

## India Water Partnership (GWP-India) Report for March, 2013

### I. Celebration of World Water Day – 2013

India Water Partnership (GWP-India) celebrated the World Water Day-2013 in different parts of the country with the support of its network partners. Brief report on the same is given below.

#### 1.1 Celebration of World Water Day in Jamui District, Bihar

Society for Watershed and Rural Development (SWARD), Bihar, a partner organization of India water Partnership( GWP-India),with the support of GWP-India celebrated the World Water Day in Jamui district of Bihar. On this occasion, an awareness rally was organized at FariyatadihVilagePanchayat of Chakai block.

Participants of rally comprised mainly students of different schools of villagesnamely Madhupur, Kailidih, Meghni, Sundartanr alongwith volunteers of different Farmers Clubs of villages as well as women SHGs. There were **more than 220 school children**. The total number of participants swelled over **500** by the culmination of time of rally.



This kind of awareness rally was a new experience to the villagers. The issue of water was part of the “*Felt needs*” of the community. Idea of co-operationparticipation and prospects of becoming self sufficient in water through conservation of water, rain water harvesting and availability of safe water for drinking was the main issue of discussion among the villagers and students. The community felt that something very relevant and apt issue has been brought into the community.

Mr. Kishore Jaiswal, Director of the Program in his inaugural address said that year 2013 is the International Year of Water Cooperation. It is only possible when we all take collective responsibility to manage our water resources. He also said that it is our social responsibility and the people should join hands to conserve their water and natural resources through **Shramdan**(voluntary labour contribution).

School children gathered in the campus of Welfare school, Madhupur, FariyatadihPanchayat. The rally was flagged off by Director of the Program, Mr. Kishore Jaiswal. Field staff M/s NareshMurmu, Mani Pujhar, BabluSoren, BirbalYadav, Agriculture Expert, Mr Sandeep Kumar and block co-ordinator Mr. Rajendra Prasad were the key staff who contributed for success of rally.

Many of local journalists, PRI members, Para Teachers joined the rally in thecourse while moving into different villages.



round and chanted slogans with all.

Mr. Kishore Jaiswal had very diligently introduced the subject among the community through the leaders of Community Based Organizations like Farmers Clubs and women SHGs as well as para teachers of different schools. Field animators and staff of SWARD had pursued the issue at various intervals. School Children were enthused to make placards and written different slogans in the preparatory phase. They were equally enthused while taking the

## 1.2 Celebration of World Water Day in Warangal District, Andhra Pradesh

To mark the United Nation's World Water Day, the GWP-India partner **Safe Water Network** along with MARI, a local NGO organized the World Water Day-2013 on 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at village Jookal, 55 km from Warangal district, Andhra Pradesh. The main focus on the World Water Day was to discuss how government, NGOs and the private sector organizations can work together to overcome the obstacles to local ownership and management of decentralized water systems. This event was supported by the India Water Partnership (GWP-India), a society managing the country programs under the support of Global Water Partnership. Over 150 people participated in the event from 23 villages of Warangal district.



The program provided a platform for Warangal district officials, village operators, local NGOs, community leaders and Safe Water Network's team to present examples of how collaboration leads to greater improvements on the health and livelihoods of rural people of which many are living in extreme poverty.

Safe Water Network works with MARI (local NGO) in Warangal District is working to develop sustainable models for locally owned and operated safe water stations in areas where the local water sources are contaminated with fluoride and other dissolved salts. One such locally owned safe water station is in Jookal, where the event was held.

Mr. P. Santosh, President of the Jookal Safe Water Committee, talked about the challenges and rewards of making a commitment to own and operate their community water station. "We are proud to own one of the best managed safe water stations in the district," said Mr.Santosh. This has been made possible by the active involvement of all sections of the village and the training and support from MARI and Safe Water Network.

Several officials and local leaders also addressed the group. Mr Uppalayya, the Mandal Revenue Officer for Chityal, commended the efforts of the community and termed the availability of high quality water at such affordable rates a 'revolution.'

Many speakers addressed the importance of using safe water for improved health. Mr. Shiva KameshwarRao, senior Geologist with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Department, explained the environmental dimensions linked to availability of freshwater, and actively engaged the children who were present, acknowledging their important role in encouraging wider use of safe water, Ms. Hymavathi, Special Officer, Jookal, discussed the importance of safe water in keeping good health.

Dr. Somnath Bandyopadhyay, Safe Water Network's Chief Strategy Officer discussed the current research conducted at Safe Water Network field initiatives. He also said that it is important to assess the current status of the water quality and related public health issues throughout the district.

### 1.3 Celebration of World Water Day at Dhenkanal District, Orissa



Arun Institute of Rural Affairs with the support of GWP-India organized World Water Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2013 at Karamul High School in Gondia block of Dhenkanal district, Orissa on 22<sup>nd</sup> March-2013. More than 200 students both boys & girls, teachers and SHG members participated and marched the streets with placards on their hands indicating 'save water', 'save our planet' with slogans in their attempt to educate & aware the community members on use of precious water. A meeting was also

conducted to make aware the people on importance of the day.

### 1.4 World Water Celebration in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

GWP-India South Zone Water Partnership Coordinating Agency, DHAN Foundation celebrated World Water Day at Theni district, Andhra Pradesh. The activities undertaken were organizing campaigns, voluntary labour contribution (Shramdan), sensitizing own staff on the importance of water as a common good and necessity as well as responsibility of each one of them to protect them from getting extinct and/or deteriorating.

Save Vaigai river campaign was organized at four places from where the Vaigai river passes. The Vaigai river is main source of livelihoods of more than 5 lakh farmers in its delta and also source of drinking water supply to Madurai corporation besides many municipalities and villages. This river in the recent past got into the evils of pollution by untreated industrial wastes, sand mining, water sharing conflicts and so on.

The campaign (an awareness programme on preservation of River Vaigai) involved a rally by women and farmer leaders, clean up drive in the river Vaigai by free physical labour. The

members of government department from Water resources, Revenue, Police, PanchayatiRaj took part in the campaign and shared their felicitations. The resolutions made by the people were sent to the district administration to inform the State government accordingly. The places where the campaign was organized were Kadamalaikundu at Theni district, Nilakottai at Dindugal district, Arapalaiyam at Madurai district and Paramakudi at Ramnad district.

DHAN Foundation also organized World Water Day at Indian Social Institute, Bangalore and invited 117 number of its staff working across 15 districts in South India viz. Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka to participate a day long deliberations and made pledge to motivate the poor community to access safe drinking water, hygiene and sanitation. Mr.A.Gurunathan, Chief Executive of DHAN Vayalagam (Tank) programme **shared the role of Global Water Partnership and India Water Partnership on Integrated Water Resources Management.**

Ms.Camillus Juliana, Team Leader who spearheads Health interventions of DHAN Foundation highlighted the connection between health and water in terms of water borne diseases, causes and effects. Mr.K.VittalRao, Programme Leader from Adilabad of DHAN Foundation mentioned the plights of tribals for accessing safe drinking water and living in poor sanitation with huge threats to malaria and other epidemics. At the end of the day, each of the members present in the meeting vowed to help the community with whom they work so that the community can get enough water based livelihood opportunities and entitlements.

### 1.5 Celebration of World Water Day at New Delhi and Bundelkhand

AROH Foundation, the Host Institution of GWP-India celebrated World Water Day on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2013 at New Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. Following are the salient features of the celebration:

#### Poster making and Slogan writing competition at TERI University, New Delhi

On occasion of World Water Day-2013, ArohFoundation in collaboration with GWP-India and WAPCOS Ltd organized a poster making and slogan writing competition at TERI University, New Delhi. Mr. S K Ahuja, Senior General Manager (Retd.), WAPCOS Ltd. was the Chief Guest and Dr.VeenaKhanduri, Executive Secretary, GWP-India and



Ms. Poona Bala, renowned Sociologist were the jury members. Students from the TERI University and other schools like Amity and Delhi Public School participated in the competition. Cash prizes were awarded to the best submissions and certificate of participation were given to all.

A slogan writing contest, organized on Facebook, two weeks prior to water day was also showcased at this event. Top 10 entries with the maximum “likes” on Facebook were given special recognition. This online competition created a lot of excitement among students and generated a lot of buzz for the event.

### Water Awareness Rally at Lalitpur, Bundelkhand

Water awareness rally was organized at the AROH Foundation District Centre, Lalitpur on 22 March, 2013. Beneficiaries of the AROH-Aajeevika project gathered at the famous TubainMaidan at 8 AM sharp with relevant materials related to the awareness program. Mr K.C. Swarnkar, Chief Development Officer (CDO) of Lalitpur was the Chief Guest and Mr. S N Tiwari, District Development Officer (DDO) was the Guest of Honour.



In his Inaugural Address, Mr K.C. Swarnkar told about the importance of water and the necessity of water conservation and sanitation. After the speech by the distinguished guest, the rally got flagged off by 9:45 AM.



As the saying goes, ‘seeing is believing’, a bullock cart loaded with two big earthen pots with a hand pump was driven around to bring the attention of passers and villagers. One of the beneficiary dressed as a distraught farmer rode on the bullock cart to explain the hurdles the farmers face due to water crunch. Beneficiaries walked by raising slogans following the cart. They also carried placards with messages written on importance of

water. The rally then progressed towards the main market and reached GhantagharChowk. On reaching the Chowk, a 15 minute humorous Skit was performed by the beneficiaries to pull the crowd so that the message of the day could reach every one’s ears. The rally then moved through the SavarkarChowk and then to Azad Chowk. At both the intersections beneficiaries stopped over for 5 minutes to raise awareness among the local community through slogans like **“Jahaan hogi jalki barbadi.....wahaan khatam hogi aabadi”**, **“Jal hi Jivan hay”**, **“ Don’t waste it just taste it”**, **“put a stop to every drop”** and **“save water, it will save you later”**. The program left a deep impact on the minds of the onlookers.

## **1.6 Celebration of World Water Day at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh**

In continuation of efforts put in by Society for Promotion of Waste Lands Development (a network partner of GWP-India) and its associate member SAACH and other stakeholders in forming the Jajmau Area Water Partnership to take up the issue of Ganga river cleaning and prevention of pollution from the past 8 months, the Nagar ParshadMahasabha was constituted in February, 2013 with the support of Jajmau Area Water Partnership.

The creation of Nagar ParshadMahasabha under the auspices of Jajmau Area Water Partnership was felt by the stakeholders to have dialogue with local self Government, civil society organizations and State Govt. Officials.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2013, the World Water Day was celebrated by Jajmau Area Water Partnership and series of programs were organized on bank of the river Ganga in Kanpur City with the collaboration of Ganga Alliance, Kanpur and Nagar ParshadMahasabha. As a preliminary effort of all the stakeholders of Jajmau Area Water Partnership, a base of Civil Society – Urban Local Bodies Alliance has been created to seek accountability from the State Govt. and Central Govt. for Ganga river cleaning and prevention of pollution.

## **1.7 Celebration of World Water Day at Mathanpala village, Titlagada Block of Bolangir District, Orissa**

Udyama, a network partner of GWP-India organized World Water Day at Mathanpala village, Titlagada Block of Bolangir District, Orissa on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2013.

Titlagada Block of Bolangir district is one of the most water stress areas followed by reeling under climatic chaos. Temperature hike, drinking water shortage, recurrent drought leading to affecting food production and causing large impact on livelihoods. Exposed rocks, huge uplands, eroded terrain are accelerating serious environmental degradation and has great impact on life and livelihoods. Distress migration and distress sale of livestock is one of the common phenomena in this area despite there are several pro-people programs led by government and non governments.

To mark this occasion, a small rally moved around the village with substantial numbers of women SHG members along with youths and children. The rally was started from Kantapada to Mathanpalabasthi (hamlet) with slogans and singing local songs followed by cleaning of few villages.

## **II. Preparation for organizing two side events of GWP-South Asia during India Water Week-2013**

GWP-India Secretariat had done rigorous preparations for organizing two side events of GWP-South Asia during India Water Week-2013 (IWW-2013). The major preparatory works included; (a) continuous liaison and communication with Organizing Secretariat, IWW-2013; (b) communication with Regional Office, GWP-South Asia and all the CWPs of GWP-SAS; (c) Sending invitation letters, finalizing the program and concept note; (d) inviting Minister of

Water Resources, Secretary, Special Secretary, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources; (e) attending various meetings with Organizing Secretariat for smooth conduct of these events and also for registration fee waiver for GWP-South Asia participants and Indian participants; (f) Various meetings with President, IWP and Senior officials of WAPCOS Ltd. and IWP Host Institution; (g) identifying panellists, speakers and confirming their participation through e-mail and telephone; (h) printing of literatures for distribution to the participants; (i) preparation of banners, etc.

### **III. Participation in Meetings, Seminars, Conferences, Workshops, etc.**

#### **3.1 Participation in Core Group Meeting of India Water Week-2013**

The Core Group Meeting of India Water Week-2013 was held on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at Ministry of Water Resources, Govt. of India under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, GWP-India participated in the meeting as a member of core group. The other core group members present were Joint Secretary (Administration), Ministry of Water Resources, Mr. M. E. Haque, Member (Retd); Central Water Commission, Mr. Praveen K Mittal, Joint Director, FICCI and Mr. A. B. Pandya, Organizing Secretary, IWW-2013 & Director General, NWDA. In the meeting matters / issues were discussed in connection with organizing the India Water Week-2013 and it was decided that Dr. Mihir Shah, Member Planning Commission may be requested for Keynote Address for plenary Session and Hon. able Minister of Water Resources may be requested to preside over this session.

#### **3.2 GWP South Asia and Southeast Asia Inter-regional Consultation Meeting on GWP Strategy 2014 –2020 on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 and Asia Water Week-2013 organized by ADB from 13-15<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at Manila, Philippines**

On the invitation of Regional Office, GWP South Asia and ADB, Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, GWP-India participated in GWP South and Southeast Asia Inter-regional Consultation Meeting on GWP Strategy 2014 –2020 on 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 and Asia Water Week-2013 organized by ADB from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at Manila, Philippines. Dr. K. Vijayalakshmi, RC member, India also participated in both the events.

#### **3.3 Participation of GWP-India in Expert Group Meeting on Improving Access to Water, Sanitation and Energy Services in Asia and the Pacific, by addressing the Water-Food Energy nexus, 20-22 March 2013 at Bangkok, Thailand - jointly organized by ESCAP and FAO**

At the instance of Regional Office, GWP-South Asia, GWP-India nominated two senior officials from WAPCOS Ltd. (the Secretariat of GWP-India) to participate and make active deliberation in the above meeting. Accordingly, Ms. W. Dineshwori Devi, Chief (Civil), Hydro-Power Division, WAPCOS and Er. Sumit Mittal, Project Manager, WAPCOS Regional Office – Chandigarh participated in the meeting. On completion of the meeting, both the officials have submitted the detailed back to office note. Before going to Bangkok, both the officials were briefed about their role in the meeting by Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, GWP-India.

During group discussion on Aral Sea Basin, Ms. W. Dineshwori Devi moderated and presented group discussion summary with the support of group members.

### **3.4 Participation in 5<sup>th</sup> & Final Meeting of the Technical Committee of India Water Week-2013 on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2013**

As a member of Technical Committee of India Water Week-2013, Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, GWP-India participated in the above meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at Central Water Commission, New Delhi. The agenda discussed in the meeting were; (a) conducting seminar sessions; panel discussion session; brainstorming sessions; (b) modus operandi for conducting side events (this included GWP-South Asia's gender session and Regional Day of South Asia); (c) Finalizations of Ministers/Dignitaries to be invited for Inaugural as well as Concluding Sessions; (d) holding press conferences, etc.

### **IV. WAPCOS Ltd. – The Secretariat of GWP-India received the 44<sup>th</sup> National Export Award for Excellence in EPO Services – 2011-2012**

WAPCOS Ltd. – the Secretariat of GWP-India has been conferred with **44<sup>th</sup> National Export Award** for "**Excellence in EPO Services – 2011-2012**". This award is instituted by Engineering Export Promotion Council, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India for outstanding export performance. The award was presented to Dr. R K Gupta, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, WAPCOS Ltd. & President, GWP-India by Mr. Martin Kuba, Hon'ble Minister of Trade & Industry, the Czech Republic during Award presentation ceremony held on 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at Mumbai.

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