

MINUTES OF THE 34th MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME (IWMP) HELD ON 12.08.2013 IN THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES AT NIRMAN BHAVAN, NEW DELHI.

The 34th meeting of the Steering Committee on Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) was held on 12.08.2013 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (LR) in the Committee Room of Department of Land Resources at NBO Building, Nirman Bhavan, New Delhi. The list of participants is at **Annexure-I**.

2. At the outset, the Additional Secretary, Department of Land Resources welcomed the participants. In his opening remarks, Joint Secretary (WM & Neeranchal) stated that the States should have a clear chart regarding institutional arrangements and capacity building for success of the programme. Dr. AK Sikka, DDG, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) suggested that every State should identify a model watershed in each district or to begin with atleast one Model Watershed in the area. Meeting started with the presentation by Maharashtra on the performance of the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) projects and proposals for the year 2013-14.

3. Maharashtra:

(i) The Principal Secretary, Department of Water Conservation, Government of Maharashtra made a presentation on the performance of the 948 IWMP projects sanctioned to the State from 2009-10 to 2012-13 covering 40.68 lakh ha. in 33 districts. The State has proposed to treat 1634 micro-watersheds over an area of 5.19 lakh ha. against the allocated target of 5.18 lakh ha. for the year 2013-14.

(ii) The committee observed that some of the Entry Point Activities (EPAs) in respect of 2009-10 projects are yet to complete. In this regard, the committee was of the view that the EPAs are required to be completed during the first year of the project so that, the purpose of EPA will be achieved. Accordingly, it was suggested that the EPAs which have not been taken up under 2009-10 projects should be left out. Further, the committee also suggested that such activities under the EPAs which do not relate to Watershed Projects may be avoided.

(iii) The Secretary, Maharashtra informed the committee that there is a need for change in the Guidelines regarding the cheque signing authority of Secretary, Watershed Committee (WC) which is causing delay in payments and slow implementation of the projects. Accordingly, he suggested that the Secretary of the WC should be a Government employee either Gramsevak or Agriculture Assistant. In this regard, the committee advised the State to submit a detailed proposal to DoLR for taking a view.

(iv) Under Training and Capacity Building, the State has just utilized 28% of funds available under this head. Dr A.K. Sikka from ICAR advised that there should be a consortium of capacity building institutions because a single agency cannot do the capacity building at all the levels.

(v) For 828 projects sanctioned in the year 2009-10 to 2011-12, the State has completed the DPRs for 783 projects. The State representative assured to complete and upload the remaining 45 DPRs by August, 2013. The DPRs for projects sanctioned in the year 2012-13 will be completed by December, 2013. The committee suggested the State to prepare DPRs in Marathi so that the local people would be able to understand the project.

(vi) Regarding evaluation of completed Pre-IWMP projects, State representative informed that the cost norms for undertaking evaluations were approved in 1998 and need to be revised as it is difficult for the evaluating agencies to work on old cost norms. Further, State representative also requested to the fix sample size by DoLR for undertaking the evaluation of completed projects.

(vii) Regarding livelihood activities, the committee observed that the progress of implementation is very slow and needs to be expedited. While selecting the livelihood activities proper business plans need to be prepared ensuring that each livelihood activity should generate income. Livelihood activities should start as soon as SHGs are formulated and participation of more women should be ensured.

(viii) With reference to evaluation on completion of preparatory phase of projects, the committee advised the State that evaluation of projects should be completed in a time bound manner. The evaluating agencies need to be sensitized about the programme and parameters to be evaluated so that credible evaluation reports can be prepared.

(ix) With regard to data entry in the online MIS, State representative assured that the same would be completed by September, 2013 and then would be updated on a regular basis.

(x) The committee observed that the photographs should be taken in the same angle before & after execution of work and should have proper signage including GPS co-ordinates.

(xi) The implementation strategy indicated by the State for the projects of the year 2013-14 is given below:

Item	Timeline indicated by State
Timeline for engagement of experts and staff at SLNA, WCDC & WDT levels	31 st October 2013