

PLANS FOR POST-PROJECT MANAGEMENT/SUSTAINABILITY APPROACH

The Project management of any watershed programme is very important. It mainly depends upon the community organization and the village level institutes. In all villages, watershed committee and various self help & user groups have been formulated for post project operation and maintenance of assets created during project period. Major emphasis will be on equity and sustainable benefit of the project even after implementation stage. A proper link-up will be built during project period with various institutes and capacity building organization. They will act as a major kingpin during post implementation for scaling up the successful experience during project.

Watershed development project can be rendered sustainable through an appropriate combination of environmental balance, community participation and institutionalization of process. So the detail plans for the post project management are described as under:

Adopting Environment friendly conservation measures

The measures taken up will be long lasting. Along with engineering measures, efforts will also be made to establish tree cover in the upper catchment areas and on the slopes. The downstream area will have prolonged stream flows. The stream banks will be vegetated to create a buffer between land and water bodies. Such vegetation helps in stabilizing streams, enhancing recharge and improving the riparian habitat.

Appropriate species of trees and grasses will be selected for developing a vegetative cover at the time of implementation of IWMP-1 project of Vamanapuram. The diversity of vegetative measures is the key to sustainability. Combination of shallow and deep-rooted plants, fast and slow growing plants, productive and medical plants and herbs will be encouraged. The vegetation created will ultimately help to recharge the rainwater, use the soil moisture optimally and provide direct and indirect benefits to the community and environment as a whole.

Land use pattern will go hand in hand with carrying capacity of the watershed. Optimum use of water and increased use of organic fertilizers is the key to conserve the precious land source. Water overuse and excessive fertilization leads to permanent damage of lands and groundwater. It is important to maintain soil quality through crop

management. Crop diversity and crop rotation helps in improving the micro flora and fauna present in the soil and maintaining the healthy symbiotic subsystems relationship.

Participation of local community in development and management

During the planning phase, the local people's participation were involved and it is planned that the involvement during implementation and post project maintenance will enhance the impact of project and maintain the structures. However, participation without empowerment does not help in achieving sustainable development. So people will be made aware of different concepts and options for their livelihood and natural resource management. Local wisdom is important in understanding rural dynamics that includes the interface between human behavior and its economic / ecological implications. The interests of a community will be created and maintained by adopting the measures in such a manner that they provide immediate, medium term and long term benefits to the community.

Institutionalization for post project management

A dynamic institutional arrangement is necessary for project management, facilitation of benefit sharing and maintenance of the resources. This usually includes small user groups for different resources / assets as well as village level organizations. In-built system and mechanisms will be developed for qualitative growth and dynamisms of the organizations. The community organizations will be linked to other Government and Non Government institutes of interest. The potential people's organizations formed in the project area include Watershed Committees, Neighbour Hood Groups and Users Groups.

Watershed Committee

Watershed level organization is established right from the beginning of the project. The overall planning, coordination, management and maintenance are possible through this representative body. This clearly implies representation from different sections of the community – landholders and landless, upper reach and lower reach, men and women, lower and upper castes, Gram Panchayat and other existing political or non political organizations.

Neighbour Hood Groups

Neighbour Hood Groups are established in every micro watershed combining 40 to 50 households living as clusters. The overall planning, coordination, management and

maintenance of the activities pertaining to the area are done through this Group with people's participation. These families are further subdivided into clusters of 7-8 houses and a person is selected to represent this cluster in the Neighbour Hood Committee ensuring proper representation on different sections.

User Groups

The other categories of institutions are formed of various groups with common areas of interest in the project area named user groups. These include, depending upon necessity, Self Help Groups of women and men, User Groups for common assets, Natural Clubs, etc. The capacities of different groups will be developed time to time for effective functioning of these groups. A mechanism will be developed to ensure continuity, both in learning, functioning and actions that from responsibilities of such groups during the implementation project activities.

Watershed Development Fund:

Such contributions will promote feeling of "ownership" of the programme among stakeholders. This will contribute to sustainable outcomes in the long-term. The voluntary contributions are saved in the Watershed Development Fund (WDF) that is to be used for repair, maintenance and use of assets created on common land. The contribution of it will come mainly from the following:

Sl. No.	Financial Details	Minimum contribution
1.	Natural Resource management	
	General	10 percent
	SC/ST	5 percent
2.	Production system and Micro enterprises	
	General	20 percent
	SC/ST	10 percent

It is planned that for SC/ST, BPL population the contribution will be taken in form of voluntary labour and the fund for labour will be diverted to the WDF.

User Charges:

Various user groups will be formed in village. These user groups will collect user charges according to the designated rules formed during the formation of user group.

These funds will be transferred to the WDF funds as per these formulated rules. The secretary of watershed committee (WC) will maintain the records of all activities.