



India Water Partnership (GWP-India) Report for June, 2013

I. Activities undertaken by People's Area Water Partnership (PAWP) in Dhenkanal District, Odisha.

Arun Institute of Rural Affairs (AIRA) the co-ordinating agency of PAWP with the support of India Water Partnership undertaken following activities in the month of June, 2013:

(i) **Dialogue sessions with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) /other stake holders on water inclusive of water regulators**

Two dialogue sessions were organized at Manitri and Rainrusinghapur on 06/06/13 and 15/06/13 respectively. Mr. Iswar Ch. Panda welcomed the participants on behalf of GWP-India and AIRA. Mr. Golak Bihari Panigrahi (Asst. Director, AIRA) narrated the objectives and agenda of the session.

Mr. R. Sethy, Head, Local Area Water Partnership from Rainrusinghapur, raised the issue of poor maintenance of the systems of Dandadhar Irrigation Project. He said that 60 villages in the command area and another 60 villages downstream of Ramial river are not getting their due share/benefits of farm-water. These peasant dominated village public should have been agriculturally and economically advanced with right use of the project potential. He urged to go for additional structural improvement on the distributory mechanism/canal systems of the project.

Mr. G. S. Das, Head, Local Area Water Partnership of Manitri raised the cases of the 3 sub-branches of Ramial river at Kangeilo, Jagannathpur and Pipala. These branching out channels have remained a bane for the villages, especially to the farming communities when they are in full flow during rainy season. As a safe guard there have been petitions and public urges for construction of small bridges and stone bonding to which the authorities have not yet responded positively.

Mr. B.K.Sahoo, from Kadua-Bhagirathpur Local Area Water Partnership presented the case of Kalavila and Chadeichhada nallah (drain). The huge potential of water flow in the 2 streams just goes waste when drained into the Ramial without any irrigation structure on these streams. A few local farmers only use a bit of the water through raw manual mechanism of lifting water to their small crop patches on their own arrangement. Mr. K. Behera expressed his concern over the apathy of the concerned officials who have so far avoided such potential irrigation sources for coverage under any plan.

Mr. A. Rath, summarized the key points of the event and requested the members to suggest future course of action for the PAWP.

In the dialogue, decision was taken to undertake following activities in the coming months:

- Contacting agriculture officials and discussing with them about sharing of water and open space, additional plans for proper recharging of ground water, creating additional water sources for the communities in the periphery.
- Leading delegates of farmers/Local Area Water Partnership members to the district and sub-district agriculture officials for seasonal farm seeds and other support.

(ii) **Liaison with networks and organizations working on water, sanitation/water quality and Natural Resource sector**

A meeting was organized on 12/06/2013 with the local community leaders of villages Kateni, Upar Taila, Julang and Tumusinga under the umbrella organization called Zilla Chasa O Paribesh Surakshya Parishad, Dhenkanal. In the meeting a detailed discussion was held on the problems faced by the farmers concerning mal-functioning of irrigation machines, shortage of seeds and manures provided by the Agriculture Department and also problems faced by the people under PAWP for drinking water and sanitation. A team consisting of the members of Zilla Chasa O Paribesh Surakshya Parishad and PAWP was constituted to visit the District Agriculture Office and Rural Water & Sanitation Office for submission of memorandum to resolve the issues pertaining to agriculture, water and sanitation.

II. Activities undertaken by South Zone Water Partnership (SZWP)

Development of Humane Action (DHAN) Foundation, the co-ordinating agency of South Zone Water Partnership (SZWP) undertook the following two activities in the month of June, 2013:

(i) Follow-up of the Farmer Stakeholder's Dialogue on "Inland Fisheries and Policy Implications "

In continuation to the Farmer Stakeholder's Dialogue on "Inland Fisheries and Policy Implications" organized by DHAN Foundation on 4th of May, 2013 at Madurai, SZWP coordinator shared the resolution passed in the dialogue with Fishery Department of Government of Tamil Nadu and Odisha Tribal Livelihood Empowerment Programme (OTELP), Government of Odisha. The Policy brief from the consultation is being prepared for print and has been considered for sharing with policy makers. In Odisha, DHAN Foundation proposes to develop Inland Fishery Promotion for 150 fresh water small ponds involving tribal women. OTELP has in principle accepted the proposal and has expressed willingness to support.

(ii) Installation of Bio-sand Filters

DHAN Foundation has taken-up improved technique viz. Bio-Sand Filter as a cost effective and efficient household water filtering method to the Tank Associations (Water Users Association) in Madurai, Pudukottai and Kanchipuram districts of Tamil Nadu. Nearly 130 Bio-sand filters have been installed to benefit 130 households which has made them to have access to safe drinking water. Also “**Save the Children-India**”, Andhra Pradesh Unit wanted DHAN Foundation to help them to know about the Bio Sand Filters fabrication and installation in order to support Internally Displaced Children. Hence the DHAN Foundation is planning to conduct orientation training to the Save the Children Team in Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh.

III. Activities undertaken under Jajmau Area Water Partnership at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

3.1 Project Coordination Committee Meeting

India Water Partnership (GWP-India) has been putting efforts to make Ganga river pollution free through Jajmau Area Water Partnership which is under formation. GWP-India partner organization; Society for Promotion of Wastelands (SPWD) is undertaking this activity with the support from its sub-partner of Society for Action in Community Health (SACH). In this regard, SPWD along with SACH organized a meeting of Project Coordination Committee on 27th June, 2013 at New Delhi. Outcomes of the meeting are as follows:

- (i) It was decided that a process of interaction with various tannery associations in Kanpur, will start in month of July 2013. At the same time interaction will also be done with various government stakeholders like State Pollution Control Board, Central Pollution Control Board, Department of Urban Development – Govt. of Uttar Pradesh to understand their views to find out technical solution to stop the waste water flowing out from the tanneries and being released in the Ganga river.
- (ii) It was also decided that contacts will be made with Ganga river activists in Delhi, Vrindavan, Mathura and Agra (for Yamuna); Mirzapur, Allahabad and Varanasi (for Ganga) to set up Area Water Partnerships in these cities. It is hoped to organize initial meetings in all these cities by the end of August 2013.
- (iii) The Committee members were informed that draft of an information brochure on- **Causes of Ganga Pollution-Case Study of Kanpur** has been finalized. It will be disseminated in Kanpur and other cities to educate all on the real challenges of Ganga river pollution.

3.2 Meeting of Jajmau Area Water Partnership (AWP) members with Tannery Association

Members of Jajmau AWP Kanpur met with the owners and of Tannery Industry in Kanpur and discussed the issues regarding the Effluent Treatment Plant used by the Tannery Industries. Following are findings of the meeting.

- The 36 mld - Dutch UASB technology based Common Effluent Treatment Plant was set up in 1995 and is now obsolete.
- The tannery association would like this plant to be replaced by the Italian Technology. The State government has also expressed agreement for this solution.
- The tannery owners are totally opposed to any plans of shifting the tanneries to elsewhere in Uttar Pradesh.
- More discussions are being organized with the Department of Urban Development, Govt. of Uttar Pradesh to prepare the modalities of setting up this plant.
- The current plant is managed by the Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam, which has not been able to do an effective job.
- The government wants to withdraw from its responsibility and would like that the plant be set up under the PPP model.
- The Jajmau AWP has decided to mobilize various stakeholders in Kanpur to contribute to decision making on this critical issue.

IV. Research Study on “Policy Initiative on Ground Water Legislation in the Eastern States of India” - By Eastern Zone Water Partnership

With the support of G, National Institute for Development, the co-ordinating agency of Eastern Zone Water Partnership is undertaking a study on **“Policy Initiative on Ground Water Legislation in the Eastern States of India”**.

This study which began in in March, 2013 and is expected to be completed by August, 2013. This initiative is aimed at documenting the ground water situation in the eastern states of the country as well as to study the gaps in the Ground Water Legislations of these states. Gathering of information from secondary sources on the ground water situation and ground water legislation of West Bengal was done in May and now collection of documents on the ground water situation of Bihar has been completed.

Some of the important findings of Bihar are:

- Bihar is blessed with un-replenishable ground water reserve of 29.19 BCM and the net ground water availability stands at 27.42 BCM. The annual draft stands at 10.77 BCM.
- The stage of ground water development in Bihar is 39% as against the national average of 58%.
- Bihar does not have any over exploited, critical or semi-critical blocks. Ground water user maps are available for all 38 districts of Bihar.

- As many as 21 districts in Bihar have the problem of iron contamination. While parts of nine districts are affected by fluoride, and as many as 15 districts have the problem of Arsenic in different areas. Parts of 9 districts are affected by Nitrate contamination.
- One of the areas of concern for the Bihar Groundwater (Regulation and Control of Development and Management) Legislation, 2006 is that it does not have any provisions for the participatory ground water governance, or decentralization of authority for the regulation and management of ground water.

V. Process for formation of Middle Wainganga Area Water Partnership, Maharashtra State

Wainganga is the largest sub-basin of Godavari river which occupies an area of 36,306 km². The basin has unique physical, social and political features. It is a region with the highest forest cover in the State of Maharashtra. However, the region is affected by Naxalism and suffers from a developmental backlog despite the availability of natural resources. The water users in Wainganga river sub basin face many challenges to manage their water resources. Flooding has been a major problem in the past. Failure of agriculture has contributed to the rise of farmers' suicides in Vidarbha region. Untreated waste water from Nagpur city is released in Wainganga from its tributaries, such as Kanhan is polluting surface water and groundwater.

Keeping the above issues in view, GWP-India decided to form an Area Water Partnership which can address the urgent issues of the local communities living in and around Wainganga river sub-basin. For this purpose, the GWP-India has engaged Gomukh Trust, the co-ordinating agency of West Zone Water Partnership which is already involved in preparation of Integrated Water Resources Development and Management Plan for Wainganga river sub-basin. Accordingly, the formation of Middle Wainganga Area Water Partnership (AWP) by the Gomukh Trust has started in 2013.

In the month of June, 2013, the Gomukh Trust has undertaken the following activities:

Activity-1: First Meeting of Wainganga AWP

The first meeting of Wainganga AWP was held on 14th June, 2013. In the meeting discussions were held on the recently tenders issued by the State Govt. for fishery development in the region. The members decided to prepare a plan for fishery development to ensure protection of rights of the local fisherman in the process. The plan will be shared with the villagers to get their consent. The meeting was attended by Dr. Harishchandra Borkar of Zadiboli Sahitya Mandal, Mr. Vilas Bhongade of Gosikhurd Sangharsh Samiti, Dr. Amol Padwad of Bhandara Nisarga va Sanskruti Abhyas Mandal and Mr. Manohar Bhrushundi, Retd. Deputy, Director (Fishery Department), Govt. of Maharashtra.

Activity-2: Assessment of status of drinking water supply and sanitation-

The team of Waingangā AWP collected data related to drinking water and sanitation from 8 Municipal Councils of the basin area of Waingangā river. The data pertained to the capacity of pumping station, filtration tank capacity, distribution tanks, number of individual and public connections for water supply, manpower involved in the work, water quality monitoring etc. Following observations have been made by the team:

- At many places the installed capacity of the system is less than the required amount of water to be supplied. For instance, at Bhandara the filtration tank capacity is 9 (Million Litres per Day) MLD, whereas the required capacity is 14 MLD.
- The distribution tanks have the capacity of 5.5 MLD. So the water supplied to the region is 55 (Litres per capita per day) lpcd instead of 140 lpcd.
- The water quality testing is done by the District Health Laboratory. The testing report is not maintained sample wise but a conclusive mention is that the appropriateness of the sample is recorded in the report.

Activity-3: Meeting with villagers of Khamba in Sakoli Tahsil of Bhandara district on

The Wainganga AWP team visited Khamba village to discuss about the drinking water problems prevalent in the village. This village faces acute drinking water problem as the hand pumps are the only source of water, but are defunct and remain in non-working condition for long. In this regard, a meeting was conducted by the AWP team with the villagers to explore other solutions like providing open wells. The villagers also requested for assistance in setting-up public wells in the village.



Wainganga AWP members having meeting with the villagers of Khamba

Activity-4: Rally of school children to understand the impact of traditional and modern drainage system

A Prabhat-pheri (morning rally) of the students of Wainganga Vidyalaya, Paoni was organized, on the issue of traditional and modern drainage of the Pauni village. Mr. Raju Dikshit and Mr. Prabhakar Panke coordinated the rally. The rally visited two tanks, namely Balsamudra and Kurhada, where the waste water of Pauni village is released. They also visited the Jagannath Stoop on the banks of Balsamudra tank. In the traditional system of drainage, sewage water is not released in the Wainganga River. Following were the observation made:

- Due to change in land use patterns of Pauni village, some of the waste water is discharged into Wainganga River.
- Due to encroachments on the banks of the Balsamudra tank, there has been the reduction in the tank size.

VI. Participation in the Meetings/Seminars

6.1 Meeting of the Core Committee of India Water Week – 13th June, 2013

As a member of Core Committee of India Water Week, Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, GWP-India attended the meeting of India Water Week at Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India on **13th June, 2013**. The meeting was convened under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources to seek views of the Core Committee members for organizing India Water Week-2014.

6.2 Seminar on “Appropriate irrigation solutions for farmer livelihoods in India” – 14th June, 2013

A seminar on “**Appropriate Irrigation Solutions for Farmers Livelihoods in India**” was hosted by International Development Enterprises India (IDEI) and Global Institute For Tomorrow (GIFT) at New Delhi on **14th June, 2013**. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary (GWP-India) and Ms. Pritha Bhattacharya Research Associate, (GWP-India) attended the seminar .

Twenty Three (23) participants of the seminar from 10 global companies were trained by GIFT to come up with solution for IDEI on creating irrigation solutions for small scale farmers. The participants were earlier taken to villages of North India to get an idea about the challenges faced by small farmers to secure irrigation for their crops. Based on field visits and interactions with local farmers, the team came up with solutions and made recommendations for IDEI on ways to leverage its existing

resources and review its organisational structure to reach more farmers effectively. The group also submitted a business plan for profit enterprise for IDEI to promote and distribute water lifting devices (including IDEI's flagship treadle pump), to attract capital and further promote the sales growth of irrigation solutions across India. Mr. Amitabha Sadangi, entrepreneur and Founder CEO of IDEI also shared his views and vision of IDEI.

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