a National Sustainable Development Framework. While not legally binding, the Global post-2015 agenda could help establish a set of universal norms and rights by setting out how the international community defines and measures progress towards inclusive, equitable and sustainable development.²⁶



25 10 September 2014, Independent Research Forum (IRF) Assessing the Open Working Group on SDGs, Outcome Document: Messages, http://www.irf2015.org/sites/default/files/publications/IRF%20OWG%20Brief_final_9-10-14.pdf

26 *ibid*

The significant issue before governments including our own is to integrate economic, social and environmental concerns within the national and sub-national policies and action programmes. The economic processes therefore need to address building up of the human capital and sustaining the natural capital, within a just and transparent governance system that guides and regulates our actions. The new development paradigm thus places economic growth subservient to human well-being and planetary health and the new school of thought questions the positioning of economic growth as an end in itself. Processes that create wealth for individuals and or small sections of the society need to be examined for their contribution to the greater social and environmental value they create. A myriad of studies are already going on and need to be replicated in India for methodologies to measure what really matters and thus guide our policies and actions towards a more resilient, just and prosperous nation.

It is therefore important that national goals and especially targets for a post 2015 development agenda are universal - useful and applicable for all sections of our society, integrated - these enable coherence across policies, programmes and sectors and transformative - enable rapid and cross cutting shifts towards sustainability.

Systemic transformation needs to happen at the level of both ends (development outcomes) and means (identifying risks; addressing root causes; and accelerating key drivers of change for inclusive and sustainable development). It is about transforming existing structures (physical and economic infrastructure), culture (collective set of values, norms, paradigms) and practices (behaviors, implementation modalities). Major transitions have happened before in history—for example, the shift from extensive to more intensive agriculture, or the transition from a largely industrial-based to a service and knowledge-based global economy. However, such transformative shifts do not happen spontaneously—they need to be managed and grounded in innovation, learning and a shared vision of the future.

Transformation in social systems	Transformation in economic systems	Transformation in ecological systems	Transformation in governance systems
Overcoming poverty and inequality "Leave no one behind"	Achieving inclusive and green growth	Ensuring sustainability and resilience	Building transparent, accountable and participatory institutions

Fig: Systemic transformers for Sustainable Development

These transformations are universal—applying to all countries while recognizing differentiated responsibilities according to each country's development context and capabilities. Within the country, differentiated responsibilities of the resource guzzling industries and urban centers viz a vis indigenous populations, small farmers

and other historically socially and economically disadvantaged sectors/populations need to be addressed. These transformations also are overlapping and strongly interdependent. Taken together, they comprise a vision for achieving inclusive and sustainable development for all.²⁷ To address the above mentioned systematic issues, the actions should be based on the principles of sustainable development.

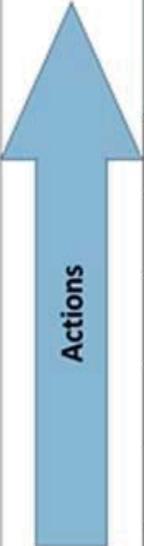
 Actions		Multi-Dimensional Poverty	Managing Water – Energy – Food Nexus	Equitable access and availability of basic needs	Ecological Degradation and Biodiversity Loss	Rapid Urbanization & Industrialization	Vulnerability to Climate Change impacts, Natural Disasters and Hazards Risks	
	Systematic Issues							
	Policy Coherence and Regulations							
	Planning Systems							
	Monitoring and Tracking system for targets and indicators							
	Institutional Capacities							
	Financial Systems and Fiscal Measures							
Information and Communication Systems	Targets							

Fig: Framework for Actions based on the Principles of Sustainable Development

Eliminating poverty involves a complex paradigm of creating human security (Income, Health, Education and Natural Disasters) and managing population growth and its impacts. Some of the specific actions that are vital for creating human security in the country are outlined below. The measures for each of these are based on the three pillars of accessibility, affordability, and availability.²⁸

Promoting Income Security - Measures might include:

- Facilitating access to decent jobs by reducing the drudgery and improving the working conditions
- Encouraging and strengthening micro, small and medium scale industries
- Developing financial instruments in the form of micro-credit that cater to the poorer sections of the society

27 April 2014, Kumar Gitanjali and Mandira Singh Thakur, *Development Alternatives & Kitty van der Heijden and Peter Hazlewood, WRI; A Transformative Post-2015 Development Agenda, Some key concepts and an evaluative checklist for assessing targets and goals*

28. June 2014, *Post 2015 South Asia Development Agenda, South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)*

Providing Health Security - Measures might include:

- Investing in primary health care infrastructure and systems that are linked to referral systems in towns and cities.
- Ensuring universal access to primary healthcare, through affordable and innovative insurance and other financing mechanisms
- Promoting private investments to increase access to healthcare and decrease the pressure on public healthcare systems.

Provide Quality Education - Measures might include:

- Promoting girl child education by providing better sanitation facilities in schools and educational institutions.
- Promote participation in learning/ education to make the young population ready for the increasingly competitive and complex job market and take advantage of relevant available opportunities as their age increases
- Mainstream Vocational Education and Training and skills education in post primary curriculum

Providing Security from Natural Disasters - Measures might include:

- Ensuring access to timely information through decentralized knowledge centers, ICT-based solutions, mobile, telephones etc.
- Strengthening disaster-preparedness through national and regional risk assessment, mapping, monitoring and vigilance systems
- Ensuring timely relief, recovery and rehabilitation of victims affected by natural disasters through effective policies and procedures, including regional cooperation.

Managing Population growth is a priority for the survival of most developing countries, including India. At the current rate of growth, despite the small decline, pressures on land and natural resources are becoming unmanageable and the inequities in jobs and economic opportunities are already leading us into social strife. Direct and indirect measures need to be taken to address population management and equitable distribution in the country.

- Investing to empower women with education, skills and social justice is probably the most significant transformative area of action for our country today.

Managing Urbanization and Industrialization: To reap the economic advantages of urbanization & industrialization, better policies should be in place to meet urban and industrial infrastructure needs through sustainable means and address growing urban poverty and inequality. Measures might include:

- Promote an integrated approach to planning and building sustainable cities and

- urban settlements ensuring balance development for cities with rural regions.
- Consider disaster risk reduction, resilience and climate risks in regional planning.
- Promote cost effective and technically and environmentally sound management of chemicals and wastes
- Create public awareness about health and environmental problems
- Introducing innovations such as "pay-per-use" regulations that promote water affordability for drinking, domestic use, livestock, irrigation, industrial use, and recreational purposes
- Enhancing the water availability by creating innovative financing and partnerships for effective extraction, treatment, storage and equitable distribution of water.

In a growing economy, sustainability is desired in both production systems as well as consumption patterns. Investments in research that look at decoupling resources from economic growth are critical so that innovations in construction, transportation, agriculture etc. can continue to provide the desired benefits for society while reducing their negative impacts on the natural resource base. Individual and community consumption too must come under the cross bar. Measures must include;

- Fiscal supports for greener cleaner production systems
- Decentralization and right scaling production and distribution systems
- Moving the burden of taxation from production to consumption²⁹

Mitigation of Climate Change, Natural Disasters and Hazards Risks - India's development plans should balance economic development and environmental concerns. A number of measures could be taken in this direction, including:

- Raising awareness amongst various stakeholders
- Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), plans into the development planning and budgeting process at community, sub-national and national levels.
- Promote regional and global cooperation for disaster forecasting and reduction and managing post disaster situation
- Strengthening disaster-preparedness through national and regional risk assessment, mapping, monitoring and vigilance systems

Securing Biodiversity - The loss of sub-regional biodiversity has a negative impact upon the people of India as well as the global community. Some of the key priorities for action by the country are outlined below:

- Introduction of Eco-System based natural resource management
- Continuing to assess, map and document the biodiversity wealth of the sub-region
- Reviving traditional knowledge, especially among local communities, indigenous people and women
- Minimizing the losses from soil erosion, landslides and desertification by checking land degradation.

Managing Water-Food-Energy Nexus: Interestingly, all three components of the nexus - groundwater, electricity and agriculture are state subjects according to the Constitution of India. Hence it is the state governments, rather than the central government, which can formulate policies for tackling this nexus.³⁰

Ensuring food security - Measures might include:

- Improving access by strengthening public distribution systems
- Enhancing affordability through appropriate pricing instruments
- Nutrition and not just 'food'
- Strengthening of agricultural research system for developing new crop varieties and agricultural technologies in response to changing weather patterns

Enhancing Energy Security- Measures might include:

- Improving the access to reliable, economically viable and environmentally sound energy services for all
- Enhancing rural electrification, decentralized energy systems, and use of renewable energy sources through national initiatives and regional cooperation
- Regulate pricing to encourage renewable decentralized systems in the region
- Adopt clean energy / energy-efficient technologies that are climate friendly and commercially viable
- Promote research on energy efficiency and the diversification of the energy mix

Providing Water Security- Measures might include:

- Strengthening of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)
- Improving access to quality water for all by regulating consumption, managing ground water augmentation and adopting waste water recycling

30. <http://aditimukherji.wordpress.com/2013/04/15/managing-the-water-energy-food-nexus-in-india-insights-from-three-indian-states/>

5.0 Strengthening Policy Formulation Process

To address the above environmental, economic & social issues and to achieve sustainable development, government formulates policies and programmes at center and state level. The making of public policy for a country as large, populous and diverse as India is intrinsically a more complex task than in a smaller political unit. Institutions that play a crucial role in policy/plan making are: Legislature, Executive, Cabinet and Cabinet secretariat, Prime Minister and Prime Minister's Office, National Development Council (NDC) and Planning Commission, IAS, IPS and IFS officers and the Judiciary. All the above mentioned institutions have a unique role to play in the formulation of policy. Plans or policy includes: schemes, programs, sectoral policies, rules, regulations, laws, as well as judicial policy-decisions.

The process of plan formulation takes place in a series of steps. Firstly Planning Commission will prepare, on a rough basis, certain schemes and projects in consultation with the union ministries and state governments in the background of the Perspective Plan; to determine some kind of priority; to take stock of the available resources; and to distribute these resources among the different agencies on an approximate basis. After which, each union ministry and state government is asked to prepare their own plan. After the states and the union ministries have submitted their plans to the commission, there begins the process of fitting together the various schemes and programmes into an integrated plan. At the end of these exercises the draft plan is published and thrown open for discussion. These tentative agreements are then placed before the cabinet and after its approval sent to the NDC and after the council's recommendations are given the final shape. The plan is then presented to the Parliament and after its approval it is published. There are few gaps in the policy formulating process and some of them are mentioned below:

- **Excessive Fragmentation in structure** - One of the main problems with policy-making in India, is extreme fragmentation in the structure. For example, the transport sector is dealt with by five departments/Ministries in the government of India and because of which it fails to recognize that actions taken in one sector have serious implications on another and may work at cross purposes with the policies of the other sector. Besides, it becomes very difficult, even for closely related sectors, to align their policies in accordance with a common overall agenda. Similar examples exist in the energy, industry and social welfare sectors as well.
- **Excessive overlap between policy making and implementation** - Another problem is the excessive overlap between implementation, program formulation and policy making which creates a tendency to focus on operational convenience rather than on public needs.

- **Lack of non-governmental inputs and informed debate** - Often public policy is made without adequate input from outside the government and without adequate debate on the issues involved. The policy processes and structures of government have no systematic means for obtaining outside inputs, for involving those affected by policies or for debating alternatives and their impacts on different groups.
- **Information Gap** - Policy making, necessarily, is based on data, and in India data in many spheres of social action is weak and unreliable. Most of the identification on which policies at higher levels are made originates from the district collector and this may not be trustworthy.
- **Poor Implementation** - Implementation of policies is generally very strongly & deeply affected by local politics.

Below are the proposed measures to further strengthen the policy making/formulation process.

- **Reduction in Fragmentation and enhanced Convergence** - It is very helpful to have a clear set of roles and responsibilities for all the ministries and departments. The first reform would be to achieve a progressive decrease in fragmentation as one goes up the hierarchy. This would mean that fewer Secretaries, each of whom would handle more than one of the existing sectors. The result would be that coordination and integration will be achieved far more smoothly. It will also result in to a clear understanding of the degree of interconnection and overlaps between sectors.
- **Strengthening Participation**- Participatory planning leads to generation of ownership which, in turn is crucial for sustainability of any development intervention. Bringing in motivational change along the extensive governance framework, along with organized movement of people to facilitate the process of decentralization could be a solution in the long run. Public participation in policy & planning depends upon several conditions. First of all the people should be aware of the functioning of the process. In other words information is essential if people are to participate. Secondly there must be machinery which enables people to participate meaningfully in the planning process. Thirdly, people must feel that their participation is not a formality but that they have the ability to influence the functioning of the process; which results into having a sense of ownership.

- **Strengthening Governance Mechanisms:** To overcome and address the SD challenges of the country, it is very important to have an efficient, transparent and accountable government mechanism at the lowest unit of planning.
 - Devolution of power and finances to local bodies will continue at an accelerated rate. Pressure from the grassroots will increasingly supplant governance from the top down. Financial devolution makes them increasingly responsible for financing local infrastructure.
 - Direct democracy through gram sabhas should become more prevalent at the local level. People at the local level should be more directly involved in setting priorities for distribution of resources and managing local projects.
 - Government agencies of all types at all levels should be more responsive and accountable to the public as customers.
 - Mechanisms should be evolved to increase transparency and reduce corruption. Introducing E-government will improve responsiveness and reduce corruption in some areas.

- Strengthen the Information flow and create an Information system - Formulation of a broad policy framework includes detailed decisions at every level. Successful detailed decision-making depends exclusively on the availability of information and data which is more readily available at the appropriate level for which the decisions are being made. Having a strong data and information base will lead to transparency and better management of policies.

Policies and programmes for achieving sustainable development in India aim to fulfill its commitment towards social progress, accelerated economic growth and increased environmental conservation. There are number of plans and schemes formulated and implemented by center and state governments. With the aim of linking development with climate change frontally, National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) was launched by GoI in June 2008. The objective of the programme is to address vulnerability to climate change and enhance capacity at central and state levels. State Action Plans (SAPs) are also being prepared to create state level institutional and programme oriented capacities for addressing climate change. To create awareness, ban open defecation, facilitate integrated citywide sanitation, and encourage safe disposal as well as efficient operation and proper maintenance of all sanitary installations, The National Urban Sanitation Policy came to the fore during 2008. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) was launched with an objective to create and restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water. The scheme was launched during 2009-10.

While there have been various policies and programmes in place on sustainable development, a few challenges continue to exist particularly with respect to implementation. Capacity building and improved financial and technical resourcing of executing agencies is the key for effective implementation.

6.0 Strengthening Institutions for Sustainable Development

Appropriate implementation of sustainable development strategies calls for effective and reliable legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks at the national and sub-national levels. At the national level, proper planning and implementation for Sustainable development is only possible by involving various civil society institutions (CBOs, NGOs), corporate bodies, academic institutions, research organizations and trade unions as well. The joint planning through such heterogeneous partnerships fructifies in positive end results. This requires government departments to work together, or in some cases as a single multi-disciplinary authority. Coordination and transparency in implementation are essential in this joint development planning. Proper implementation of sustainable development strategies must involve several institutions like those related to agriculture, industry, energy, health and safety, natural resource management, land-use planning and transportation. Such inter-agency cooperation is pivotal to effective policy implementation.

At the sub-national level, participation of all the stakeholders is necessary to ensure appropriate resource management. Community participation at the local level, through democratic institutions, is the key to effective and sustainable management of natural resources. Capacity building of the local people will facilitate their participation in local governance, through formation of village level committees, and enable them to undertake local development activities, monitor project implementation and manage community assets.

As women form about 50 percent of all the development stakeholders, it is a must to involve them and other marginalized groups in all the decision-making processes of local governance for their equal and effective participation in the sustainable development of the local communities, especially the poor and the vulnerable. It is essential to formulate proper participatory governance mechanisms, involving citizen groups and local authorities, which would facilitate the process of conflict resolution in an effective manner.

In global terms, sustainable development could only be achieved through international cooperation at the common points of intersection like trans-boundary environmental impacts, bio-resource management, technology-sharing, and common marine issues. Sharing of sustainable development experiences at the local level would certainly go

a long way in strengthening the sustainable development movement at the global level. Since the South or the developing nations face similar environmental and development problems as one single entity, it is all the more reason to present their problems collectively at global forums for acquiring sustainable solutions. To strengthen international cooperation, it is a must to evolve mechanisms that not only catalyze international sharing development experiences, but also facilitate monitoring the compliance of individual nations towards their commitments under the different global agreements.

7.0 Conclusion

While there is a clear national intent for India to transition to a more prosperous, resilient and just nation, there are serious internal structural as well as capacity challenges before us. In the coming years, these issues need to be addressed in spirit and action, taking every one along. We can no longer prioritize “growth” over equity and ecological concerns. The inter-linkages of the dimensions of sustainability have to be explicit in the design and implementation of our policies, programmes and actions. And, while institutional set-up at every level of governance does exist but there is little coordination and interaction between departments. This in turn leads to weak and less effective planning. And, finally, the engagement of the public sector with civil society and businesses in an open transparent and informed manner is essential to bring ownership of processes and new ideas to deal with complex problems of today.

End Notes

From the Open Working Group (OWG) outcome document, at least three overarching principles can be derived as the basis for a new global development narrative that articulates the transformative potential of the post-2015 agenda for all countries and stakeholders, from heads of state to local communities. IRF2015 is working closely with the Open Working Group (OWG) – the intergovernmental working group tasked by the Rio+20 Conference to design the SDGs. The OWG comprises 30 members representing 70 UN Member States, and holds sessions on different topics, which will culminate in a report to the 68th session of the General Assembly in September 2014, containing a proposal for the SDGs. IRF2015 is supporting the OWG and contributing directly to the SDG drafting process. International Research Forum; <http://www.irf2015.org/about>

LIST OF VANI PUBLICATIONS

- Civil Society Accountability Principles and Practice (India Toolkit) (English)
- Enabling environment for Voluntary Organisations A Global Campaign (English)
- Model Policies for International Good Governance in Voluntary Organizations
- The Hand Book in Good Governance for the Voluntary Sector
- Status of the Voluntary Sector in India A Report
- Status of the Voluntary Sector in India (Primer) English & Hindi))
- Civil Society Engagement in Aid Effectiveness Discourse
- Changing Dynamics Between VOs and Private Sector
- Involving Voluntary Organizations in Governments Plans and Projects
- India's Global Footprints
- India's Development Assistance: Trends, Challenges and Implications for CSOs
- India's Role in the G20: A Civil Society Approach
- Contribution and Challenges of Voluntary Organizations Working on Religious Minority A Primer of the Study Report (English & Hindi)
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- Policy Brief of Revisiting the National Policy on Voluntary Sector and Need for A National Policy on Volunteering (English & Hindi)
- Enabling Environment of the Voluntary Sector in India A Study Report (English)



About Heinrich Böll Foundation

"The Heinrich Böll Stiftung / Foundation (HBF) is the Green Political foundation from Germany, affiliated to the "Greens/Alliance '90" political party represented in the Germany's federal parliament. Headquartered in Berlin, and with 30 international offices today, hbs conducts and supports civic educational activities and projects worldwide.

HBF understands itself as a green think-tank and international policy network, working with governmental and non-governmental actors and focusing on gender equity, sustainable development, and democracy and human rights.

With a presence in New Delhi since 2002, the HBF India office coordinates the interaction with stakeholders and partners in the country. Its programme focus areas include climate and resource policy, socio-economic policy from a gender perspective, the dynamics of democracy, and India's role in the new global order."

About VANI



Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) is an apex body of the Voluntary Organisations.

- Founded in 1988 to act as a promoter/Protector and collective voice of the voluntary sector.
- Base of 8000 non-governmental organisations spread in 25 states of India.
- Resource Centre for publications, research work, articles, important documents and information about and related to the voluntary sector.

Objectives:

- As a platform, to promote voluntarism and create space for voluntary action.
- As a network, attempt to bring about a convergence of common sectoral issues and concerns for building a truly national agenda of voluntary action in India. In addition, facilitate linkages of various efforts and initiatives of the Indian voluntary sector, which succeed in strengthening a united and sustainable movement of change.
- As an association, work towards fostering value based voluntary action and long term sustainability especially amongst our members.

Areas of work

- Promoting practices of good governance in the voluntary sector.
- Strengthening networks
- Articulating independent voices of the sector.
- Research and advocacy of policies and law effecting the voluntary sector.

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