

LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE 2ND NARBO WORKSHOP ON RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT & ORGANIZATIONS

BACKGROUND

Training workshop in River Basin Management and organization was held on 25th – 29th April 2005 in Sri Lanka. This workshop was participated mostly Mid career water professionals from South Asian Countries. During the 6 days of workshop general overview of reasons for River Basin Management was presented very nicely. To facilitate better understanding groups of participants were formulated. New insights from recent studies was given by some leading irrigation managers. To visualize the problems and constraints at local and national levels a field visit was arranged at the head, middle and tail reaches of Maha Oya River Basin which is the 3rd largest basin in Sri Lanka.

LESSONS LEARNT

Management and conservation of the key natural resources i.e. water, soil and crop has today become all the more essential to ensure the satisfaction of human needs for present and future generation. Management of the natural resources involves complex interactions. Among these resources water has become comparatively most manageable commodity.

From this training workshop I have learnt that:

What are the key steps for the management of river basin.

- During this training I had a chance to view the management activities of Maha Oya river basin. From stakeholders meeting at this river lot of new things came in front of me i.e. safe disposal of effluent, supply of drinking water and river flow problem.
- The most important thing I learnt in that was the short term and long term strategies/solutions for the issues related to RBM.
- I learnt that we should study coordination and organization aspects first, than secondly we should watch community participation and at 3rd stage environment and water quality should be emphasized.
- Than issues at river basin are identified. Than solutions for these issues are planned after the discussion with the concerned stakeholders and parallel to this some constraints and limitation are also there which should be addressed under the circumstance.
- In river basin management most important thing which I learnt is the active participation of community. A project without the involvement of local peoples results into the failure.
- Users/farmers organizations formation makes the system more sustainable and reliable.

- Soil erosion is mostly prevailing the middle and down stream reaches of river due to the deforestation. Forest department is not planting further trees. This is causing erosion and degradation of soil. To minimize the government should provide plant saplings to the local people and joint farmer management should be streamlined accordingly.
- Planning must be done before urbanization. Industrial effluent should be treated before it goes finally into the river because uncontrolled wastes cause epidemic hazards.
- For this workshop I observed that an integrated approach must be adopted keeping in view the all related factors like agriculture, irrigation, environment, local government, and forestry etc.

NEW IDEAS

Following were the new ideas I obtained from this training:

- Enforcement of environmental quality standards for the safe disposal of standards is very much necessary.
- Integration of social, legal, economic demand and political administrative aspects. This approach strengthens my concept for river basin management.
- This training visualized me that during the basin management the entire stretch of the drain should be taken into consideration.
- Idea of environmental impact assessment (EIA) for keeping the river water clean is very important.
- Regular environmental monitoring of river on sustainable basis is necessary for effective management.

USE OF IDEAS IN PERSONAL SITUATION

From the workshop I have learnt management techniques for river in a view and integrated fashion. I understood the method of interaction among the various stakeholders. By this training workshop I have got confidence in presenting any problem before the concerned department without any hesitation. To me this trainings very important that I obtained knowledge of irrigation practices and management technique from all other participants of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

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