

Rajasthan Adopts Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in its New Water Policy – Need for Capacity Building of Stakeholders

The new Rajasthan State Water Policy which came into force on 18th February, 2010 has incorporated Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) as part of the Policy. India Water Partnership with the support of one of its zonal water partner first organized two consultation meetings in Jaipur, Rajasthan in 2010 to review the new state water policy keeping in view the role of Non Governmental Organization in its implementation. During these consultations it was emerged though New Water Policy focuses on implementation of IWRM principle in the State, but there is very little understanding of IWRM among the stakeholders in the State. The policy does not define the clear cut role of NGOs and PRI members. How it will be implemented at the ground level is not clearly defined.

The recommendations of these two meetings suggested that capacity building of NGOs, PRI members, etc. who are working at ground level, is urgently needed, at the same time knowledge enhancement of Water User Groups, farmers, village community is necessary for better and effective implementation of the policy.

In continuation of India Water Partnership efforts during 2010 for building capacity of all stakeholders who would be engaged in implementation of IWRM in Rajasthan, IWP with the support of its partner organization Jheel Sanskaran Samiti (JSS), Udaipur invited all Rajasthan based stakeholders who contributed in the review of new water policy for a Brainstorming session on IWRM organized at Udaipur, Rajasthan on World Water Day, 22nd March, 2011. These stakeholders are also engaged in European Union supported IWRM State programme in Rajasthan, Dr Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP and Mr. Anil Mehta, IWRM expert strongly felts that



Mr. Roussel, Ms Joulie, Mr. Anil Mehta



Workshop Participants

IWP initiated and created a better understanding of IWRM in the context of Rajasthan by involving all stakeholders. The first step was to bring together local authorities and key stakeholders at one platform to take the lead in improving planning and management practices, drawing on each other synergy. IWP and JSS have also built a good relationship with State EU-SPP IWRM officials by inviting them in capacity building programme which would give a strong support to EU led IWRM process in Rajasthan.

In continuation to the brainstorming session, a capacity building workshop for different stakeholders on IWRM, second in series, was

जनसहभागिता से ही पानी का समग्र वं एकीकृत प्रबंध संभव

उदयपुर | पारंपरिक समझ, प्रतिनिधियों ने भाग लिया। जनसहभागिता व व्यावहारिक नीतियों से ही राजस्थान के पानी का समग्र व एकीकृत प्रबंध किया जा सकता है। यह विचार सेवा मंदिर की मुख्य संचालक नीलिमा खेतान ने समग्र जल संसाधन प्रबंध पर विद्या भवन में हुई कार्यशाला में व्यक्त किए। कार्यक्रम में 11 संस्थाओं से आए 200 प्रतिभागियों ने भाग लिया। कार्यशाला का आयोजन इंडिया वाटर पार्टनरशिप के सहयोग से झील संरक्षण समिति डॉ. मोहन सिंह मेमोरियल ट्रस्ट व विद्या भवन पॉलीटेक्निक की ओर से आयोजित किया गया था। कार्यशाला में स्वैच्छक संस्थाओं, जल उपभोग समूहों, पंचों, सरपंचों तथा विषय विशेषज्ञों एवं यूरोपियन यूनियन के जल कार्यक्रम के प्रमुख जेएम रसेल तथा जल विशेषज्ञ जूली लाडेल ने बताया कि राज्य के कुल जल का 75 फीसदी सतही तथा 25 प्रतिशत भूजल है। सिंचाई में लगभग 90 प्रतिशत पानी का उपयोग हो रहा है। यूनियन की सहयता से ग्राम पंचायतों को जल प्रबंधन योजना बनाने के लिए शिक्षित किया जा रहा है। इंडिया वाटर पार्टनरशिप के प्रतिनिधि अनिल महता ने बताया कि जल नीति के प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन तथा आईडब्ल्यूआरएम स्थापना के लिए राज्य सरकार व यूरोपियन यूनियन को सहयोग देने के लिए कार्यशाला होगी। कार्यशाला में पूर्व विदेश सचिव जगत मेहता ने पानी को हर स्तर पर बचाने की बात कही।

organized on 22nd April, 2011 at Udaipur by JSS JSS with the help of its strategic partners-Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic and Dr Mohan Sinha Mehta Memorial Trust. The workshop was attended by 200 participants, including NGOs, Water User Associations (WUAs), elected representatives of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs); and farmers. Apart from that, the representatives of European Union- Rajasthan State Partnership Programme (EU-SPP) and officials of Water Resources Department, Government of Rajasthan also participated and interacted. Ms Julie Laudel (IWRM expert, EU-SPP) and Ms Magalie Vuillet (Junior IWRM expert, EU-SPP) participated in the workshop under the leadership of Mr. J M Roussel (Team Leader, EU-SPP).

The workshop had media coverage in 6 Hindi newspapers namely; ApranhTimes, Pratahkal, Udaipur Express; Dainik Bhaskar, Rajasthan Patrika, Dainik Navjyoti dated 23rd April, 2011. The news cutting above was covered in Daily newspaper "Pratahkal".

A comprehensive but user friendly "IWRM Capacity Development Manual" prepared in Hindi was given to all the participants. The workshop was inaugurated jointly by Ms Neelima Khetan (Ex CEO, Sewa Mandir), Mr. Riaz Tehsin (President, Vidya Bhawan), Prof Jagat S Mehta (Former Foreign Secretary, Government of India & President, JSS) and Mr. J M Roussel (Team Leader, EU-SPP). Ms Khetan explained various provisions of the state water policy in the context of IWRM and appealed for effective strategies and partnerships for successful implementation of IWRM.

The workshop was conducted in seven sessions viz ; (i) Inaugural Session ; Technologies of Watershed Management and Water Resources Development; (iii) Panchyat Raj Syatem & IWRM; (iv) Inclusive & Paricipatory Development, Water Ethics of Rajasthan, and Mechanisms for Conflict Management & Resolution; (v) Livelihood Issues ; (vi) IWRM & Ecological Concerns; and the last (vii) Valedictory Session. During valedictory Ms Priyanka Singh (EO, Sewa Mandir), Mr V S Mehta (President, Dr M S Mehta Trust) and Mr J M Roussel (Team leader, EU-SPP) expressed the need of synergic efforts and collaborations for the successful implementation of IWRM. Mr Roussel expressed his willingness to partner in capacity development programmes of GWP/IWP; and for more collaborative efforts in the state of Rajasthan. The capacity building workshop would pave the way for adoption of a strong IWRM and effective implementation of new Rajasthan Water Policy in the State. Efforts of IWP by involving all stakeholders would set the platform for achieving the IWRM objectives in the State of Rajasthan.

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India Water Partnership (IWP) is a non-profit organization with a goal of promoting Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). It is also accredited by the Global Water Partnership (GWP) headquartered at Stockholm, Sweden as GWP Country Water Partnership known as GWP-India. The mission of IWP is to support action of sustainable and integrated development and management of water resources at national, regional river basin/sub-basin and local levels in India through promotion of Integrated Water Resource Management. Addressing adaptation to climate change with the support of zonal water partners across the country; encouraging use of innovative low cost water saving technologies by the farming communities ; sustainable natural resource management; integrated domestic water management; promoting Area Water Partnership (AWP) for river basin management; conflict resolution on water sharing; inter-state trans-boundary water sharing issues, gender mainstreaming, etc. are some of the core priority areas of IWP.

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