



**SUMMARY**

## **Bridging the Climate Information and Communication Gaps for Effective Adaptation Decisions: An Integrated Climate Information Management System**

*Proposed by the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS), the Department of Meteorology of Sri Lanka (DOM), the Janathakshan, and the South Asian Network of Development and Environmental Economics (SANDEE)*

## INTRODUCTION

Two forms of climate adaptation include policy-induced adaptation and autonomous adaptation. While policy decisions on adaptation are based on probabilistic climate projections and forecasts, farmers in vulnerable regions make adaptation decisions based on their subjective expectations of climate events. Asymmetry in autonomous and policy-induced adaptation decisions results in information and communication gaps that could lead to inefficiencies in the overall process of adaptation. One way to overcome these gaps is by establishing an *Integrated Climate Information Management Systems* (ICIMS) that harnesses the strengths of local adaptation systems and the advances in climate sciences.

## WHAT THEY WILL DO

This project seeks to improve the effectiveness of adaptation decisions of farmers and policymakers by bridging information and communication gaps. The project will do this by establishing and pilot-testing various ICIMS models. Through an action-research model, the project will identify which factors are critical for the success and sustainability of ICIMS, and aims to build the capacity of local climate information providers and farming communities to jointly develop climate information products.

## HOW THEY WILL DO IT

This study will use an action research model that produces rigorous academic outputs and participatory policy outcomes through the simultaneous implementation of research activities and development interventions. The proposed action research model will be composed of three components: a socio-economic research component, a technical capacity development component, and a regional knowledge sharing component. This 30-month project will be carried out by a consortium of partners that include the Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka, the Department of Meteorology of Sri Lanka, the Janathakshan, and the South Asian Network of Development and Environmental Economics.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

The project will enable farmers and policy-makers to make informed decisions on climate adaptation through the integration of scientific and local knowledge. This will help farmers minimize losses due to climate risks, and to identify opportunities which can lead to income benefits in the short-term. Additionally, informed policy-decisions on adaptation will generate tangible long-term benefits that increase the adaptive capacity of communities overall. The project further hopes to identify ICIMS models that can be replicated in other parts of South Asia and the developing world, to benefit vulnerable farming communities.