IUB Independent University, Bangladesh

Sweden Sverige

ICCCAD International Centre for Climate Change and Development

WORKSHOP ON LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION AND BUILDING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE FOR THE MEMBERS OF SYLHET DIVISIONAL PLATFORM ON LOCALLY LED ADAPTATION (DPLLA)

Date:29 April 2025 - 01 May 2025
Location: Brac Learning Centre, Sylhet

PREPARED BY:

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Executive Summary

The "Workshop on Locally Led Adaptation and Building Community Resilience," organized by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) under the Divisional Platform for Locally Led Adaptation (DPLLA), was held from April 29 to May 1, 2025, at BRAC Learning Centre, Sylhet. Supported by the Embassy of Sweden through the CAP-RES project and co-hosted by Caritas Bangladesh, the workshop brought together 20 participants from NGOs, CSOs, youth organizations, academia, and government agencies to strengthen Sylhet's capacity for climate adaptation.

As one of Bangladesh's most climate-vulnerable regions, Sylhet faces recurrent challenges including erratic rainfall, flooding, droughts, and declining agricultural productivity. The workshop responded to these pressing issues by equipping local actors with knowledge and practical skills to design and implement effective Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) strategies.

Across 10 sessions, participants explored a range of critical topics: fundamentals of climate change, principles of LLA, disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate-induced loss and damage, climate-resilient agriculture, and nature-based solutions (NbS). Sessions also highlighted tools for climate risk assessment, strategies for developing competitive adaptation proposals, and mechanisms to access climate finance. A dedicated focus on Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) emphasized inclusive, community-driven approaches to tracking adaptation outcomes.

Interactive methodologies—such as group work, peer learning, and Climate Action Pitches—fostered collaboration and knowledge-sharing, while case studies like the LoGIC project illustrated scalable models of devolved climate finance. Special attention was given to gender-sensitive approaches and the empowerment of youth and marginalized communities in resilience planning.

The workshop underscored the urgent need for inclusive climate action in Sylhet, building networks for cross-sector collaboration and ensuring local ownership of adaptation processes. By strengthening the skills, knowledge, and connections of key stakeholders, this initiative contributes to Bangladesh's broader climate resilience strategy and reinforces the role of locally led action in addressing the escalating challenges of climate change.

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Training Agenda

Time	Name of the Session/Activity	Resource Persons
Day 1 (29 April, 2025)		
09:00 am-09:10 am	Welcome Remarks	**ICCCAD Team**

09:10 am-09:20 am	Orientation of Participants	**ICCCAD Team**
09:20 am -09:40 am	Brainstorming and Expectations	**Habibur Rahman** Capacity Building Officer, ICCCAD
09:40am -10:40am	**Session 1:** Understanding the Fundamentals of Climate Change: Causes, Impacts, and Future Trends	**Prof. Dr. Hafizur Rahman** Head and ICCCAD-IUB Focal, Independent University Bangladesh
10:40am -11:40 am	**Session 2:** Locally Led Adaptation (LLA): Principles and Best Practices	**Savio Rousseau Rozario** Programme Coordinator (LLA), ICCCAD
11:40 am -12:00 pm	**Tea Break**	
12:00 pm -01:30 pm	**Session 3:** Locally led Adaptation in Practice: Case Study of Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC) & How does accountability look like in locally led adaptation: A case study from scorecards exercise.	**Md: Mamunur Rashid Khan** District Climate Change Coordinator, LoGIC project, UNDP **Rawnak Jahan Khan Ranon** Research Officer (LLA), ICCCAD
01:30 pm -02:45 pm	**Lunch and Prayer**	
02:45 pm -03:45 pm	**Session 4:** Climate-Induced Loss and Damage: Addressing Challenges and Developing Local Strategies	**Sumaiya Binte Selim** Programme Coordinator (Gender and Youth), ICCCAD
03:45 pm-05:00 pm	**Session 5**: Building Climate-Resilient Agriculture and Water Management Systems	**Dr. Mohammad Ashraful Islam** Professor, Dept. of Agricultural Extension Education, Sylhet agriculture University
Day 2 (30 April, 2025)		
09: 00 am -11: 30 am	**Session 6**: Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Adaptation: Harnessing Ecosystem Services	**Dr. Hasib Irfanullah** Independent Consultant, Environment, Climate Change, and Research System
11:30 am -11:45 am	**Tea Break**	
11:45 am -01:00 pm	**Session 7:** Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Early Warning Systems: Strengthening Community Resilience	**MD Abdul Kuddus Bulbul** District Relief and Rehabilitation Officer (DRRO), Sylhet
01:00 pm – 2.00 pm	**Lunch and Prayer**	
02:00pm-04:30 pm	**Session 8: Climate Risk Assessment Methodologies: Tools for Identifying Vulnerabilities and Risks**	**Muhammad Mainul Hossan Rony** **Food Cluster Coordinator, WFP**

04:30 pm-05:00 pm	**Group Work and Exercise**	
Day 3 (01 May, 2025)		
09: 00 am -11: 00 am	**Session 09**: Developing Winning Proposals for Locally Led Adaptation Projects and Accessing Climate Finance	**Dr. Md. Golam Rabbani** Head of Climate Bridge Fund Secretariat, BRAC
11: 00 am -11: 15 am	**Tea Break**	
11: 15 am -12: 00 pm	**Group Work and Exercise**	
12:00 pm -01:00 am	**Session 10**: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) for Effective Climate Adaptation Projects	**Md. Nobiul Islam** M&E Manager, ICCCAD
01:00 pm-01-20 pm	Post-evaluation	**Habibur Rahman** Capacity Building Officer, ICCCAD
01:20pm-01:30 pm	Closing Remarks followed by Lunch	**ICCCAD Team**

Acronym

DPLLA – Divisional Platform for Locally Led Adaptation

ICCCAD – International Centre for Climate Change and Development

LLA – Locally Led Adaptation

DRR – Disaster Risk Reduction

NbS – Nature-Based Solutions

MEL – Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning

CAP-RES – Capacity Strengthening of Multi-Actors to Limit Climate Change Impacts and Enhance Resilience

LoGIC – Local Government Initiative on Climate Change

CRF – Community Resilience Fund

PBCRG – Performance-Based Climate Resilience Grant

CVI – Climate Vulnerability Index

NDCs – Nationally Determined Contributions

UNFCCC – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

MEAL – Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning

Background

The Divisional Platform for Locally Led Adaptation (DPLLA) is a core initiative of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), aimed at promoting and strengthening locally led adaptation (LLA) efforts across Bangladesh. The platform focuses on creating a collaborative space where local actors, including NGOs, CSOs, government agencies, and community leaders, can come together to address the challenges posed by climate change at the divisional level.

The Sylhet Division is one of the most climate-vulnerable regions in Bangladesh, experiencing a range of climate-induced impacts such as erratic rainfall, flooding, droughts, and loss of agricultural productivity. These climate challenges severely affect the livelihoods and resilience of local communities. In response to this vulnerability, ICCCAD launched the DPLLA to bring together stakeholders across the region and foster locally led adaptation solutions that are tailored to the unique climate challenges faced by these communities.

As part of the DPLLA's efforts, a capacity needs assessment was conducted to identify the gaps in knowledge, skills, and resources that local actors face when implementing climate adaptation measures. The findings of the assessment underscored the urgent need for enhanced capacity-building initiatives to equip stakeholders with the tools and knowledge required for effective climate action. Specific challenges highlighted included disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate finance access, community-based adaptation, and resilience-building.

To address these needs, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) has devised a plan to conduct a “Workshop on Locally Led Adaptation and Building Community Resilience for Members of the Sylhet Divisional Platform for Locally Led Adaptation (DPLLA)”. This initiative has been taken under the project ‘Capacity Strengthening of Multi-Actors to Limit Climate Change Impacts and Enhance Resilience (CAP-RES)’ which is supported by the Embassy of Sweden.

This workshop aims to strengthen the capacity of local actors in Sylhet Division by providing knowledge and technical skills necessary for scaling up locally Led Adaptation initiatives. Contents include climate change fundamentals, locally led adaptation (LLA), disaster risk reduction (DRR), climate-induced loss and damage, and building climate-resilient agriculture. Participants will also learn about nature-based solutions (NbS), gender-sensitive adaptation, climate risk assessment, and how to develop successful proposals for adaptation projects and access climate finance.

The workshop will also play a crucial role in fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing among stakeholders and in empowering them to implement locally led and sustainable climate adaptation strategies.

Objectives and Methodology

Objectives

The primary objectives of this workshop are to:

- Enhance Capacity: Strengthen the ability of local actors to design, implement, and monitor locally led adaptation initiatives.
- Promote Peer Learning: Facilitate knowledge exchange through discussions and participatory activities.
- Strengthen Community Resilience: Equip participants with practical tools and methodologies for climate resilience.
- Foster Collaboration: Build networks among NGOs, CSOs, youth organizations, and government stakeholders for sustainable adaptation planning.

Key Discussion Topics

- Fundamentals of climate change and its impacts
- Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) principles and best practices
- Addressing climate-induced loss and damage
- Disaster risk reduction, climate-resilient agriculture, and nature-based solutions
- Social inclusion and gender-sensitive climate adaptation
- Climate risk assessment methodologies and developing proposals for adaptation project
- Monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) for adaptation projects

Methodology

The workshop will be conducted in person and residential for three days. A total of ten sessions will be taken in three days. This workshop will employ an interactive and participatory approach, including:

- Participatory lectures and discussions
- Peer to peer learning
- Climate Action Pitch (CAP) by Short Video Presentation
- Discussions
- Group Works
- Extensive Practical Exercise

Target Group of Participants

The workshop will be designed for member organizations of the Divisional Platform for Locally Led Adaptation (DPLLA) in Sylhet" comprised of NGOs, CSOs, youth organization and academia. Total 20 participants maintaining gender balance with male and female ratio of 60:40 is targeted.

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding of climate change, its impacts, and future trends.

- Strengthened capacity to implement Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) strategies and address climate-induced loss and damage.
- Improved knowledge of disaster risk reduction, climate-resilient agriculture, and nature-based solutions.
- Increased awareness of social inclusion and gender-sensitive approaches in climate adaptation.
- Equipped with tools for climate risk assessments and accessing climate finance, along with enhanced MEL capabilities.

Date and Time

The Workshop is planned to be held on 29 April - 01 May 2025. Participants from outside of Sylhet district will reach at BRAC Learning Centre, Sylhet within 05:00 pm on 28 April 2025). Participants within Sylhet district will reach the venue at 09:00 am on 29 April 2025.

4. Session Description

4.1. Setting the Tone and Orientation of the Participants

Following a hearty breakfast on the morning of April 29, 2025, participants gathered in the main hall of the BRAC Learning Centre in Sylhet to commence the first day of the workshop. The session began with a warm welcome from the ICCCAD team, who formally opened the program by introducing themselves and setting the tone for three days of interactive learning, collaboration, and knowledge sharing.

The atmosphere in the room was lively and engaging as participants were invited to introduce themselves. Representing a diverse mix of grassroots organizations, local NGOs, youth groups, and civil society networks from across the Sylhet Division, each participant brought unique perspectives and experiences related to locally led adaptation and climate resilience. This diversity laid the groundwork for vibrant discussions and peer learning throughout the workshop.

The ICCCAD team emphasized the importance of cross-sector collaboration in addressing climate challenges at the community level. They also shared the objectives of the workshop, highlighting its focus on capacity-building, practical tools, and local strategies for adaptation and resilience. The introductory session fostered a sense of collective purpose and opened up a welcoming space where all voices were encouraged to contribute.

This first interaction set a strong foundation for the days ahead, building mutual respect, trust, and enthusiasm among participants and facilitators alike.

4.2. Understanding the Fundamentals of Climate Change: Causes, Impacts, and Future Trends

The inaugural technical session of the workshop was delivered by Professor Dr. Hafizur Rahman, Head of the Department of Environmental Science and Management (DESM) at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) and the focal point of ICCCAD-IUB. The session offered a foundational overview of climate science, with a focus on both the global context and its specific implications for Bangladesh.

Professor Rahman commenced the session by defining greenhouse gases (GHGs) and explaining their role in regulating the Earth's temperature. He elucidated how the excessive accumulation of GHGs—such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide traps heat in the atmosphere, leading to global warming. One of the major consequences of this warming, he noted, is sea-level rise, which contributes to salinity intrusion in coastal regions like southern Bangladesh, thereby affecting freshwater resources, agriculture, and local livelihoods.

The session proceeded with a discussion on the evidence of climate change, where Professor Rahman distinguished between weather and climate, and highlighted both natural and anthropogenic (non-natural) causes of climate change. Natural causes include volcanic eruptions and solar variability, while human-induced factors primarily stem from the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, and industrial emissions. Despite the natural variations, he emphasized that the recent rate and magnitude of global warming are unprecedented and clearly linked to human activities.

In addressing the importance of greenhouse gases, the speaker clarified that while GHGs are essential for maintaining Earth's habitable temperature, their over-concentration poses severe threats to climate stability. He then introduced key concepts such as carbon sinks (e.g., forests and oceans), carbon sources (e.g., fossil fuel combustion), and carbon sequestration, which refers to the process of capturing and storing atmospheric CO_2. Related to this, he discussed the notion of carbon footprint, encouraging participants to consider how their daily activities contribute to emissions.

Professor Rahman also addressed the differentiated responsibilities of developed and developing countries in the climate crisis. He explained that while developed nations historically contributed the most to GHG emissions, developing nations like Bangladesh suffer disproportionately from their consequences. As such, global climate agreements aim to ensure equity in climate action and financial support.

The presentation further explored the ten key indicators of global warming, including rising global temperatures, shrinking ice sheets, ocean acidification, increased frequency of extreme weather events, and more. These indicators provide compelling scientific evidence of the ongoing climate crisis.

The latter half of the session was devoted to international and national response mechanisms. Professor Rahman provided an in-depth explanation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)**,** which represent each country's voluntary commitments under the Paris Agreement to reduce emissions and enhance resilience. He elaborated on the twin pillars of climate response mitigation and adaptation, discussing their respective measures and interlinkages.

The session also covered various types of adaptation, including community-based adaptation (CBA) and locally led adaptation (LLA)**,** highlighting the importance of inclusive, context-specific strategies that empower vulnerable communities. Additionally, the role of nature-based solutions (NbS) was introduced as an effective means to address both mitigation and adaptation goals. The concept of loss and damage was briefly discussed, recognising it as an emerging but critical area in global climate negotiations.

Professor concluded the session by thanking the participants for their attentiveness and encouraging them to actively engage in the upcoming sessions. His lecture laid a strong scientific and policy-oriented foundation for the rest of the workshop.

4.3 Locally Led Adaptation (LLA): Principles and Best Practices

The second session of the workshop was facilitated by **Mr. Savio Rousseau Rozario**, Programme Coordinator for Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) at the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD). His presentation provided a thorough and structured overview of the conceptual foundation, strategic importance, and implementation dynamics of LLA, with particular relevance to the climate-vulnerable context of Sylhet.

Mr. Rozario commenced the session by underscoring the necessity of adopting LLA in Bangladesh—a country that is both highly susceptible to climate change impacts and recognised internationally for its proactive stance in adaptation efforts. He emphasised that LLA is a transformative approach which seeks to redistribute power and resources to those most directly affected by climate hazards. Rather than merely delivering localised projects, LLA promotes inclusive governance, equity, and sustainability, ensuring that communities play a central role in shaping their adaptive futures.

The presentation traced the development of the LLA framework, first articulated during 2018–2019. It was noted that over 130 organisations, including 24 governments, have since endorsed the Eight Principles of LLA**,** although broader institutional adoption and operationalisation remain in progress. Mr. Rozario affirmed that Bangladesh possesses considerable potential to lead in this area, particularly through mechanisms such as the Divisional Platforms for Locally Led Adaptation (DPLLA).

The lecture then focused on a detailed explanation of the Eight Principles of LLA, which are as follows:

1. Devolving decision-making to the lowest appropriate level
2. Addressing structural inequalities**,** particularly those affecting marginalised and vulnerable groups
3. Providing patient and predictable funding that is more accessible
4. Investing in local capabilities to create enduring institutional legacies
5. Building a robust understanding of climate risk and uncertainty
6. Implementing flexible programming and encouraging adaptive learning
7. Ensuring transparency and accountability
8. Fostering collaborative action and investment

Each principle was illustrated with practical examples, with emphasis on the importance of equity, capacity development, and participatory governance. Mr. Rozario further elaborated on the value of co-producing knowledge with local actors and establishing inclusive platforms to ensure their leadership in adaptation planning and implementation.

To enhance the interactive nature of the session, Mr. Rozario introduced a group exercise. Each participant received a V-card and was asked to identify one or two LLA principles they considered most relevant to the local context of Sylhet. These responses were then displayed on a communal wall for collective viewing and reflection.

The exercise revealed several recurring themes; a significant number of participants prioritised "investing in local capabilities" and **"**addressing structural inequalities**"** as the most critical for advancing LLA in the region. This participatory activity fostered a shared understanding among attendees and served as a platform for peer learning and dialogue.

The session concluded with an open discussion, during which participants expressed appreciation for both the content and delivery of the presentation. The session successfully established a foundational understanding of LLA, setting the stage for deeper engagement in subsequent sessions of the workshop.

4.4. Locally led Adaptation in Practice: Case Study of Local Government Initiative on Climate Change (LoGIC)

The session titled **"LoGIC Project: Advancing Locally Led Adaptation through Climate Financing Models"** was conducted by **Md. Mamunur Rashid Khan**, District Climate Change Coordinator of the LoGIC project. He provided participants with an in-depth understanding of how the project has operationalised climate finance at the local level, particularly in highly vulnerable regions of Bangladesh.

He began the session by introducing the **Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI)** developed under the LoGIC initiative, which plays a central role in identifying the most at-risk areas and guiding resource allocation. The CVI allows for evidence-based planning and targeted interventions, ensuring that support reaches those who need it most.

Mr. Khan then elaborated on the four primary objectives of the LoGIC project: to build inclusive and improved local-level planning, strengthen financing mechanisms for community-based climate change adaptation, increase the capacity of local governments and communities, and create a scalable model for delivering climate finance. He provided a brief overview of LoGIC's current operational areas, which now span 94 unions across 29 upazilas in nine districts, including the recently added districts of Rangamati and Bandarban in the Chattogram Hill Tracts. These intervention areas are some of the most climate-vulnerable and geographically hard-to-reach locations in the country.

He explained how LoGIC strengthens **local leadership** by empowering Local Government Institutions (LGIs) and vulnerable community members, particularly women, to plan and implement adaptation activities. This shift in leadership reflects the project's commitment to a locally led adaptation (LLA) approach, enabling communities to become decision-makers in building their own climate resilience.

The session focused on the two core financing components of the project: the **Community Resilience Fund (CRF)** and the **Performance-Based Climate Resilience Grants (PBCRG)**. Mr. Khan provided a detailed explanation of the CRF mechanism, noting that this fund is directly allocated to marginalised and climate-vulnerable individuals. Each selected beneficiary receives a grant of **BDT 30,500**, disbursed in a step-by-step process that includes verification, mobile wallet opening, and installment-based payments. He highlighted how this funding supports the implementation of **Climate Adaptive Livelihood Options (CALO)**, designed to help households build long-term, sustainable income sources. As part of the CALO implementation, CRF beneficiaries were supported in opening mobile wallets, developing cooperative strategies, and registering their cooperatives. Notably, **5,700 cooperative members** have already been trained, further institutionalising financial inclusion and group-based resilience.

Beyond livelihood support, the CRF also facilitates community empowerment through skill development and market linkages. Mr. Khan then shifted focus to the **PBCRG**, a mechanism for allocating funds to Union Parishads and Upazilas to implement climate-resilient infrastructure and adaptation schemes. He described the types of investments eligible under PBCRG, such as flood protection, embankments, rainwater harvesting systems, and other ecosystem-based adaptation projects. He also explained the grant allocation process, which is based on performance metrics and transparency standards, and noted that **co-financing**, the use of **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)**, and community participation are core features of these schemes.

In the latter part of the session, Mr. Khan demonstrated how the LoGIC model is **aligned with the eight principles of Locally Led Adaptation**, particularly by devolving decision-making, promoting inclusive finance, and enhancing accountability. This alignment has helped the project gain national and international recognition, including the **Locally Led Adaptation Champions Award** at COP28 in the category of innovation in devolving finance.

He concluded the session by outlining the key challenges faced in CRF and PBCRG implementation. These included delays in disbursement, capacity limitations of LGIs and cooperatives, and the difficulty of maintaining long-term sustainability in dynamic climate contexts. Despite these challenges, Mr. Khan reaffirmed that LoGIC stands as a replicable and scalable model for delivering climate finance to the most vulnerable, and a proven example of how climate adaptation can be led—and sustained—locally.

4.5. How does accountability look like in locally led adaptation: A case study from scorecards exercise.

The session was conducted by Mr. Rawnak Jahan Khan Ranon, Research Officer at ICCCAD, who presented a compelling case study on ensuring accountability in locally led adaptation using a tool called "360 Accountability." His presentation was based on an assessment carried out under the LoGIC (Local Government Initiative on Climate Change) project.

Mr. Ranon began by explaining the purpose of the tool. The 360 Accountability approach was used to evaluate how well a climate adaptation project aligns with the eight principles of Locally Led Adaptation (LLA)**.**

He introduced two key financial tools used in the LoGIC project PBCRG (Performance-Based Climate Resilience Grant) and CRF (Community Resilience Fund)**.** These funds support local governments and communities in implementing climate adaptation activities. Using the 360 tool, Mr. Ranon distributed scorecards containing 40 questions among different project actors. The questions were designed to reflect each of the 8 LLA principles.

After collecting the responses, they analysed the data to understand how different groups government officials, community members, and NGO representatives, perceived the project's alignment with LLA principles. The findings were categorized into **"**usuals**"** (expected results) and **"**unusuals**"** (unexpected or surprising insights).

One of the most insightful parts of the session was how Mr. Ranon showed the differences in perception among actors. He explained that this kind of feedback is essential to improve future LLA practices. The 360 Accountability tool not only assessed alignment but also helped reveal who holds power, whose voices are heard, and what changes are needed for better adaptation outcomes.

He concluded by encouraging participants to consider the tool in their own work to promote transparency and shared learning in locally led adaptation projects.

4.5. Climate-Induced Loss and Damage: Addressing Challenges and Developing Local Strategies

The fourth session of the workshop, held in the afternoon following the lunch break, was conducted by Sumaiya Binte Selim, Youth Focal at ICCCAD. The session focused on one of the most pressing aspects of climate justice climate-induced loss and damage (L&D) and was delivered with clarity, depth, and a strong emphasis on real-world relevance. She navigated through each slide of her presentation with great attention to detail, ensuring participants comprehended both the technical and contextual nuances of the topic.

She began by defining "loss and damage" in the context of climate change. "Loss" refers to irreversible impacts such as loss of lives, cultural heritage, or biodiversity, whereas "damage" relates to repairable impacts, such as the destruction of infrastructure or crops. She stressed that these impacts are increasingly evident in vulnerable regions like Sylhet, where recurrent floods, erratic rainfall, and river erosion have significantly disrupted lives and livelihoods.

She then elaborated on the distinction between economic and non-economic losses**.** Economic losses include measurable financial impacts, such as destruction of property or agricultural losses, while non-economic losses encompass mental health issues, displacement, and the erosion of cultural identity—areas that are often overlooked in policy discussions but equally important.

The lecture proceeded to cover the international discourse around loss and damage, specifically within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**.** She explained the importance of the Warsaw International Mechanism (WIM), which was established in 2013 to address L&D associated with the impacts of climate change. She also touched upon more recent developments, such as the creation of a Loss and Damage Fund during COP27, and the ongoing discussions regarding its structure, accessibility, and governance.

A notable aspect of the lecture was the emphasis on the disproportionate impact on vulnerable groups women, children, indigenous communities, and people with disabilities. She highlighted the need for locally relevant and inclusive adaptation measures, arguing that affected communities must be actively involved in designing and implementing L&D interventions.

Furthermore, she discussed how Bangladesh, despite contributing minimally to global GHG emissions, is among the countries most affected by climate-induced loss and damage. She provided examples from coastal and flood-prone areas to illustrate this point, reinforcing the call for climate justice at both national and international levels.

Following the presentation, she facilitated a group activity to reinforce the concepts discussed. Participants were divided into three groups, each receiving a poster paper and marker pens. Their task was to collaboratively identify key loss and damage issues in their respective localities and propose feasible strategies to address them.

The room became animated with discussions, as each group worked together, drawing from their experiences and the knowledge gained during the session. After approximately 30 minutes, each group presented their posters to the larger audience. The posters reflected a range of locally specific challenges such as riverbank erosion, loss of crops, waterlogging, and internal displacement. Suggested strategies included improving early warning systems, enhancing local governance structures, investing in resilient infrastructure, and advocating for better access to climate finance.

She concluded the session by acknowledging the thoughtful engagement of the participants and encouraged them to continue documenting and voicing local experiences of loss and damage. The session was highly informative and interactive, equipping participants with both the theoretical foundation and practical tools needed to understand and address loss and damage in their communities.

4.5. Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) for Climate Adaptation: Harnessing Ecosystem Services

The session on **Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)** was conducted by **Dr. Hasib Irfanullah**, an independent expert in environment and climate change. His session was both interactive and highly visual, making it easy for participants to understand the concept and its importance in climate adaptation.

Dr. Irfanullah started the session by asking participants a simple yet important question: *"What is Nature-Based Solution?"* We were each given a **V-card** and asked to write our own understanding of NbS. This opening activity helped everyone reflect on the topic personally before diving deeper into the discussion.

He then defined **Nature-Based Solutions** as the **sustainable use and management of nature** to address environmental and societal challenges, especially those caused by climate change. He stressed that **NbS must include biodiversity benefits**—if something helps humans but harms biodiversity, it is not NbS.

To explain this better, Dr. Irfanullah showed several **visual examples** of real-world NbS, including the **Sundarbans**, **Tanguar Haor**, and **Lawachara National Park** in Sylhet. He clarified that places like **Hatirjheel** or **Maheshkhali** may offer benefits, but unless they support biodiversity, they do not fully qualify as NbS. He also explained that **agriculture alone is not NbS**, but **agroforestry** and **conservation agriculture** can be considered NbS because they contribute to both ecological and human wellbeing.

As part of the **group work**, Dr. Irfanullah reviewed the V-cards we had written earlier. He picked a few examples and explained whether or not they represented true NbS. This helped clarify many misconceptions. He then introduced two key concepts:

- **Eco-based Adaptation (EbA)**
- **Eco-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR)**

He explained how both approaches use ecosystem services to reduce vulnerability and enhance resilience.

Next, he discussed the **benefits and opportunities** of implementing NbS. One powerful example he shared was that **a 20 km wide mangrove forest can save up to $250 crore in damages** for the city located behind it. He highlighted that NbS offers **multiple benefits**—not only protecting people but also supporting biodiversity, improving livelihoods, and enhancing ecosystem services.

Dr. Irfanullah reminded us that **NbS is not the only solution**, but where it fits, it is **a smart and effective solution**. He encouraged the use of **combined green, grey, and blue infrastructure** to make adaptation more comprehensive.

He also presented examples of various **organizations working with NbS**, both nationally and internationally, and mentioned that the **4th goal of Bangladesh's National Adaptation Plan (NAP)** is specifically focused on Nature-Based Solutions.

In the final part of the session, he explained how **IUCN measures NbS** through **eight guiding principles**. These principles ensure that NbS is inclusive, science-based, measurable, and delivers lasting benefits to both nature and people.

To conclude the session, Dr. Irfanullah gave us a **group task**: each group (four in total) had to write **six sentences showing the similarities between NbS and LLA**. The task encouraged reflection on how community-led, inclusive, and sustainable actions are at the core of both concepts. The session was thought-provoking, practical, and highly relevant for those working the field of climate adaptation.

4.7. Climate Risk Assessment Methodologies: Tools for Identifying Vulnerabilities and Risks

The session on **climate risk assessment methodologies** was conducted by **Mr. Muhammad Mainul Hasan Rony**, who began by introducing himself and setting the context for the importance of assessing climate-related risks in vulnerable communities. His session aimed to equip participants with practical tools and frameworks to identify, analyse, and address climate risks effectively.

Mr. Rony introduced three widely used tools for climate risk assessment: Community-Based Adaptation (CBA)**,** Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (CVCA)**,** and Humanitarian Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (HCVCA). He highlighted that these tools are particularly relevant in understanding the on-the-ground realities of communities facing climate-induced hazards. He explained that choosing the right tool depends on the context, objectives, and target population.

He then elaborated on why climate risk assessment matters. It plays a crucial role in identifying vulnerable groups, designing evidence-based policies and programs, and ensuring efficient allocation of resources. The assessment also helps policymakers and local actors better prepare for future risks by understanding exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity.

Next, Mr. Rony explained the key elements of a climate risk assessment, which include risk identification, vulnerability assessment, scenario analysis, and risk analysis. These components collectively provide a framework for evaluating both present and future risks in a structured way. He followed this with an overview of the three tools mentioned earlier, sharing examples of how each is applied in practice.

To keep the participants engaged, Mr. Rony introduced a fun and energizing activity called the **"**Cockroach Run" game, which successfully lifted the room's energy and encouraged more active participation in the second half of the session.

He then presented a comparative analysis of the three risk assessment tools**,** outlining their respective strengths and limitations. This comparison helped participants better understand when and how each tool should be applied based on community context, available data, and institutional capacity.

The session concluded with a question-and-answer segment. Participants raised insightful questions, including how to conduct assessments in conflict-sensitive areas**,** and what alternatives to use when standard tools like the Climate Risk Index (CRI) are not feasible. In response, Mr. Rony introduced Climate QRE (Qualitative Risk Estimation**)** as a practical solution in low-data or complex environments.

He also described the five-scale impact level, which allows for better interpretation of risk levels ranging from very low to very high, aiding in prioritising interventions. The session successfully combined technical knowledge with interactive engagement, offering participants a strong foundation in climate risk assessment methodologies.

4.8. Developing Winning Proposals for Locally Led Adaptation Projects

This session was conducted virtually by Dr. Md. Golam Rabbani, Head of the Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) Secretariat at BRAC, due to his inability to attend in person. His presentation focused on how to design strong, fundable proposals for locally led adaptation (LLA) projects.

Dr. Rabbani began with an overview of the Climate Bridge Fund (CBF) and its Climate Change Window (CCW)**,** which supports climate-resilient infrastructure and services for urban communities vulnerable to climate-induced displacement. He outlined eligibility criteria, proposal evaluation methods, and the importance of aligning projects with community needs—particularly those of climate migrants.

He shared common weaknesses observed in past proposals, such as poor climate rationale, weak community consultation, and inadequate integration of gender and intersectionality. Dr. Rabbani emphasised the need to clearly link project actions to climate impacts and to ensure robust monitoring frameworks.

Key lessons from CBF's experience included:

- The importance of using climate projections to avoid maladaptation.
- Designing for co-benefits and multifunctional outcomes.
- Ensuring inclusive targeting and meaningful community engagement.

- Promoting cross-sector collaboration and adaptive project management**.**

Dr. Rabbani concluded by encouraging participants to develop context-specific, technically sound, and community-driven proposals that align with LLA principles and effectively attract climate finance

4.9. Accessing Climate Finance and Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) for Effective Climate Adaptation Projects

The last session of the workshop was conducted by Mr. Md. Nobiul Islam**,** Manager of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) at ICCCAD under the CAP-RES project. His friendly and engaging style

immediately made the session very interactive. Participants found his approach refreshing and easy to follow.

Mr. Nobiul started the session by introducing the concept of Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL)**,** and how it relates to Locally Led Adaptation (LLA). He discussed the shift from a top-down model to a participatory approach**,** where local actors and communities are more involved in tracking progress and making decisions.

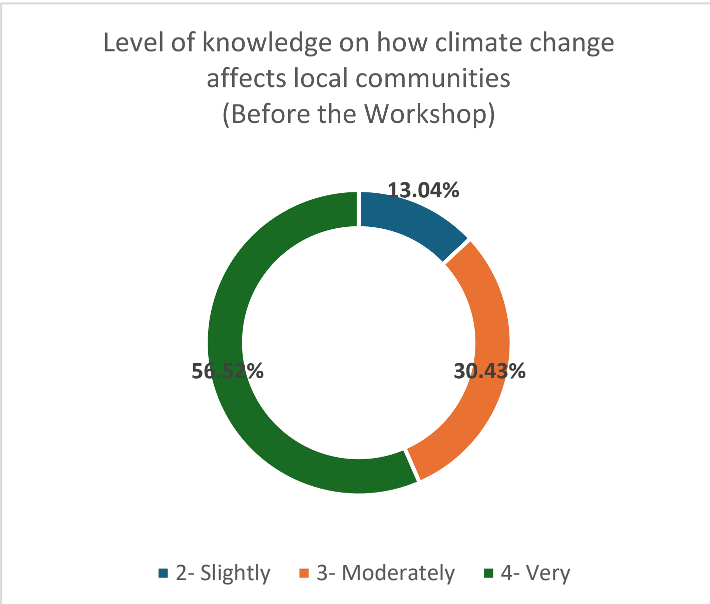
He clearly explained the components of a good MEAL system, such as conducting a needs assessment, setting key performance indicators (KPIs)**,** creating a data collection and reporting plan, and using the findings to improve the programme. What made the session more interesting was his focus on who holds the power in MEL systems. He asked participants to reflect on questions like: *Who controls the data? Who makes decisions? Who learns from the findings?* This sparked thoughtful discussion among participants.

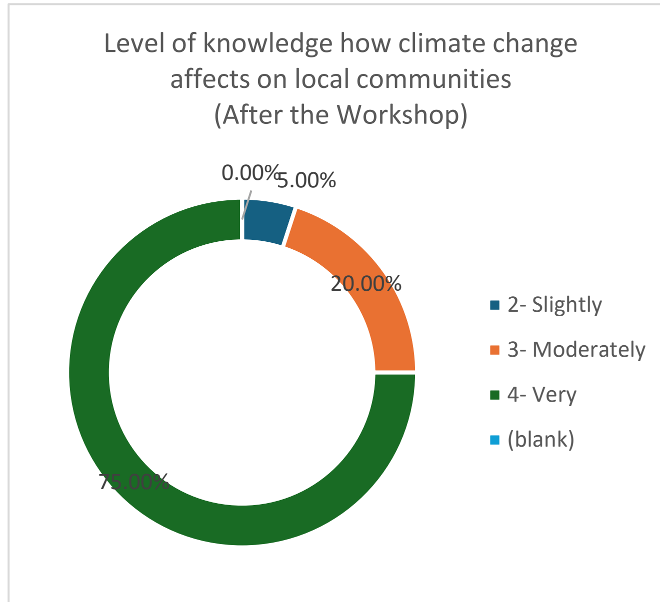
Mr. Nobiul also presented a case study showing how Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) is used to engage local communities in evaluating their own progress. He highlighted that MEL is not just about collecting data, it's about sharing information, creating accountability, and learning together. Tools like stakeholder analysis and power mapping were shown as examples of how local people can be more involved in monitoring their own adaptation efforts.

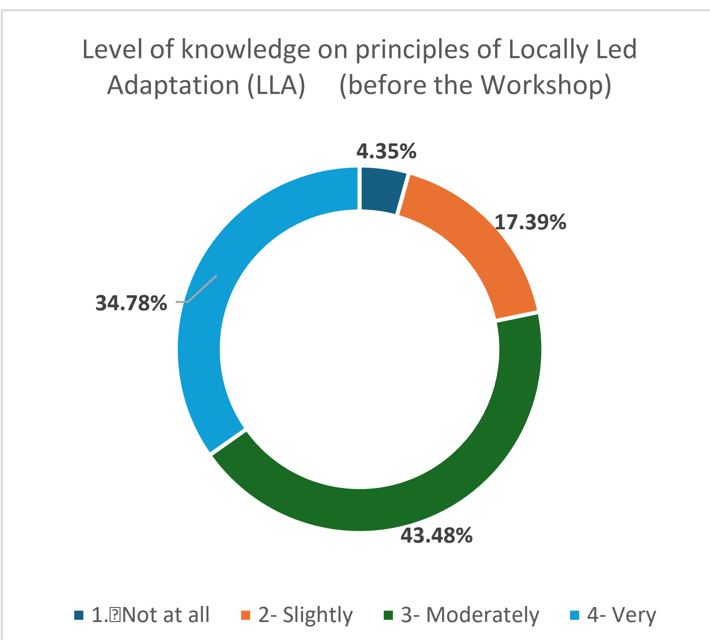
Later, participants did a group activity where they mapped the information flow in a climate-resilient agriculture project. It became clear that often, information stays at the top level (like donors or central project units) and doesn't reach the farmers or community members who need it most. Mr. Nobiul encouraged us to think about how we can change this and make MEL more inclusive and locally owned**.**

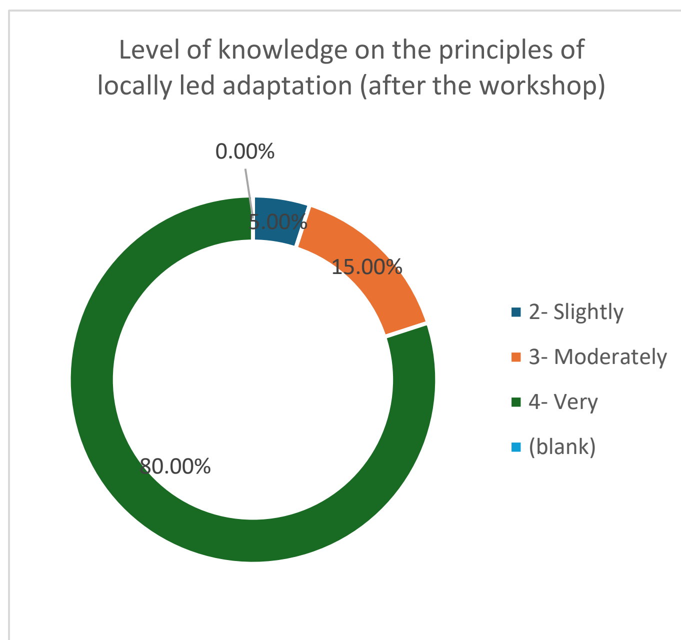
He ended the session by reminding participants that MEL should not just be a reporting requirement—it should be a tool for real learning and improvement. His session gave a clear understanding of how to rethink monitoring and evaluation in a way that empowers communities and makes climate adaptation more effective.

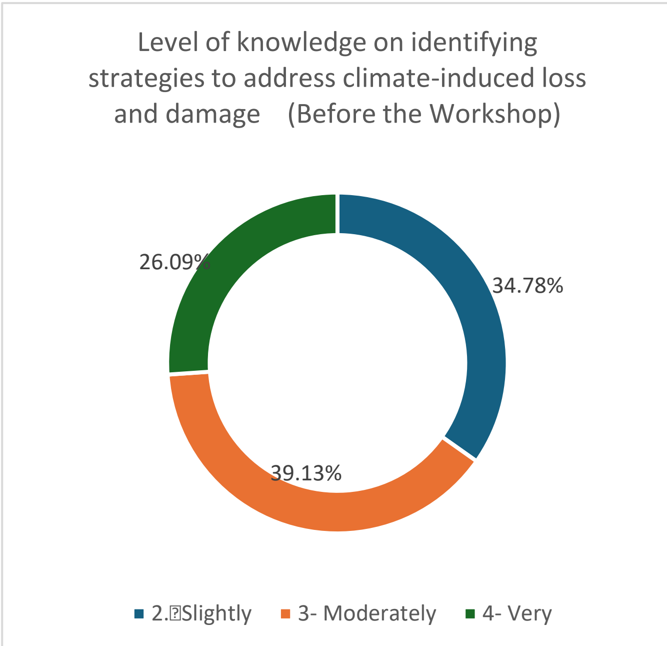
Pre & Post Evalution

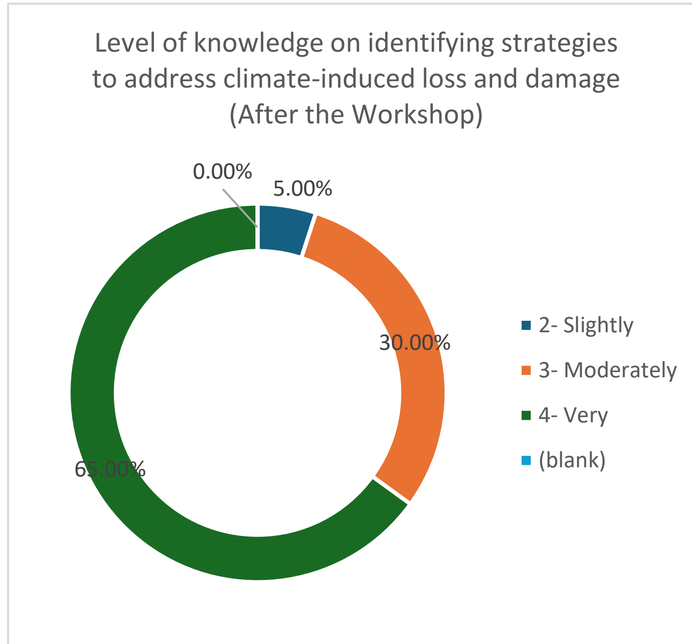









Level of knowledge on identifying strategies to address climate-induced loss and damage (Before the Workshop)
34.78%
39.13%
26.09%
2.Slightly
3- Moderately
4- Very


Level of knowledge on identifying strategies to address climate-induced loss and damage (After the Workshop)
0.00%
5.00%
30.00%
65.00%
2- Slightly
3- Moderately
4- Very
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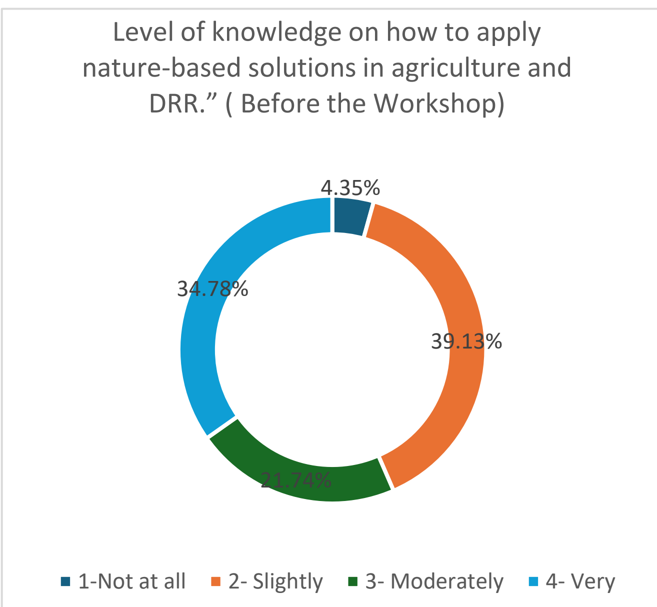
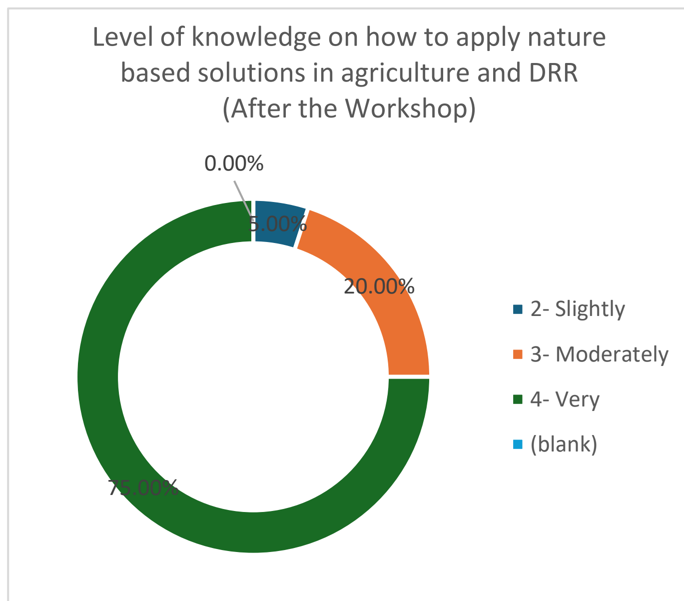

Level of knowledge on how to apply nature-based solutions in agriculture and DRR." (Before the Workshop)
4.35%
39.13%
21.74%
34.78%
1-Not at all
2- Slightly
3- Moderately
4- Very


Level of knowledge on how to apply nature based solutions in agriculture and DRR (After the Workshop)
0.00%
5.00%
20.00%
75.00%
2- Slightly
3- Moderately
4- Very
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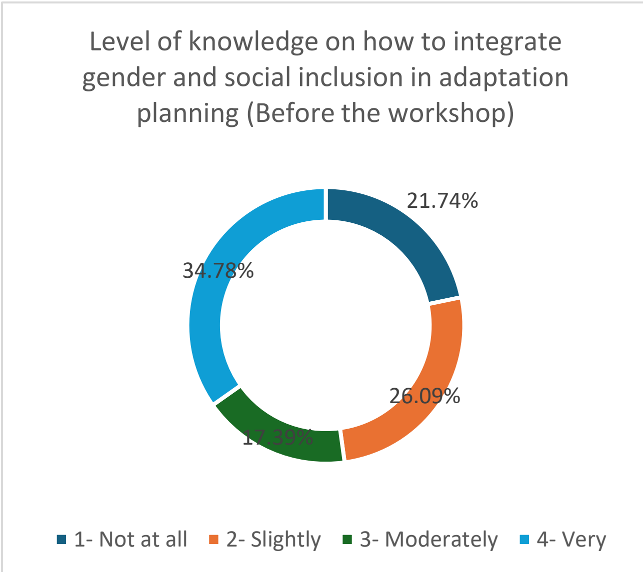
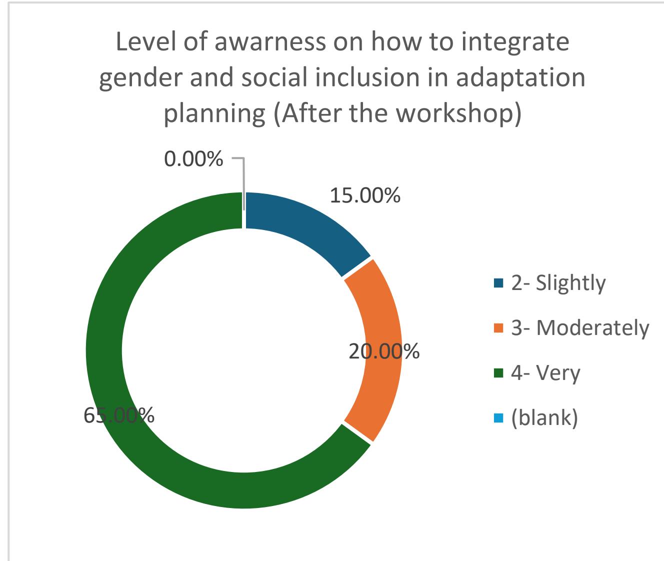

Level of knowledge on how to integrate gender and social inclusion in adaptation planning (Before the workshop)
21.74%
26.09%
17.39%
34.78%
1- Not at all
2- Slightly
3- Moderately
4- Very


Level of awarness on how to integrate gender and social inclusion in adaptation planning (After the workshop)
0.00%
15.00%
20.00%
65.00%
2- Slightly
3- Moderately
4- Very
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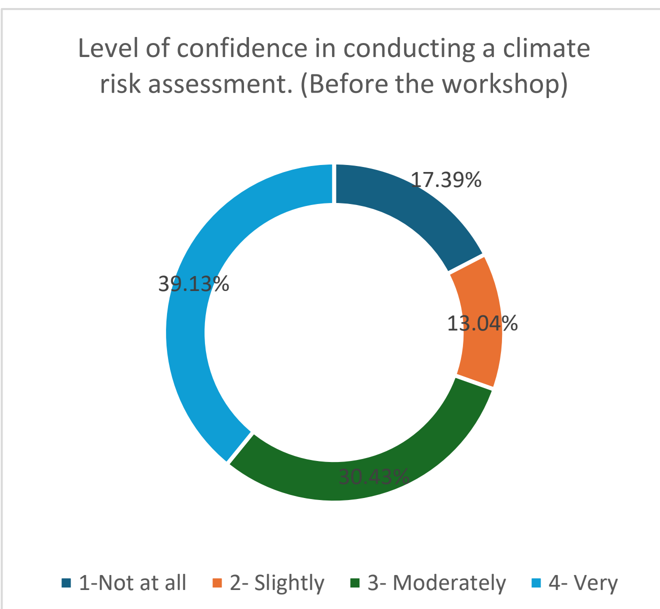
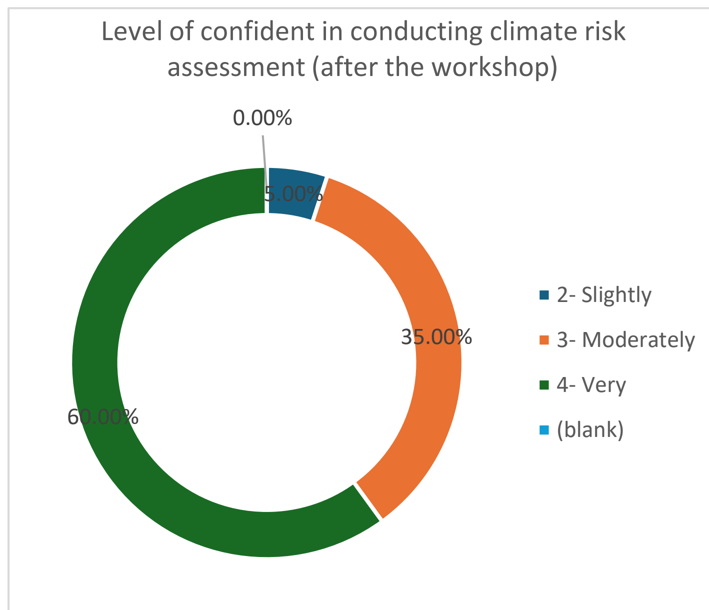

Level of confidence in conducting a climate risk assessment. (Before the workshop)
17.39%
13.04%
30.43%
39.13%
1-Not at all
2- Slightly
3- Moderately
4- Very


Level of confident in conducting climate risk assessment (after the workshop)
0.00%
5.00%
35.00%
60.00%
2- Slightly
3- Moderately
4- Very
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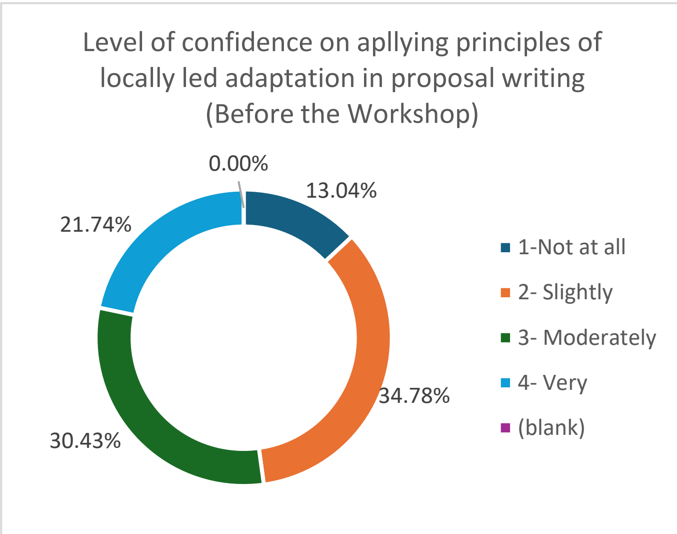
Level of confidence on apllying principles of locally led adaptation in proposal writing (Before the Workshop)
0.00%
13.04%
21.74%
34.78%
30.43%
1-Not at all
2- Slightly
3- Moderately
4- Very
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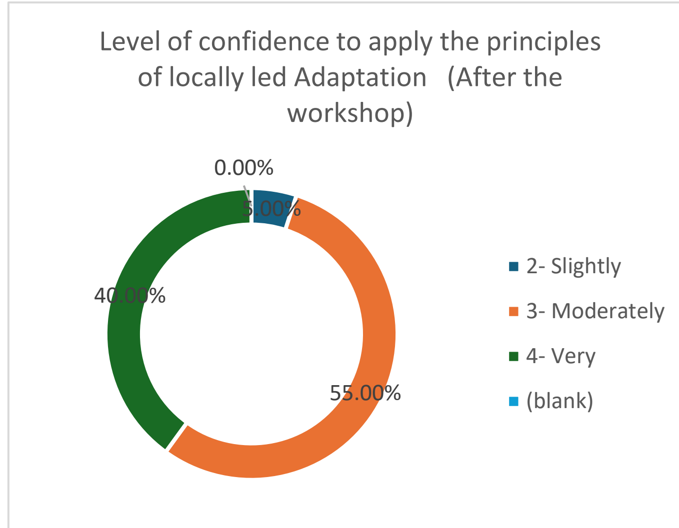
Level of confidence to apply the principles of locally led Adaptation (After the workshop)
0.00%
5.00%
40.00%
55.00%
2- Slightly
3- Moderately
4- Very
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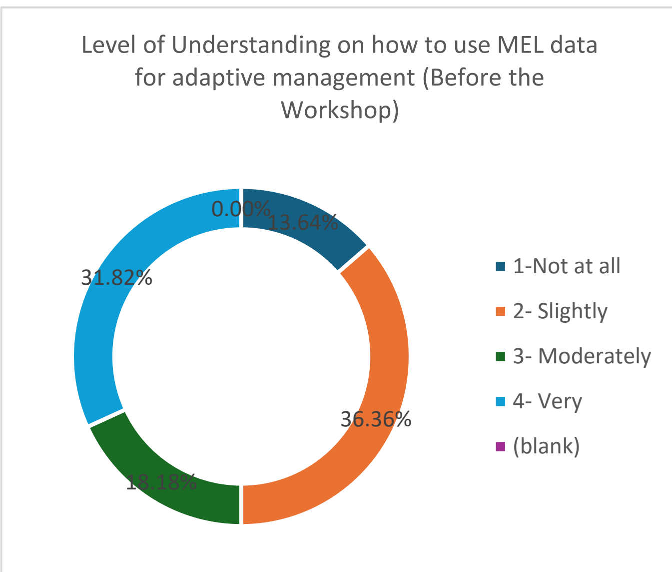
Level of Understanding on how to use MEL data for adaptive management (Before the Workshop)
0.00%
13.64%
31.82%
36.36%
18.18%
1-Not at all
2- Slightly
3- Moderately
4- Very
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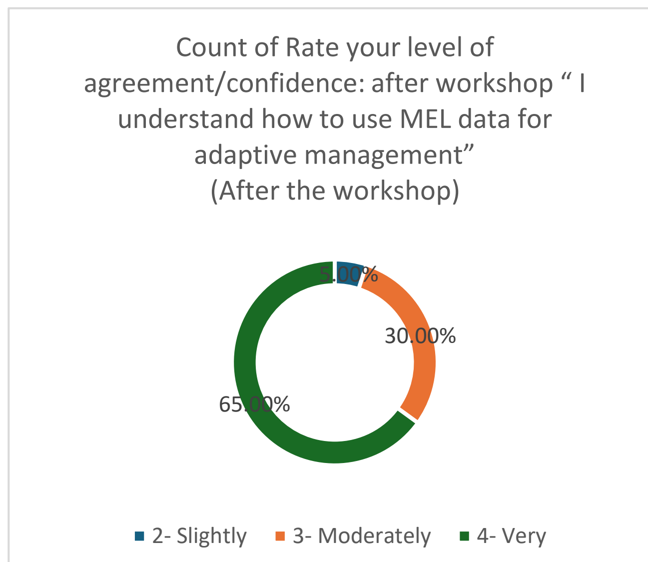
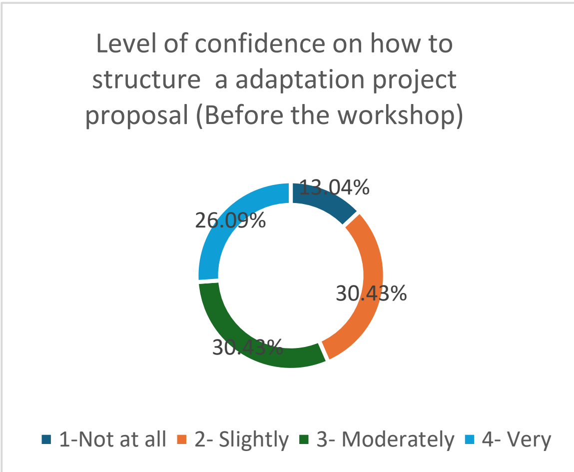
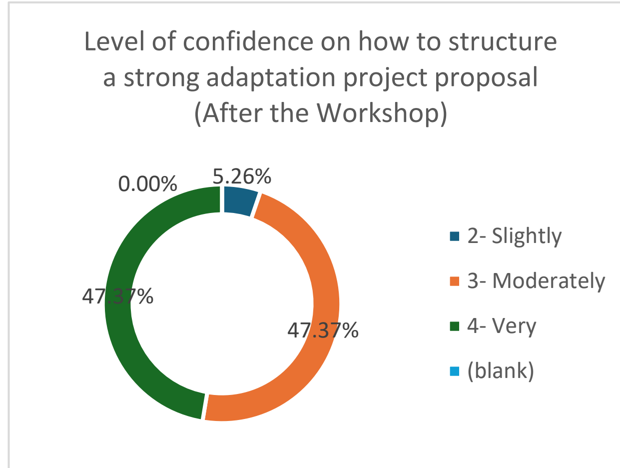
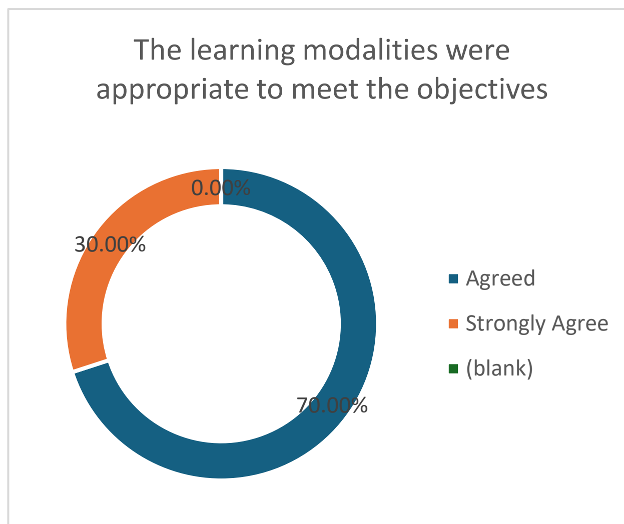
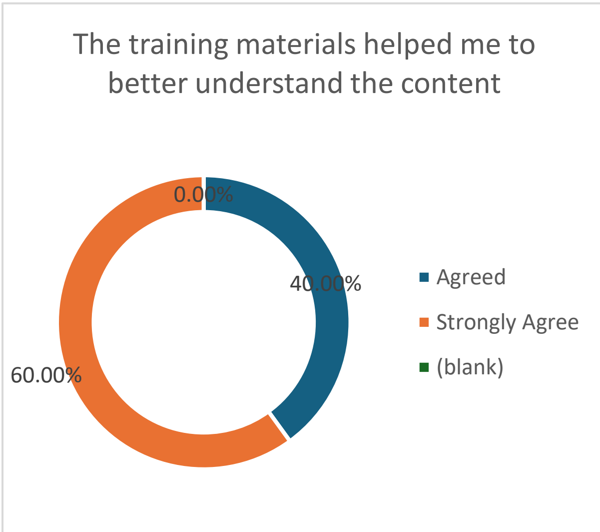

Count of Rate your level of agreement/confidence: after workshop " I understand how to use MEL data for adaptive management"
(After the workshop)
5.00%
30.00%
65.00%
2- Slightly
3- Moderately
4- Very





Participant's feedback on content and design of the workshop




The training materials helped me to better understand the content
0.00%
40.00%
60.00%
Agreed
Strongly Agree
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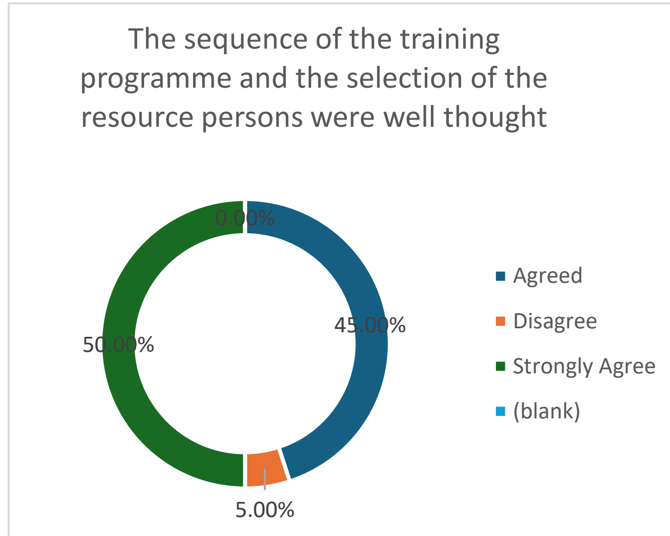
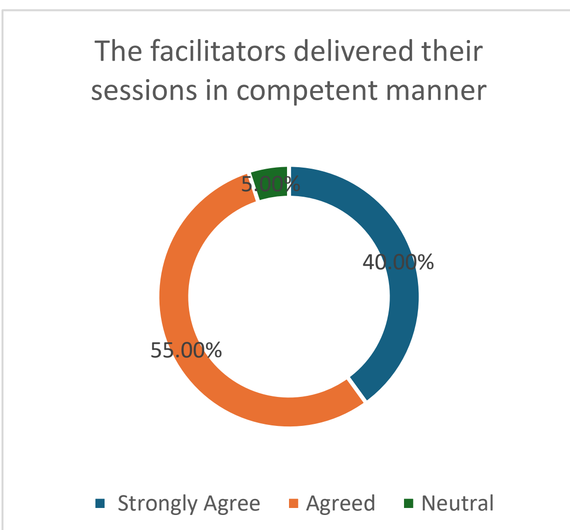
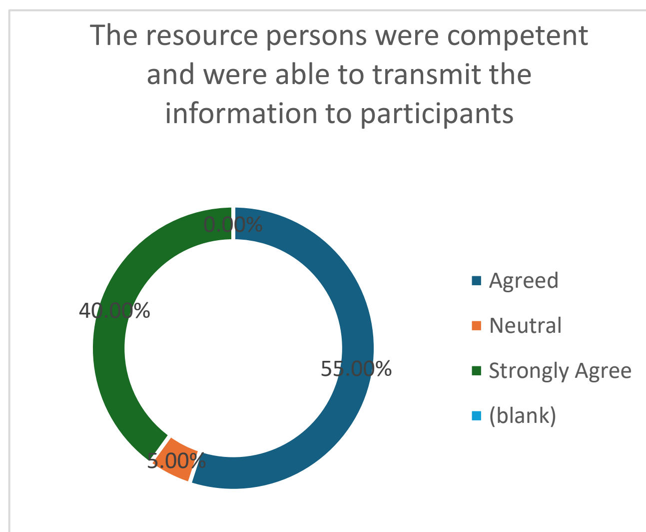

The sequence of the training programme and the selection of the resource persons were well thought
0.00%
45.00%
50.00%
5.00%
Agreed
Disagree
Strongly Agree
(blank)


The facilitators delivered their sessions in competent manner
5.00%
40.00%
55.00%
Strongly Agree
Agreed
Neutral


The resource persons were competent and were able to transmit the information to participants
0.00%
40.00%
55.00%
5.00%
Agreed
Neutral
Strongly Agree
(blank)