Climate Change Adaptation

Due to rapid industrialization and urbanization in different parts of the world over the past several decades, there have been serious effects on climate. Available observational evidences indicate that regional changes in climate, particularly increases in temperature, have already affected a diverse set of physical and biological systems in many parts of the world. International communities have tried to respond to these changing phenomena by establishing high-level IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). Numerous global treaties and protocols have been formulated on climate change in different countries.

However, climate change impacts are found to be most severe in the grassroots-level community, in the form of natural disasters like droughts and floods, which affect the lives and livelihoods of people. The impacts of climate change are observed in the form of increasing poverty in rural areas. Although communities are equipped with traditional knowledge and wisdom, new practices and policies are required to enable them to cope with the changing climate, thereby providing them with means to sustain their livelihoods. Adaptation to climate change has the potential to substantially reduce many of the adverse impacts and enhance beneficial impacts, though neither without cost, nor without leaving residual damage.

While climate change adaptation has been discussed over the past several years through organizational and adaptive responses, little has been focused on the community-level adaptation and integrating the adaptation methods in the policy perspective. Needless to say that, international-level interventions are essential for the commitments and negotiations among the governments; however, at the community level, there is an urgent need to disseminate the impacts of climate change and its possible adaptation strategies. This research field targets actions research on community based climate change adaptation in different parts of Asia. Special focus is given on the relation of climate change and disaster risk reduction.