

Concept Note

Track: Amplifying Grassroot Leadership for Climate Resilient Community

Context and Rationale

Climate change is reshaping everyday life across Odisha—affecting food systems, water security, and the dignity and well-being of vulnerable communities. Young grassroots leaders are experiencing these changes directly and are emerging as important actors in mobilising communities, preserving local ecological knowledge, and innovating low-cost climate solutions. Yet, their leadership remains under-recognised in formal planning and governance processes.

This track seeks to centre their lived experiences and help them articulate how climate change is affecting their communities, what solutions exist, and what roles they can play alongside Panchayats and local institutions.

Objectives

1. To strengthen Climate Champions' understanding of how climate change is impacting local food systems, water, forests, livelihoods, and dignity.
2. To identify community-rooted solutions and clarify how youth leadership can be supported and amplified.

Guiding Questions for Reflection

The Climate Champions will explore the following:

- How are their food system, water security, and dignified life being affected due to climate change?
- What are the core challenges behind these disruptions?
- What solutions already exist in their community, and what further needs to be done?
- Who can support these solutions—Panchayats, community institutions, CSOs, Government?
- As grassroots leaders, what can they do to strengthen resilience?

The session will consolidate the insights of young Climate Champions into a shared understanding of community-led climate action and the support systems needed to enable their leadership. These contributions will feed into a broader roadmap for strengthening community-driven climate resilience in Odisha, grounded in the belief that resilience is created when communities lead and institutions collaborate.