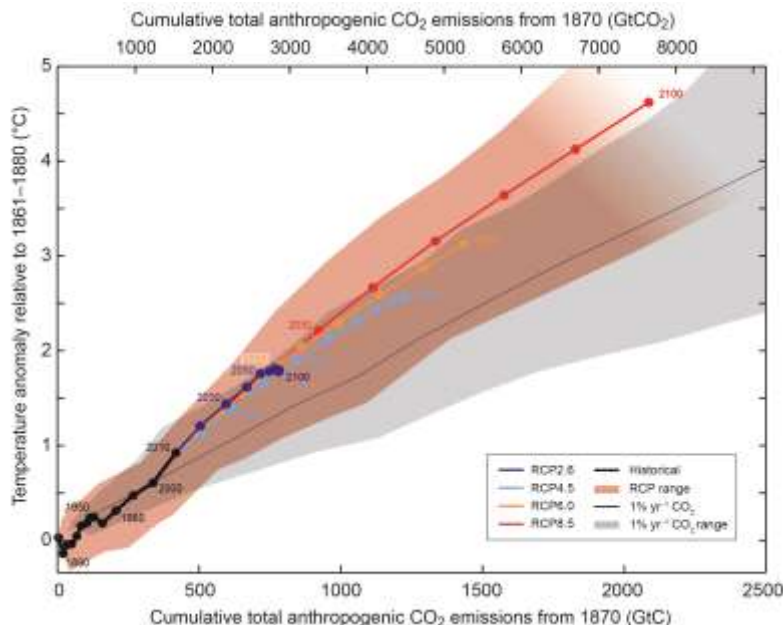


# Stakeholder Workshop

## Regional Focus: South Asia

### Background

Climate change is a reality now and being demonstrated across the globe through various climate events. Warming up of our earth with gradual increase of temperature as forecasted by the scientific community is no longer a myth. Climate change beyond 2°C, 4°C and 6°C is to impact severely as a result of "extreme" events to be occurred in upcoming years. To address this problem, an initiative has been taken through the project "HELIX". The High-End cLimate Impacts and eXtremes (HELIX) is a collaborative project funded by European Union, which started in November 2013, with sixteen participating institutions led by the Exeter University, UK. Assessment of climate change will be conducted in HELIX on a global scale under a range of physical and socio-economic condition with consideration of different adaptations scenarios. As a partner of HELIX, we will focus on South Asia(case study: Bangladesh) for the apprehended implications of higher-end scenarios beyond 2°C, 4°C and 6°C and possible warming of the world upon different bio-physical systems of the country like agriculture, water resources, ecology, infrastructure, health, socio-economy etc. In this stakeholder workshop, valued participants are expected to provide their important ideas, expectations and insights upon which this study will get valuable intellectual inputs for the way forward in the research process.



## Program

Date and Venue: Workshop was held on 20th August 2014 in BUET, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Time	Event				
08:30 am - 09:00 am	Registration				
09:00 am - 09:15 am	<b>Overview of the HELIX Project</b> Prof. A.K.M. Saiful Islam, IWFM, BUET				
09:15 am - 09:30 am	<b>Stakeholder engagement plan for Bangladesh</b> Prof. Sujit Kumar Bala, IWFM, BUET				
09:30 am - 09:45 am	<b>Experiences learned from UK Stakeholder workshops</b> Asher Minns, University of East Anglia, UK				
09:45 am - 10:00 am	<b>Experiences learned from Stakeholder workshop in India</b> Prof. A.K. Gosain, IIT-Delhi, India				
10:00 am - 10:15 am	<b>Concluding Remarks</b> Prof. G.M. Tarekul Islam, Director, IWFM, BUET				
10:15 am - 10:40 am	<b>Tea/Coffee Break</b>				
10:40 am - 01:20 pm	<b>High End Climate Change for Extremes (Theme 1)</b>	<b>Bio-physical Impacts (Theme 2)</b>	<b>Socio-economic and Health Impacts (Theme 3)</b>	<b>Adaptation (Theme 4)</b>	<b>Governance, Policy and Communication (Theme 5)</b>
01:20 am - 01:30 am	<b>Workshop Wrapping</b>				
01:35 am	<b>End of Workshop and Lunch</b>				

## Introduction

The planned stakeholder workshop at Dhaka on HELIX Project was conducted as per schedule on 20 August 24, 2014 with active participation from stakeholders as well as from partners' organizations. The aims of the workshop were to create awareness and get feedbacks from the valued stakeholders about the possible impacts of higher-end scenarios with global average warming > 2°C with respect to pre-industrial level and providing decision-makers with a set of credible, coherent, global and regional views for those anticipated scenarios. In total 34 participants from different ministries, GOs, universities, research institutions, and NGOs attended the workshop. The list of participants and their organizations are provided in Annex-1.

An expert feedback form with structured questionnaire was provided to each of the participants to collect their suggestions, feedbacks, views and concerns deemed necessary to include in the objectives of the ongoing research project Helix.

The expert feedback form supplied to the participants is provided in the Annex-2. Some photographs of the respected participants during workshop sessions are included in the Annex-3. In a nut shell, the Stakeholders' Workshop was vibrant with the active participations as well as opinion exchanges from our valued stakeholders towards the Helix project.

## Lessons Learned

The whole workshop session was interactive, suggestive and informative through mutual participatory understanding. Some of the key suggestions made by the participants of the workshop are listed below:

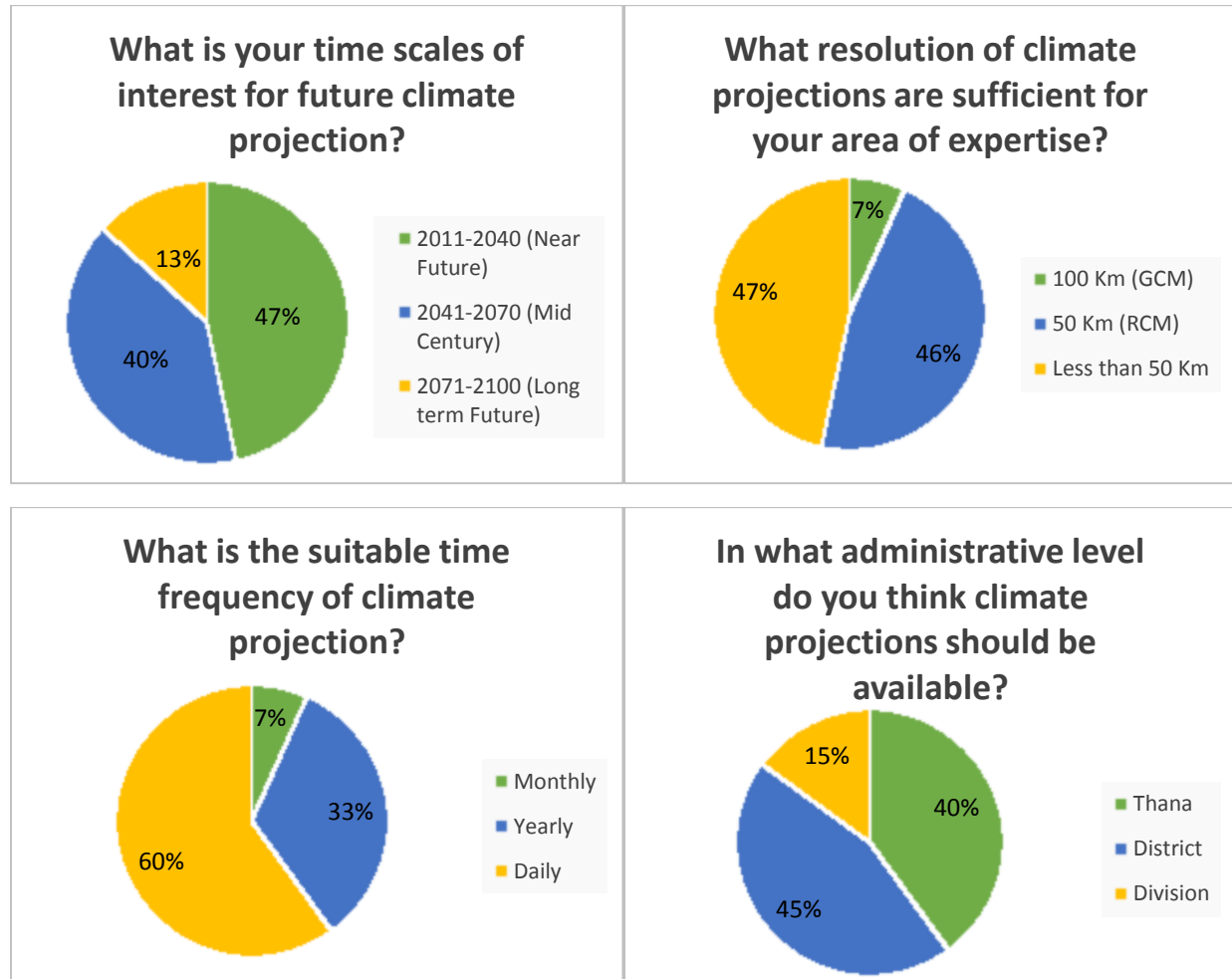
- Bangladesh is a country with the highest density of population in the world. Country's main economic sector is Agriculture which will be more vulnerable under the threat of the changing climate especially under high end scenarios. Therefore, it is imperative to conduct innovative research for developing new heat and salt tolerant varieties of crops to combat the extreme climatic conditions.
- A number of participants highlighted that new research should focus on the change of the cropping pattern. As per their opinion, Boro rice is cultivated during Kharif-I seasons (Jan-May) and requires huge amount of water creating drawdown of ground water level and reduction of wetlands. Research on alternate crop calendars, e. g. Aus-Beans-Aman-Wheat can not only reduce water scarcity during the Kharif-I dry seasons but also it can create scope of cultivating of 4 crops in a calendar year.

- Construction of huge infrastructures especially polders in the coastal areas since 1960s has created a number of environmental issues in the areas.
- Helix should focus on the impact of the change of cyclone intensity, sea level rise, flooding and river bank erosion, and scarcity of drinking water during dry periods.
- Emphasis should be given on health sectors, limitations of the community base livelihood adaptation, and seasonal migration.
- It is essential to see climate change impacts on various sectors in an integrated way rather individually.
- The impact on climate change on both rural and urban life should be focused. Also, study on airborne and water borne diseases should be included in Helix study. As it is not possible to cover many areas of health, a narrative case study can be designed to study life cycle of one disease under the changing climate.
- People exposed to extreme rainfall and temperature (maximum and minimum) working in outdoors can lose the working ability. So, impact on high end climate should be conducted on different age groups. Energy requirement and its impact on vector borne diseases should also be included in the impact study.
- GCM data should be downscaled. RCMs are more suitable for impact studies as topography of the country is very flat. Uncertainties should be minimized by incorporating results from many models.
- Regional cooperation is very important to resolve the water related problems of Bangladesh. It is important to create win-win situation with the neighboring countries and basin-wise water management has been emphasized. Sharing of hydro-meteorological data is important to combat floods and other natural disasters. Collaborative research (e.g. HELIX project) can help to break the barriers of data sharing with neighbors.
- Ecosystems are one of the most vulnerable sectors under the extreme climate. Study should focus on the issues of ecosystems and assess the economic losses as a result of climate change and can be helpful policy makers. Indirect and direct migration and their impact on gender should be studied.
- Lack of coordination among the different agencies working on climate change was mentioned. However, implementation due to lack of funding is identified as the root cause of many existing problems. It has been requested that this study should suggest some of the adaptation measures that need to implement immediately.
- Communication with the research community as well as with policy makers is essential. Participants suggested to conduct awareness workshop for the journalists about the possible consequences of climate change. Regional and international workshops should also be conducted.
- This study should review all the major findings of the relevant studies and work upon it. A common web based platform can be created where major findings of the relevant studies could be shared.

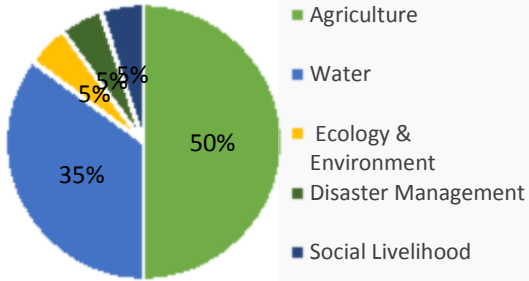
- It is also suggested to focus on urban issues as these regions will be more vulnerable rather than rural areas due to increasing urbanization.
- NGOs can be good instrument to communicate climate change to the rural areas of the country.
- It is also marked that there is serious lack of man power on crop modeling in major research organizations like BARI to conduct further study based on HELIX output.
- It is also important to calibrate crop models before applying the climate model outputs.
- Specialized search engine can be built which can search only related data and information, like climate change impact. .
- Defining threshold of adaptation is a challenging task. It is also important to identify the threshold value above which adaption is not possible.
- Calibration and validation of impact models should use the extreme events data.
- As no one wants to be climate refugee, preparedness is the key for adaptations. It is also challenging for the rural people to prepare themselves due to lack of understanding, content specific tools and technology and scaling up of the community based adaptation.
- Major findings of the research should be communicated in Bengali language for Bangladeshi people.
- Capacity building of the Government employees is also important for successful implementation of the Government policies.

## Analysis of Experts' Feedback

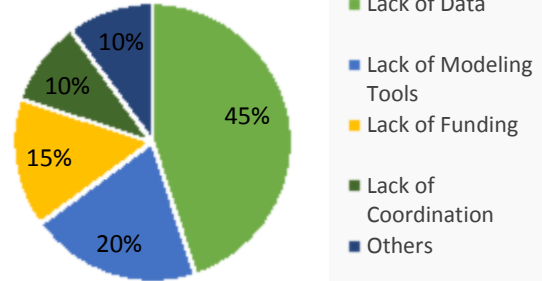
Responses given by the stakeholders on supplied questions for each individual question were analyzed and are presented in the pie charts. The analysis is presented below against each individual question.



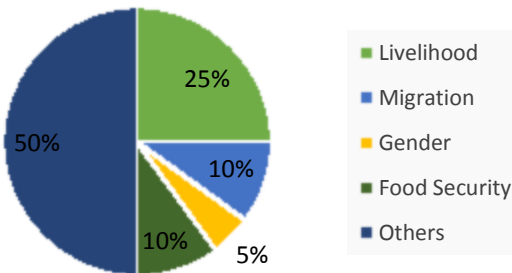
**Which sector of Bangladesh needs urgent climate change impact study?**



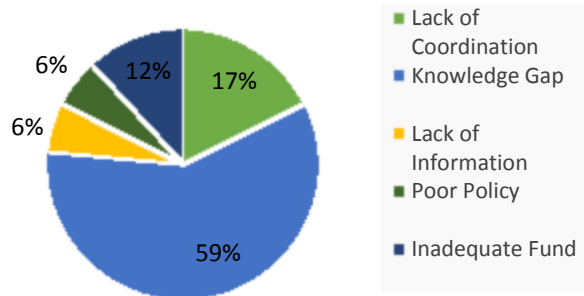
**What are the existing constraints of the climate change impact study?**



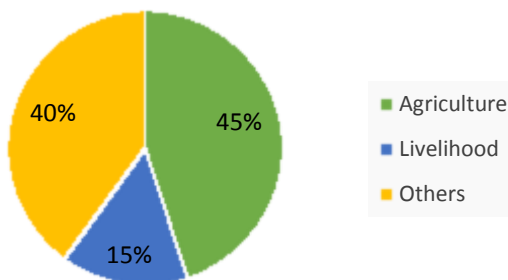
**What is the most important issue for social impact assessment of climate change?**



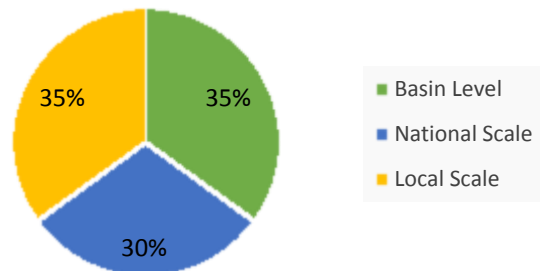
**What are the weakness of present adaptation practices?**



**In economic point of view, what do you think climate change will affect mostly?**



**At what scale do you think, it is important to implement the adaptation strategies?**



**What is most effective media for the stakeholders to have climate information?**

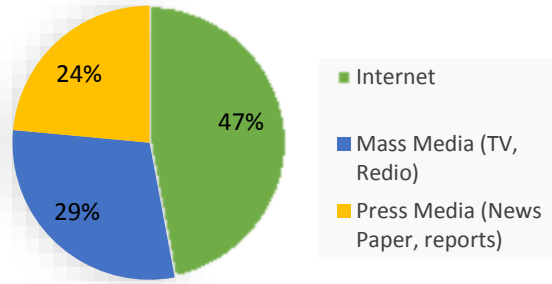


Figure: Response pie charts of expert feedback form.



## Annex-1: List of the participants (Alphabetically)

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34.	TAMIM, B. M. Tamim Al Hossain	Specialist The Center for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS) House # 6, Road # 23/C, Gulshan -1, Dhaka-1212, Bangladesh Phone: +880-2-8821570; +880-2-8817648-52 Email: <a href="mailto:cetamim@gmail.com">cetamim@gmail.com</a> Web: <a href="http://www.cegisbd.com">www.cegisbd.com</a>

## Annex-2: Expert Feedback Form

<b>Name &amp; organization</b>	
<b>Area of expertise</b>	
What is your time scales of interest for future climate projection? (i.e. 2030s-early future; 2050s- mid 21 <sup>st</sup> century; 2080s – long term future)	
What resolution of climate projections are sufficient for your area of expertise? ( i.e. 100km, 50km, or more fine scale )	
What is the suitable time frequency of climate projection for your field of expertise? (i.e. daily, monthly, hourly or yearly)	
In what administrative level do you think climate projections should be available? (i.e. Division, district or thana level)	
Which sector of Bangladesh needs urgent climate change impact study?	
What are the existing constrains of the climate change impact study?	
What is the most important issue for social impact assessment of climate change?	
In economic point of view, what do you think climate change will affect mostly?	
At what scale do you think, it is important to implement the adaptation strategies?	
What are the weakness of present adaptation practices?	
What is most effective media for the stakeholders to have climate information?	
Any other comments :	

### Annex-3: Some Photographs of the workshop



Photo 01: Inaugural session of stakeholder workshop in Dhaka



Photo 02: Interactive discussion sessions was moderated by the HELIX partners.



Photo 03: Participants of the stakeholder workshop in Dhaka



Photo 04: An overview of HELIX project was presented by Prof. A.K.M. Saiful Islam