

India Water Partnership Monthly Report for September, 2011

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

1. Sustainable Water Resources Management approaches to effectively address adaptation to Climate Change in villages of Jharkhand State

Supported by India Water Partnership, Action for Food Production (AFPRO), New Delhi is undertaking a small study on “**Sustainable Water Resources Management approaches to effectively address adaptation to Climate Change in villages of Jharkhand State**” since March, 2011 to find out community practiced water saving technologies from the villages of Jharkhand State and document best practices.

As part of the study, AFPRO organized one sensitization workshop on “Best Practices on Water Conservation and Affordable Water Saving Technologies”, at Block Ichak, Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) on 28th September, 2011. The objective of the workshop was to generate awareness and sensitize the Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, Government and NGO Officials, and community members. Around 40 participants, including members user group groups and PRIs members from different villages (Simradhab, Nagri, Nano, Urukka, Darha, Dighi, Phuphandi, Simra, Barwan, Kaladuar, Jamdiha of Ichak and Churchu blocks) of Hazaribagh district participated in the workshop and were actively engaged in the discussion. Mr. Birbal Prasad, Secretary, Manav Vikas, Ichak, Hazaribagh facilitated the workshop. In the welcome address, Mr. Birbal Prasad stressed for the need to adopt low cost water saving technologies to save water and better crop management. In the workshop equitable water sharing was also discussed with the participants. The technologies shared and discussed at the workshop were: (i) Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting ; (ii) System of Rice Intensification (SRI) Cultivation; (iii) Earthen Check Dams; (iv) Drip Irrigation System; (v) Gravity Flow Irrigation System; (vi) Well Irrigation; and ((vii) Photovoltaic Water Pumps (PVP). Apart from the case studies, the different successful low cost water harvesting and irrigation systems, implemented by AFPRO, in different locations across the State were also discussed.



Lighting Ceremony in Progress

The next technical session on Water Management and Crop Planning was facilitated by Dr. D.K. Raghav, Scientist and Resource Person of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK). The main focus of this session was on selecting crops according to the availability of water. The topics following topics were discussed in this session were: (i) Importance of water conservation; (ii) Watershed development; (iii) Different water saving variety of wheat and rice; (iv) Drought tolerant crop which can be grown in Hazaribagh; (v) Water requirement of different crop; (vi) Rainwater harvesting system which can be followed in Jharkhand; (vii) Drip irrigation; (viii) Sprinkler irrigation; (ix) Selection of crop according to water availability; and (x) Mulching.



Dr.D.K.Raghav,KVK, Hazaribagh taking the Technical Session

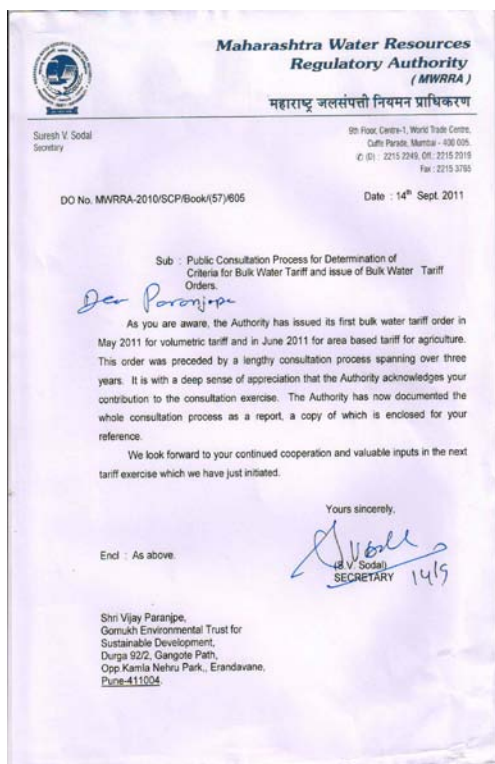
In the post lunch session, a brief interactive session was held in which the Resource persons responded to the queries of the farmers. The farmers generally asked questions related to crop water and disease management. This was a very useful session in which the farmers learnt about proper water management, pest management and biological method of pest control for crops, as revealed by the participants.

As a part of the feedbacks session (on the relevance and success of the workshop) participants expressed their hesitation to implement water harvesting techniques like drip and sprinkler irrigation as they felt these technologies are too difficult to practice at the local conditions. However, they felt that rainwater harvesting is an important and easier technology to implement. Thus, more efforts are required to convince people regarding alternate water harvesting and water saving technologies.

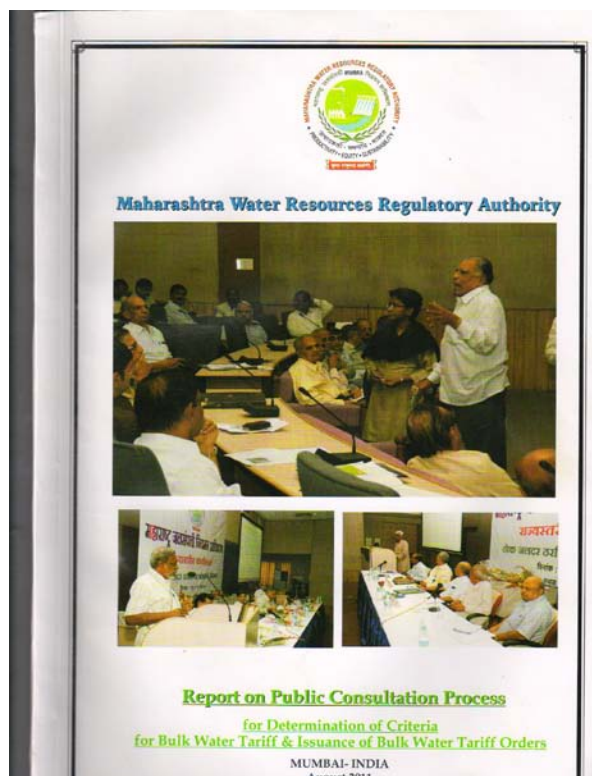
2. Consultation of Stakeholders with Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority (MWRRA)

2.1 Since the formation of the MWRRA in 2005, the Government body has been involved in two simultaneous processes; namely (i) Establishment of River Basin Organizations for preparation of plans for river basins in Maharashtra (2008 onwards) ; and (ii) Series of consultations on Bulk Water Tariffs and Water Tariff Orders (2008 onwards).

Gomukh Trust along with its partners from the West Zone Water Partnership participated in both these processes. Through WZWP's contribution in the Wainganga Integrated River Basin Management Master Planning Process, WZWP is also involved the process of operationalizing the Godavari River Basin Agency. Apart from this, WZWP has also been an active participant in the 'Public Consultation Process for Determination of Criteria for Bulk Water Tariff and Issuance of Bulk Water Tariff Orders'. Since 2010 onwards, a process on continuous formal and informal correspondence and meetings were conducted between MWRRA and members of the WZWP including SOPPECOM (Pune), PRAYAS (Pune), Dharamita (Wardha), Gomukh Trust and representatives of stakeholders from the Wainganga river basin. The result of the discussions and suggestion-objections process was published in August 2011 by the MWRRA to translate and simplify this report for distribution to the stakeholders River Basin and the Water Users' Associations which would be the ultimate beneficiary of this process. Secretary, MWRRA has sent an appreciation letter dated 14th September, 2011 to WZWP Coordinator, Prof. Vijay Paranjpye acknowledging his efforts and contributions.



Copy of Appreciation Letter



Report on Public Consultation Process

2.2 Stakeholders' Workshops to Set-up a community based River Basin Organisation

Kathani River is a tributary of the Wainganga river and is the only un-intercepted sub basin in the Wainganga river basin. The river had undergone massive pollution due to the increased use of fish poisons for fisheries in the basin (2008). However, with the efforts of local NGOs and community, the water quality of the river was revived again.

In order to support and motivate the communities of the Kathani river basin, the India Water Partnership, WZWP Coordinating Agency (CA) has proposed the formation of an Area Water Partnership (AWP) in the Kathani River basin. The WZWP (CA) has been in a process of continuous formal and informal discussion with local partners such as Mr. Mohan Hirabai Hiralal, Devaji Tofa and Manish Rajankar for the establishment of the AWP. However they opined that since the area had tribal communities, a capacity-building process would be needed before the formation of the AWP. It was therefore decided that the first step toward the formation of the AWP would be the formation of informal study groups.

Accordingly, the study groups have been formed and are involved in the identification of projects for the development of the Kathani river basin and are working toward the preparation of a community led Kathani River Basin plan. These processes are being co-ordinated by WZWP convening partners and stakeholder groups, Vrikshamitra and BNVSAM from Gadchiroli and Bhandara respectively.

2.3 Data Analysis for the IWRDM Planning of Wainganga River Basin

During the month of September 2011, extensive analysis of the data received from various sources on the rainfall and river gauging stations in the Wainganga basin was conducted by WZWP (CA). Water demand schedules for the next thirty years were projected and water availability within the project area was determined through rigorous scientific analysis. This analysis forms the crux of the planning process, and would greatly influence the identification of projects and deciding the priorities of the final Plan.

A comprehensive base map of 1:50,000 scale was prepared for the project area, which will be used for further analysis by superimposing additional layers of information such as data on groundwater levels, flood prone areas, location of wells and traditional water structures, etc.

Motivational workshops for formation of Water Users' Associations for Participatory Irrigation Management, Fisheries Associations, etc., at specific locations identified through the analysis of these base maps, will be conducted in October and November 2011.

3. Activities undertaken by IWP supported Peoples' Area Water Partnership (PAWP)

The following activities were undertaken by PAWP in the month of September, 2011:

- After discussions of PAWP office bears with Dhenkanal District officials, Mr. P Beura, Junior Agriculture Officer- In Charge of Kamakhyanagar Block was directed by the District Agriculture Officer to extend support to the PAWP representatives at regular intervals to carryout joint activities for crop and water management.
- A 'Krishi Panchayat' (Agriculture Panchayat) was organized by Block Agriculture Office at Kusumjodi Sabhaghar on 8th September, 2011 in which PAWP members from Salpada, Anlaberani and Khatuahata villages participated in the sessions that dealt with small duration Rabi crop planning in the fields where the paddy crop was destroyed due to scanty rain during July & August, 2011.
- A 'Dhrana' (Demonstration) was made before the Collectorate by Krishak Sangharsh Samiti. In the Dharna PAWP members from Shasan, Jagannathpur and Jamunakote villages located on the Southern bank of river Ramial) participated. The Dharna was made against the poor work on the Rengali Irrigation left main canal that caused a breach in August, 2011 resulting in silting of crop fields.
- Large number of data has been collected on the industries that cause pollution of water in River Brahmani. There are about a dozen of large & medium industries on the banks (or close to) Brahmani river. The major industries are NALCO's Smelter Plant at Angul and NTPC's Thermal Plant at Kaniha.

These industries burn Coal (drawn from the MCL's Talcher Coalfields) to generate thermal power for their own use. There are half a dozen upcoming plants exclusively to generate thermal power by burning coal and dumping the ash-slurry into huge ash-ponds, apart from releasing their waste directly/indirectly into Brahmani and/or its tributaries at various points. These industries also draw water in huge quantity from river Brahmani, even being defaulters of water rent/levy.

After collection and compilation of some more data by the end of October,2011, the PAWP has planned to bring out a small booklet on water pollution, to be shared among the PAWP members and other water actors in the Dhenkanal district & Orissa State.

- On 27th September, 2011 there was a meeting-cum-planning session at Kanpal-Kamagara with Local Area Water Partnership members and farmers to assess the post-flood situation and (i) to plan for early 'Rabi' crops with support & guidance from the Agriculture Department, (ii) to place demands with the Revenue Authorities to compensate the crop loss, and (iii) to press the Irrigation Officials to plan for renovation of water channels.

4. Workshop on Integrated Resource Management (IWRM)

Jheel Sanrakshan Samiti (JSS) with the support of India Water Partnership organized a workshop on IWRM (focusing human health hazards) on 1st September, 2011 at Udaipur, Rajasthan. In the workshop, Mr. Anil Mehta, Joint Secretary, JSS called upon the Doctors, especially the lady nurses to generate mass awareness among the people regarding water borne diseases. Mr. Mehta further said that by providing safe drinking water and community toilets, water borne diseases can be minimized by 50 %. He also said that personal hygiene and community hygiene is important for avoiding human health hazards.

Mr. Mehta also told the participants that intake of unsafe or contaminated water leads to many diseases.



5. Participation of Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP in Workshops/ Consultations

- Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India would be organizing “**India World Water Week-2012**” during April, 2012 at New Delhi. For the purpose, the Ministry has constituted an Organizing Committee comprising of 17 Government/ Non-Government organizations to help Ministry for organizing this mega event.

The Organizing Committee represents members from; Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), National Water Academy (NWA), Indian Chambers of Commerce (ICC), International Commission on Irrigation & Drainage (ICID), Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), The Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industries (ASSOCHAM), The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), M S Swaminathan Research Foundation, etc. and India Water Partnership. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) working under the Ministry is the Nodal agency.

As a member of the Organizing Committee, Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP participated in the first meeting held on 6th September, 2011. In the meeting, Additional Secretary (Water Resources) and Chairman of the Committee briefly outlined the very purpose of celebrating India World Water event on the lines of similar events celebrated at **Singapore and Stockholm**. Various members/

representatives present in the meeting gave their valuable suggestions on organization of above event, venue time, event management, hospitality, advertisement and logistics, public private partnership, international participation. In the meeting, 4 sub-committees/groups were also formed viz ; (i) Technical Committee; (ii) Exhibition Committee; (iii) Event Management Committee and (iv) Core Group.

- Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP participated in the **National Consultation on Ganga Action Plan** organized at New Delhi on 12th September, 2011 by IWP partner organization; Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development, New Delhi.

The Ganga Action Plan (GAP) is an ambitious plan to clean the River Ganga. It originated from the personal intervention and interest of the late Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi, who requested a comprehensive survey of the river in 1979. After five years, the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) published two comprehensive reports, which formed the base from which the action plan to clean up the Ganga was developed.

The theme of the consultation was “**Networking Community Groups and NGOs with Urban Local Bodies/Utilities & PRIs for effective action to prevent pollution of river Ganga**”. Dr. Veena Khanduri in her address, informed the participants about India Water Partnership’s contribution in river basin management of Maharashtra State and preparation of Integrated Water Resources Development and Management Plan (IWRD&MP) for Wainganga Sub Basin, Maharashtra by India Water Partnership’s West Zone Water Partnership Coordinating Agency.

6. Postponement of Multi-stakeholders’ Dialogue on IWRM in Context of Odisha due to Flash Floods

As reported in our July/August, 2011 report, the above multi-stakeholders’ dialogue was scheduled to be organized on 15th September, 2011. However, the same was postponed due to flash floods in Odisha. IWP East Zone Water Partnership Coordinating Agency (the organizer) is now trying to fix a new date for holding the dialogue in consultation with State Government officials and ADB officials.

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