

**First State Level Committee Meeting held on 20 June 2008 –
PM's Package for Distress Districts – NABARD assisted
Watershed Development Programme, Kerala**

Proceedings

The first State Level Committee meeting on 'NABARD assisted Watershed Development Programme in Kerala' was convened on 20 June 2008, at NABARD. Regional Office, Thiruvananthapuram. The meeting was organized to discuss various aspects relating to implementation of the Watershed Development Programme in the three districts, i.e. Kasaragod, Wayanad and Palakkad. Shri.S.M.Vijayanand, IAS., Principal Secretary, Local Self Government Department (LSGD), Government of Kerala, chaired the meeting. Among others, the meeting was attended by District Panchayats Presidents of Kasaragod and Wayanad, District Panchayats Vice President of Palakkad, Mission Director, NREGS-Kerala, Senior Gok Officials from LSGD, Agriculture Department, Soil Conservation Unit, Soil Survey Unit, Faculty Members from KILA and SIRD and senior officers from NABARD (List of Participants enclosed).

2. Welcoming the participants, Shri.J.G.Menon, GM, NABARD outlined the role of NABARD in implementation of the Watershed Development Programme. He indicated that the programme had already been grounded successfully and the deliberations are intended to take stock of the situation and also chalk out future strategy so as to cover a total area 45,000 Ha., in each of the distress districts under the Programme.

3. Shri.Bhawar Puri, Chief General Manager, NABARD in his address, stressed the significance of people's participation in the Watershed Development Programme. He indicated that NABARD has already sanctioned as many as 18 watershed projects in the three districts and the Capacity Building Phase (CBP), is in progress. Referring to the initiatives taken by NABARD, CGM also informed the Committee that services of a reputed development agency, viz., BAIF Institute of Rural Development-Karnataka (BIRD-K) had been enlisted for watershed development programme in Kerala, where their major role will be hand holding of PFAs, PRIs, VWCs and watershed community. He further stated that Watershed Development Teams (WDT) had already been constituted for each watershed project and the response of PRIs and people's participation and cooperation were quite

encouraging. He was optimistic that within a period of another 3 months, Feasibility Study Report (FSR) for the Full Implementation Phase (FIP) of these projects would be prepared for sanction from NABARD. CGM also indicated that, vegetable cultivation, milk production, etc., should be accorded priority and advised that certain Non Farm Sector (NFS) activities also could be linked to the watershed programme.

4. CGM requested all the stake holders to initiate necessary steps to intensify the process of watershed development. CGM appreciated the efforts of all concerned, and thanked them for the support and coordinatin.

5. Shri.S.M.Vijayanand, IAS, Principal Secretary, LSGD mentioned that the Programme drawn by NABARD in the State, was a unique model in India, as the same is implemented by the PRIs. through NGOs. No other Watershed Development Programme in the State was drawn with this arrangement and therefore, this is a Pilot Project. He added that it was a learning experience and indicated that successful model of “Grama Panchayats Voluntary Resource Team – GVRT”, which is involved in project formulation and implementation of ‘Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Project’ and ‘Swajaldhara’ in Kasaragod and Kollam, Districts could be replicated. He also indicated that, the lessons learned from National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) could be used in the implementation of Watershed Development Programme. While highlighting the relative roles of institutions like Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA), State Institute of Rural Development (SIRD) etc. in the implementation and capacity building of watershed community, Project Facilitating Agencies (PFAs), etc., he advised the committee to prepare area specific training/capacity building programmes, instead of generic modules.

6. Thereafter, Shri.N.Vikraman, Manager, NABARD made a presentation on the Watershed Development Programme and described the unique features of the programme, progress made in the implementation of the programme and efforts initiated by NABARD including engaging BAIF Institute of Rural Development-Karnataka (BIRD-K) as Resource Support Organisation (RSO, for the projects in Kerala. Issues such as identification of additional area under watershed programme, availability of watershed data/maps, problems of multiplicity of watershed programmes, PRIs as Project Facilitating Agency (PFA), Monitoring of watershed projects, Capacity building/Training, integration of NREGS, Plan Funds of PRIs, treatment of Govt. Lands, Forest area under watershed projects, etc were highlighted in the presentation.

7. Shri.R.Chinnakkuttan, Vice President, District Panchayats, Palakkad indicated the need for strengthening of various Committees constituted under Watershed Development

Programme. He stressed the need for ensuring that all communication reach the field level agencies, so as to ensure effective implementation of the programme. Further, he requested for smooth clearance of the projects, once they are identified. In this context, he requested the Government to do the needful. CGM while responding, clarified that under the integrated approach, NABARD will expeditiously sanction projects subject to their conforming to various norms and assured all support for effective implementation of the Watershed Programme.

8. Principal Secretary , LSGD Shri S M Vijayanad advised to convene the District Level Committee meetings, wherein Joint Secretary , Agriculture could be invited to review the progress.

9. CGM, NABARD indicated that there was specific role and responsibility for every stakeholder in the project ,including that of PRIs and NGOs and underlined the need for role clarity. He advised that the role of Grama Panchayat should be ensured in the right earnest. CGM highlighted the need for ensuring commitment and maintaining interest in the project by the PRIs, as also the peoples's participation in the programme. It as indicated that the involvement of Grama Panchayat was very important for the successful implementation of the watershed project. In this context, CGM advised that 3 district level workshops will be conducted, wherein the Responsibility Index (RI) for all the stakeholders will be discussed threadbare and finalised. The dates of the Workshop could be finalised in consultation with PRIs, PFAs, VWCs, and other stakeholders.

10. It was agreed that, there was need for capacity building inputs of PRIs, while delegating the responsibilities of project facilitation to NGOs, for implementing the projects.

11 With regard to Watershed maps and other details, Soil Survey Unit was advised to provide necessary support. The Principal Secretary , LSGD indicated that necessary directions will be issued to all concerned, in this regard.

11. With regards slow progress in the two Watershed project in Kasaragod District , wherein Grama Panchayats are acting as PFA (Pilicode GP- Pallikandam watershed project and Panathady GP – Panathur watershed project project),it was decided that SIRD would provide necessary capacity building inputs for these Grama Panchayats and also for all four Watershed Projects where the Grama Panchayats are acting as PFA (i.e., there in Kasaragod DT., and one in Palakkad Dt.)

12. On the issue of usage of machinery in watershed treatment work, Dr.Abey George, Asst. Professor, KILA cautioned that, indiscriminate use of machinery for works in hard terrain, could lead to labour unrest, also adversely affecting the environment . It was decided

that the need for use of machinery will be assessed by the District Level Committee and appropriate action will be taken.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Shri N Vikraman, Manager, NABARD.

The major decisions arrived at the meeting are as follows:

1. The issues regarding identification of additional watershed area, watershed maps/ details, avoiding multiplicity / overlapping of watershed areas, etc., to be discussed and finalised in the District Level Committee meetings and one such meeting may be convened at the earliest in each district.
2. In regard to treatment of forest land within watershed project area, case by case permission from Forest Department need to be obtained and the same may be discussed in the District Level Committee. A senior level official from State Forest Department will be made a member of the State Level Committee on NABARD assisted watershed Department Programme.

(Action: NABARD, LSGD - GoK)

3. The issue of treatment of Govt. land, within the watershed areas (like land belonging to District Agricultural Farms, State Plantation Corporation, etc.) may be taken up in the District Level Committee meeting and the required permission may be obtained.

(Action: NABARD)

4. Integration of NREGS with NABARD Watershed projects will be given adequate attention by LSGD. Dovetailing Plan funds of PRIs in watershed areas is necessary and these issues may be discussed In the District Level Committee meeting.
5. NABARD Watershed Module / Guideline may be developed and circulated for use by all stakeholders. Relevant information on NABARD watershed will be posted in the LSGD web site also.
6. KILA/ SIRD may collaborate with NABARD and RSO (BIRD – K) for developing Capacity building / area specific training of PFAs, PRIs, VWCs, Watershed communities etc. In this regard , local NGOs may also be consulted, if necessary. The training programmes shall be area / region specific , instead of generic modules.

(Action : NABARD, KILA SIRD)

7. Under livelihood programme envisaged for economic empowerment of watershed communities, landless people also should be covered. The livelihood programme may be linked with Kudumbasree programme.

(Action : NABARD,LSGD- GoK)

8. KILA / SIRD may provide necessary capacity building for four Watershed projects, where Grama Panchayats are acting as PFA, viz., Kodam Bellur GP (Modogram WS), Panathady GP (Panathur WS), Pilicode GP (Pallikanadam WS) in Kasaragod Dt. and Akathethara GP (Cheekuzhi WS) in Palakkad Dt.

(Action : KILA, SIRD)

9. Specific cases, where the need for use of machinery in hard terrain the watershed area was suggested, may be referred to District Level Committee for suitable action.

(Action : NABARD)

10. District Level Committees may be convened at least on a quarterly basis

(Action : NARARD)

11. Next State Level Committee meeting may be held at Kasaragod District.

(Action : NARARD)

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Sl. No	Name & Designation	Institution	Telephone/Mobile No. /E-mail ID
1	S.M.Vijayanad, IAS Principal Secretary	Local Self Government Department, GOK	
2	Sarasamma Teacher, President	District Panchayats, Wayanad	04936-286607, 09446347997
3	M.V.Balakrishnan Master	District Panchayats, Kasaragod	9447374877
4	R.Chinnakkuttan, Vice President	District Panchayats, Palakkad	9447625429
5	V.N.Jithendran Mission Director- NREGA-Kerala	Local Self Government Department, GOK	0471-2318583
6	M.Unnikrishnan Additional Secretary	Local Self Government Department, GOK	2333537, 2518567
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8	K.B.Sankaran Joint Dev.Commissioner	Commissionerate of Rural Development, GOK	9447433086
9	K.K.Gangadharan Director	Dept.of Agriculture, GOK	9447083838
10	Dr.Premachandran Additional Director	Soil Survey Unit, GOK	9847138143
11	K.V.Ramanujan Thampi Assistant Director	Soil Conservation Unit, GOK	0471-2479890
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10	S.Saheerudeen Faculty	State Institute of Rural Development	9447223658 saheerade@gmail.com
11	Bhawar Puri Chief General Manager	NABARD	9447374701
12	J.G.Menon General Manager	NABARD	9447763719
13	Dr.K.Inkarsal Manager	NABARD	9446175328
14	N.Vikraman Manager	NABARD	9446515438 namarkivn@yahoo.com
15	Ashok Kumar Nair Asst.Manager	NABARD	9446543107

XVI. Involvement of Organisations :

Government Departments

Necessary support for identification of watersheds, catalytic role, support to Village Communities, transfer of information on government programmes etc. The Departments involved in this process ordinarily will be Agriculture, LSGD, Soil Conservation Unit, Soil Survey and Commissionerate of Rural Development.

PFA/ NGOs

Responsible for motivating, guiding and involving village community in planning and implementing watershed project.

PFA/ VWC

Project implementation will be joint responsibility of PFA & VWC. Responsible for project preparation, implementation, receipt of funds, keeping accounts and maintain records.

XVII. Address for further Details :

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Punnen Road, Statue
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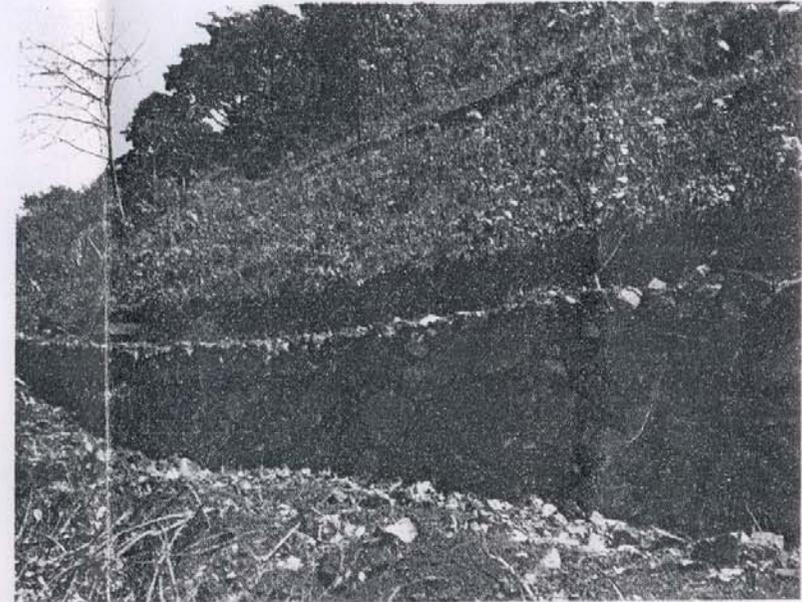
District Development Manager, NABARD
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District Development Manager, NABARD
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District Development Manager, NABARD
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NABARD'S Participatory Approach for Watershed Development in Distress Districts



National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

**Kerala Regional Office
Punnen Road, Statue
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 039**

DISTRICT PROFILE

Palakkad

Geographical Area	- 4390 sq. km
No. of blocks	- 13
No. of villages	- 67
Rainfall (average)	- 2230 mm
Major crops	- Paddy, Coconut, Mango

Wayanad

Geographical Area	- 2136 Sq.km
No. of blocks	- 3
No. of villages	- 49
Rainfall (average)	- 3590 mm
Major crops	- Coffee, Pepper, Coconut, Banana, Cardamom

Kasaragod

Geographical Area	- 1992 sq.km
No. of blocks	- 4
No. of villages	- 75
Rainfall (average)	- 3613 mm
Major crops	- Arecanut, Cashewnut, Paddy, Pepper



Shramadan by community



Planning in watershed project

I. What is Watershed ?

It can be defined as drainage basin or area of a particular stream or river. It is a geographical area which collects water and drains out through a common point. It is an independent hydrological unit. A watershed may be small consisting of few hectares or may be large, covering over thousands of hectares.

II. What is Watershed Development ?

It refers to conservation, regeneration and proper use of human and natural resources. Watershed Development attempts to bring best possible balance between the natural resources, human resources and livestock.

III. Why Watershed Development ?

Deforestation, unscientific farming techniques, livestock overgrazing and faulty land use leads to the environment degradation. It results in extreme heat conditions, flash floods and erosion of top soil leading to reduction in agricultural production and productivity. Hence Watershed Development is very crucial for regeneration of environment and establishing balance between the natural resources such as land, water, vegetation and livestock.

IV. Components of Watershed Development

* Soil and land management * Water management * Livestock management * Agronomic interventions * Community Development

- Watershed plus activities-livelihood aspects, economic aspects
- Capacity Building of watershed community through various training and promotional programmes

V. Peoples' participation

It is necessary for people to understand the importance of perfect mix of natural resources and human interventions. They also need to appreciate that degradation of soil and water leads to complex problems of agriculture and economic sustenance. Environmental regeneration therefore is possible only when local community feels need of it. People also must be provided with an equally good economic alternative. Sustainable natural resources management can happen only with involvement of people.

VI. Importance of Participatory Approach

- People living in watershed -responsible for planning, implementation and supervision
- Proper systems for sharing of benefits and conflict resolution
- People should initially demonstrate their commitment for watershed development by undertaking 4 days Shramadan
- People contribute upto 16% of the project cost through self labour (Shramadan)
- People to contribute regularly for creating maintenance fund
- People should share responsibilities like supervision, accounting and documentation.

VII. Committee Formation

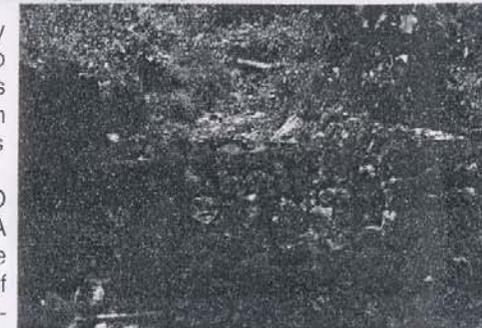
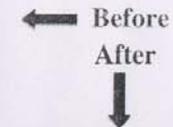
- People in the watershed will select members of Village Watershed Committee (VWC)
- VWC has proper representation from ridge portion, median portion and valley portion.
- VWC consist of 30% women and representatives from SC/ST community and landless within the watershed



Centripetal coconut husk burial



Construction of stone gully plug



- Project Facilitating Agency (PFA) is constituted to help and support VWC at all stages
- PFA can be Gram Panchayat together with its technical officers
- PFA also could be an NGO
- Main responsibility of PFA will be conducting exposure visits, training to members of VWC, submission of information, maintenance of various records etc
- PFA/ NGO to appoint Watershed Development Team (WDT) consisting of agricultural/ technical person and social worker for undivided attention of execution of work
- NABARD will take services of external agency to introduce its supervision mechanism

VIII. Funds

- VWC will receive funds from NABARD directly
- Funds allocation will be towards preliminary expenditure, training and exposure visits, area treatment cost, supervision during execution and Maintenance Fund
- PFA will receive maximum 15% as management cost. It will be in addition to watershed development cost
- After the treatment is over, the community also gets funds towards helping landless people, SHG formation and gender development
- Out of 16% contribution by way of Shramadan, 50% thereof (8%) will be allowed as supervision cost. Balance 50% (8%) will also be given as Maintenance Fund
- PFA/ NGO to open a Joint Account with VWC, to receive funds for project treatment cost.

IX. Stages of development of Watershed

- Development carried through Ridge to Valley
- Initially a small area is developed with community participation. This stage is called as Capacity Building Phase (CBP). It ensures involvement of community, learning through experience, working mechanism, project discipline... etc.
- In CBP only soil and water conservation treatment is undertaken. Main drainage line is not to be treated.
- At the end of CBP, Full Implementation Phase (FIP) starts
- PFA and VWC prepare a detailed document and expenditure for FIP.
- FIP will include watershed plus activities such as Animal Husbandry, livelihood, provision of revolving fund, provision for landless persons, other income generating activities etc.
- Construction of check dams, vented crossbars, are done at the end of the main development of watershed.

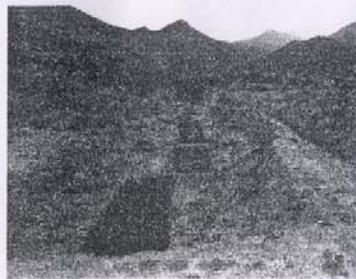
X. Training

NABARD would impart training to the members of VWC, PFA, agriculture officer, social worker etc. on following

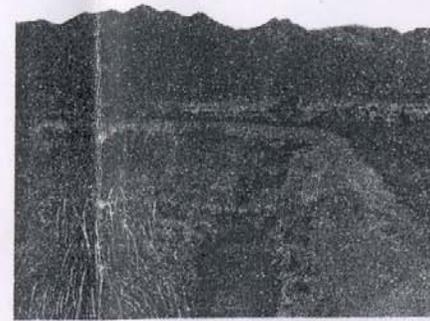
- Participatory approach
- Measurement and quantity calculations
- Responsibilities of VWC
- Methodology of net planning
- Participatory Rural Appraisal
- Maintenance of records, muster roll, wages, accounting, vouchers, cashbook

XI. Maintenance of data and records

- Details of treatment measures for each plot
- Daily muster roll for labourers
- Maintenance of Measurement Book
- Proceeding of the different meetings
- Proper registers for accounts, bills and vouchers
- Proper individual record for self labour etc. (Shramadan)
- Record of completed treatment measures
- Inventory of purchase of materials and its use
- Payment to labourers weekly/ fortnightly
- NABARD shall inspect all the records and progress of work in the field before release of subsequent instalments.



Water absorption trench (WAT)



Earthen contour bund

XII. Selection Criteria of Watershed

- Watershed with noticeable soil erosion, waste land
- Serious drinking water problems
- More population of SC/ ST
- Less irrigated area
- Ground water levels declining
- Watersheds in the upper reaches in the drainage system
- People willing to contribute/ participate
- People prepared for Shramadan

XIII. Commonly executed structures

- Water absorption trench
- Continuous contour trench
- Earthen contour bunds with grass seeding
- Earthen gully plug
- Stone gully plug
- Stone pitched bund
- Diversion drains
- Gabien structures
- Small check dams
- Trench and platform

XIV. Process of sanction and implementation

- Application by Grama Panchayat/ Community Based Organisations like NGOs
- Screening by NABARD
- Financial sanction by NABARD for Capacity Building Phase (CBP)
- Project report preparation for FIP
- Project scrutiny by NABARD
- Approval and financial sanction by NABARD
- Funds release by NABARD
- Implementation
- Project completion report by NABARD

XV. Monitoring and Reporting mechanism

- NABARD will monitor the projects for quality implementation
- NABARD may also involve external agency for monitoring
- PFA/VWC to submit monthly progress report
- Desk monitoring based on the prescribed reporting formats, on monthly basis
- Quarterly field monitoring visits