



EVENT REPORT ON DISTRICT CONSULTATION ON ADVANCING CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE IN NADIA



DATE: MAY 29–30, 2025

VENUE: NADIA TAPOVAN CENTRE AND HAVELI HOTEL, KRISHNANAGAR, NADIA

SwitchON Foundation

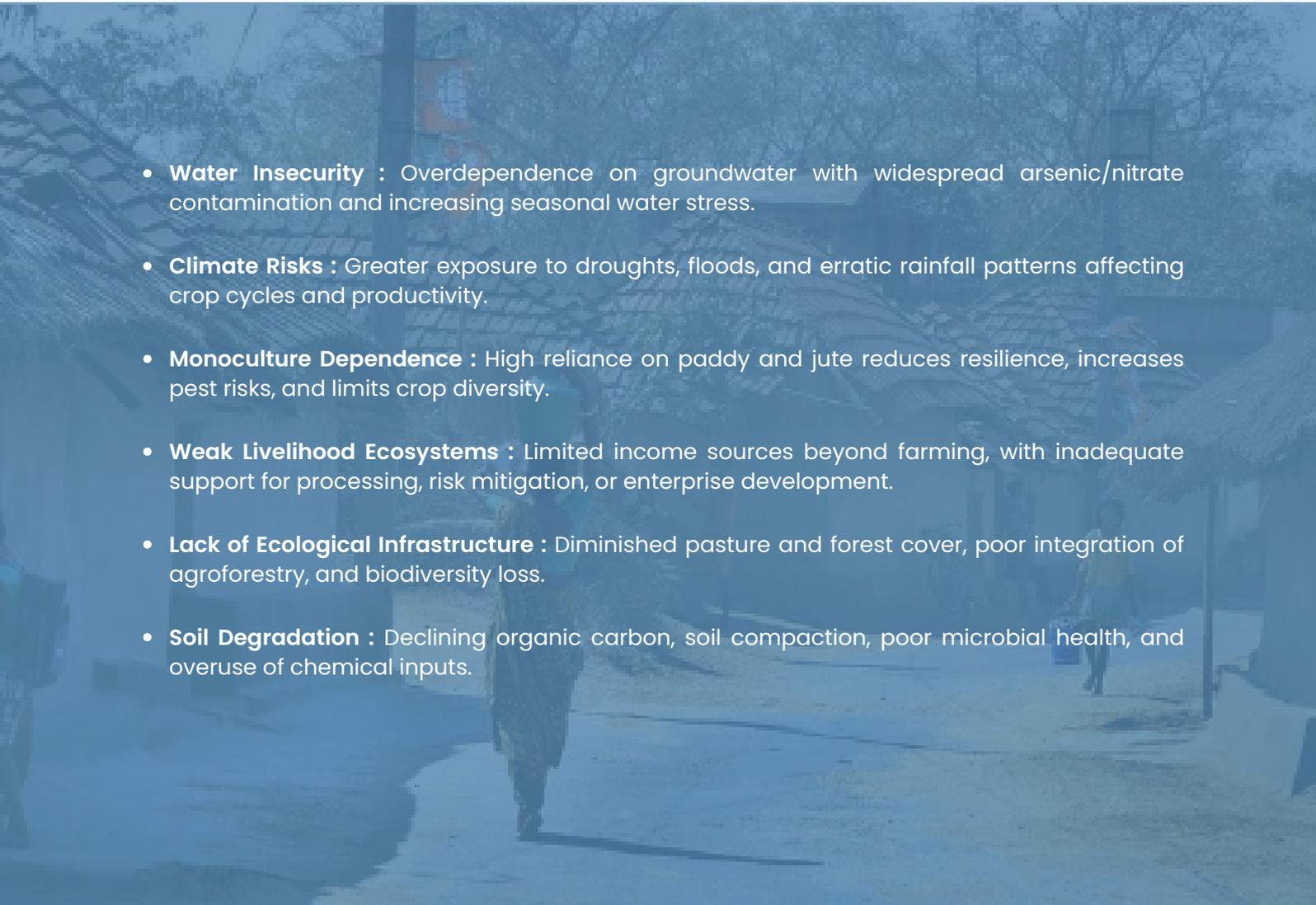


1. Brief Context

The **District Consultation on Advancing Climate-Resilient Agriculture in the Gangetic Agro-Ecological Zone** was organized by **SwitchON Foundation**, with support from **Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation**.

Over two days, the consultation brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from various **government departments**, including **agriculture, horticulture, animal resource development, agricultural marketing, WBSRLM, academic institutions (such as BCKV), financial institutions (Punjab National Bank, NABARD), farmer producer organizations (FPOs), self-help groups (SHGs), community-based organisations (CBOs), and civil society organizations (CSOs)**.

2. Present challenges in Nadia

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- **Water Insecurity** : Overdependence on groundwater with widespread arsenic/nitrate contamination and increasing seasonal water stress.
 - **Climate Risks** : Greater exposure to droughts, floods, and erratic rainfall patterns affecting crop cycles and productivity.
 - **Monoculture Dependence** : High reliance on paddy and jute reduces resilience, increases pest risks, and limits crop diversity.
 - **Weak Livelihood Ecosystems** : Limited income sources beyond farming, with inadequate support for processing, risk mitigation, or enterprise development.
 - **Lack of Ecological Infrastructure** : Diminished pasture and forest cover, poor integration of agroforestry, and biodiversity loss.
 - **Soil Degradation** : Declining organic carbon, soil compaction, poor microbial health, and overuse of chemical inputs.

3. Long-Term Vision for Nadia (5–10 Years)

Over the next 10 years, Nadia will grow into a balanced, inclusive, and resilient rural ecosystem rooted in sustainable agriculture and community ownership.

By setting up Custom Hiring Centers and supporting women-led livestock and processing enterprises, we will ensure that smallholders, women and youth are at the centre of the change. Community members will co-create and share knowledge through regular field schools and CRP-led training, making scientific practices accessible to all.

Through participatory local planning, decisions around water use, crop planning, and market access will be made collectively, ensuring transparency and inclusion. Efforts like developing local markets, setting up nutrition gardens, and linking organic clusters to organic local haats will strengthen producer–consumer connections. By promoting solar irrigation, crop diversity, and composting, we will improve resilience against climate and economic shocks, while ensuring every household has access to nutritious, residue-free food. This steady and participatory approach will help the cluster move toward long-term self-reliance and well-being.

4. Stakeholder Roles & Support Needed

As part of the consultation, participants were divided into four focused stakeholder groups: Academic Institutions & CBBOs, Government Departments, Financial Institutions, and FPOs & SHGs. Each group engaged in collaborative discussions to define their respective roles and identify the key forms of support required to strengthen climate-resilient agriculture in Nadia.

The following table reflects the consolidated outcomes of these group discussions:

Stakeholder	Role	Support Needed
FPO/SHG/CBBOs	Production, aggregation, training	Certification, market access, bio-input units
Markets/Bank/Input Players	Procurement, finance, tech & energy linkages	Priority sector lending, assured offtake, infrastructure support
Govt Line Departments	Scheme alignment, infrastructure, convergence	Inter-dept coordination, seasonal planning, subsidy facilitation
NGOs/CSOs	Community mobilization, training, innovation	Block-level facilitation roles, inclusion in planning
Research/Academia	Agronomy, monitoring, impact assessment	Localized trials, knowledge sharing, curriculum development

These stakeholder-specific roles and support areas will guide coordinated actions and convergence planning in the implementation of climate-resilient strategies across Nadia district.

5. Institutional Reflections and Strategic Alignment

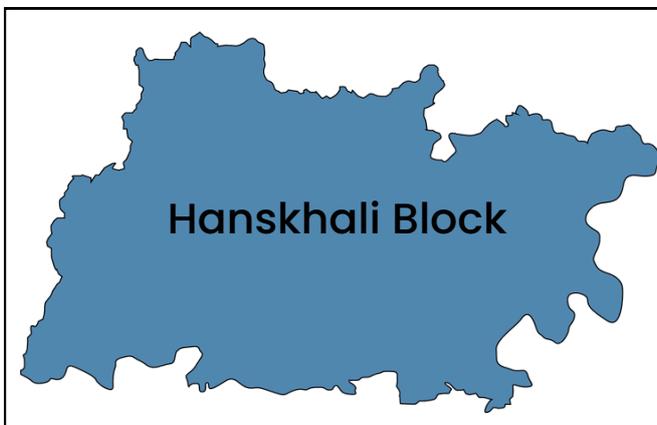
Government departments emphasized that advancing climate-resilient agriculture in Nadia requires convergence, localized planning, and ecosystem-based approaches.

- Additional District Magistrate highlighted the challenges of monocropping, urbanization, and declining surface water, stressing the need for technology-driven water-use efficiency, crop diversification, and alignment with schemes like AIF and Horticulture Credit Linkages.
- The Deputy Director of Agriculture called for integrating SHGs and non-farm activities into a broader ecosystem approach, supported by departmental linkages.
- Department of Animal Resource Development raised concerns about fodder scarcity and stressed promoting Bengal breeds, and women's roles in livestock management.
- WBSRLM urged purpose-driven, region-specific FPO models, strengthened value chains (e.g., banana), and revitalized CRP roles in community facilitation.
- Agricultural Marketing and Poustik Life supported GI tagging, molecular-level seed studies, and convergence of AIM and AIF for infrastructure building.
- Panchayat Pradhan of Dakshinpara II highlighted the need for fair pricing, improved market awareness, and climate strategies for jute production.
- BCKV professors recommended possibility mapping to identify agro-ecological zones and promote alternative livelihoods through university-led training.
- Lead District Manager of PNB, emphasized that structured proposals and better awareness are essential for credit access, citing solar pump finance models as successful examples.



6. Next Steps

As a next step, a **detailed roadmap for Climate Resilient Nadia** will be developed based on the discussions from the consultation. A **pilot project** will be initiated in Hanskhali Block to demonstrate integrated, climate-resilient agricultural practices. The pilot will emphasize sustainable farming, income diversification, women's participation, and market linkages.



To ensure convergence and accountability, the **ATMA Committee** will serve as the key coordinating body, facilitating inter-departmental collaboration, seasonal planning, and monitoring of residue-free and low-input farming practices. A detailed roadmap will be developed to guide implementation, define stakeholder roles, and track progress across departments and community partners.

7. Conclusion

The two-day district consultation highlighted the role of collaborative approaches in addressing Nadia's agricultural and climate challenges by bringing together government departments, financial institutions, research bodies, CSOs, and community-based organisations. The event encourages a shared understanding of the need for convergence, inclusion, and ecosystem-based planning. The outcomes reflect a strong commitment to working together across sectors to co-create practical, locally rooted solutions. The Hanskhali pilot stands as a testament to this spirit of collaboration, serving as a starting point for long-term, resilient, and community-driven agricultural development in Nadia.



Annexure 1:

Participation List :

SL.No	Name	Department and Designation	SL.No	Name	Department and Designation
1	Hrishikesh Khanra	Dept. of Horticulture (Dy. Director of Horticulture)	24	Provash da	BOD (Onfarm Fresh Innovations Producer Company Limited)
2	Jaydeep Mukherjee	Dept. of Agriculture (Dy. Director of Agriculture)	25	Nirajan Mondal	CEO (Onfarm Fresh Innovations Producer Company Limited)
3	Saikat Ganguly, WBCS (Exe.)	Additional District Magistrate (G)	26	Paritosh Pal	Block Field Officer (PMFME)
4	Aktar Mondal	CEO (Kalyanswar Farmers producer company)	27	Pradyut Biswas	CEO (Nabokrishi Farmer Producer Company)
5	Amit Saha	State Manager - livelihoods (WBSRLM)	28	Prasad Chakraborty	Assistant Agriculture Marketing Adviser (Government of India Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare)
6	Anshuman Das	Consultant (Welthunger Life)	29	Prof. Goutam Saha	Prof.Of Dept of agri meterology & Physic,Ex Vice Chancellor
7	Anupam Dumdang	Lead District Manager (PNB)	30	Ruth Chattopadhyay	Poushtic Life
8	Arpan Barman	Credit Manager (PNB)	31	Raj Kumar Das	Agriculture Specialist (ADMI DPMU)
9	Bidhan Mondal	KPS (Department of Agriculture)	32	Rajesh Hela	Relationship manager rural banking (SBI)
10	Biplab Biswas	BOD (Kalyanswar Farmers producer company)	33	Sandeep Ghosh	AD ARD ADMIN
11	Biswarup Banerjee	Marketing Consultant (DRDC Nadia)	34	Sanjoy Saha	AGM LOAN/AIF (Nadia District Central Co-Operative Bank Ltd.)
12	Bivas Mandal	Chairman (RAPCO)	35	Shaikat Dey	District Development Manager (NABARD)

13	Buddheswar Kar	Assistant Director (Dept. of Agricultural Marketing)	36	Shibaprasad Sinha	Team Leader (Imagine)
14	Chinmoy Halder	Dept. of Agriculture (ADA Admin)	37	Silajit Naskar	RM (JCI)
15	Debasish Jana	DY. Director of ARD	38	Sisir Kumar Biswas	Secretary (Sreema Mahila Samity)
16	Dhup Naskar	Eco champion	39	Sudipto Halder	Eco champion (Aquadactor solution)
17	Dr Debasish Mukherjee	BLDO Hanskhali	40	Sukumar Das	E-NAM (Dept. of Agricultural Marketing)
18	Manish Singh	District Lead	41	Trideb Mukherjee	State Lead (RCRC Network)
19	Manoj Yadav	Agri Officer	42	Arindam Biswas	ADA Admin
20	Md Arif	Eco champion	43	Haranagar FPC limited	Haranagar FPC
21	Mita Rani Baidya	CRP	44	Dr S K Pan	BLDO Nakasipara
22	Dr. Lalu Das	Prof. of Dept. of Agri-Meteorology & Physics, Ex-Dean of Agriculture (BCKV)	45	Niladri mishra	Eco champion
23	Karuna Krishna Majumdar	Sabhapati (Dakhinpara 2 Panchayat)	46	Hemen Doshi	Rainbow



Annexure 2 :

Photo Gallery:



Day 1



Day 2





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SwitchON Foundation, established in 2008, is a leading non-profit organisation focusing on Environment Sustainability and Equal Opportunities. Operating in 10 Indian states. It leads initiatives in Clean Energy Access, Sustainable Agriculture, Skilling, Clean Air and Sustainable Cities. Key strengths encompass innovative project implementation, capacity building, field support, awareness and advocacy.

