

File No.M-65022/9/2020-O/o MD(NWM)-MOWR**Draft Minutes of the meeting of stakeholders held on 24.07.2020 for sensitization and participation in NWM's campaign on "Catch the Rain"**

A meeting with stakeholders of water sector based in Delhi was held under the Chairmanship Shri G. Asok Kumar, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, National Water Mission (NWM), DoWR, RD, and GR on 24.07.2020 at 11:00 AM through Cisco-Webex software platform for their sensitization and seeking their participation in NWM's campaign on "Catch the Rain". The list of participants is annexed.

2. In his welcome address, Shri J.P. Singh, Deputy Secretary, NWM mentioned that NWM is seeking the participation of different stakeholders from water sector on "Catch the Rain" campaign launched by NWM after the IMC meeting held under the chairmanship of Secretary DoWR, RD, GR on 16th January 2020 wherein a plan on 'Catch the Rain' was presented by the NWM before IMC Committee. NWM's campaign 'Catch the Rain' is to nudge states and stakeholders to create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to the climatic conditions and soil conditions before the onset of ensuing monsoon. Under this campaign, NWM has already sensitized the state governments at the level of Chief Secretaries as well as at the cutting edge level of DMs & different NGOs active in the water space to participate in the "Catch the Rain" campaign with community participation. He informed that NWM conducted a workshop on 'Catch the Rain: Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge Structures for Water Conservation' theme at New Delhi on 13.03.2020. He further mentioned that, with this meeting, NWM seeks active participation of the stakeholders like DMC, DDA, DJB, Rotary club, RWA associations and different NGOs which are active in Delhi NCR regions in the "Catch the Rain" campaign of the NWM. He then invited AS&MD, NWM to present his views.

3. Shri G. Asok Kumar, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, NWM stated that this campaign is about "catch the rain, when it falls and where it falls". He explained various activities planned under "Catch the Rain" campaign which includes drives to make check dams, water harvesting pits, Rooftop RWHS, etc., removal of encroachments, de-silting of tanks to increase their storage capacity, removal of obstructions in the channels which bring water to them from the catchment areas, repairs to step-wells and using defunct bore-wells & unused wells to put water back to aquifers. He stressed that these activities should be taken

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with active community participation. He stated that "Catch the Rain" is a nationwide campaign basically looking at the supply side of the water while previously all other campaigns and workshops of NWM like "SahiFasal" are basically focused on the demand side of the water. He also stated that most of the water in India comes from the rain, therefore we should catch the rainwater today and save it for future usage. He said that Catch the rain also promotes the decentralized storage of the water. He has also explained the "3Rs" Initiatives of the water which aims to promote reduce, reuse and recycle through effective usage of resources. He apprised that NWM has sent a DO letter to Chief Secretaries of all States/UTs on 27.02.2020, requesting (i) to prepare a plan of action to develop Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) so that these are ready to "Catch The Rain" when the monsoon arrives; (ii) to ensure rooftop RWHS on all government, semi-government and corporate buildings before monsoon; and (iii) to establish Rain Water Centres (RWCs) in every district headquarters to generate awareness and give technical guidance on RWHS. Besides, a workshop was also organized on 'Catch the Rain: Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge Structures for Water Conservation' at New Delhi on 13.03.2020 to sensitize the stakeholders. He also mentioned that another DO letter was sent to all DMs/DCs on 11.05.2020 to take steps to ensure appropriate rainwater harvesting & artificial recharge measures in all catchment zones under their jurisdiction before the onset of the monsoon season. He stated that NWM has also sent DO letters to IIMs, IITs, Universities, CAPFs, Army, Railways, Ordnance Factories, etc. who have large land areas to ensure appropriate rainwater harvesting & artificial recharge measures in their premises, units& campus. He said that DJB has assured us to prepare an action plan for the installation of RWH and artificial recharge structures in the state. AS&MD also apprised that NWM has requested the states/UTs to establish the rain-centers to give technical guidance on RWHS as well as water conservation structures and toll-free numbers and blogs/websites should be set up to help exchange ideas and best practices.

4. AS&MD mentioned that recently Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu has supported NWM's campaign "Catch the Rain" and also urged the people to work together for RWH for water conservation across the country. AS&MD, NWM also requested the participants to send their correspondence related to "Catch the Rain" and success stories on water conservation, RWH & AR structures to the NWM at newly created email Id catchtherain@gmail.com.

5. Thereafter, Participants were invited to present their views in the matter wherein they

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assured their active support in carrying forward the Catch the Rain campaign of NWM. The following suggestions were given by different participants:

- a. Eminent people who are working in the field of water sector may come forward in collaboration with NGOs & Government for giving technical guidance & water conservation works.
- b. Decentralized planning for RWH may be promoted with the help of RWAs depending on the place, time & location.
- c. Government offices associated with RWAs should adopt RWH at their premises to set an example for the surrounding RWAs & societies.
- d. Not only the establishment of RWH & AR establishment but its maintenance should also be included for the approval of map of any construction so that proper RWH can be done.
- e. Proper coordination between MCD & DJB and other organizations should be addressed to address the water logging problem and to divert the water towards RWH structures.
- f. MCD should use the open area of green zones and parks for the establishment of RWH & AR structures.
- g. At assembly-level, few RWAs & market associations may be selected for some pilot projects on RWH & AR structures which finally may influence other RWAs & market associations to work in the same direction.
- h. Proper maintenance of the already existing RWH structures should be taken care of and drain should not be made concretized which will ultimately help in groundwater recharge.
- i. Such webinars and meetings to promote RWH and for sensitization and seeking participation in NWM's campaign on "Catch the Rain" should be held continuously so that a good result can come out of these efforts.

7. After detailed deliberation, the following decisions were taken

- (i) DJB will prepare an action plan for Schools, Colleges, societies, Government buildings, Malls, and RWAs to establish RWH systems at their premises, etc.
- (ii) All water bodies in Delhi will be enumerated and encroachments will be removed (DJB).

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- (iii) DJB may facilitate the setting up of Rain Centers in different areas of Delhi NCR and if required, may undertake training & capacity building for this purpose.
 - (iv) RWAs& different organizations will send detail of the work done on water conservation in their areas of operation on the email Id catchtherain@gmail.com.
 - (v) RWAs with the help of NGOs, DJB & MCD may set up RWH structures at their societies, Parks, Schools, & offices
 - (vi) Organizations& RWAs will help in publicity & IEC of the NWM's campaign on "Catch the Rain".
8. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.
