

ANNUAL REPORT 2011
OF THE IWP-AIRA PROGRAM
AREA WATER PARTNERSHIP
IN
RIVER RAMIAL & INDRAJEET SUB-BASIN
IN
DHENKANAL DISTRICT, ODISHA

FEB-DECEMBER-2011



Implemented By

ARUN INSTITUTE OF RURAL AFFAIRS
(AIRA)
Karamul, Dhenkanal, Odisha-759 014



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INDIA WATER PARTNERSHIP
New Delhi

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This term-ending report is a product of the joint activities of IWP, AIRA & PAWP on the water management front covering a small pocket in central Odisha. Working in the direction of local as well as participatory water management, the program facilitated involvement of villagers, farming people, PRIs & CBOs, Local Water Managers & Other Line Departments in charge of agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry etc. And the gains in the form of improved water-care & use, diminished water-disputes apart from improved sharing & cooperation among the various stake holders to a reasonable degree by now have paved a way to proceed forward.

And here, we have all reasons to acknowledge the vital contribution, both financial & technical, of India Water Partnership, New Delhi. Our heartfelt thanks are also due to the honorable members and associates of India Water Partnership whose goodwill and guidance has added to our knowledge and action competency in the vital sector of water.

The government officials to supported our community partners (farmers & water users) and the partnership members (both in the micro & area water forums) also deserve our appreciation and thanks. Aspiring to venture at the water-issue could not have become reality but for their right and standing and collective action. I felt privileged while bidding my thanks to them.

Suresh Kumar Panda
Director
Arun Institute of Rural Affairs

ANNUAL REPORT ON
**CONSOLIDATING & BROADENING WATER-ACTION OF PARIMAL AREA
WATER PARTNERSHIP IN DHENKANAL (ODISHA, INDIA)**

I. INTRODUCTION

The struggles for economic and social development are increasingly related to water. Water shortages that give rise to conflicts on sharing, quality deterioration that causes hazards to health & life are the key problems that require attention and action. Water for all with equity and in particular to the poorer sections of the society is the vital concern. And integrated water resource management-IWRM is seen as an appropriate process to deal with water issues and problems in a cost effective and sustainable manner.

The AIRA-IWP program accepted and operated within the key principles of IWRM:

- Fresh water is a finite and a vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment.
- Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policy makers at all levels.
- Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water.
- Water has an economic value in all its competing users and should be recognize as an economic good. Recently social good has also been included.

IWRM & Water Resource Development (WRD) of Odisha.

As learnt the Water Resource Department of Govt. of Odisha has started working in the direction of IWRM. And as natural it should work expeditiously on the fronts of:

- Integration of fresh water management and coastal zone management,
- Integration of land and water management,
- Integration of surface and ground water management,
- Integration of quantity and quality in water resource management,
- Integration of all stakeholders in planning & decision process

Central Odisha & Water Issue

However, given the situation in this pocket of central Odisha (revenue districts of Dhenkanal & Angul where the second largest river Brahmani flows for a length of 70 kms. with the second largest reservoir at Rengali Dam Project with a massive network of distributaries system partly operational) water is still a concern both in quality and quantity.

Ramial & Indrajeet Sub-basins & PAWP

River Ramial is one of the major tributaries of Brahmani with a flow of about 40 kms. has about half a hundred villages on both banks. On the other hand Indrajeet nalah has a flow of 10 kms. before joining river Brahmani with 12 villages and hamlets on both

flanks. These 2 sub-basins should have been water-sufficient naturally; but it is not so. And this made it necessary for some action in the nature of Local Water Partnership and Area Water Partnership from which the PAWP (People's Area Water Partnership) emerged with the joint effort of AIRA & IWP.

Executive Summary

Integrating eco-systems and land water management is a priority need for our communities, a good majority of which is agrarian. The existing mechanism in operation through the water resource department and revenue authorities is quite inadequate; and hence, fail to fulfill the big quantum of need at the grass-root level. And this very much influences the sustainable livelihood of many in our villages.

River Ramial, a tributary of River Brahmini serves as a water-cum-life line to the 37 main villages on both the banks within a stretch of 38 kms. The water users are mainly peasants who need to use the water of the said river for raising crops on seasonal basis.

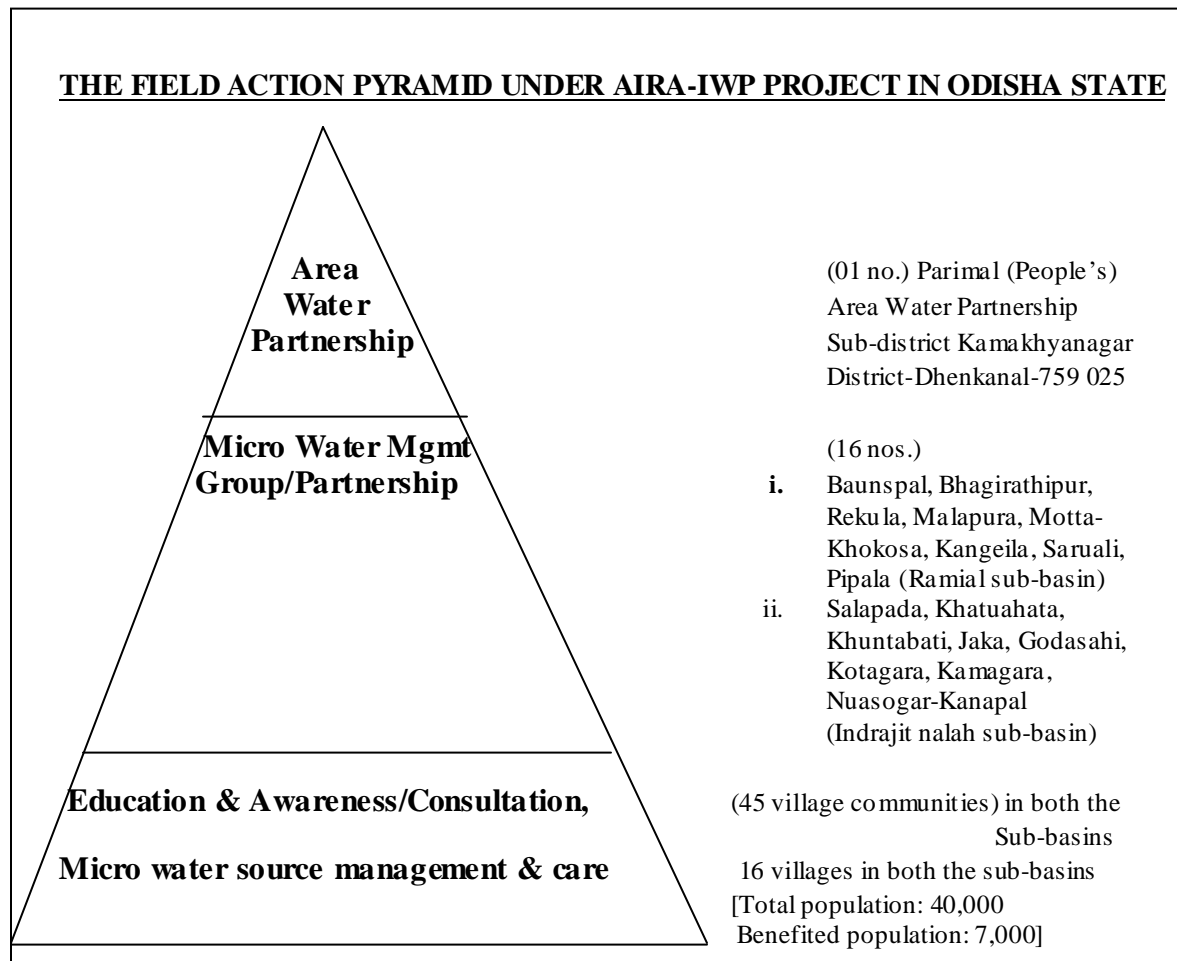
Indrajeet Nallah with a narrow flow thru village Kusumjodi via Salapada finds a fall point of the functionally dead minor irrigation project's diversion weir-cum-reservoir near Anlaberani on the major district road that links the district headquarters of Dhenkanal and the sub-district headquarters of Kamakhyanagar. It runs thru a course of 11 kms. touching good plane parts especially farm zones in 5 Gram Panchayats namely Kusumjodi, Kantio-putasahi, Kotagara, Rai Nrusinghpur & Sogar with a population of 35000.

This water stream serves greatly to 8 farming villages that formed micro water partnerships. The project attempted at linking the other stakeholders to the farmers' initiatives towards making it more organized and effective both from farming & livelihood and local NR-care point of view. And with this, the need and demand of the communities is rightly developed, presented before appropriate authorities (irrigation, agriculture, sanitation etc.) and promoted partnership.

In this juncture, the Organisation Arun Institute of Rural Affairs (AIRA) has undertaken the Area Water Partnership programme since July 2008 with the support of India Water Partnership, New Delhi covering the River Ramial basin in Kamakshya Nagar Sub-Division of Dhenkanal District, Orissa, involving 45 villages where the main livelihood is farm-based (with predominant crop-farming)

The project attempted at pursuing the objectives similar to IWRM's:

- To promote more equitable access to water resources and the benefits that are derived from water in order to tackle poverty.
- To ensure that scarce water is used efficiently and for the benefit of maximum number of people.
- To achieve more sustainable utilization of water etc.



PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

Sl	Activities in the previous phase	Activities in the current phase- yr. III
01	Collecting primary and secondary data about water resources	More data on river water pollution caused by industry & mining
02	Organizing people and creating forums (activating/ strengthening where such organizations already exist)	Area Water Partnership Parimal (People's) AWP formed (by now semi-formal ; likely to be formalized as independent body by Jan/Feb 2012)
03	Capacity Building trainings on Irrigation Management System & Campings	Training sessions by GO-NGO bodies (Pani Panchayats, Krishak Melas etc.) attended by PAWP members
04	Conducting Block level consultation/workshops	4 zonal trainings held with participation of members/supporters from 32 villages
05	Documentation	Booklet on water-matter & Glossary of news clippings developed & circulated
05	District/Zonal level consultation with stakeholders	Had no such plan in this phase. Instead, consultations/meetings with demands/ interface with irrigation, agriculture officials took place
06	Monitoring & Follow up	Continues

**II. A Report on the AIRA-IWP project
CONSOLIDATING & BROADENING WATER-ACTION OF PARIMAL AREA
WATER PARTNERSHIP IN DHENKANAL (ODISHA, INDIA)**

Background and Rationale

In an agrarian economy like ours, the economic growth is highly influenced by the sustainable agriculture growth rate. But, as remained the practice of subsistence farming, low productivity, absence of proper water distribution policy and low mechanization in the farm sector have remained the bottlenecks of our agriculture (which still serves the main stay of livelihood of a big majority.)

More important aspect is the optimal utilization of the existing infrastructure, especially the ones handling water, to its full capacity. In this context, optimum utilization of minor irrigation that mainly involves the canal irrigation and lift irrigation systems, warrants priority for the development of farming exercises.

The efficiency of water use is yet to reach near optimal. The need is to aware and involve people, particularly the primary stakeholders, in making irrigation systems sustainable and efficient. Participatory Irrigation Management is considered an effective tool for sustainable irrigation management; locality specific and capacity specific. As such the communities of farming people are also instrumental for effective operation and maintenance of irrigation systems, intensification of agriculture, farm mechanization (to the possible extent), crop diversification & higher yield etc. And all such activities of small as well as spread out measure is expected to lead towards scientific water management and increased agriculture production that enhances livelihood.

And looking at the field related practicability, the glaring need is of more integration and more participation at the grass-roots. And leading from here, one reaches to influence policy; hence the small action

Goal of the Project

- To create an enabling environment for a pro-poor water policy through community-based water committees and area water partnership
- To strengthen the capacity of members of local area partnership network that sustains such pro-poor water policy in the state

Objectives

- To educate people in management of irrigation system through a process of organisation and participation
- To protect and to maintain the existing water bodies by empowering the direct users & allied stakeholders
- To reduce the issues related to water bodies through advocacy & attempting at eliciting deemed action on the part of the related officials & authorities.
- To evolve proper mechanism for judicious water sharing through dialogue/ negotiation between the various stakeholders inclusive of the water authorities and government.

Approach & Methodology

Approach

- To continue capacity building of local and regional institutions like NGOs, CBOs and other civil society agencies
- Optimizing community participation in the planning process & in defining water allocation priorities
- Liaison/Linkages with other departments such as Agriculture & horticulture, Forest & Environment, Soil conservation & institutions like Krishi Vigyan Kendra etc. realizing proper eco-conservation & livelihood practices.
- Integrating gender dimension of water into community planning.
- Emphasis on traditional, cultural values and the sentiments of the people attached with water
- Networking of local institutions having interest on water right and access of people to water resources

Methodology

- Collecting primary and secondary data about local water resources especially the sources that are visibly polluted and/or likely to be polluted.
- Organising all stakeholders affected or likely to be affected by the growing water pollution/shortage/mis-use through organization (forums, camps, campaigns etc.)
- Promoting/involving the existing CBOs/Farmers Clubs/SHGs, local water committees (for common action towards pro-poor water policy)
- Creating awareness among the stakeholders about proper maintenance of existing water bodies along with adjacent eco-systems.

- Attempting at evolving a proper mechanism for judicious water sharing through dialogue/ negotiation between the various stakeholders inclusive of the water authorities and government
- Documenting & popularizing of good practices on water and eco-based sustainable livelihood

Project coverage

a. under specific activities:

The geographic locations covered under Parimal Area Water Partnership

b. under broad activities:

The entire district with some adjacent areas that vouch for pollution of flowing/perennial water sources.

Activities proposed and expected deliverables

Sl	Activities	Outputs
01	Strengthening / consolidating the MWP's & LWP's and also the PAWP constituents as a whole.	Active and bargaining AWP on the water front (with liaison rounds with water officials and others concerned along with media mobilization and coverage).
02	Mapping of industries and water sources for reference (with water sources already visibly polluted and also likely to be polluted)	Such mapping along with necessary loss-profile of the area (along with non-sophisticated but technical pollution profile of water) done (for study and follow up action)
03	Organising all stakeholders affected or likely to be affected by the growing water pollution/shortage/misuse	All stakeholders (PAWP members, CBOs, CSOs, media, water authorities etc.) made to get involved in needful action in ensuring water rights
04	Capacity Building trainings on Irrigation Management System & Campaigns (additional rounds)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - People aware of their rights, roles and responsibilities regarding Irrigation Management system - People aware of adaptive techniques for sustainable agricultural practices (crop-planning, drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation, moisture conservation and watershed management)
05	Attempting at holding negotiations with local public bodies, govt. administration for needful action	Delegates of PAWP and associated CBOs led to offices of district, sub-district level civil & water authorities. Dialogue/liaison taken place more than once.
06	Involvement of local media and anti-pollution action groups on water as well as right to life.	Local media and anti-pollution action groups on water as well as right to life mobilized and their involvement materialized
07	Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed/additional IEC materials for use by community groups and leaders and also by PAWP

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visuals (still photography, small video clippings etc.) developed on live situations of pollution/polluted sources, especially water sources and adjacent land/farm areas. - Located and documented best practices presented for imitation towards improved gains (both on achievement and bargaining at rights)
08	Monitoring & Follow up	- Continued action on Common Action Plan (as deems right at PAWP & associates), progress ensured and new strategies adopted whenever necessary

Activities undertaken

1	Strengthening / consolidating the MWP's & LWP's and grouping them into a wider platform of AWP	- 4 zonal consultations of LWP/PAWP members organized at Bhagirathipur, Mantri, Aluajharan & Kamagara during the month of May, September, October and November-2011.
2	Mapping of industries and water sources for reference (with water sources already visibly polluted and also likely to be polluted)	Water pollution caused by mega industries like NALCO, NTPC & other coal based power generating industries in operation & likely to operate on the banks of river Brahmani was done during September, October and November-2011.
3	Organising all stakeholders affected or likely to be affected by the growing water pollution/ shortage/misuse	In this direction the project wanted to organize consultations with affected/likely to be affected communities and line departments concerned. However, given the spread out area over the twin districts of Dhenkanal-Angul, a part of the stakeholders could only be touched within the boundary of Dhenkanal district thru broad-based consultations in collaboration with the forum called Zilla Krishi O' Suraksha Parishad, Dhenkanal, Zilla Nagarik Manch, Dhenkanal.
4	Capacity Building trainings on Irrigation Management System	4 zonal consultations of LWP/PAWP members organized at Bhagirathipur, Mantri, Aluajharan & Kamagara during the month of June, July, August & September-2011.
5	Holding negotiations with local public bodies, govt. administration for needful action	Delegates of PAWP and associated CBOs led to offices of district, sub-district level civil & water authorities. Dialogue/liaison taken place more than once.
6	Involvement of local media and anti-pollution action groups on water	Media, especially print media, covered almost all activities/exercises/public consultations/stakeholder consultations (major Odia dailies

		The Samaj, The Dharitri, The Sambad, The Dinalipi etc. have covered the proceedings of AIRA-IWP initiatives involving water and also of the Parimal (People's)AWP.
7	Documentation [- Developed/additional IEC materials for use by community groups and leaders and also by PAWP - Visuals (still photography, small video clippings etc.)]	Documentation of field/community level activities on water & livelihood matters done with written and still photography Booklet on water-matter titled "Jal, Paribesh O' Jan Sahayog" & Glossary of news clippings developed & circulated among stakeholders
8	Monitoring & Follow up	AIRA continues to be in touch, that too regularly with the micro water partnerships (villages concerned in the 2 sub-basins) and pursues the community action and also the line departments concerned, especially irrigation, agriculture, horticulture & rural development (RWSS).

Major Findings/Outcomes

- 16 nos. of local water partnerships formed
- 1 no. of area water partnership formed & in operation
- Local water partnerships resolving successfully/attempt at resolving local water issues especially to Rabi crops in all the 16 villages
- Skilled operations including crops that fetch cash benefits to farming households are more effective with non-govt. group persuasions than the high sounding/luring government schemes.
- Once motivated, the community groups/forums, especially LWPs/PAWP can bring productive results in the field of water-care, judicious water use & resultant benefits towards livelihood.
- The government officials/line departmental functionaries concerned can be positively mobilized towards useful and practical management/ handling of water resources in a particular area without much hassles.
- The 16 villages as constituents of the PAWP have started reaping benefits of GO-CBO joint action (in the lines of IWRM); even though lucidity in the joint action/collaborative action/responsible partnership is yet to achieve in full.
- To be figurally exact, the 16 villages in both the sub-basins of Ramial and Indrajit have started reaping the benefits of joint water management contributing towards better cropping facility and care of local natural resources; be it the perennial water flow & its utilization in river Ramial and Indrajit nalah.
- Though not exactly measurable, the gains of the PAWP initiatives has, by now, earned appreciation of the local communities mostly comprising of peasantry & people in allied services.

Visible Outcome

- Farming people in villages Kadua, Bhagirathipur, Rekula, Adipura, Khokosa, Jagannathpur, Manitri (in the Ramial sub-basin) and villages Salapada, Jaka, Kamagara & Nuasogar-Kanapal (in Indrajit sub-basin) have developed Rabi cropping patterns being assured of water availability especially for Rabi crops (post-monsoon crops/winter crops).
- Cases of disputes over water drawing/ sharing in both the sub-basins have receded to almost nil owing to the mediatorship of LWP/PAWP. This is perhaps due to the presence/interim meetings/joint sessions of constituents of PAWP.
- As natural, hassle-free water sharing & farming activities led to enhanced farm production that leads to improved livelihood of the concerned rural communities.
- The line department officials (in irrigation, agriculture-horticulture & RD (RWSS) are brought to be face to face with village communities and to chalk out progressive plans & ease out operational differences.
- The line department officials are, in a sort, pulled up to respond positively to the village communities needs as an act of accountability and answerability.

Other Informations

Supporting documents (news items in press/popular media), photographs of events, published materials (IEC materials & educative materials by project holder) were there with timely communication to supporter partner IWP, New Delhi.

Conclusion

Looking at the field related practicability, the glaring need is of more integration and more participation at the grass-roots which needs to be encouraged/promoted/facilitated with involvement of the alert stakeholders (for that matter NGDOs/CBOs like AIRA & other independent/action bodies on water equity & livelihood issues and of course media houses/mass communication agencies, government departments/subsidiaries/outfits concerned).

Further, giving the proposed/in operation extensive industrialization that is most likely to contribute to rising pollution in air and soil, especially in the water sector, the need for organizing peoples opinion thru formal/informal civic bodies (mostly involving people from rural communities depending on local natural resources & traditional livelihood) comes as a priority. As such, the IWP-AIRA-PAWP kind of activities need to continue till the concerned community groups find themselves capable to handle the situation and to manage/self sustain themselves in this front that is vital to their livelihood and sustainable development.
