

NATIONAL WATER MISSION

The National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) has been prepared by the Government of India With a view to address Climate Change and the related issues which laid down the principles and has identified the approach to be adopted to meet the challenges of impact of climate change through eight National Missions. National Water Mission is one of the missions established by Government of India to address the impact of climate change on water resources.

The main objective of the National Water Mission is “conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management”. The five identified goals of the Mission are: (a) comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of impact of climate change on water resource; (b) promotion of citizen and state action for water conservation, augmentation and preservation; (c) focused attention to vulnerable areas including over-exploited areas; (d) increasing water use efficiency by 20%, and (e) promotion of basin level integrated water resources management. Various strategies for achieving the goals have been identified which lead to integrated planning for sustainable development and efficient management with active participation of the stakeholders.

Five goals and strategies identified under the National Water Mission are:

Goal 1: Comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of the impact of climate change on water resources

Strategies:

- a. Review and establishment of network for collection of additional necessary data;
- b. Development of Water Resources Information System;
- c. Development / implementation of modern technology for measurement of various data;
- d. Developing inventory of wetlands;
- e. Research and studies on all aspects related to impact of climate change on water resources including quality aspects of water resources with active collaboration of all research organizations working in the area of climate change;
- f. Reassessment of basin wise water situation; and
- g. Projection of the impact of climate change on water resources.

Goal 2: Promotion of citizen and state action for water conservation, augmentation and preservation

Strategies:

- a. Empowerment and involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions, urban local bodies, Water Users Associations and primary stake holders in management of water resources with focus on water conservation, augmentation and preservation;
- b. Promote participatory irrigation management;
- c. Sensitization of elected representatives of over-exploited areas on dimensions of the problems and to orient investment under MNREGP towards water conservation;
- d. Provide incentives for water neutral and water positive technologies in industry;
- e. Encourage participation of NGOs in various activities related to water resources management, particularly in planning, capacity building and mass awareness; and

- f. Involve and encourage corporate sector / industries to take up, support and promote water conservation, augmentation and preservation within the industry and as part of corporate social responsibility.

Goal 3: Focused attention to vulnerable areas including over-exploited areas

Strategies:

- a. Expeditious implementation of water resources projects particularly the multipurpose projects with carry over storages benefitting drought prone and rain deficit areas;
- b. Promotion of traditional system of water conservation;
- c. Physical sustainability of groundwater resources;
- d. Intensive programme for ground water recharge in over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas;
- e. Conservation and preservation of wetlands;
- f. Intensive programmes to addressing the quality aspects of drinking water particularly in rural areas;
- g. Promotion of water purification and desalination; and
- h. Systematic approach for coping with floods.

Goal 4: Increasing water use efficiency by 20%

Strategies:

- a. Research in area of increasing water use efficiency and maintaining its quality in agriculture, industry and domestic sectors;
- b. Incentivize recycling of water including wastewater;
- c. Development of Eco-friendly sanitation system;
- d. Improve efficiency of urban water supply system;
- e. Efficiency labelling of water appliances and fixtures;
- f. Promotion of water efficient techniques and technologies;
- g. Undertake Pilot Projects for improvement in water use efficiency in collaboration with States;
- h. Promote Water Regulatory Authorities for ensuring equitable water distribution and rational charges for water facilities;
- i. Promote mandatory water audit including those for drinking water purposes;
- j. Adequate provision for operation & maintenance of water resources projects;
- k. Incentives through award for water conservation & efficient use of water; and
- l. Incentivize use of efficient irrigation practices and fully utilize the created facilities.

Goal 5: Promotion of basin level integrated water resources management

Strategies:

- a. Review of National Water Policy;
- b. Review of State Water Policy;
- c. Guidelines for different uses of water e.g., irrigation, drinking, industrial, etc. particularly in context of basin wise situations;
- d. Planning on the principle of integrated water resources development and management;
- e. Inter-basin integration particularly for augmenting water by converting surplus flood water into utilizable water; and
- f. Ensuring convergence among various water resources programmes.