Systemic Integrated Resilience and Adaptation Planning frameworks and case studies

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Abstract

This paper presents systemic frameworks for integrated, multi-actor resilience planning, as operationalized in the Systemic Integrated Adaptation (SIA) program, which is part of the CGIAR Climate Change Agriculture and Food Security program. It is part of the panel discussion entitled Systemic Integrated Resilience and Adaptation Planning. The overarching frameworks draw together theory and practice from resilience and adaptation, systems thinking, strength-based development, participatory action research, strategic planning and futures. Some relevant points, axiomatic to the frameworks, are: Resilience and adaptation cannot be meaningfully operationalized without specification of what, to what, from whose perspective and over what time frame. System boundaries are not given objectively and unproblematically by the structure of reality but are value laden, purpose and perspective driven. Furthermore, the way they are drawn and whose perspective is included often completely determines the conclusions and recommendations for action which are drawn. The systems ideas referred to above necessitate the adoption of theoretical and methodological pluralism, as well as engagement of diverse stakeholders and subject matter experts throughout the process. Thus, the SIA program draws together diverse stakeholders and diverse forms of knowledge generation and sense-making from across disciplines, sectors and social worlds towards the interrelated goals of climate adaptation, sustainable development, environmental management and food security. The SIA team itself is deliberately composed of a broad array of disciplinary, professional and cultural backgrounds. The implementation of these frameworks and their results in Ghana and Nepal over the past two years will be explained. Following the presentation a number of participatory exercises will be to allow attendants to replicate the frameworks.

Keywords: Resilience, food security, integrated, adaptation, participation, systemic

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