

This is great to be in Sri Lanka to attend the River Basin Training workshop. As I told during my introduction to all participants on 24<sup>th</sup> April evening, I am working for the Ganges River Dolphin in the Ganges Basin in India. I am working in the Ganga for last 15 years for the conservation of the Ganges River Dolphin, an endangered species of Ganga River.

Ganga as everybody understand is a large river, and with one of the largest basins in the world.

After coming to know about the IRBM or RBM concept, I thought of the process and now trying to link-up my work with this new concept. Just to know whether this is possible in the Ganga basin or not.

Therefore, I came to Sri Lanka to know and to learn about the concept and how I can link my work with RBM.

After finishing the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the workshop I have an impression that I am already working in the line of RBM and I need not have to add anything new.

What I learnt are the following things about RBM:

1. Good coordination needed among all stakeholders/Govt. org working in one basin.
2. Good RBM needs to address all grassroot causes of the basin.
3. Involvement of all stakeholders during the planning of the RBM in the particular basin.
4. Proper motivation of the local people to accept the concept of RBM and involvement of people in the programme.
5. Motivation of the planners like the politicians, Govt. officials and the NGOs is very essential.
6. Media campaign is one of the tools to generate awareness.

All this work, I am doing in the Ganga, not in a basin level but in a small stretch of 165 km in the upper reach, which is larger than the basin I saw in Sri Lanka (130 km). Therefore, I can conclude I have not learnt much new things but confirmed that the work I am doing in Ganga is in right direction of RBM concept and can replicate the work further in more stretches of the river. Therefore, although the visit does not include any new things, but definitely provided me hope and confidence about the right direction of RBM.

On the overall participation of the workshop I can suggest that it should be of more variety participation. I understand the RBM also include the biology of the river system and thus request the organizer that they should invite more biologists in future workshops to make the planning process more even.

This time most of the participation are from Engineering background or the Govt. authority. I request to involve more biologists in future workshops.

At last I would like to thank the organizers to be so kind and hospitable though the workshop stay. I would like to thank the field coordinator to arrange the field trip.

But at last I will like to place my request that such training programme can be made more informative if in practical we can see the programme implemented not in a planning stage.

Thanks.

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