Water Stewardship & Water Governance Standards and Certification

Scoping Meeting
National Water Mission
Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi
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WOTR

Water Stewardship Initiative

- Demand side water management and Water Governance issues are not addressed adequately
- Pilot to operationalize the Maharashtra Groundwater (Development and Management) Act, 2009
- Implemented in three districts, five blocks and 106 villages
- Stewardship approach



Water Stewardship Initiative: Collective conservation and management of Ground Water

Basic Assumptions

- Water is a shared resource in the public trust domain
- It requires collaborative solutions
- Communities are not passive water users but can play an important role as water managers

Necessary Conditions

- Sense of ownership
- Reflection, dialogue and generation of locale-specific information
- Boundary ruledefined users
- Inclusive governance institutions
- Enforcement of sanctions on violators
- Conflict-resolution mechanisms

Processes and Strategies

- Engagement of multiple Stakeholder groups
- Jalsevaks
- Formation of VWMT
- Water Stewardship Planscrop plans, water budgeting
- Stakeholder Engagement Workshops
- Research findings shared

Expected Outcome

Water-use that is socially equitable, environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial

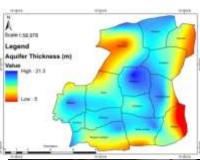


Piloting Key Principles of Maharashtra Groundwater Act 2009

- Institutional Governance (WWRC): Pilot at Aquifer level and VSRT formed in 106 villages, Jal Sevaks
- Cropping pattern based on water budget and plan optimum withdrawal of Ground water: Assessment of village water health, Water Stewardship Plans
- Registration of Wells, ban on deep wells and mandatory permission for sinking new well: Community makes their own rules in WSI











Water Budgeting

An approach as well as tool geared towards ensuring optimum, equitable and most efficient use of water and behavioral change

It is defined as 'an estimate of harvest of water resources and its utilization for a set period of time'.

- •Assess season-wise water availability surface and groundwater at the village level
- •Assess current and projected water demand for domestic, agriculture, livestock and livelihood purposes
- Match existing water availability with demand
- •Choose crops and cropping patterns in line with net water availability keeping in mind household food security and market (income) needs
- •Introduce water saving technologies –drip, sprinkler, mulching, etc., and encourage harvesting more water
- •Shift from supply driven approach to demand side management



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Village Display board on Water Budgeting Data and Plans

पिकासारी लाजायो

Stakeholder Engagement: The Key Strategy

- 34,600 farming households in 106 villages
- Village Stakeholder Teams formed in all villages
- 27 Jalsevaks (capacitated rural youth) facilitated and motivated villagers for water management
- 65 Stakeholder engagement workshops organized where more than 2000 village level stakeholders participated
- In more than 70 villages, people offered shramdaan (local voluntary contribution)
- Several Government officials participated in workshops
- Collaborations with officials and departments ensured









Achievements...

- Communities are governing around 38.39 billion liters of water annually
- Around 9 billion liters of additional water harvested during the project period
- Over 2000 farmers (54% rise) have adopted practices of micro irrigation, mulching, vermi-composting, and organic manures and saved 3.24 billion liters water
- Stakeholders have been voluntarily collecting daily rainfall data through 212 rain gauge units and monitoring water level data
- Water Stewardship Plans in 106 villages and efforts are made to execute them.















WSI highlighted in media and Award at International level











Water Governance Standard and Certification System

Objective

 To develop a system that incentivizes agrarian communities to adopt sustainable water governance practices at local level for assured drinking water and enhanced livelihood opportunities

Specific objectives

- To develop a standard and framework that;
 - Helps objectively asses the level and quality of water governance at the local level;
 - Provides a Benchmark that incentivizes communities to define reachable waterrelated goals; work to realise them and track progress of implementation;
 - Serves as a decision guideline/ criteria for funding (public / private) to develop and stabilise water resources and infrastructure;
 - Creates a framework for incentivising competitive bidding for water-related financing and resource acquisition;

Scope

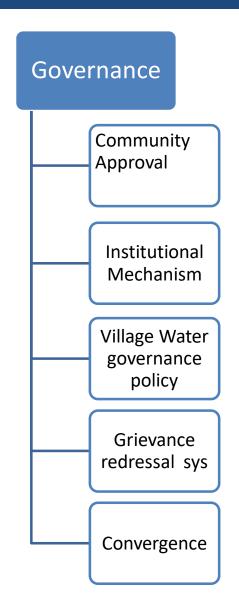
 Dryland agriculture or Rainfed /groundwater dependent agrarian communities across India; currently with focus on Maharashtra

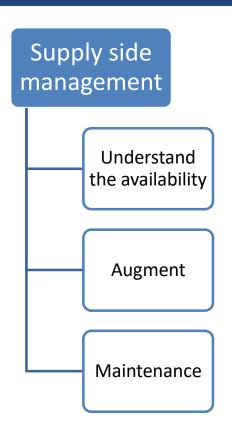
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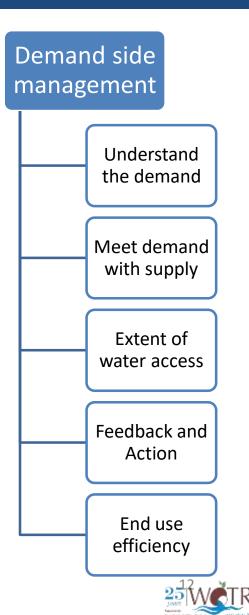
- Basis for development
 - Learnings from initiatives in India and International standards
 - WOTR, APFAMGS, ISO etc
- Structure
 - Modular approach
 - Modules can be added in subsequent revisions, if necessary
 - 3 Modules, 13 parameters, 27 criteria, 74 scoring indicators
 - Revenue village unit for Water Governance Standards
 - Gram Panchayat to undertake measures and get the village certified
- Basic message
 - Plan according to the local conditions and execute your own plan
 - Follow sustainability, equity, transparency, and participation considerations in planning and execution



Structure Overview: Water Governance Standard and Certification System







Possible Applications

- <u>Inclusion into Flagship Programs</u>: Annual certification can be a mandatory condition for participation in and continuation in funded schemes such as Jalyukt shiwar, Jalswaraj, Adarsh Gram Yojana, etc, as it delivers value for money and enhances sustainability.
- Competition based initiatives and Awards: Water Governance Certification can be a key criteria for determining winning applications/ nominations.
- Government / Public Sector: Annual certification can identify eligible villages or preferential candidates for availing related government schemes.
- <u>Companies under CSR</u>: Supporting communities for implementation of the WGS and certification will enhance sustainability of investments made.





Thanks

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