

Somya Bhatt

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Somya is a climate change adaptation practitioner and has extensive experience in the international development sector with a focus on climate change adaptation, resilience, and gender. She has been working at the helm of science, policy, and practice for climate change in the past 12 years and has engaged in these topics with different roles as part of the development sector, trainer, private sector, as a practitioner and as a researcher. Through this exposure, she has gained first-hand understanding of the big picture as well as crucial skills that enable her to navigate towards a solutions space. Achieving impact through research and likewise working towards making research an inclusive process that delivers grounded impact in practice and policy is at the heart of what she does and believe to be crucial for addressing sustainable development and building resilience. She has extensive experience of research, strategic planning, project management, building partnerships and policy mainstreaming in the field of climate change and natural resource management with bilateral, multilateral, government, non-governmental and academic partners.

Core area of expertise and interest include vulnerability & risk assessments, climate finance, community-based measures, policy formulation and capacity development for adaptation. She is a trained trainer on integrating climate change adaptation into development planning based on OECD policy guidance since 2013. She is also part of the LEAD India fellowship programme since 2015.

She is currently serving as the Speaker, Climate Change Adaptation Working Group, of GIZ Sector Network Natural Resources and Rural Development Asia and the Pacific (SNRD Asia and the Pacific)

Her current work involves advising the Indo-German bilateral cooperation project Climate Change Adaptation and Finance in Rural India (CAFRI) and GIZ Global Programme on Sustainability and Value Addition in Agricultural Supply Chains. Core responsibilities include

- Leading development of priority community-based adaptation strategies with a focus on gender-responsive local adaptation needs of vulnerable groups in line with project output, partner priorities and SDG 2030 targets with overall responsible to conceptualize, operationalize and implement the capacity development strategy during the project duration.
- Leading training, capacity development and knowledge management activities on participatory, needs-based, gender-responsive project development for climate change
- Coordination on knowledge network development and multi-stakeholder engagements through knowledge networks/Platforms
- Leading the work on climate change policy development including state action plans on climate change
- Leading climate risk assessments for different sectors including health, agriculture, and infrastructure
- Develop innovative projects for accessing climate finance from national and international sources
- Working with private sector on certification and creating market linkages for organic/sustainably sourced agriculture produce