

GWP India Monthly Report for May, 2012
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(i) Preparatory work for Multi Stakeholder Consultation on Ground Water Legislation in Eastern Zonal Water Partnership States

With the ever increasing demand for water and the ensuing climatic uncertainties ground water has assumed more prominence than ever. Ground water is key to water security of a region. There have been efforts by government of India to facilitate the state governments (as water is a state subject) for ground water legislation since 1970s. To facilitate this, model ground water bills have been developed and circulated by government of India in 1970,1994, 1996 and 2005. Recently, Govt of India has come out with yet another Model bill to facilitate effective GW legislations in the states. This model bill takes into account many concerns and is a fairly balanced bill for effective and sustainable management of ground water. But, now there is an tendency on the parts of the State governments to come out with soft bills to leverage space to accommodate the demand from the industries and corporate houses. For example, the State of Odisha has made some hasty attempts to pass a GW Bill based on old model bills that does not address the legal dimensions. Similarly the State government of Bihar is also coming out with Ground water Bills. Other states in the Eastern Zonal Water Partnership like Jharkhand and West Bengal are in different stages of ground water legislation. Hence this is the right time for intervention by water partnerships to influence the legislation so that the issues of equity (as GW is attached to land rights, landless people do not have a mechanism to access ground water), sustainability and water security.

Keeping this objective in mind the Eastern Zonal Water Partnership with the support of India Water Partnership (GWP-India) is organizing a Zonal Consultation of stakeholders in Bhubaneswar in the third week of June, 2012 to mainstream the debate around ground water and effective legislation.

During the month of May, the ground work for this consultation has been done. The government departments, members of water partnerships from different states have been consulted for this workshop. Efforts have been made by the members of EZWP to gather information on the different stages of ground water legislation in the respective states so that it can be discussed in detail in the meeting.

(ii) Identification of Climate Resilient and Water Efficient Agricultural Practices in Wainganga River sub- Basin

One of the requirements for preparation of Integrated Water Resources Development and Management Plan (IWRD&MP) for Wainganga River sub- Basin is to study and identify the best agricultural practices being followed in the Wainganga River sub-basin which are climate resilient and water effective.

For the purpose, data was collected from the District and State Agriculture Departments regarding the general cropping pattern, cropping intensity, area under irrigation, increase in agricultural productivity using various irrigation techniques, use of water efficient technologies like drip and sprinkler irrigation, etc. This data would be used to estimate the agricultural water requirements and overall efficiency in water use in agriculture.

The data was collected from (i) District Statistical Abstracts; (ii) Comprehensive District Agricultural Plans; (iii) Agricultural Census; (iv) Lead Banks; and (v) Reports of the Agricultural Commissioner related to seasonal sowing report, productivity, etc.

On the basis of collected data, assessment tables were prepared by WZWP coordinating agency Gomukh for land use, area under various crops, area under irrigation, cropping in various seasons, productivity of various crops, etc. However, while scrutinizing the data and preparing the assessment tables, it was found that there were significant variations in each of the reports compiled by the District and State Government. The data on agricultural productivity was available only for the major crops being grown in the region and productivity of minor crops was not reported. More importantly, the data used for preparing the Comprehensive District Agricultural Plans, which determine the investments in the agricultural sector for five years, was based on erroneous data. This raises serious concerns about not only the data collection processes used by the State Agencies but also on the proposed investment plans.

It is predicted that climate change will cause prolonged dry and wet spells. Under these circumstances, knowledge of current cropping pattern and timely management of irrigation systems to avoid conditions of either water scarcity or water logging would be important. The steps to be taken would need to be at both farm level and at the administrative level.

It is thus important for farmers to select climate resilient varieties, select combination of crops for mixed farming such that losses due to sudden weather changes are minimized, construct localized irrigation systems like farm ponds and community tanks, shift to drip and sprinkler irrigation, etc. However, all these adaptations by farmers must be supported by the administration's schemes and policies. Improved understanding of the existing cropping pattern and its correlation with irrigation cycles, subsidies on local, minor and micro irrigation systems, awareness and capacity building of farmers is required based on efficient, updated and dynamic database management systems. In the month of June, based on the data findings, focused interviews of farmers would be organized for studying the local awareness and practices related to resilience to Climate Change.

(iii) Activities taken up by Peoples' Area Water Partnership (PAWP), Dhenkanal District, Orissa

PAWP's Local Area Water Partnership (LAWP) meeting was held for meeting the additional requirements of domestic water in the LAWP during the summer. In the meeting, the LAWP members took-up the issue of non-functioning or poor functioning

of the hand pumps, tube wells. Accordingly, 6 hand pumps were repaired with the help of village mechanics and 80 sites of the hand pumps in 36 villages were cleaned.

LAWP concerted efforts also received support of village youth clubs, Women Self-Help Groups and Gram Panchayat. 16 drinking water booths were created to meet the additional requirement of domestic water during the peak summer season.

(iv) Planning Process for Formation and Establishment of Area Water Partnership in Jajmau, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh

The key challenge for the provision of water and sanitation services for the citizens is lack of participatory planning framework in Kanpur Nagar Nigam (KNN). Keeping this challenge in view, GWP-India through Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD) in association with Shramik Bharti and Sach Sach Society is working on formation and establishment of an Area Water Partnership in Jajmau, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

The thrust of GWP-India through SPWD and its associates for the next few months will be to study the city sanitation plan and offer a planning process for, ward level and zone level planning so that resources can be allocated in accordance with priority needs and steps can be taken to address the barriers in provision of the services.

The pollution of Ganga has also been identified as a key issue concerning the citizens. GWP-India through SPWD and its associates would also focus on citizen's feedback to the plan prepared by KNN for the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) and also for making a consensus for treatment of wastewater in the city so that pollution to Ganga is prevented.

The following activities were undertaken in the month of May, 2012 by GWP-India through SPWD and its associates.

- (a) **Awareness programme-** follow up visits to the residents in the ward number – 10 and ward no 86; In addition micro-planning has been started by Shramik Bharti at community level.
- (b) **Contacts were established with** citizen's representatives in other wards of Zone 2 of KNN; namely ; (a) Madanlal Bhatia: ward Councilor ward 71-Krishna Nagar; (b) Yogesh Verma- Ward councilor- ward 29; (c) Rajendra Vajpayee- Ward Councilor Harjeet Nagar ward 37; and (d) Shamim Azad-Ward Councilor- Ward 666.
- (c) **Follow up discussions with Area Volunteers** and other residents on the formation of Ward Committees in two wards, as a part of formation of AWP.
- (d) **Contacts were established with Tannery Associations:** Imran Siddqui-Super tannery; Babu Bhai and Mr. Naiyer- representing small tanneries . The small tanners association has given their formal consent for working on Jajmau AWP

- (e) Meeting with Munnu Singh representing interests of farmers of the land of sewage farms who is fighting a case in Allahabad High Court against UPSIDC against sale of these lands and destruction of green belt.
- (f) Developing solutions for industrial and other pollutions in Ganga River in Kanpur by involving stakeholders for implementing solutions- **A planning framework for Zone 2 has been discussed with partners and further work will be undertaken during next month.**

The associates of SPWD participated in (a) Ganga Cleaning Abhiyaan organized by Kendriye Dev Deepak Samiti, Kanpur on 6th May, 2012; (b) A rally of Kanpur Nagam Nigam organized on 10th May, 2012 for prevention of pollution to river Ganga – Pradooshan Mukta Ganga; and (c) A meeting of Ganga Alliance for Action for Free Plantation and making of Ponds along the Ganga river in Kanpur on 20th May, 2012.

(v) Building Community Capacities on IWRM in Urban Slum Areas of Delhi

GWP-India is supporting its partner NGO; 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. 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. Under this project, there is a special emphasis on Household Water 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.

In the month of May, 2012, the DA had developed a training manual which would be distributed to the mobilizers, community anchors and other stakeholders for further usage. In order to conduct trainings for mobilizers; NGOs working in the selected sites have been identified. Efforts are being made to give a wide geographical coverage in urban slums of south and south west Delhi. Formal agreements have been signed with these NGOs. Community mobilizers from the NGOs will be trained under this project. As they are already working in urban slums, the training will build and enhance their capacities to communicate the need for Integrated Water Resource Management among the communities living in the urban slum areas of Delhi.

Under this project, two training programs would be organized for one day duration each and both the programs will be held in June, 2012. Each training program will target 15 - 20 participants. The trainings will be held using the communication manual and packages designed. Interactive tools will be imparted to the mobilizers to ensure that the messages are effectively communicated to communities.

(vi) Feed-back on World Water Day and Formation of Shivana Area Water Partnership in Mandsaur District of Madhya Pradesh

Executive Committee of Navadeep, which is also the Coordinating Agency of Central Zonal Water Partnership (CZWP) met on 30th May 2012 and discussed, among other

things, about the issues pertaining to project activity supported by GWP-India for the year 2012 which includes:

- Successful completion of school education programme and its impact .
- Progress in formation of Shivana Area Water Partnership on the basis of feedback from Steering Committee at Mandsaur.
- Beginning of the process for formation of Central India Zonal Water Partnership and preparing its 20 year perspective document incorporating climate change scenario.

Feedback received from various sections of teachers and officials of Education Deptt. about the programme organized by CZWP on “**Save Water: Save Children’s Health**” on World Water Day (22nd March 2012) indicated that the programme has succeeded in spreading a positive message among educators of Indore city. Teachers requested to take up this programme on regular basis in coming years.

CZWP is also playing a pivotal role of a “**promoter**” for formation of Shivana AWP at Mandsaur in Western Madhya Pradesh. The CZWP has provided all necessary printed material of GWP, GWP-SAS and GWP –India to the adhoc Steering Committee of Shivana AWP. It also provided guidance to its office bearers and main functionaries on various issues e.g. IWRM and preparation of a Vision Document for AWP. It is satisfactory that the point is well taken and principles and themes of GWP are taken care of in the process of formation of AWP. The process of formation is progressing well although there are some difficulties in organizing stakeholders/participating organizations consultation meetings due to prior engagement of District/Block level line department officials and involvement of farmers in harvesting of their crops.

Meanwhile, the CZWP and Shivana AWP Committee members with the help of Engineer Sunil Ojha are working on preparation a Vision Document for Shivana catchment area which will be submitted for discussion to various departments by the end of July, 2012. The CZWP Coordinating Agency, Navdeep appreciated that adhoc Steering Committee of Shivana AWP is generating its own resources also for formalization of AWP. It was also discussed during adhoc Steering Committee meeting to allow formation, process and proceed as per the local Steering Committee’s schedule and extend time limit of completion of this activity to the third quarter of the year i.e. July- Sept 2012 .

It was decided in the Executive Committee meeting of Navdeep that a brainstorming session would be organized in the month of June, 2012 to initiate the process for preparing 20 years Perspective Plan for CZWP incorporating climate change scenario.

(vii) **Participation in Meetings/Seminars/Workshops/Conferences**

- 5.1 **PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry** in association with **Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India** organized a Seminar on “**Drinking Water Quality & Water Management**” on **8th May, 2012** at **PHD House, New Delhi** to deliberate on the issues concerning availability, accessibility and reliability of supply of drinking water.

The event was sponsored by KENT Mineral RO. Inaugural Address was given by Chief Guest **Shri D V Singh, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India**. In his inaugural address Shri Singh said that water scarcity in India is predominantly a manmade problem and water should be treated as a resource. We should protect our water resources and use them judiciously. He also stated that management of resources required a concerted effort on the legal, policy, regulatory and institutional front for better water management and efficient usage of water along with promotion of water conservation techniques. The seminar was attended by engineers, policy makers, government and state government officials, water equipment providers.

Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP was invited by PHD who interacted with the key presenters and asked about low cost water quality techniques. She also said that IWP organized water quality test awareness programmes in 2011 among school children, water user groups, farmers through **do it yourself kit** provided by World Water Monitoring Council (WWMC). During this one day workshop presentations were made by representatives of Ion exchange, Forbes Marshall, UNESCO, Outokumpu, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Govt. of India, TERI. Interactive session was conducted by Mr. S K Garg, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, GOI.

5.2 2nd Regional Workshop on Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture at NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi from 16-18 May 2012

The International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID), New Delhi together with the UN- Water Decade Programme on Capacity Development (UNW-DPC), the United Nations University Institution on Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) under the auspices of an inter agency mechanism UN Water, is engaged in a Capacity Development Project for Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture.

Under Phase III of this project, 2nd Regional Workshop on Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture was organized at NASC Complex, Pusa, New Delhi from 16-18 May 2012, with 19 participants from 10 countries of South & West Asia and 9 Faculty from UNU-INWEH, FAO, UNEP, WHO, IWMI, ICID and UNW-DPC, besides 12 participants representing various Research Institutes, NGOs, Press, etc. from all over India.

Dr. J S Samra, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority, Planning Commission, Govt. of India was the Chief Guest. Dr. Avinash Tyagi, Secretary General, ICID, Jens Liebe (UNW-DPC), and Manzoor Qadir (UNU-INWEH) had given welcome address and opening statement. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP (GWP-India) participated in the regional workshop and actively contributed in the group discussions and group exercises. The main output from this regional workshop was aimed to develop a Capacity Development Action Plan and chalk out how the training material and learning methods should be disseminated at country level in the relevant organizations. The three day regional workshop ended with three key actions which would be supported by all those who participated in the workshop. The key actions are as follows:

- Start a multi-stakeholders' platform on 'Safe Use of Wastewater in Agriculture' in the country,
- Revise and complete the country report, and;
- Develop awareness building material for farmers and consumers.

5.3 Review of Organization of India water Week-2012 by Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India

Additional Secretary (Water Resources) & Chairman, Media Committee, Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR), Government of India called a meeting of Organizing Committee of India Water Week-2012 on 21st May, 2012 to review the event critically in the Committee Room of the MOWR in Shram Shakti Bhawan. Mr. A B Pandya, DG, NWDA and Organizing Secretary, IWW-2012 briefly stated that IWW-2012 was attended by 850 delegates, out of which very minimal representation was received from the international participants from abroad. The Additional Secretary stated that in overall sense, the conference has provided a very satisfactory experience as far as the technical inputs and deliberations are considered.

Dr. Veena khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP (GWP India) participated in the meeting as a Committee Member and suggested that planning for mobilization of international invitees and delegates need to start much in advance. It is also important to involve a wider section of researchers and planners from diverse areas of water resources sector for receiving better inputs. It was also discussed that how GWP-India and GWP can play a role for facilitating the international representation in the IWW. Dr. Veena Khanduri also suggested that GWP has its 13 regions and the regions can participate from their own resources for participating in IWW, if Ministry formally invites GWP. The meeting was attended by Central Water Commission, Central Ground Water Board, Joint Secretary (Admn), MOWR, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries, etc.

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