

India Water Partnership (IWP) Monthly Report for November, 2011

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

Activity-1 : Participation of Dr Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary IWP in Third meeting of Organising Committee (Technical) for organizing India Water Week - 2012 held on 3-11-2011 at Central Water Commission, New Delhi.

The Third Meeting of the organizing Committee for organization of **India Water Week-2012** was held on 3rd November, 2011 at New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri G.Mohan Kumar, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, New Delhi.

The first information bulletin was shared with the members. It was also discussed that IWP , ICID and CII will provide members' data base to National Water Development Board as well as help in providing name of eminent speakers for different thematic sessions. At start of this month, IWP requested Regional Coordinator, GWP-South Asia to provide the consolidated list of GWP partners from South Asia. On receipt of the same; it was transmitted to the Organizing Secretariat on 4th November, 2011 for extending invitations to the GWP partners of South Asia.

Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary IWP and Mr. Gopalakrishnan, Secretary General, ICID suggested Organizing Committee to invite GWP Executive Secretary for Key note address on IWRM session. Mr. A B Pandya, Director General, NWDA & Member Secretary of the organizing Committee shared the website prepared for the India Water Week. This event would be organized at New Delhi from 10th April to 14th April, 2012 and the theme is "Water, **Energy and Food Security: Call for Solutions**". To commence with the tasks of organizing this mega event, the organizers have prepared the first e-flier which contains details about the Conference topics, awards, sponsorship, advertisement opportunities, hotel accommodation, technical visits, call for papers, etc.

Activity-2 : Multi Stakeholder Consultation on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM)

A one day Multi-stakeholder meeting on IWRM was organized by Eastern Zone Water Partnership and Odisha Water Forum, with the support of India Water Partnership on 8th Nov 2011 at hotel Bari International, Bhubaneswar. This meeting was attended by about 25 participants from various institutions, civil society groups, Government officials etc. Participation of Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, India Water Partnership (IWP), Er. Sisir Behera, Er. Subrat Rath (Deputy Director, (Basin Planning-3), Er. Hrushikesh Mishra, Deputy Director (Basin Planning -1) from Water Planning Organization of the Water Resourced Department of Govt. of Odisha was prominent.

Session-1: Making a Beginning

At the outset Mr Tapan Padhi of Odisha Water Forum and Convener of Eastern Zonal Water Partnership welcomed the participants. Er. Sisir Behera presided over the session. After a round of brief discussion, Mr. Tapan Padhi spelled out the objectives of the workshop. He said that the

objective of the consultation was to come out with a road map for the Civil Societies. IWRM has imperfections, but at time the civil societies distancing themselves from IWRM processes by the government is not going to help the cause. It is a better choice to work together and address the imperfections in the IWRM approach. Dr Veena Khanduri briefed about the institutional structure of Global Water Partnership, India Water Partnership, and the Zonal Water Partnerships and she also highlighted the experience of negotiated participatory approach followed by Western Zonal Water Partnership in Wainganga subbasin for planning of Integrated river basin development and management plan. With regard to implementation of IWRM road map in Odisha, she stressed that for effective road map, importance of stakeholder consultations cannot be denied. Also, capacity building of all the stakeholder is very important to implement IWRM.

Er. Sisir Behara, providing a background to the water situation in the state, said Odisha is the richest state from the water resource point of view. We have 480 km long stretch of coastline, 11 river basins and sufficient ground water reserve. Only 25 per cent of ground water has been augmented. In spite of this, the state is facing water scarcity, drought and flood in many parts. So we need an integrated approach to come out with solutions. Implementing infrastructure projects and taking up big projects is not the solution. One has to go to the source of problem. Where it is to be implemented, what is the problem, how it will be addressed. Before the implementation of any project, let us take the views of the stakeholders. It should be participatory. Time has come to go through the small watersheds instead of big projects. On the role of civil society organization he said it can help government in a lot many ways by sharing information, generating awareness and building the capacities of the stakeholders.

Er. Subrat Rath opined that there is a need for coordination and sharing of ideas with civil society and the department is open to ideas. He also said that they will like to join the Eastern Zonal Water Partnership to have a more coordinated effort to implement IWRM.

Session-2: Perspectives on IWRM

In the second session Mr Tapan Padhi broadly defined the IWRM and its basic principle. He said till now the IWRM is having a mixed response from various strata. He presented the five core principles of IWRM and all the participants agreed that there was nothing to crib about these principles. The disagreement, concerns, resistance to IWRM starts with the way it is implemented. If the implementation issues are addressed then IWRM will be greatly accepted by different stakeholders and it will be able to fulfill its objectives. Participation is the key to success of IWRM and this has been the greatest challenge for the State to ensure. There is a need to think out of the box. Only having people in the bodies like the River Basin Organizations, is not enough. There is a need for capacity building of the stakeholders so that they are informed about the IWRM practices and then they will be in a position to play an effective role in decision making. This presentation was followed by inputs from different participants.

Er. Subrat Rath in his presentation spelled out the plan of the state government with respect to implementation of IWRM. He said that the government wants to have the different stakeholders on board. IWRM report has been published on the Odisha Water Resource Department website. There may be some shortcomings in it, but a lot of care has been taken to address the concerns of the civil societies. At present it is not feasible to address all the issues. He then outlined the steps that are to be adopted by the water resources department for the implementation of IWRM in the state are given below:

- Developing a Proper Dialogue Mechanism
- Basin Plan in 11 basins
- Allocation and pricing
- Regulation and Legal aspect



Mr. Bimal Pandia of RCDC put forward many short comings in IWRM road map in spite of many good things in it. He said that there are a lot of implementation issues that needs to be sorted out before the IWRM road map is put into practice.

Mr. Sudarshan Das of Human Development Foundation suggested for making water management more sustainable by having community action in water management, implementation and monitoring level. Apart from this there also should be stress on advocacy, and social mobilization. But, first of all there should be adequate resource to manage.

Session III : Ensuring Participation, Equity and Inclusion

In this session after a brief introduction by the Mr Padhi on the challenges that the government faces on ensuring participation, this is the greatest challenge for implementation of IWRM. The stakeholders need to own the process and unless stakeholders are themselves involved in managing water they neither will have the knowledge, involvement and capacity to play an effective role in the stakeholders' platforms and more often than not will lose out to more organized sectors as the stakeholders.

This was followed with an intense discussion on institutional mechanism for stakeholders' participation. It was more or less an agreed position that River Basin is a too big unit to serve the purpose for involvement of the stakeholders in decision making. The RBO should be further decentralized into sub-basins and mini-watershed level. The planning, implementation and

monitoring should be done at the mini-watershed level. But the other opinion was that as the hydrological boundaries are not co-terminus with the administrative boundaries, the administrative boundaries should be recognized as a means for decentralization of planning and implementation.

Session- IV : Open House Discussions

The 4th and the final session-the open discussion session, focused on what role the civil society should play in furthering the basic mandate of IWRM. There were many responses and suggestions from the participants' side which are as follows:

Action points:

- Expectation of Govt. about civil society's role (NGO, Media)
 - Awareness campaign
 - To improve the water use efficiency in all the sectors, agriculture, water supply and industrial sector
 - Decrease the pollution of water – both point source and non-point source for eg. reducing pollution from the use of fertilizers and pesticides, open defecation etc.
 - On importance of water and inclusion in curriculum
 - Regulatory part
 - Water Regulatory Authority (WRA)
 - In formulating strategies/ principles/agendas for WRA
 - Play a part on pricing
 - Water Act
 - In consolidating all water related Acts

Suggestions by the other members

- Civil society can play a role in creating healthy platform for dialogue and discussion among the stakeholders to address the imperfections of the IWRM approach and adapt it to our conditions.
- Civil society should play a role in dissemination of information on water, help articulate the water related issues and also propagate the basic principles of IWRM so that an informed dialogue takes place.
- It also can watch whether the policies are implemented in the right earnest manner or not.
- CSOs also can create some models to demonstrate IWRM approach.
- The CSOs should play a key role in devising an institutional framework that will ensure proper participation of the stakeholders especially the farmers, artisans and common man.
- Civil society also has a bigger role in the inter-state dialogue process since there are many rivers whose basins are not entirely confined to a particular state.
- CSOs should clearly spell out the non-negotiable on their part, so that they do not become the implementation wing of the government and are able to safeguard the interests of the poor and the down trodden. For example; Juanga's traditional rights cannot be violated at any cost.

- It can also initiate a process to see to it that the Pallasabha plays an active role in the water resources management as has been mandated by the PEAS.
- CSOs may come up with the ideas on different type of tax, cost recovery principles.
- CSOs can help the government in capacity building of the communities, functionaries.

Finally it was agreed that an effort will be made for creating a proper mechanism for continuous dialogue among all the stakeholders. The road map will be discussed, enriched and finalized through exchange of mails and then ways and means to go ahead with this road map will be found out.

Activity-3 :Participation in the Workshop on 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) for Government of Delhi

Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP was invited by Chief Secretary, Government of Delhi to participate in workshop on “**Water Supply & Sanitation and Environment Sector** “ keeping in view the preparation of 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17) for Delhi State. The workshop was organized at Conference Hall, Delhi Government Secretariat on 10th November, 2011 under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Shiela Dixit, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Delhi Government. A Background Paper containing Plan prepared by Planning Department, Government of NCT of Delhi for the 12th Five Year Plan for Delhi State was presented for discussions. NGOs, Voluntary Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, eminent citizens of Delhi, Research Institutions, Academicians, Subject Matter Specialists and all stakeholders who are involved in development process of Delhi were invited in the workshop. Dr. Veena Khanduri explained about India Water Partnership and Global Water Partnership and provided insights on the potential of stakeholders’ participation to enhance water security for development. She also suggested that to Delhi’s growing population, water utilities need to be provided capacity building for water management. Hon’ble Chief Minister and Chief Secretary, Delhi Government appreciated the suggestion to build the capacity of utilities.

Activity-4 : IWP Board Meeting, Annual General Body Meeting and National Round Table on 25th November, 2011 at New Delhi

IWP convened its 19th Board of Governors Meeting (BoG) and 9th Annual General Body (GB) Meeting on 25th November, 2011 Conference Hall of National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), New Delhi. Following are the key points of the meetings:

- (i) IWP Work Plan and Budget for 2012 were discussed with the members in both the meetings.
- (ii) Ten organizations which joined IWP from December, 2010 to till mid-November, 2011 were introduced. It was decided that for future admission of new members, a Screening Committee would be constituted to verify the credentials of new members. President was authorized by the Board to constitute the committee. It was also decided that credential of organizations applying for GWP membership will also be approved by the Committee.

- (iii) Members appreciated the volume of work done by the IWP Secretariat and partner organizations and the efforts to publicize them.
- (iv) Annual Report of IWP for 2010-11 was approved by the members for printing.
- (v) The members advocated for engaging on water policy issues, celebration of World Water Week and instituting annual lectures on themes relevant to the work of IWP. In this connection the Chairman indicated that IWP has had an important role in policy making as he himself is the lead member in the Committee for drafting a New Water Policy of India and Executive Secretary is representing member of Technical Committee for organizing India Water Week-2012.
- (vi) Dhan Foundation, Madurai (Tamil Nadu) was nominated by the Board as Coordinator of South India Zonal Water Partnership.

Activity-5: National Round Table on “Climate Change and Disaster Management” at NIDM Conference Hall, New Delhi on 26th November, 2011

A one day **National Round Table** on “**Climate Change and Disaster Management**” was organized by India Water Partnership (IWP) in association with National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India and Host Institution – Institute for Human Development, New Delhi on 26th November, 2011 at NIDM Conference Hall, IIPA Campus, IP Estate, New Delhi-110002.



View of the Inaugural Session

(From Left : Dr. Satendra, Executive Director, NIDM, Prof. S R Hashim, President, IWP, Mr. A D Mohile, Former Chairman, CWC, Dr. Alakh N Sharma, Vice-President, IWP & Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP)

The following key issues were discussed:

- Scientific Explanation of increasing Extreme Events turning into Hydro-meteorological Disasters in India;
- Risk Reduction Strategy for Changing Vulnerability Profile of India at the Local level;
- Capacity of Stakeholders to cope with Mitigation, Adaptation and Risk Management;
- Innovation for Unconventional Strategy for Sustainable Development; and
- Land and Water Management.

The deliberations gave rise to consensus on the need for timely information to farmers through accurate collection of micro-level data so that farmers can take informed decisions on planting, harvesting etc; the need for further studies on cyclical weather events to get an understanding of future weather patterns; South Asia and the poor therein bearing the brunt of climate change induced disasters, disturbing rural livelihoods and the need for adaptation measures; the need for harnessing the waters in large river basins like Brahmaputra, Mahanadi and Brahmini, which cause flood havocs every year; the havocs were accentuated due to lack of inter-state and trans-border cooperation and inadequacy of funds (Brahmaputra) or due to faulty structures like embankments, faulty maintenance of structures and faulty sluice management. A need for evolving long term perspective plans for the period up to 2050, by which time India's population is expected to stabilize was also emphasized. The factors to be considered in the perspective plans are demographics, urbanization and industrialization, natural resources including forests, surface and ground water, trends in land use pattern, among other things.



National Round Table in Progress

The key points that emerged from the Conference were that water is going to be a key factor in all future disasters. The nexus between water, agriculture and livelihoods is very strong and needs to be strengthened. Food security is going to depend on harnessing our water resources and adaptive mechanisms against climate change.

Sixty Five people were present in the Conference. The participants were from Planning Commission, Govt. of India,

Ministry of Agriculture, National Institute of Health & Family Welfare, TERI, Secretary General, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, New Delhi, Council on Energy, Environment and Water, SAARC

Disaster Management Center, Intercontinental Consultants and Technocrats Pvt. Ltd, New Delhi, Former Chairman, Central Water Commission, Govt. of India, IWP Board members and partners across all India, Banaras Hindu University, Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, Safe Water Network, New Delhi, Water Aid, New Delhi, NIDM, IHD and from Media persons from Rajya Sabha Television.



Concluding Session

(From Left : Prof. S R Hashim, President, IWP, Prof. Maria R Saleth, Director, Madras Institute of Development, Studies & Prof. Vijay Paranjpye, Coordinator, West Zone Water Partnership)

Activity-6 : Strengthening of People's Area Water Partnership (PAWP)

The activities undertaken by PAWP in the reporting month are as follows:

- a) **PAWP representatives meeting the Executive Engineer (EE), MI Division, Dhenkanal (Mr. Sethi) on revising the plan of action on Indrajeet Nallah (canal falls, pucca channelling and chain of mini cross bundings).**

The delegation consisting of PAWP members; Mr. B.K. Sahu, Mr. S. Prusty and Mr. A. Rath met the Executive Engineer, MI Division, Dhenkanal. The focus was on keeping the water flow (from starting point near Kusumjodi to the confluence point in Brahmani near village Kanapal) perennial which shall facilitate water collection for rabi/winter crops. Also there was a detailed discussions on functionalizing the left canal (that stretches from the D/W near Salapada to Dakhinapasi via Mandukura) that has never been in operation from the date of construction. The PAWP team also requested the E.E. to have a joint visit to specific sites on the stretch of nallah (about 10 kms.) and plan for such a visit in the first half of December, 2011. There is also a plan to have a convention-cum-need sharing meeting of the farmer beneficiaries of Indrajit nallah to be jointly organized by the MI Division and PAWP possibly in late December, 2011.

- b) **Two field visits with farmers groups**

Local Area Water Partnership (LAWP) members in the two localities i.e, Manitiri (on the banks of river Ramial) and Kamagara (close to Indrajit nallah) made field visits to assess the post-flood situation of the crop fields & on fresh planning for the winter crops.

- c) **Farm Field visit with Agriculture Officials (by R.Barik, A.Rath, and A.P.Hota)**

Following up the earlier discussion with Mr. P Beura, Junior Agriculture Officer-in-Charge of Kamakhyanagar Block, there was joint consultation & planning meets with farmers on the banks of Ramial covering villages Rekula, Bhagirathipur, Mahulpal, Alutuma, Khokasa, Jagannathpur & Tentulisinga. The Agriculture Officer assured the farmers to extend seed support (in some quantity) and technical guidance on cluster basis.

- d) **Attending/Participating in Annual General Body Meeting of IWP on 25th November, 2011 and National Round Table on Climate Change and Disaster Management**

Mr. A. Rath representing PAWP and Arun Institute of Rural Affairs attended **Annual General Body Meeting of IWP** on 25th November, 2011 organized at National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Conference Hall, New Delhi. Mr. Rath also participated in the National Round Table organized by India Water Partnership in association with NIDM at its Conference Room, New Delhi on 26th November, 2011.

Activity-7: Study on Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation and Health in Nikargachi: An Impoverished Village in Nadia District, West Bengal

IWP has supported one of its partner NGO in East zone namely; Kalyani Institute for Study, Planning & Action For Rural Change (KINSPARC), West Bengal to undertake a small study on “**Safe Drinking Water, Sanitation and Health**” in Nikargachi village of Nadia District, West Bengal.

Nikargachhi village is located in Chakdaha block in Nadia district, West Bengal. The village is extremely poor with little basic amenities of life for a total population of about 2500, all belonging to Scheduled Castes (*Bagdi* community). Apart from poverty and lack of basic livelihood facilities, the most critical needs of the village people include scarcity of safe drinking water; lack of awareness regarding sanitation, hygiene and health.

The objective of study is to make an overall survey of the Water-Sanitation-Health status of the village with a view to providing a focused advisory communication, especially for safe drinking water.

The following activities have been undertaken by KINSPAC during November, 2011:

- **Preparation of water profile of the village** : The KINSPARC has conducted a survey and testing of the availability and quality of water sources in the village. Although the tests have not covered all aspects, broad analysis of the results shows that water in the ponds is generally **turbid, alkaline and not fit for drinking or bathing**. Nonetheless, people are mostly indifferent to this potential problem and persist in polluting the water. Water in the tube wells are generally better.
- **Health awareness programmes**: Doctors interacted with village women and made them aware of how health is dependent on water and sanitation related behavior of people. Medical advice was given to patients suffering from **anemia** and anti-helminthes tablets were distributed to those who complained of **worm infestation**.

Through a number of visits and intensive interactions with villagers, both male and female, villagers have been made aware of the crucial need for **clean and sanitary personal habits, e.g., frequent hand washing, avoiding unclean water (e.g., shallow and pond water)** for washing and bathing, especially for women who dip in the water for bathing, preventing cattle bathing in ponds, etc.

- **Training villagers in simple ways of preventing pollution of drinking water at household level**: Meetings were held in clusters and people were advised to store water in clean vessels with covers and not to dip hand and nails into the water while serving. Women were taught to use the method of sedimentation and decantation for storing water for drinking.
- A sit and draw programme on various aspects of water was organized for children below age 12 with a view to providing training and awareness. About 150 children participated

with great enthusiasm. Paper, pencil, rubber, sharpener and crayons were given to all the children (participants).

The brief and intensive programme helped initiation of a process of behavior change in this indigent community in Nikargachi.. The programme was highly appreciated and people are eagerly looking forward to the development.

Some of the photographs taken during the survey are shown below:



Women washing utensils in water contaminated pond



Sit & Draw Programme for Children of Nikargachhi



Children participating in water testing

Activity-8: Participation in 17th Regional Council Meeting, 5th General Assembly of GWP-South Asia and Round Table Dialogue on “Benefit Sharing in Hydropower Development organized on 29th & 30th November, 2011 at Kathmandu, Nepal

- a) Prof. S R Hashim, President, IWP, Prof. Prem S Vashishtha, RC Member (Male) and Dr. Jasveen Jairath, RC Member (Female) participated in the **17th Regional Council Meeting** of GWP-South Asia.
- b) Prof. S R Hashim, President, IWP, Prof. Prem S Vashishtha, RC Member (Male), Dr. Jasveen Jairath, RC Member (Female) and Prof. Vijay Paranjpye, Alternative R C Member (Male) participated in **5th General Assembly** of GWP-South Asia and **Round Table Dialogue on “Benefit Sharing in Hydropower Development.**
- c) In the Round Table Dialogue, Prof. Hashim made a presentation on **“India-Bhutan Experience in Regional Cooperation”**. Prof. Vijay Paranjpye actively participated in the panel discussion on benefit sharing experience on regional cooperation.