

**2012**  
**National Seminar**  
**On**  
**Decentralized Governance in**  
**Water and Sanitation in Rural India**



( June 26<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012 )

# 2012

## National Seminar on Decentralized Governance in Water and Sanitation Sector in Rural India (June 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2012)

The governance of Water and Sanitation is a complex subject involving a wide range of skills, institutions and actors. Responsibilities are often unclear, with several government agencies responsible for water supply. India has embarked upon institutional reforms by means of decentralizing and assigning local authorities with responsibilities for service provision. Other countries have turned to privatization endeavoring to make use of the skills and resources of private contractors. However, an un-planned reform may result in service responsibilities being handed to organizations without the corresponding resources and capacity to implement them. This will give way to a situation where responsibility is devolved but not the funds. Local capacity is often weak and regulating the private sector to ensure that services reach vulnerable sectors of the community remains a challenge. When responsibilities for water and sanitation are unclear, it becomes difficult to track the flow of resources and measure results and most importantly, impact. Progress monitoring (in terms of both process and impact indicators) remains weak and renders the sector vulnerable to corruption. Ineffective regulation, pollution and inadequate or poorly designed sanitation can lead to the destruction of valuable drinking water resources.

The National Seminar on Decentralized Governance in Water and Sanitation in Rural India is dedicated to academic discourse and practitioner engagement on governance issues in the WATSAN sector. It is proposed to be held at the National Institute of Administrative Research, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie and will be organized on the dates mentioned above. The papers presented in the seminar will be documented in the form of a book.

### Call for Papers

We would like to invite papers that focus on Decentralized Governance in Water and Sanitation in Rural India from theoretical, empirical, practical and institutional perspective. The suggested topics are (this is not an all-inclusive list):

- ◆ Decentralized Governance system in WATSAN sector
- ◆ Decentralized Governance and institutions (VWSC, BRC, DWSC, SWSM, WSSO, MoDW&S, PHED, TSC/NRDWP, etc.)
- ◆ Roles and functions of the three levels of rural local governments in WATSAN programme
- ◆ Issues related to strengthening sector decentralize governance (Policies, appropriate institutional arrangements, financing mechanism and appropriate oversight mechanism, regulation etc.)
- ◆ Policy Environment-Institutional roles and responsibilities in Decentralized Governance
- ◆ Empowerment and Gender Equality for Water and Sanitation in Rural India
- ◆ Social accountability in Rural Water and Sanitation in India.
- ◆ Sector Reform in Institutional setup of DDWS/NRDWP
- ◆ Capacity issues in devolution of power to local authorities
- ◆ Benchmarking indicators for transfer of water and sanitation schemes in rural India
- ◆ Operation and Maintenance modalities in rural India WASH sector
- ◆ Strengthen decentralized governance in Rural Water and Sanitation Sector in context the followings:
  1. Institutional Roles and Responsibilities to support water security planning and implementation (Source sustainability, Water quality and O&M)
  2. Convergence of different development programmes
  3. Climate change-identification of key risk areas and potential opportunities for water conservation
  4. Participation and Decentralization for Rural Water Supply and Sanitation

**Submission Deadline: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012**

**Please submit a full paper of up to 5000 words by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012 to :  
[niar@lbsnaa.ernet.in](mailto:niar@lbsnaa.ernet.in)**

**[WWW.lbsnaa.gov.in](http://WWW.lbsnaa.gov.in)**