

India Water Partnership Monthly Report for February, 2012

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Activity-1 : Consultation Meeting on Water, Agriculture and Climate Change under Linkage of GWP-South Asia and Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN)

Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) was launched in 2009 as the first regional network under Global Adaptation Network (GAN). The Network aims at building capacity, facilitating policy, planning, access to finances and actions, and knowledge dissemination in climate change adaptation. The Regional Hub (RH) of APAN functions as a knowledge center and provides technical assistance for adaptation. The RH assists and collaborates with its sub-regional Nodes (SRN) and thematic nodes to implement the APAN activities. GWP South Asia was selected in 2011 as the APAN's Thematic Node for Water in South Asia. Mr Upali Imbulana, Regional Coordinator, GWP-SAS is the Thematic node contact person for the region and Dr Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, is India's thematic node contact.

The GWP South Asia's activities as APAN's thematic node for water envisages to:

- Lead the activities of APAN in the water sector in collaboration with Sub Regional Nodes and national implementing partners
- Assist in the knowledge generation activities of the APAN Regional Hub that serves as the regional knowledge centre for adaptation.
- Efficiently utilize and leverage GWP South Asia's comparative advantage of access to grass-roots level through Area Water Partnerships.

Keeping in view the above objectives, India Water Partnership (IWP) organized a Consultation Meeting on "**Water, Agriculture and Climate Change**" on 9th February, 2012 at Institute for Human Development, New Delhi to **identify and prioritize the major issues and challenges regarding water, agriculture and climate change at sub-regional and national level.**

Before commencement of the consultation, Dr. Veena Khanduri explained about the GWP-South Asia-APAN initiative about focus on knowledge and people with regard to increasing the resilience of water sector to climate change in South Asia and India in particular.



In the consultation meeting, senior officials Mr. A B Pandya, Director General, National Water Development Agency (Ministry of Water Resources), Mr. M S Agrawal, Adviser (Water Resources), Planning Commission, Dr. A K Singh, Dy Director General (Natural Resource Management), Ministry of Agriculture, Prof. Santosh Kumar, National Institute of Disaster Management (Ministry of Home Affairs), Government of India, Ms. Suruchi Badhwal, Associate Director, Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), Prof. Prem Vashishtha, Sharda University, Prof. V K Sharma, Indian Institute of Public Administration, Mr. P L Diwan, Head, Water Resources Division, Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi, Mr. G N Kathpalia and Ms Aditi Kapoor of Alternative Futures, New Delhi , experts on water, agriculture & climate change, research institutions & academic institutions and partner organizations from GWP-India participated. The consultation meeting was chaired by Prof. S R Hashim, President, IWP, former member, Planning Commission, Government of India. A report on the consultation meeting prepared by IWP was sent to the Regional Office on 15th February, 2012.

Activity-2 : Formation of Area Water Partnership namely “Shivana Area Water Partnership (AWP)” in Madsaur Town, Madhya Pradesh

In continuation to the India Water Partnership efforts for formation of **“Shivana Area Water Partnership” in Madsaur Town, Madhya Pradesh**, Mr. Ravindra Shukla, Coordinator of Central Zone Water Partnership made a visit to Madsaur town on 9th February, 2012 and held meetings with the various stakeholders and local community. In the meeting it was felt that the local community or even Administrators/policy makers do not have much idea about the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) as IWRM is not publicized or practices in the area.



Initiation for formation of Shivana AWP reported in Local Daily News Paper of Mandsaur, dated 9th Feb, 2012

In the meetings, the local community was informed that the river Shivana is polluting fast and if due care is not taken in time it would lead to health hazards for the human being and animals. This is the reason IWP has taken the initiative of forming Shivana AWP so that attention of the government is drawn to make the Shivana river pollution free and also rejuvenate it, with the help of stakeholders, volunteers and the community. The people of the area have very good hope from the Shivana AWP.

Activity-3: Consolidating & Broadening Water-action of Parimal Area Water Partnership in Dhenkanal District of Odisha

PAWP which was formed in June 2010 with the initiative of IWP and support of coordinating agency AIRA has been registered as a trust in February 2012 with the name as "Peoples Area Water Partnership, Kamakshyanagar, Dhenkanal".

In the recently held general election of the 3 tier Panchyati Raj Institutions in Orissa, members of Micro Area Water Partnership (MAWP) and Local Area Water Partnership (LAWP) under PAWP actively participated in the election. During the campaigns, members of LAWP and MAWP strongly put their demands to maintain the natural resources in the villages falling under PAWP.

As new elected representatives (men & women) have taken over the charge of offices at the Gram Panchayat and Block Panchayat level, the PAWP shall be seeking their cooperation for their support to take up PAWP's issues at appropriate level for addressing the needs of water and natural resources at local level. A sensitization-cum-consultation workshop is planned to be organized during March-2012 for newly elected PRI members.

Activity-4 : Participation in Workshops, Seminars, Meetings

4.1 Panel Discussion "Managing Water for Scarcity" at Australian High Commission

On the invitation of Australian High Commissioner H.E. Mr. Peter Varghese AO, Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP participated in the above panel discussion on 1st February, 2012.

The Panel discussion brought together leading minds on how this precious resource can best be managed. Discussions centred on the importance of setting and understanding a water reform agenda, the challenges in implementing water reform and managing water entitlements, and the impact of climate change on scarce water resources. Panel speakers included ; (i) Dr Don Blackmore (AM), Former Chief Executive of the Murray Darling Basin Commission and Adviser to the World Bank and United Nations; (ii) Mr. Mike Rann, Former Premier of South Australia, Chair of The Climate Group's States and Regions Network ; (iii) Dr Subho Banerjee, Deputy Secretary, Adaptation, International and Regulatory Group, Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency; and (iv) Dr. Alok K Sikka, Technical Expert, Watershed Development, National Rainfed Area, Authority, Planning Commission, Government of India.

4.2 Meeting to discuss setting-up of an India Water Hub

On the invitation of Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India, Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary attended a meeting at the Ministry's Conference Room on 13th February, 2012. The meeting was called by the Ministry to discuss setting-up of an India Water Hub with the aim of networking with various stakeholders in the water sector

and to act as a knowledge highway so as to aid the water governance in the country. This meeting was chaired by the Secretary (Water Resources), Government of India.

In the meeting the Mr. Srikanta Panda, Director, E-gov/Vig.), Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India made a presentation on the concept of India Water Hub and held discussions on the institutional framework. During discussions participants provided their views on institutional framework, governance, capacity building and Knowledge generation and dissemination.

4.3 Dialogue to discuss Draft National Water Policy-2012

The Draft National Water Policy (DNWP) of India-2012 has been brought out and the same was released by the Government on 31st January, 2012. After release, the DNWP has been posted on the Ministry's website and the Ministry of Water Resources invited suggestions/comments from all (Policy makers/ Scientists/ Experts/ NGOs, etc.) by 29th February, 2012.

In this regard, IWP Partner; Neer Foundation organized a dialogue on 18th February, 2012 at Meerut to discuss the DNWP which was attended by experts, farmers and officials of Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India. Mr. Sompal Shastri, former Minister of Water Resources, Government of India was the Chief Guest. The meeting was convened by Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, India Water Partnership.



Mr. Raman Kant, Mr. Sompal Shashtri, Mr Rakesh Tikait and Dr. Veena Khanduri in the dialogue

Initiating the discussion, Mr.Raman Kant, Director Neer Foundation said that since 1986 it is the third time in 2012 that the Indian Government has prepared this draft National Water Policy 2012 towards ensuring proper water management and its proper conservation. The first water policy of India was prepared in 1986 and the second in 2002. Due to few gaps in the policy, over-exploitation of ground water increased resulting in continuous declination in ground water level and drying of rivers and streams.

Dr. Veena Khanduri said that a lot of efforts have been made by Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) towards drafting this policy. Before preparing the draft, discussions were organized with experts and other stakeholders in different regions across the country.

Dr. Khanduri also added that over-exploitation and pollution of water is a serious problem. Increasing population, urbanization and changing weather is escalating the problem further. Hence NWP should put highest emphasis on a time bound implementation of reform measures accepted for years but not implemented so far like establishment of basin organizations, multidisciplinary organizations, participatory management, etc.

Ex-Cabinet Minister Mr. Sompal Shastri added to the discussion mentioned about institutional arrangements under clause 13.4 and said that Drinking water supplies i.e. in urban areas need to be considered under this provision. Private sector participation in irrigation sector especially in ground water irrigation will be a chaos and government needs to be cautious while promoting private sector participation in irrigation sector.

National spokesperson of Bharatiya Kisan Union, Mr Rakesh Tikait said that suggestions from farmers should also be considered in this policy. Government should provide a platform to the farmers so that they can also share their views towards improvement in the policy. Small check dams should be constructed over small rainfed rivers.

The gaps identified in the DNWP on the following components:

- (i) Need for Water Framework Law;
- (ii) Uses of water;
- (iii) Water pricing;
- (iv) Institutional arrangements

It is worthwhile reporting that Prof. S R Hashim, President, IWP, Mr. S C Jain, IWP Board Member & Joint Secretary, Mr. Anil D Mohile, former IWP Board Member (former Chairman, Central Water Commission) are the members of Drafting Committee of National Water Policy-2012 among the others.

Activity-5 : Suggestions on Draft National Water Policy (DNWP)-2012 by GWP India

The Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India had sought comments/ suggestions from all, on the Draft National Water Policy (DNWP) by 29th February, 2012. Accordingly, IWP sent a mail to all its network partners along with the DNWP inviting their comments/suggestions. On receipt, a consolidated report was prepared by IWP containing comments and suggestions received from the network partners were sent to the Ministry.