

Western Regional Consultation for Approach Paper to the 12th Five Year Plan

23-24 November, Ahmedabad

Organized by Pravah

Proceedings of the Consultations

Thematic presentations from the groups

Water sources		
Issues	Solutions	Recommendations
Water scarcity Availability is less than demand, and scarcity varies by season Bad planning and implementation make the situation worse People lack awareness of water management Sources are being over-exploited Poor water quality has made the situation worse	Analyse the type of scarcity, its reasons and the overall situation based on knowledge base Solutions will depend upon the understanding of the causes of scarcity, e.g. fluoride contamination, and the decisions / alternatives will be different Solutions will also be linked to systems of decision making concerning source protection and groundwater management	Implement village-based water security and programme encompassing the integration of watersheds, drinking water schemes & sanitation and develop a participatory normative water management framework Determine the investment and costs for drinking water security Create a knowledge and awareness fund Create a capital fund for water supply and sanitation
Groundwater depletion caused by Increasing population Faulty irrigation methods Increasing depth from which groundwater is extracted Lack of water budgeting, awareness, regulation and water recharge No micro-shed planning approach	Create or strengthen 'knowledge' building systems at the state and district levels and revamp the perspectives within Government regarding of groundwater, e.g., of identification of aquifers and management of resources Ensure resource protection through formal regulations, enforced preferably through Gram Sabha resolutions (backed by a trained geologist). These can be reassessed and enforced every 5 years Regulate the distance between well and bore wells	Create a maintenance fund – similar to the watershed maintenance fund Create a restructuring fund – specific to drinking water management Annual panchayat plan should include these aspects within the panchayat budget <i>Ball park investment for WATER SECURITY SYSTEM at Rs. 30,000/- per ha (unit of 1,000 ha considered here as a village)</i>

<p>Absence of drinking water source protection strategies</p> <p>Village water and sanitation committee (VWSCs) lack capacity</p> <p>Shortage of financing for O&M</p> <p>Lack of soil and water conservation and awareness about saving water</p> <p>There are no operating rules for drinking water source</p> <p>There is a lack of water regulation and implementation, no regular cleaning of sources and protection of recharge areas or any sort of aquifer management</p> <p>Water supply is not need based</p>	<p>Identify recharge areas through surveys and explore mechanisms of protecting them</p> <p>Implement the micro watershed concept as a supply augmentation measure and revisit the strategy 5-10 years</p> <p>Create a maintenance fund to repair crucial structures (especially percolation tank)</p> <p>Adopt strategic sanitation practices – including protection of recharge and source areas from a quality point of view</p> <p>Develop social regulations for a participatory / community-based source protection approach, that should be a conditionality for implementation of drinking water schemes</p>	
<p>Cross cutting solutions</p> <p><i>Knowledge generation and awareness</i></p> <p>Strategically, knowledge generation at the village-level is important. This can happen through exposure visits to successful areas. Knowledge is important for decision-support. It can help expand the expertise base by helping local education, research institutions and experts across line departments to develop support capacities.</p> <p><i>Water committee</i></p> <p>Its constitution should be strategic and powers should be decentralised. The committee needs the authority to function.</p> <p>Para-workers/para-professionals (youth from villages) can be identified to support and continuously train panchayats</p> <p><i>Planning</i></p> <p>Create a convergence of ‘top-down’ and ‘bottoms-up’ approach at the taluka level, although at present there is no mechanism for convergence at the block level</p>		
<p>Water supply</p>		
<p>Issues</p>	<p>Solutions</p>	<p>Recommendations</p>
<p>Accessibility</p> <p>Distance to water source (tail to head)</p> <p>Difficult terrain causes problems of accessibility (plain, hilly, desert,</p>	<p>Technology options: prioritise local drinking sources and identify multiple sources too provide equitable access</p> <p>Protect drinking water</p>	<p>Work in mission mode with the full participation of user groups (e.g., the pulse polio-awareness drive). Accountability and action should be the mantra of the</p>

<p>forest)</p> <p>There are social, political (ownership issues) and economic constraints in accessing water</p> <p>The water table is declining rapidly</p>	<p>sources</p> <p>Regulate abuse by influential farmers</p> <p>Create incentives for water savings and reduce water losses</p> <p>Institute legal provisions for providing water to all so that people in remote also have access to water and make a water point available within 200 metres</p> <p>Install water meters to effect water savings, and implement water budgeting by local consensus and manage demand better</p> <p>Augment local water sources through NRM, social awareness and mobilization</p> <p>Ensure that PRIs have the power, responsibility and accountability to ensure equitable access</p>	<p>mission mode</p> <p>Priority should be given to strengthen local rainwater based water sources</p> <p>There should be an autonomous institutional set up, with all power, responsibility and legal support, governed by the local panchayat. The panchayat should be the governing body but the day-to-day operations should be taken by another group. The bureaucracy also needs to be involved since panchayats change every 5 years but the training and knowledge with the administration is more permanent</p> <p>Focus on generating relevant and reliable data, to help in monitoring and understanding the water and sanitation situation on the ground</p> <p>States should be made legally responsible and accountable for providing water and sanitation</p> <p>Need reforms in the Forest protection act to include water management</p>
<p>Water quality</p> <p>Over-dependence and exploitation of groundwater has led to deterioration in water quality</p> <p>Surface water quality has deteriorated because of pollution in the catchment areas</p> <p>Setting water standards at the users' end is difficult since purification and testing at</p>	<p>Institute periodic water testing and appropriate purification methods</p> <p>Promote RWH in the highly contaminated areas such as areas affected by arsenic and fluoride</p> <p>Take strict action against polluting industries and make the community proactive in monitoring effluents</p> <p>Community should be sensitized about water</p>	<p><i>(Moved from solutions)</i></p> <p>Need for regular monitoring of water quality. Produce. State level water quality status report at least once a year</p> <p>Government has to ensure that industrial pollution is checked</p>

<p>their users end is not available at this point</p> <p>Industrial pollution is a concern (e.g. that caused by phosphate units in Udaipur)</p> <p>There is a general lack of awareness in rural areas about water quality (e.g. Khadera village)</p>	<p>quality and impacts</p> <p>Build capacity of stakeholders so that they are aware of the quality issues – need awareness building campaigns</p>	
<p>Water pricing</p> <p>There are inequity in funding both by government and private operators</p> <p>The establishment costs and O&M costs are inequitable</p> <p>There are direct (payment for projects) and indirect costs (healthcare etc) of impure water consumption</p> <p>Supply is affected during disasters such as droughts and flashfloods</p>	<p>Operation and maintenance should be done by user groups</p> <p>There should be no subsidy for electricity (for example in Gujarat) and O&M which leads to non or low payment of water tax and use of water meters</p> <p>Panchayats should prepare revenue generation models for taking up water and sanitation related activities</p> <p>Pricing should be based on quality and quantity</p>	
Sanitation		
Issues	Solutions	Recommendations
<p>Access/use of toilets</p> <p>There are no need based designs available</p> <p>There is a lack of proper monitoring system for follow ups after construction of toilets</p> <p>The BPL status has many major complications</p> <p>There is a lack of proper involvement of women group/SHG group in sanitation programmes</p> <p>The poorest of the poor</p>	<p>Sanitation programmes should be area specific with flexibility as per local acceptance and traditional approach</p> <p>It should incorporate low cost innovations, focus on changing mindsets by creating awareness and provide subsidy (maximum)</p> <p>In the village health and sanitation set up, there should be community (NGO representation and 50% women)</p> <p>Train and strengthen NGO accountability</p>	<p>Cross cutting recommendations</p> <p>Budget allocation should include planning, designing, innovation, the roles and administration of NGOs, accountability of agencies involved and a mandatory reporting mechanism at all levels</p> <p>Take a holistic approach and integrated management at the micro level. The local communities should work with higher authorities and engineers, and the final plan to be approved by local</p>

are not given special attention There is a shortage of funds for schemes for the poor		authorities Change mindsets of local authorities/GPs and improve co-ordination between government departments
Solid and liquid waste management There are no proper designs for drainage, disposal of liquid waste/solid waste, segregation systems and composing technology Grant allocations are not proper Reduce reuse and technology is popular with villagers	For the management of solid waste, conduct training at the local level involving segregation, coordination between local bodies and higher authorities for waste management and frequent monitoring and composting of biodegradable waste For liquid waste, conduct studies on available options and then promote the select options through mass publicity	Institutionalize training programmes for government officials The Gram Swatchta Abhiyaan should be a year long initiative by using media or changes in curriculum to include sanitation Organise youth clubs like the RamaKrishna Mission has done in West Bengal to take up cleanliness drives Develop an overall village action plan, which will be bottom up and the implementation should follow a bottom up approach as well
Hygiene education Lack of public studies on the impacts of hygiene education No convergence with other schemes lack of adolescent education, no involvement of women teachers in SSHE/AE Improper hygiene practices Lack of proper facilities for physically challenged/aged/pregnant women Best practices are seldom scaled up There is a lack of proper understand between DDO /collector /higher authorities on issues of hygiene education	Improve implementation of the school curriculum, Involve female teachers and conduct education and training for trainers (teachers), individuals and the community through hygiene and sanitation camps. Include children Co-ordinate with various department in the preparation and training for DRR	<u>Timeline</u> 1 year (NGO+GS)-material/printing, media (AV mode), frequent meeting with GS, accountability of GS, target oriented vision as per village/area 2 Year onwards (NGO+GS)-implementation and promotional activities, monitoring and new innovations, penalizing in case of non compliance
Governance		
Issues	Solutions	Recommendations
Roles, responsibility	Conduct agenda wise,	Cross cutting

<p>and authority</p> <p>The government is indifferent with regard to issues of water and sanitation</p> <p>Pani samitis do not have the authority or are not given power or control over water and sanitation</p> <p>Pani samitis are not identified as legal entities and not legally empowered</p>	<p>scheme wise discussions on water and sanitation so that people become aware of the issue</p> <p>Map village water resources once a year regarding water security, time line, quality, quantity, and availability from the micro to the macro level</p> <p>These messages should be documented and conveyed to the block, district and state levels to ensure upward linkage</p>	<p>recommendations</p> <p>Strengthen gram sabha with guidelines for implementing schemes</p> <p>Ensure transparency and accountability at all levels</p> <p>Develop need-based schemes</p> <p>Outsource technical expertise to monitor the mechanisms. Gram sabhas should have the authority to tap them</p> <p>Install water household meters</p> <p>Quality material should be used for maintaining longevity and avoid leakage</p>
<p>Equity (of resource allocation) and accessibility</p> <p>These include caste issues/gender, distribution and location of water sources</p>	<p>Encourage proactive disclosure of budgets, schemes, plans, beneficiaries, and revenue at gram panchayat level to people in villages</p>	<p>Availability of funds and disbursement of funds should be made to panchayats on time</p> <p>Improve availability of reliable data</p>
<p>Financial issues/resource allocation/technical issues</p> <p>These include irregular salary to the appointed lineman and</p> <p>Use of cheap maintenance material in pipelines</p>	<p>Priority should be given on the basis of demand</p> <p>There is a need for availability of an expert panel at the block level</p> <p>Control wastage of water so deprived communities can access water</p> <p>Tax collection should be on the basis of usage</p> <p>Need to follow a minimum standard guidelines for maintenance of structures</p> <p>Execute processes in time</p> <p>Pani samitis should be strengthened. Irrespective of caste there should be 50% representation of women, membership should be rotated</p>	
Beyond water and sanitation		
Issues	Solutions and Recommendations	
Urbanization, industrialization and privatization	<p>Conduct assessments of water availability (based on local aquifer) and apportion water based on a needs assessment</p> <p>Make a land use policy that takes into account different</p>	

	<p>types of land use such as SEZ, ports, industries</p> <p>Regulate demand regulation with monitoring at all levels, with incentives and penalties</p> <p>Recognition of rights to meet basic water requirement</p>	
Conflicts in policies	<p>There should be an umbrella water policy with water as a common resource</p> <p>All policies/programmes should be within the ambit of this water policy</p>	
Convergence	<p>Convergence on water and sanitation programmes should happen at the gram sabha level</p> <p>NREGA should be considered as a convergence programme</p>	
Water policies are unclear regarding distribution among human beings and other forms of life		
Contribution for water works from villagers is usually unfair and inequitable	Contributions to be redirected from NREGA, and other schemes	
Industrial pollution		
Treat water as a rights based issue		
Climate change		