

India Water Partnership Report for January, 2015

PART- I: CORE ACTIVITY REPORT

I. India Water Partnership organized Three events during India Water Week-2015

Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India organized India Water Week-2015 (IWW-2015) from 13th to 17th January, 2015 at New Delhi. Theme of the IWW-2015 is “**Water Management for Sustainable Development**”. India Water Partnership (GWP-India) was one of the members of Organizing Committee and Technical Committee of IWW-2015. During India Water Week-2015, India Water Partnership (GWP-India) organized following three events:

(i) India Water Partnership organized Panel Discussion on Role of Youth in Sustainable Water Management on 14th January, 2015 at PragatiMaidan, New Delhi during India Water Week-2015

Under the present climate change scenario, severe stress is observed particularly in the area of water & soil and the resultant vulnerability in the livelihood of people. Water is the primary Natural Resource to sustain life of human, animals, plants and all other activities. This scenario poses a great responsibility on all of us and especially on youths for managing the water resources for sustainability and self-reliance. In this context, the youths are considered as most vibrant and dynamic segment of the country’s population who can play a greater role in sustainable water management.

With the above background, India Water Partnership (GWP-India) organized a Panel Discussion on “**Role of Youth in Sustainable Water Management on 14th January, 2015**” at PragatiMaidan, New Delhi during India Water Week-2015. The Panel Discussion was chaired by Mr. Rajeev Gupta, I.A.S., Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India. Mr. R K Gupta, President, India Water Partnership & Chairman-cum-Managing Director, WAPCOS Ltd. was Co-chair of the event.



At the outset, Dr. VeenaKhanduri, Executive Secretary, India Water Partnership and Focal Point for this event welcomed Chair, Co-Chair, Panelists and the participants and requested the Chair to give opening remarks. Thereafter she requested the Co-chair to address the audience. After Co-chair's address, the panel discussion started.

The Panelists included; (i) Dr. G K Tuteja, Program Advisor, NSS, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Government of India; (ii) Mr. D K Manavalan, I.A.S. (Retd.), Vice President, India Water Partnership & Executive Director, Action for Food Production; (iii) Dr. Partha J Das, Head (Water, Climate & Hazard), Aaranayak; (iv) Dr. Sudhirendar Sharma, Senior Journalist (Water & Climate Change); (v) Mr. S C Jain, Regional Council Member, GWP-South Asia and Program Leader, Safe Water Network India; and, (vi) Ms. Usha Srinivasan, Senior Advisor, Development Alternatives.

Key issues emerged in the Panel Discussion are ; (i) There are 3.3 million Youth volunteers in India whose potential can be tapped for clean India, Ganga river rejuvenation; revival of other water bodies and tree plantation activities. However, their capacity has to be enhanced through various training programs; (ii) There is need to find a way for involving youths in various development programs of the country including water conservation and its management; (iii) Youths today are tech-savvy and can be utilized as stakeholders in all the processes; (iv) There is a need to develop a framework for youths for inclusive sustainable development ; (v) The capacity of youths has to be built for their more active contribution in various activities through different technical institutions; (vi) Modules for youths involvement in water management have to be created; (vii) Youths should be made agents of innovative approaches; (viii) There is need for awareness generation about the water conservation both for urban and rural youths; (ix) Intergovernmental dialogue is important to involve youths in different programs.

(ii) India Water Partnership organized Regional Day Program of Global Water Partnership-South Asia on "From Risk to Resilience: South Asia Regional Framework for Sustainable Water Management" on 15th January, 2015 at PragatiMaidan, New Delhi during India Water Week-2015

South Asia is also very vulnerable to climate change and the most visible impacts can be seen in terms of melting of glaciers which also affects the precipitation levels. Changing climate, unplanned development, increased water pollution; population growth etc. have not only adversely affected the water sources but have also made the region vulnerable to various hydrological shocks posing huge long term recovery challenges. Due to a variety of complex issues including climate change, depletion of water resources has become a looming crisis in South Asia.

Climate change and its linkages with water has always been one of the core agendas of India Water Partnership, both in its work on the ground and also in regional and national level discussions and consultations.

With the above backdrop, India Water Partnership in association with SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC), GWP-South Asia, WAPCOS Limited and Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) organized the Regional Day Program of GWP-South Asia on **"From Risk to Resilience: South Asia**

Regional Framework for Sustainable Water Management” as part of the GWP-South Asia Water and Climate Resilience Program (WACREP) Phase-I on 15th January, 2015 at PragatiMaidan, New Delhi during India Water Week-2015.

Major objective of the Program was to draw upon regional experience, knowledge and case studies to discuss how increasing water efficiency can help create a society that is more resilient to climate change and natural disasters.

Ms. Uma Bharti, Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India was the Chief Guest who inaugurated the event. The Welcome Address was given by Mr. R K Gupta, President, India Water Partnership & Chairman-cum-Managing Director, WAPCOS Ltd.



Prof.Santosh Kumar, Director, SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC), New Delhi briefed about the Regional Day Program and theKeynote Address was delivered by Mr. Anuj Kumar Bishnoi, I.A.S., Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India which was followed by address by Mr. R K Jain, I.A.S., Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority, Government of India and address by Mr. I R Onta, Chair, GWP-South Asia.

The **First Technical Session** on “**Water Resources Management, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation in South Asia: Key Issues and Challenges in Water Sector Governance with Focus on Policy, Legislation and Institutional Reforms**” was chaired by Mr. A B Pandya, Chairman, Central Water Commission, Government of India and co-chaired by Dr. Lam Dorji, Chairman, Bhutan Water Partnership.

The key speakers were; (i) Dr. Ravinder Kaur, Director (Acting), Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) and Project Director, Water Technology Centre, IARI, Government of India; (ii) Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Chief Economist, UN-ESCAP and Director, ESCAP Sub-regional Office for South and South West Asia; (iii) Dr. K A Haq, Vice-President, Bangladesh Water Partnership; (iv) Mr. N V VRaghav, Senior Water and Sanitation Expert, World Bank; and (v) Dr. Champa Navaratne, Professor, University of Ruhana, Sri Lanka.

The **Second Technical Session** on “**Developing a Joint Framework for Learning and Action for Effective and Sustainable Water Resource Management from a Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation perspective in the South Asian Region**” was chaired by Dr. Amita Prasad, I.A.S., Joint Secretary (Admn. & GW), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.

The key speakers were; (i) Dr. V S Prakash, Former Director, Karnataka State Natural Disaster Monitoring Centre & former Scientist, Central Ground Water Board, Government of India; (ii) Ms. Naseer Faroosha Ali, SAARC representative from Maldives; (iii) Dr. Partha J Das, Head (Water, Climate & Hazard), Aaranayak; and (iv) Mr. Gehendra B. Gurung, Programme Leader DRR South Asia (Practical Action, Kathmandu).

The **Valedictory Session** was chaired by Dr. A M Gondane, I.F.S. Joint Secretary, SAARC, Government of India. This session was also addressed by (i) Ms. Angela Klauschen, GWP Senior Network Officer South Asia; (ii) Prof. Santosh Kumar, Director, SDMC, New Delhi; (iii) Ms. Yi Ying Lee, - Associate Coordinator, Asia Pacific Adaptation Network and (iv) Dr. Lal Induruwage, WACREP Manager, GWP-South Asia.

Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, India Water Partnership & Focal Point for this event given vote of thanks and moderated the event. The event was attended by more than 500 national and international delegates including the participants from GWP, GWP-South Asia and SAARC Member States.

The **key recommendations emerged during the program** are: (i) The member countries of SAARC and GWP-South Asia should emphasize on a framework which should lay special emphasis on developing Resilience and Reducing Risks (ii) Best Practices need to be drawn from the region on community based watershed management projects; (iii) There is need to enhance understanding of the impacts of land use and water resource planning; (iv) At the Country level strengthen efforts to be made to meet water sector infrastructure requirements including operation and maintenance costs; (v) Addressing sustainable water management in an integrated disaster risk management approach; (vi) Setting-up a South Asia Water Forum to exchange water related experiences and knowledge regularly; (vii) Bringing all stakeholders and important actors to discuss contemporary water & climate change related issue;

(viii) Capacity building on weather forecasting system within South Asia; (ix) Training and building awareness at the community level on climate change & adaptation; (x) Regional Cooperation in Space & Technology and early warning systems, etc.

(iii) India Water Partnership organized Workshop-cum-Training Program of Global Water Partnership on Integrated Urban Water Management on 16th January, 2015 at PragatiMaidan, New Delhi during India Water Week-2015

Water security is under intense pressure in many urban areas, and the very nature of urbanization contributes to water stress situations both from a quantity and quality perspective, owing to the following main factors: rapid population growth, changing life styles, poor waste water management and sanitation, competing demands on the resource, and urban water consumption likely to double by 2025. As India continues to urbanize further, these challenges will only increase unless properly addressed and planned for. Given the increasing challenges that urban planners and water utilities are facing, there is a need to explore new ways of managing water systems. The Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM) approach provides an innovative framework for interventions over the entire water cycle and a reconsideration of the way water is used (and reused).

Keeping the challenges in urban water management, the India Water Partnership in collaboration with Global Water Partnership organized a Workshop-cum-Training Program on **"Integrated Urban Water Management (IUWM)" on 16th January, 2015 at PragatiMaidan, New Delhi.**

The Workshop-cum-Training Program was inaugurated by Dr. Amarjit Singh, I.A.S., Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India. The Opening Remarks was given by Mr. A B Pandya, Chairman, Central Water Commission, Government of India and the Welcome Address was delivered by Mr. R K Gupta, President, India Water Partnership & Chairman-cum-Managing Director, WAPCOS Ltd.



There was also an address by Ms. Angela Klauschen, GWP Senior Network Officer, China & South Asia and Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, India Water Partnership & Focal Point for this event.

Mr. Francois Brikke, GWP Senior Network Officer, Central Africa and South East Asia briefed about the IUWM approach and informed the audience about the various modules being developed by GWP in association with University of Florida and the Water Partnership Program of the World Bank. He also moderated the program.

The technical session was chaired by Mr. T V S N Prasad, I.A.S. Joint Secretary (Policy & Planning), Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India & Board Member of India Water Partnership.

There were some very good presentations on IUWM by Dr. Suresh Kumar Rohilla, Programme Director - Water Management, Centre for Science and Environment, New Delhi; Mr. Ankur Gupta, Thematic Research Assistant, GWP; Mr. Manu Prakash, Director, Taru Leading Edge, New Delhi and Mr. Francois Brikke, GWP Senior Network Officer, Central Africa and South East Asia. Besides this a video film of Dr. Kalanithy Vairavamoorthy, Professor, Civil and Environmental Engineering Department and Director, School of Global Sustainability, University of South Florida on main components of IUWM was also shown to the participants.

The some of the key outputs are: (i) India's water security comes under "hazardous" in a report published by ADB; (ii) IUWM is an approach that includes interventions over entire urban water cycle; reconsideration of the way water is used and reused and greater application of natural systems for water and waste water treatment; (iii) The new thinking of urban water management calls for a new generation of urban leaders with radically different thinking to deliver a real paradigm shift; (iv) Worldwide, the consumption of water is doubling every 20 years - more than twice the rate of increase in population and the crisis is more in South Asia; (v) Indian town/cities need to become prosperous without more water; (vi) It is rare to find an integrated approach to the management of water, sanitation, solid waste disposal and storm water; (vii) IUWM approach calls for planning all urban water components simultaneously; (viii) Wastewater can be treated and reused for other purposes such as gardening and toilet flushing.

PART- II: WACREP PHASE-I REPORT

I. Assessment of vulnerability to climate change on water resources, commons, agriculture system and animal husbandry in Sinhar watershed in Bhinder Block in Udaipur district of Rajasthan

India Water Partnership with the support of Action for Food Production (AFPRO) undertook the following activities in the month of January, 2015:

1. Village level monthly meeting with Core group members

A total number of five village level meetings were organised in six villages namely Phoosariya, Gajpura, Beripura, Raila, khedafala and Dhawadiya with core group members including cluster core group members, village elders. The issues discussed in the meeting were: Intercultural operation for the Rabi crop, (Weeding and fertilizer requirement for different crops); Participatory Irrigation Management; Harvesting of grass on all pasturelands; to scale-up homestead vegetable cultivation, etc. **There were 115 participants (79 males and 36 females).**

2. Meeting for Cluster level committee members:

A cluster level meeting with the 20 participants from all the 10 project villages was held at Bhavyadhara Training centre, Rayla on 27 January-2015 to discuss about the various soil and water conservation measures to be taken for growing Rabi crops.

3. Farmers' Field School (Agriculture, Water & Livestock)

Various activities were taken up under Farmers' Field Schools which have been created under WACREP Phase-I on Agriculture, Water & Livestock for capacity building and knowledge enhancement of the local community and farmers of the project villages.

II. Review of Partners Reports by IWP Secretariat

IWP Secretariat is reviewing the partners reports who have submitted their reports on completion of WACREP Phase-I activities. After the review, the IWP Secretariat will send the comments/suggestions for finalizing the reports.

III. Participation in Last Meeting of Strengthening regional cooperation among Afghanistan, India & Pakistan on climate change resilience (Indus & Kabul Rivers) at Dubai on 29th & 30th January, 2015

Strengthening regional cooperation among Afghanistan, India & Pakistan on climate change resilience (Indus & Kabul Rivers) was one of the activities under WACREP Phase-I. The third and last meeting under this activity was held on 29th & 30th January, 2015 at Dubai. The Indian delegation comprised of (i) Prof. S R Hashim, former President, India Water Partnership; Mr. S C Jain, Regional Council Member, GWP-South Asia and Dr. VeenaKhanduri, Executive Secretary, India Water Partnership-cum-Project Director, WACREP (India). The meeting was aimed to discuss the outcome and developments of post -first and second meetings, take stock of the Phase-I activities for devising the way forward and preparations for Phase-II activities.