

GWP India Monthly Report for April, 2012

(Prepared by : Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP and Mangla Rai)

GWP India facilitated and participated in India Water Week-2012 organized by Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India from 10-13th April, 2012 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

Water is the prime input to the growth and prosperity of a nation. Keeping in view the vital role of water in all aspects of life and also in assuring sustained development of economy, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India since the year 2012 have endeavored to celebrate India Water Week annually, to focus on the water issues and provide a global platform for water solutions that brings the policy makers, industry leaders, experts, professionals and practitioners together to address the challenges, showcase technologies, discover opportunities, recognizing the excellence of professionals/organizations and celebrate the achievements in the India Water Week.

With the above background, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India celebrated India Water Week (IWW)-2012 from 10th to 14th April, 2012 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The main theme of IWW-2012 was “**Water, Energy and Food Security : Call for Solutions**”. More than 1000 experts/professionals from India and abroad participated in the IWW-2012.

The IWW-2012 was inaugurated by Dr. Manmohan Singh, Hon’ble Prime Minister of India and lighting of lamp ceremony was performed by Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal, Hon’ble Minister of Water Resources, Government of India.



**From left : Mr. A D Mohile and Dr. Ania Grobicki
(Chair and Co-chair respectively in the
Technical session on IWRM)**

Dr. Ania Grobicki, Executive Secretary, GWP, Mr. Chaminda Rajapakse, Senior Network Officer, GWP-South Asia and GWP-South East Asia, Prof. S R Hashim, President, GWP-India, Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, GWP-India and present and former Board Members of GWP-India participated in this mega event as Chairman and key speakers in the various sessions. Mr. A D Mohile, former Board Member, GWP-India was the Chairman for the sub-theme “**Integrated Water Resources Management**” and Dr. Ania Grobicki, Executive Secretary, GWP was the Co-Chairman.



Dr Ania Grobicki addressing the gathering during IWRM Session

Dr Ania Grobicki who was invited as Co speaker in Integrated Water Resource Management, presented her views on moving IWRM process which require prioritizing and sequencing actions to achieve short, medium and long term objectives. She also emphasized that GWP partnerships can support this process as neutral platforms for collaboration.

GWP also has an opportunity to help bring diverse groups together to define common agendas and develop and implement plans for action as demonstrated by the GWP supported partnership for Africa's Water Development. She also flagged that integrated approaches to water resources development, management and use remain a critical element for sustainable development. Integration requires horizontal inter linkages among sectors (water, food, energy and environment) as well as the need for protection against water related conflicts and disasters. Hence continued effort is required to strengthen the institutional framework at all levels.

Prof. S R Hashim, President, GWP-India was the Co-Chairman for sub- theme “**Water for Food Security**”. Prof. Hashim told the gathering that India's per capita net availability of food grains has declined. However, population is less poor and people are definitely less hungry now than they were in the decades of sixties and seventies. Food basket has diversified significantly with rising incomes. Projections of food grain requirements therefore will have to take some of these realities into account. India may still need to produce something around 400 million tonnes of food grains

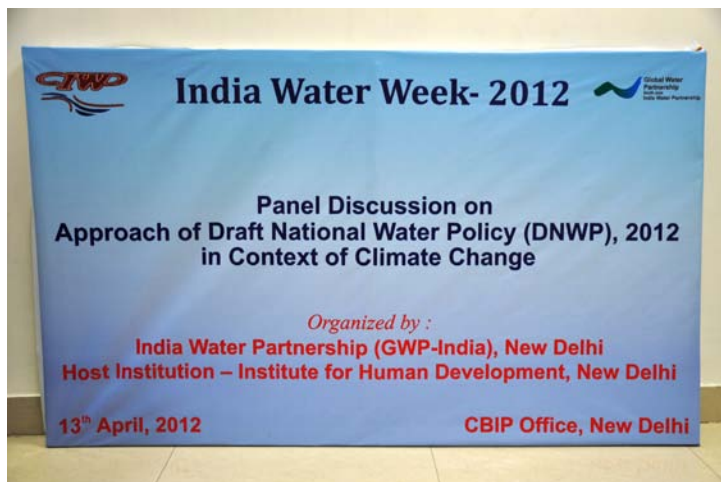


Prof. S R Hashim addressing the participants in the Technical Session on “Water & Food Security”

by the middle of 21st century. Targeting even 400 million tonnes of food grains production will put a lot of strain on the available water resources in the country. Food security and rural livelihoods are intrinsically linked to water availability and use. Food security is determined by the options people have to secure access to own agricultural production and exchange opportunities. These opportunities are influenced by access to water. Many regions in India are already facing water deficits; any further decline in water resources will greatly impact food and livelihood security.

GWP India (India Water Partnership) organized a Side Event on Approach of Draft National Water Policy (DNWP)-2012 in context of Climate Change” during India Water Week-2012

GWP-India organized a Side Event on “**Approach of Draft National Water Policy-2012 in context of Climate Change**” during India Water Week-2012 at Central Board of Irrigation and Power, New Delhi on **13th April, 2012**. Seventy experts/water professionals/ engineers from Central Water Commission, National Water Development Agency, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, representatives of Department of Water Resources of different States



of India, Planning Commission, Govt. of India, GWP-India partners including board members participated in the side event.



Prof. S R Hashim, President, India Water Partnership delivering the Keynote Address during the side event in India Water Week-2012

From GWP side, Mr. Chaminda Rajapakse, Senior Network Officer, GWP-South Asia and GWP-South East Asia, Prof. S R Hashim, President, GWP-India, Dr. A N Sharma, Vice-President, IWP, Dr. Prem S Vashishtha, Regional Council Member, GWP-SAS, Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, GWP-India and present and former Board Members of GWP-India participated in the side event. Dr. A N Sharma, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of this side event. The Keynote

address was delivered by Prof. S R Hashim who is also a member of the Drafting Committee of Draft National Water Policy, 2012. The concluding remarks and vote of thanks was given by Dr. Veena Khanduri .

DNWP, 2012 is divided into 16 sections. Although Section 4 is specifically devoted to Adaptation to Climate Change, this sub-theme runs through several sections at different places. DNWP (2012) explicitly recognizes certain aspects such as importance of storage of water, agricultural system that maximizes use of water and stakeholders' participation and institutional arrangements. Hence keeping in view these sub-themes, the purpose of this side event was to discuss how far the DNWP-2012 addresses the issues in the context of climate change. A very fruitful and thought provoking discussion took place during the event.



Participants in the side event on Approach of Draft National Water Policy-2012 in context of Climate Change

Mr. Chaminda Rajapakse mentioned that the climate change is likely to increase variability of water resources affecting human health & livelihood of community. Therefore special impetus is required

to enhance the capacity of community to meet the challenge at local level by adopting climate resilient technologies. He further emphasized that the adaptation strategies could be to increase storage, improve soil conservation and adopt compatible agriculture strategies, and cropping system to meet the climate variability.

Mr. Chaminda further stressed that we need to acknowledge that climate changes the water rules and it is the primary medium through which climate change will impact people, ecosystems and economies. To deal with climate variability, an integrated approach of **Three I's** is suggested i.e, (i) Better and more accessible **Information** ; (ii) Stronger and more adaptable **Institutions**; and (iii) **Infrastructure** to store, transport and treat water.

Dr. D M More, Former Director General R & D, Water Resources Deptt. Govt. of Maharashtra and Technical Advisor, Water Resources Deptt. , Govt. Of Maharashtra said that India's first water policy of 1987 was revised in 2002 and same is now again being revised vide DNWP – 2012. Drying of rivers and streams, continuous declination in ground water level, poor efforts towards recharge to ground water, pollution of ground water and lakes, rivers turning into dirty drains on account of discharge of untreated liquid as well as solid waste, unabated encroachment into natural river courses, poor maintenance of water infrastructure, low water use efficiency, low productivity of water and land, are the few flaws and gaps observed even after these policies.

Dr. More further said that the draft of the new policy is very comprehensive and has proposed some important changes, like, need to modify the Indian Easements Act 1882, contract for construction of projects to have inbuilt provision of maintenance of infrastructure and so on. The priorities cannot be same for all the basins/sub basins across the country. These hydraulic units vary widely in regard to water availability, climate, land, cropping pattern, industrial development and so on. This is a basin/sub basin specific issue and decision could be influenced by the views of the stakeholders'/users together.

Prof. Vijay Paranjpye criticized the view that increasing, larger storages will be the panacea for decreasing the climate change impact. While increasing storages can respond to some impacts like increasing or changing locations of aridity they are not likely to answer many of the other impacts of climate change.

In terms of institutional changes, it was pointed out that merely putting into place water user associations and such other societies can touch barely 15-20% of the irrigated areas where canal irrigation is possible and therefore it is not an adequate institutional measure for responding to climate change. Since most states have more than 60% of area devoid of canal irrigation schemes, a totally different institutional system will be required, e.g. association of riverine fishing communities which looks at the impact of disappearing water front's or natural riverine lakes. Similarly, associations of farmers in the rain-fed agricultural areas would need to be given technical support for responding to longer dry spells.

Assessing Drinking Water Systems in the Wainganga River Basin with the civil Society groups

Although the Wainganga river basin falls in the assured rainfall zone, the districts of Bhandara and Gondia in particular and Vidarbha in general become arid from March till the onset of monsoons due to rise in temperatures above 44 degrees. Most rivers which have intercepts such as weirs, barrages, major and medium dams have reduced or almost have no flows. Water in most tanks is at its lowest level and there is a competition for the limited water resource for drinking water, agriculture, and fisheries. The problem of drinking water scarcity is more pronounced in forest villages which often have administrative problems. e.g. many villages in remote areas have non-functional tube wells or tanks due to lack of maintenance. Often transport of materials, personnel to remote villages in forest areas is difficult due to lack of proper roads further worsening the problem.

Thus, the problem of water scarcity in the region during summer months is not only due to climatic factors but also owing to socio-economic variables. The local civil society groups therefore felt a need to specifically assess the status of drinking water supply in the region. The Gomukh Trust for Environment and Sustainable Development which is also the West Zone Water Partnership Coordinating Agency of GWP-India held meetings in Bhandara, Gondia and Gadchiroli districts for formulating a plan which would respond to the drinking water scarcity in these regions. During the meetings, it was decided that 8 villages in the Wainganga river basin will be specially selected for assessing the drinking water technologies and schemes and their status. Local groups like; Bhandara Nisarg Va Sanskruti Abhyas Mandal and Srishti would be assisting the West Zone Water Partnership in this survey.

Broad issues which form the objectives of the larger Wainganga Master Plan like use of appropriate technologies, building resilience to climate change, equity, gender balance, etc. will be included while studying the status of drinking water systems in the region. It will help in reinforcing the need to invest in providing basic infrastructure in the region and also to pin down the specific issues with respect to drinking water supply that plague to region. The study will be integrated into the larger Wainganga Master Plan.

Seminar on “Climate Change, Water and Food Security”

GWP-India partner Sharda University, NOIDA (Uttar Pradesh) organized a Seminar on “**Climate Change, Water and Food Security**” on **21st April, 2012** at the Sharda University campus. Prof. S R Hashim, President, GWP-India was the Chief Guest and he delivered the keynote address.

The seminar was divided into four technical sessions viz ; Session-I : Climate Change: Melting of Himalayan Glaciers, Droughts and Floods; Session-II : Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture Production and Food Security; Session-III : Augmenting and Managing Water Resources; and Session-IV : The Way Forward. Prof. Prem Vashishtha, GWP India coordinated this Seminar.

Promotion of an Area Water Partnership for Prevention of Pollution to River Ganges in Jazmau Area (Municipal Zone-2) of Kanpur City (Uttar Pradesh)

The GWP-India is supporting Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD), New Delhi to promote an Area Water Partnership in the Jazmau area of Kanpur City, Uttar Pradesh to understand the challenges for provision of water and sanitation services to the residents of the areas as well as to bring all the stakeholders together to prevent the pollution to river Ganga from urban and industrial pollution. NGOs SACH and Shramik Bharti are supporting SPWD in this endeavor.

During the month of April, 2012, discussions were held on 7th and 8th April, 2012 in two wards namely Ward number 10 (rural) and ward number 86 (urban ward). There were also separate discussions with the Tannery owners associations. The main issues that emerged in the urban ward were the following:

- a. Non - availability of potable drinking water both in the urban and rural ward.
- b. Lack of proper sanitation facilities.
- c. Piling up of garbage and
- d. related health issues due to polluted water and lack of sanitation
- e. importance of prevention of pollution the river Ganges for the effective solution to water and sanitation problems of these wards and the zone as a whole.



Ward level meeting of AWP on 7th April, 2012 at Jajmau, Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)

In the rural ward, the main issue was that the polluted water is severely affecting the agriculture land, agriculture production and health of the people. The President and the General Secretary of the Small Tannery Association also participated in the meeting. They said that the Jal Nigam is responsible for treating the city sewage including the Tannery waste water. The Tannery associations were paying the waste water treatment charges to the Jal board. However there were shortcomings in effective treatment of the city sewage which was causing pollution to the rural area as well as to the Ganges river.

The following points were also made:

- The city sewage is made to pass through Ward 10-rural ward for irrigation purpose, before discharging into Ganga river. Since Jajmau is located at the down stream of Ganga, the sewage water of entire city flows through Jajmau, particularly the rural ward.
- The city domestic sewage, and Industrial sewage including those of tanneries is treated in a common treatment plant. Since the tanneries are situated downstream in the Jajmau area, they have achieved the ill reputation of being responsible for Ganga pollution in Kanpur.
- From the discussions in the meeting, it emerged that the tannery owners were one of the key stakeholders both as contributors to the problems and also to find the solution. Hence it was decided to have more direct interactions with them in the next few months.

- There is need to prepare village/slum level water and sanitation micro-plans to be clubbed at ward level which suggests problems as well as probable solutions also. These need to be used as advocacy tools with the city authorities for making necessary allocations at the ward level and making other changes in the administrative action to solve the problems.
- Need to develop an AWP at the ward level and zone level including all the stakeholders to help people collectively address the issues.
- Need for a dialogue between Pollution Control Board, Jal Board and the tanneries to evolve a solution.

GWP-India is facilitating SPWD, SACH and Shramik Bharti to organize a dialogue on the ground which will be the basis for developing the appropriate stakeholders' forums at the area and ward level.

Building Community Capacities on IWRM in Urban Slum Areas of Delhi

GWP-India has supported Development Alternatives (DA) to undertake a small project "Building Community Capacities on IWRM" in urban slum areas of South and South-West Districts of New Delhi. The objectives of the project are; (i) Create awareness about water resource management through community mobilization; (ii) Create a cadre of community mobilisers to communicate to communities ; raise funds to promote and sustain these activities. This project aims to develop the capacity and capability within a community to generate and sustain good health practices with respect to Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) in a participatory manner. There is a special emphasis on Household Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) systems to ensure water security for the communities. Youth and women in urban slum areas are the primary target groups under this project. The targets for intensive interventions under the project are urban slums and other poor habitations in the Delhi National Capital Region (NCR) of India.

In order to build the capacities of community mobilisers in communicating HWTS messages, customized communication packages are being designed. The packages cover concerns of safe water and the need for purification. It will build their capacities to disseminate knowledge and information on HWTS options available, access routes, benefits and constraints. It will also equip them with communication messages and tools to effectively reach the target audience.

Participation in Workshops/Conferences

Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, GWP India participated as a Panelist in a high level panel discussion on "**Future Challenges in Integrated Water Resources Management**" on 25th April, 2012 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi during Aquatech India 2012 (International Conference & Exhibition). Aquatech India is being supported by International Water Association (IWA), India Water Works Association (IWWA), Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India and Water Quality Association (WQA). The other panelists were Mr. Nilakesh Kothari, General Manager, Maintowoc, USA, Dr. T N VV Rao, Regional Head- Water Business, Underwriters Laboratories, India and Senior Advisor & Head, GIZ, India.

She explained in brief about the GWP-India's current projects in context of IWRM in three States, namely; Maharashtra, Orissa and Rajasthan. It was pointed out that Maharashtra State had made some fundamental changes in its water policy and passed critical laws and framework. On the basis of this legal framework, Godavari River Basin Corporation initiated the process of master planning of IWRM in Godavari river basin. From 2011, the GWP-India Zonal Water Partnership Coordinating Agency had been engaged by the Maharashtra Water Resources Department for preparation of

Master Plan for Integrated Water Resources Development for Wainganga river sub-basin. GWP India facilitated Stakeholders Consultations for initiating participatory negotiated approach for planning process. In Rajasthan, the GWP-India with the support of its partners reviewed the New State Water Policy (NSWP) in context of IWRM. The partners reviewed the policy and recommended that as per policy the definition and understanding of IWRM is very context specific and needs to consider local realities as per the requirements of the communities. Accordingly, GWP-India in 2010 and 2011 organized several workshops/meetings for the capacity building of Water User Groups, NGOs, Engineers, and Administrative Officers who would be involved in IWRM planning.

Strengthening of Peoples' Area Partnership (PAWP), Dhenkanal District, Orissa

In continuation of the efforts of Arun Institute of Rural Affairs, Dhenkanal District, Orissa for strengthening Peoples' Area Water Partnership, the Local Area Water Partnership (LAWP) representatives Mr. R.K Parida, Mr. C.S. Sahoo and Mr. D.K. Mohanty met and discussed with government officials of Minor Irrigation, Kamakhyanagar to take up minor structure works of water harvesting on the Indrajeet Nallah. Besides, they also met with the officials of Rural Water Supply Scheme (RWSS) to take up minor repairing work of hand pumps installed in different villages for drinking water purpose.

PAWP representatives Ms. Parvati Sethy and Mr. Golak Bihari Panigrahi met and discussed with the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation, Dhenkanal Division, Dhenkanal with a request -cum-memorandum on behalf of the farming community of the whole area.

Formation of Shivana Area Water Partnership at Mandsaur (M.P.) India

Initiatives for formation of Shivana Area Water Partnership at Mandsaur (M.P.), under the aegis of GWP-India is getting more support from stakeholders of the Area which was quite evident in the second meeting of Adhoc Steering Committee held in Mandsaur on 17th April 2012. Representatives of over a dozen institutions and organisations participated in the meeting and resolved that they would provide necessary resources and inputs to the Adhoc Steering Committee to expedite the process of formation of Shivana AWP . It was observed that formation process may be slow but it must be sound, steady and sustainable. It should also have full support of local authorities.

The meeting , chaired by Shri Narendra Singh Sipani, CMD , Micro Chemicals ,Mandsaur, listed following tasks to be completed along with finalising the structural/organisational details of the AWP.

1. Prepare a list of stakeholders in water sector in Mandsaur district and contact them to make them aware about the new initiative and its importance for their benefit .
2. Prepare a map of catchment area of Shivana River showing important towns and villages and places suitable for water conservation.

Engineer Shri Sunil Vyas , representing Water Resources Deptt, Govt. of M.P., volunteered to start the work for preparing a 20 year perspective plan for development of Shivana River catchment

area. It was decided that he will present a report in the next meeting to be held on 6th May 2012, when organisational structure of the AWP would once again be discussed.

The members present in the meeting thanked the Central Zone Water Partnership Coordinating Agency; Navadeep Voluntary Organisation, Indore & Coordinator of Kshipra Area Water Partnership, Indore for its valuable guidance to enrich and enhance the thought process on formation of Shivana AWP. It found publications of GWP, IWP and KAWP useful for its aforesaid tasks. Prominent among those who attended the meeting were Messers Sunil Vyas, Gopal Pancharia, Yogesh Gupta, Vikram Vidyarthi, Ashok Agrawal, and Shailendra Harkawat.

Awareness Generation on Water Conservation, Water Management through Media Action Group through Amritam Jalam Campaign

The Media Action Group, Rajasthan, a GWP partner has its reach in 7 States of India viz ;Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal with readership of more than 18.2 million as per Indian Readership Survey. Although the organization works on many fronts, it publishes a number of articles on the best practices and success stories on water conservation, water management, watershed development, restoration of dead water bodies, etc. and campaigning on de-silting of water reservoirs.

For more details, please log on to following links about the Media Action Group blogs (April, 2012) which advocate for water saving, water conservation, water management, etc.

<http://www.mediaactiongroup.in/?s=Amritam+Jalam+>

<http://www.mediaactiongroup.in/?s=Water+>