

Seminar on NATIONAL PROJECT ON AQUIFER MANAGEMENT

(8-9th October 2012)

A.P.Shinde Symposium Hall, NASC, Pusa New Delhi

The scarcity of water resources coupled with its ever increasing demand has shifted the attention from exploitation to proper management of the ground water resources. The National Project on Aquifer Management envisages delineation and detailed characterization of aquifers in the entire country. Information thus generated is proposed to be used for developing effective ground water management plans at regional and local levels. Considerable data and information has been generated by Central and State Agencies, Universities & Research Institutions, NGOs etc. at different scales. Integration of available data, identification of data gaps and generation of new data will facilitate formulation of management strategies at micro level. National Project on Aquifer Management is being implemented in phased manner. Ground water over exploited areas and water quality vulnerable areas are being given priority.

Central Ground Water Board is organising a seminar on the National Project on Aquifer Management to provide a platform for exchange of ideas among different stakeholders. There is a need to standardize the procedures for aquifer mapping to be followed throughout the country. The workshop will provide a forum for deliberations on identified

issues such as the steps involved in aquifer mapping, role of state agencies, participatory management, water quality data and related inputs.

Seminar Themes

The main themes of the technical sessions of the seminar include but not restricted to

- Aquifer Mapping & Management – Implementation strategies, Convergence & Partnership
- Participatory Approach to Aquifer Mapping & Management
- Protocol for Activities - Data Compilation, Data Gap Analysis, Data Acquisition & Preparation of Aquifer map
- Panel Discussion & Finalization of Implementation Mechanism

**RECOMMENDATIONS
OF
SEMINAR " *NATIONAL PROJECT ON AQUIFER MANAGEMENT*" HELD ON 8-9
OCTOBER, 2012**

- The concept of National Project on Aquifer Management (NAQUIM) was deliberated and a broad consensus emerged for launching the project.
- Detailed matrix of the entire project for its successful implementation at field level across the country is to be prepared.
- It was emphasised to evolve state specific strategies for implementation of the project on a bottom up approach involving Stake Holders. Working model

should be from Top Central Level to State Level and Bottom Level (Community Level) to State Level.

- Special Purpose Vehicles / dedicated cells at State level need to be created in State organizations to steer the implementation of the project.
- Implementation of project essentially requires a nodal department at the State level staffed with adequate manpower and all the water related Central & State organizations need to be taken on board and activities to be converged.
- Manpower in CGWB & State Groundwater Departments to be strengthened. CGWB to interact with States GW departments for identification of the staffing requirements.
- MoWR may pursue all States to fill up vacant posts in Ground Water Organizations on priority. The possibility of providing a one-time grant for strengthening Groundwater departments including Participatory Groundwater Management (PGWM) may also be explored.
- In States where GW departments are non-existent, other institutions working in groundwater domain may be involved in the implementation of project.
- Technical Service Agency at national level will interact with State Level NGOs and guide them and who in turn will network with NGOs working at grass root level.
- Expertise of institutions like Tata Institute of Social Sciences may be explored for imparting trainings to NGOs, Para Hydrogeologists etc.
- RGI will coordinate the training programme at National & State level on NAQUIM. Capacity Building strategies in the domain of Aquifer Management at all levels of participants starting from Central Level and percolating down to

grass root level of para-hydrogeologists and community level as chain reaction, is to be developed. A base paper for building capacity is to be developed.

- Para Hydrogeologists should be designated suitably like Jal Sewak/Water Monitors etc after deliberations.
- Centralised database will be developed at National & State level and protocols for sharing of data have to be evolved.
- Fund flow mechanism is to be defined amongst Central & State Organizations, TSA's, NGO's etc.
- Centralized Software System is to be developed.
- The experiences of participatory management in the States like AP, Maharashtra & Gujarat and other institutions may be utilised in fine-tuning the protocol of NAQUIM project.
- Consortium of National NGOs to bring in connectivity between GOI, State Govt. & NGOs at grass root level.
- A National document on infrastructure & training need assessment of professionals and NGOs in the groundwater domain may be prepared.
- Capacity building and skill upgradation for NGOs need to be taken up on priority.
- Role & Responsibility of Central Organizations, State Organizations, NGO's, TSA's, PRI, Para-hydrogeologists, Community/WUA and various Committees at Different levels(NISC,SISC, District Level Committee, WUA etc.) needs to be clearly defined.
- Need for standardisation of methodology & protocol for data collection, compilation, validation and interpretation.

- Establishment of data flow mechanism among stake holders
- Bench marking & Technological upgradation of equipments and infrastructure in the implementing agencies.
- Application of advanced techniques including Heliborne geophysical surveys for aquifer mapping.
- Provision for feedback system and follow up action as post project activity is to be incorporated.