

IMPACTS OF ‘PRIME MINISTER KRISHI SINCHAYEE YOJNA’ (WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT) ON AGRICULTURE

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INTRODUCTION

Prime Minister Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (Watershed Development) (PMKSY) is a modified programme of erst while Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) of the Department of Land Resources. This consolidation is for optimum use of resources, sustainable outcomes and integrated planning. The scheme was launched during 2009-10. The programme is being implemented as per Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects 2008. The main objectives of the WDC-PMKSY are to restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water. The outcomes are prevention of soil erosion, regeneration of natural vegetation, rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table. This enables multi-cropping and the introduction of diverse agro-based activities, which help to provide sustainable livelihoods to the people residing in the watershed area.

THE SALIENT FEATURES OF PROGRAMME

1. Setting up of Dedicated Institutions with multi-disciplinary experts at State level - State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA), District level - Watershed Cell cum Data Centre (WCDC),
2. Cluster Approach in selection and preparation of projects: Average size of project - about 5,000 ha.
3. Enhanced Cost Norms from Rs. 6000 per ha. to Rs.12,000/ha. in plains; Rs.15,000/ ha in difficult/hilly areas
4. Release of central assistance in three installments (20%, 50% & 30%) instead of five installments.
5. Flexibility in the project period i.e. 4 to 7 years
6. Scientific planning of the projects by using IT, remote sensing techniques, GIS facilities for planning and monitoring & evaluation
7. Earmarking of project funds for DPR preparation (1%), Entry point activities (4%), Capacity building (5%), Monitoring (1%) and Evaluation (1%).
8. Introduction of new livelihood component with earmarking of project fund under Watershed Projects i.e. 9% of project fund for livelihoods for assetless people and 10% for production system & micro-enterprises
9. Delegation of power of sanction of projects to States.

Watershed development has been the mainstay of development programmes for rain fed and dry land agriculture by central as well as various state governments for quite some time now. Watershed is typically a catchment area from where the water flows to a particular

drainage system such as a river, ranging from a few hectares to several thousands of hectares of surface area. Watershed development refers to “conservation, regeneration, and the judicious use of human and natural (like land, water, plants, animals) resources within a particular watershed” (NABARD, 2006). As the boundaries of a single watershed do not align with those of the administrative boundaries, for the purpose of treatment, it is divided into several smaller micro-watersheds to make them overlap as much as possible with the administrative boundaries. This makes the task of managing the development programme much easier as it facilitates resolving of conflict of interests among various groups much easier as well as faster and more efficient means of developing the watershed segments independent of one another. Development of micro-watersheds has been instrumental in raising agricultural productivity and employment opportunities in the rain fed and dry regions of the country, where resource degradation is a serious problem (Kerr et al. 2002, Hope 2007). In fact, the report on agriculture prepared for the 11th Five Year Plan published by the Planning Commission of India has underscored the need to raise the expenditure for accelerating the development of rain fed areas through treatment of watersheds.

WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT IN MAHARASHTRA

1. Participation in Aquifer Management Pilot Project

Under the World Bank aided JALSWARAJYA project, the state Govt. has initiated Aquifer Water Management pilot project in 6 aquifers selected from 6 different agro climatic zones of Maharashtra. Ratnagiri aquifer is one of them where AFARM has performed the tasks of Support Organization. As a support Organization, AFARM has built the capacities of various stakeholders including communities residing in the pilot villages to make informed decisions, prepared integrated aquifer management plans & also empowered the community for undertaking implementation, operational & management activities. The emphasis was on supply augmentation & demand Management.

2. Participation in Jalswarajya Project - (2005- 2007)

Jalswarajya is Community lead demand driven project of rural water supply & Sanitation financially assisted by World Bank. Under this program, department of water supply and sanitation, GoM has engaged the consultancy firms as District Capacity Building Consortium (DCBC). The consortium of AFARM, Primove – Infra structure development private Limited has functioned as DCBC in Sangli and Buldhana districts in the state. As a DCBC, AFRAM Consortium have provided various services for building the capacities of different stakeholders functioning at different levels (grass root to district levels), provided on field support, technical assistance for planning and implementation of water supply & sanitation facilities.

3. Participation in Reforms in Drinking Water & Sanitation Sectors -(2003-04)

The Government of India under Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission launched Pilot Program having underlined principles of sectoral reforms in drinking water & Sanitation sector i.e. paradigm shift from a Govt. lead supply driven approach to community lead demand driven approach. In Maharashtra, the said pilot project was undertaken in four districts. GoM engaged the consultancy firms as District Capacity Building Consortium (DCBC). The consortium of AFARM, Primove – Infra structure development private Limited has functioned as DCBC in Raigad & Nanded districts in the state. As a DCBC, AFRAM Consortium have provided various services for building the capacities of different

stakeholders functioning at different levels (grass root to district levels), provided on field support, technical assistance for planning and implementation of water supply & sanitation facilities.

IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES IN MAHARASHTRA

1. Development of Water Users Associations within Minor Irrigation Program

Maharashtra Rural Development and Water Conservation Department of GoM is funded by KFW Bank of Germany for the development of 29 minor irrigation projects in 10 districts of Maharashtra as per the principle of Participatory irrigation development and management. The project aiming to increase the farmer's income through sustainable irrigated agriculture, expects the farmers to get united themselves into the Water users associations and ensure farmers' participation in planning, actual construction management, maintenance and repairs of water irrigation system. Hence, to build the capacity of the Water Users Associations, Government of Maharashtra has appointed AFARM as APEX NGO since January 2009.

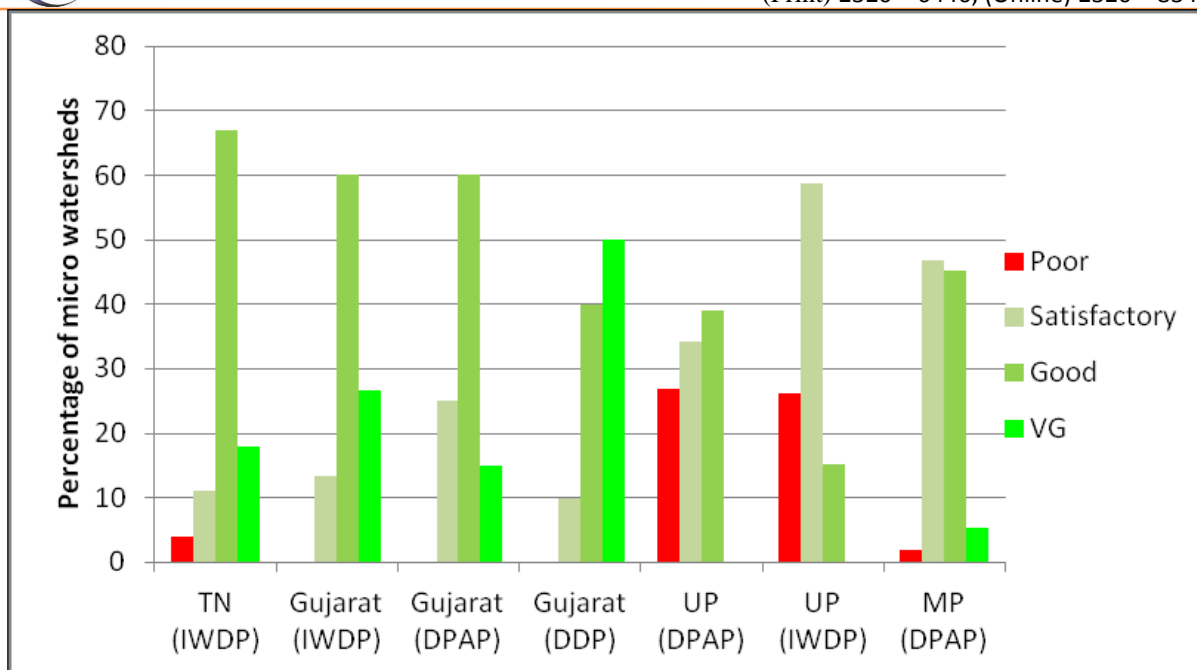


2. Capacity Building, Promoting Effective Functioning and Fostering of Water User's Association

To promote more efficient, equitable and sustainable irrigation service deliveries through effective involvement of Water User's Associations (WUAs) and to reduce canal irrigation subsidies, GoM has passed the Maharashtra Management of Irrigation Systems by Farmers (MMISF) Act, 2005, which provided the transfer of irrigation system management to Water Users Associations and including bulk supply and volumetric charging of irrigation water to WUAs as per the participatory irrigation management in India.

For effective implementation of provisions in MMISF Act 2005, GoM has established WUAs on about selected 286 irrigation schemes in Maharashtra. Water Resources Department, GoM has engaged region specific six capable and credible NGOs to support, promote and build WUAs to act as per MMISF Act, 2005

During the period of February 2009 to January 2012, AFARM with the local support of 6 NGOs has provided capacity building services to 111 WUAs established on 56 Minor, 1 Medium and 1 Major Irrigation projects from Pune and Konkan Regions covering 9 districts.



CONCLUSION

Watershed Development Programme (WDP) is one of the most popular development programmes implemented across the country. It is widely admitted that WDP is seen as the panacea. This programme has been directed towards the promotion of overall economic development and improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the resource poor sections of people inhabiting the programme areas through natural resource enhancement (GoI, 2001b). Over the years there is much visible impact of watershed development programmes among different communities across various regions.

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