

India Water Partnership Monthly Report for October, 2011
(Prepared by : Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP & Mangla Rai)

I. ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN THE REPORTING MONTH

Activity-1 : Rajasthan State New Water Policy - Capacity Building of Women and Anganwadi Workers

A workshop of Women Self Help Groups on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) was conducted on 10th October, 2011 by India Water Partnership partner Jheel Sanrakshan Samiti (JSS), under banner of Global Water Partnership and India Water Partnership.

The workshop organized at Vidya Bhawan Polytechnic College, Udaipur, Rajasthan was attended by Self Help Women Groups of 21 towns and villages (situated on the basin of Wakal and Banas rivers); and representatives of Anganwadis of Southern Rajasthan.



Women participants in the Workshop

The participants raised the point that though the State Water Policy has underlined the participation and involvement of women in all policies and plans including management and operation, the need is that right from small village (hamlet) to the cities, women's role has to be increased. Mr Anil Mehta, Secretary of JSS deliberated that, for proper management of various water related issues including growing poverty needs, involvement of women is paramount. Mr. Mehta further said that role of women should be recognized in planning, construction, management and safeguarding of water resources. The Dublin principal also underlines the importance of women in integrated management of water resources. The women play a key role in the collection and safeguarding of water for domestic and agricultural use. The burden of water collection falls on women and girls, who generally expend considerable time and energy on this activity.

Mr. Mehta shared that the marginalized role of women in water resources management is related to social, educational and cultural traditions. Therefore, there is an urgent need to give attention to the specific needs of women and evolve strategies to empower them so as to play effective, competent, sustained and dynamic role at all levels of water resources management. The IWP (GWP- India) is making all such efforts to achieve this.

While inaugurating the workshop, Mr Vijay S Mehta, President of Dr. MS Mehta Memorial Trust, said that it is necessary that society provides equal opportunity of development to women, seek their suggestions and treat them at par with man. To attain the goal of integrated and inclusive development, the women need to have equal access and participation at all levels. He said that it is necessary to ensure the health and education of women, in order to ensure their dynamic participation in IWRM process and plans.

Mr. Nand Kishor Sharma, social scientist, said that the *effective, efficient and equitable* management of water resources can be only achieved when both women and men are involved in consultation processes, and in the management and implementation of water-related services.

The women present in the workshop had agreed to increase their role and participation in implementation of State Water Policy and projects which are on-going in their area. The women representatives of Self Help

Group said that one of the major causes of their low interest is lack of education and awareness. Mrs. Parvati Bai of village Ogana, Kalibai of Kotadi and Mrs. Shanti Devi of Pipawas said that women's convenience, in terms of time and distance, should be first criterion while deciding the time and place for Gram Sabha and Water Users Association (WUA) meetings. The participant women further revealed that out of them only 8 % women have so far attended the meetings of Gram Sabha. In the meetings of SHG, no fruitful discussions are held. The hand pump and other water supply schemes are sanctioned near to influential persons only. The women have to bring water on head from 2 to 3 kilometer distances. The WUAs meant for distribution of irrigation water functions arbitrarily and there is no voice of women in that meeting. They further said that women members are the most susceptible to water borne diseases due to their role in water collection, washing and other domestic activities. The women have to travel long distances to fetch water and carry it on their heads, which lead to diseases related to spine, neck, shoulders etc.

The participant women further shared that if any member of the family suffers from any water borne disease, then responsibility to take care of the sick member falls on women. Women and girls feel unsafe when they have to go far from their houses to defecate, as toilet facilities are not available nearby. Women and girls suffer from problems like malnutrition, illiteracy and anemia.

Mr. Madan Nagda, Secretary of Gandhi Manav Kalyan Samiti; Dr. Tej Rajdan of Lake Conservation Committee; Dr. L.L. Sharma Limnologist; Mr. Jitendra Mehta, Director of Alert Organization; Mr. Mohan Dangi, Secretary of Prayatn Samiti; Mrs. Haribala Sharma of Vidhya Bhawan Anganwadi and Mrs. Jyotsna Jhala of Pahal guided the participants on various aspects of Integrated Water Resources Management mainly on warabandi, irrigation water management, prevention of water borne diseases, role of Panchayati Raj Institutions, livelihood generation, conflict management etc. ***This activity has been covered in the local newspaper "Udaipur Times" dated 10th October, 2011 with title Rural Women attended workshop on Water Management which can be seen on <http://www.udaipurtimes.com/rural-women-attended-workshop-on-water-management/>***



Other view of the Workshop

Activity-2 : Strengthening of People's Area Water Partnership (PAWP)

The following activities were undertaken by the IWP supported PAWP during the month of October, 2011.

The PAWP members made field visits on the banks of river Ramial and Indrajit nallah to assess the post-flood situation of the crop fields & the standing crops. During the visit the PAWP members observed that 60 % of the standing paddy crop of late variety had been destroyed by the flash floods. There was sand silting of crop lands of about 600 acres in the villages of Kotagara, Kamagara, Baunsapal, Bhagirathipur, Malapura, Manitri, Jagannathpur, Jamunakote and Lokanathpur. These villages come under PAWP area of operation. In this regard, the PAWP members met the Revenue officials and Junior Agricultural Officer and submitted their assessment report and requested for the seed support to the farmers. Also a representation in this regard was submitted to the District Collector by the PAWP Convener Shri P.K.Sahu on 11th October, 2011.

Two 'Pani (Water) Panchayat' meetings at Khatuahata and Kadua were organized by Junior Engineer (Minor Irrigation) on 14th October and 17th October, 2011. PAWP members from Salpada, Khuntabati, Anlaberani, Khatuahata, Kadua, Bhagirathipur, Mahulpal and Rekula villages participated in the meeting which were convened for planning of small duration Rabi crop and winter vegetables.

On 20th October, 2011, the PAWP observed World Water Monitoring Day at village Kadua near Kamakshyanagar in the premises of the village high school. A meeting with community members and school students was held which was preceded by a rally by school children with water conservation message.



Water Quality Testing by PAWP members



Rally by School Children with water conservation message

Water pollution in the Brahmani river is a serious cause of concern for the PAWP. The PAWP with the support of Arun Institute of Rural Affairs (AIRA) continues to inform and educate its members and the community people on the issue of pollution in general and on water pollution in particular. In the various

meetings/consultations/skill orientations, PAWP tries to focus on water quality; and encourage the members for proper maintenance of water bodies.

On 30th October, 2011, the PAWP held a joint regional meeting at Kusumajodi High School. More than 50 members of PAWP from the villages of Samatangi, Godaribili, Kadalipal, Mahuli, Alujharan, Bhairapur, Koriapal, Aghiragoda, Khatuahata, Anlaberani, Kanapal and Khuntabati participated in the meeting and presented their views on future plan of action.



PAWP members in the Joint Regional Meeting

Activity-3 : Preparation of Integrated Water Resources Development and Management Plan (IWRD&MP) for Wainganga river sub-basin by Western Zonal Water Partnership (WZWP) coordinating agency of IWP

It has already been reported that IWP Western Zonal Water Partnership Coordinating Agency, Gomukh Trust is engaged in preparation of IWRD&MP for Wainganga river sub-basin since start of the year 2011. For this, the Gomukh Trust in the past had held several consultations/meetings of the stakeholders like Maharashtra State Water Resources Department, Maharashtra State Forest Department, Survey of India, Maharashtra State Agriculture Department, Maharashtra State Fisheries Department, Maharashtra State Department of Soil and Land use Survey, Geological Survey of India, Groundwater Survey and Development Agency (GSDA), fishing community and other community living around the Wainganga river sub-basin and have collected data on rainfall, wind, temperature, hydrology, fishery, ground water quantity and quality, etc.

During October, 2011, a list of Projects to be undertaken in the Wainganga river Basin in order to efficiently conserve, store and use water resources for satisfying competing needs has been drafted by the Gomukh Trust. The list was based on the ongoing communication/consultations/meetings with stakeholders, local NGOs, and experts. The priorities of stakeholders and the State Government have been taken into consideration while enlisting the projects. The category-wise number of projects identified is as follows:

(i) **Water Resources Development**

- 35 projects for barrages on the mainstream;
- 55 projects for barrages on the major tributaries;
- 7 projects for desiltation, repair and maintenance of Minor Tanks;
- 7 projects for desiltation, repair and maintenance of Malguzari Tanks;
- 1 project as alternative for the Gosekhurd Dam Lift Irrigation Schemes;
- 1 project for Rehabilitation & Resettlement Schemes;
- 1 project for Prevention of evaporation and other water losses;
- 1 project for Groundwater Resource Development;
- 8 projects for eco-development; and,
- 10 projects for Watershed Development and Catchment Area Treatment

(ii) **Water Resources Management**

- 7 projects for Gal-per Lands;
- 3 projects for Development of Fisheries (Cold storages and piers);
- 30 projects for Water Supply and Sanitation to Urban areas;
- 300 projects for Water Supply and Sanitation to Rural Areas;
- 315 projects for Water for Energy;
- 28 projects of Navigation on upstream of Gosekhurd Dam;

Detailed planning for each of these projects will be made during the upcoming months, which will include details such as locations, schemes, management protocols and estimated financial planning. A priority listing will also be made, and distribution of projects within the 20 year planning period will be made.

An extensive primary survey and stakeholder consultation process is being planned during the month of November, and background processes for the same have been started during October, 2011. Communication with local NGOs, field personnel and a team of volunteers, selection of stratified sample villages and water tanks for the primary survey has been initiated. ***This activity will also boost the formation of the Area Water Partnership as extensive field networking has been envisaged for this purpose.***

Activity-4 : Water Quality Testing by IWP partner organizations for World Water Monitoring Day

IWP is undertaking water quality testing with the help of its partner organization Neer Foundation, Meerut. This water testing kits have been provided by International Water Association and World Environment Federation. Although the World Water Monitoring Day is celebrated on September 18, IWP is undertaking this activity from October, 2011 and this will continue till November, 2011.

For the purpose a detailed manual was prepared by Neer Foundation in consultation with Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP and the same along with a letter was sent to all IWP partner organizations and GWP partner organizations from India. A very good response has been received and right now this activity is being undertaken by 16 organizations (a very few are non IWP/GWP members). Twenty water testing kits have been sent to these organizations so far. We are still receiving requests daily from our partner organizations for sending the manual and the kits.

The water quality testing is being done on four parameters of a watershed's health: temperature, pH, turbidity and dissolved oxygen. T-shirt, training guide and other relevant support has also been provided to the organizations involved in this exercise. These organizations would be testing the water quality of the water bodies at different sites in their area of operation.

The data/information so collected will be analyzed and thereafter a detailed report will be prepared at the end of December, 2011.

Activity-5 : Participation in Second Meeting of Organizing Committee of India International Water Week-2012

Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary participated in the second meeting of Organizing Committee of India International Water Week-2012 at Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India on 4th October, 2011. This meeting was convened to apprise the Committee about the follow-up action taken by the Ministry on the agenda of the first meeting. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP and Mr. Gopalakrishnan, ICID & GWP partner were selected as member of the Technical Committee.

II. MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/ WORKSHOPS/SEMINARS PLANNED DURING NOVEMBER, 2011

2.1 International Seminar on “Water Security and Climate Change: Challenges and Strategies”

IWP partner, Guru Arjan Dev Institute of Development Studies, Amritsar would organize its 3rd International Seminar with effect from November 4 to November 6, 2011 in the Conference of Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar on the theme **Water Security and Climate Change: Challenges and Strategies**. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP has been invited to **chair a session on “Climate Change Impacts on Natural Water Systems”**.

2.2 Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on IWRM in Context of Orissa

The Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on IWRM in context of Orissa which was to be organized by IWP Eastern Zonal Water Partnership Coordinating Agency on 15th September, 2011 was postponed due to flash floods in Orissa is now scheduled to be organized on 8th November, 2011 at Bhubaneshwar. The multi-stakeholders' consultation would identify and discuss the challenges for implementation of IWRM in Indian context in general, and Eastern India in particular. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP would participate in the dialogue.

2.3 Organizing IWP Board Meeting, Annual General Body Meeting and National Round Table on “Climate Change & Disaster Management” on 25th & 26th November, 2011 at New Delhi

IWP will convene its 19th Board of Governors Meeting (BoG) and 9th Annual General Body (GB) Meeting on 25th November, 2011 at New Delhi. These meetings will follow with a National Round Table on “Climate Change and Disaster Management” on 26th November, 2011 at New Delhi.

IWP along with its host institution, Institute for Human Development, New Delhi would organize the National Round Table in collaboration with National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, and Government of India. The participants would be from the scientific community, disaster management professionals, civil society groups, corporate sector, media and senior policy makers from the government, IWP board members/life members/zonal water partners, etc. Eminent experts in the field of climate change, agriculture, food security, land management, etc. will share their experiences.

The Key Issues for the discussions are:

- Scientific explanation of Increasing extreme events turning into disaster in India (hydro meteorological);
- Risk Reduction strategy for changing vulnerability profile of the country at the local level;
- Capacity of the stakeholders to cope with mitigation, adaptation and Disaster Risk Management;
- Innovation for unconventional strategy for sustainable development;
- Food Security, poverty and safety with inclusive strategy; and,
- Land and Water Management