

# North-eastern Regional Consultation for Approach Paper to the 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan

1-2 December, Guwahati

Organized by Centre for Microfinance and Livelihoods

## Proceedings of the Consultations

### Thematic presentations from the groups

<b>Water sources and water supply</b>		
<b>Issues</b>	<b>Solutions, strategies</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<p><b>Water scarcity/quantity</b>            Surface and groundwater are used for drinking both in the valleys and hilly areas.            In valleys, the issue is poor water quality, lack of potable water, contamination with iron, fluoride, arsenic, manganese, etc            In hilly areas, springs are drying up, so there is a scarcity of water especially during the dry season. This is because of over-extraction of groundwater and climate change            There is biological contamination of water in both hills and valleys            Rural water supply schemes are in bad shape and there is a lack of O&amp;M</p>	<p>Promote rainwater harvesting at the community level (will cost Rs 3.5 lakhs to serve 150-200 households). At the household level it will cost Rs 7000. The water collected can last for 2-3 months in community systems and 2 months in household systems. Water use from community RWH systems can be monitored.            Catchment treatment can be done by staggered contoured trenches with agro-forestry promotion (in hilly areas), leading to spring development and groundwater recharge            Create groundwater percolation tanks/water bodies/ponds/wetlands-for valleys and plains            Renovate existing defunct water supply systems and transfer ownership to local level institution for O&amp;M</p>	<p><u>Management:</u>            This can be done through Village Water User Committee            Set up Natural Resource Management Groups  <u>Scaling up (O&amp;M)</u>            Strengthen these water management groups            Institute panchayat-level water management committees  <u>Support</u>            Provide adequate technical and financial assistance            Manpower skills development at village level for O&amp;M  <u>Partnership</u>            Foster these between PHED/RWD/local NGOs/village institutions and ongoing programmes like NRHM/NREGA</p>
<p><b>Water quality</b>            Chemical and biological contamination of surface and groundwater water (fluoride, arsenic, iron, cadmium).            Lack of awareness            Lack of testing mechanisms            Lack of proper monitoring systems</p>	<p>Use biosand filter (800 per filter, with a capacity of 40 litres/day)            Rapid sand filter (for iron removal)            Knowledge gap on technology for arsenic, fluoride, cadmium, manganese removal            Awareness campaigns and workshops at village level with IEC materials and water testing and demo kits</p>	
<p><b>Water accessibility</b>            This is an issue in hilly areas            Water source protection is generally lacking. For example, spring water discharge is not</p>	<p>Through catchment area treatment for both regions-hills and valleys            Farm pond development and conservation of water bodies and</p>	

regulated There are no monitoring institutions at the village level Climate change has affected water availability and quality Hydrological data for the region and water quality monitoring is seriously lacking Availability of water during disasters is a problem in the flood plains, which is a common problem in this region. People dig ditches along river banks and also drink pond water during disasters	wetlands in plains	
<b>Assam</b> Groundwater contamination, e.g., in Assam Kamrup district (fluoride), Nalbari (iron). Nogaon-Fluoride contamination of water above 1 ppm, and in some places of Assam between 4-5 ppm. PHED tanks contaminated by fluoride are being sealed but no alternatives have been provided in the areas In the Halflong district, people are dependent on surface water, spring water, rivers, etc. But rivers are drying up and are seasonal. Haflong town is facing water shortages, did not have water for 3 months this year from government water supply. Jaundice and malaria are prevalent in the area. Deforestation as a result of jhum cultivation is resulting in water scarcity In Tinsukia, floods cause diarrhoeal deaths. Water is contaminated by iron, water quality during floods is suspect, people lack awareness about water quality		
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b> The surface water is contaminated with arsenic and cadmium, but it's a military area so getting information about the source is difficult		
<b>Sikkim</b> There is a water scarcity e.g., in south Sikkim, as there are very few springs and water has to be sourced from a distance.		

<p>There is an absence of fully functional water quality laboratories.</p> <p>Water resource source protection strategies lacking in Sikkim. Most springs are seasonal, and very few are perennial in south Sikkim. In rural areas springs are the only source of water</p>		
<p><b>Nagaland</b></p> <p>There is high iron contamination in water, the water table is low, and deforestation had led to water scarcity</p>		
<b>Sanitation</b>		
<b>Issues</b>	<b>Solutions, strategies</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
<p><b>Lack of education/awareness</b></p>	<p><b>Successful models</b></p> <p><b>South Sikkim, Pacific Club (NGO)</b></p> <p>Analyse the components of activities: meeting of beneficiaries and masons, awareness (IEC), vigilance committees, distribution of materials, monitoring their use, door-to-door counseling</p> <p>Identify innovative techniques: BPL card strategy where the government official threatened to suspend BPL cards for those households which did not construct toilets</p> <p><b>Time frame-</b> 2 months, 354 households covered, 2700 population covered</p> <p>Personnel-5 NGO members, 7 volunteers, project inspector, vigilance committee.</p> <p>Only 20 households don't use sanitation facilities. The project started in 2009 and 330 households still using toilets. It has been supported by the BDO, SAMAVI (major financial support), proactive government administration, co-ordination between stakeholders</p>	<p>Support costs, training and exposure visits, project design and planning and technical details</p> <p>Conduct a baseline survey and survey of existing situation with a phase out strategy</p>
<p><b>Poor delivery mechanism</b></p> <p>And channeling of funds for individual toilets</p>	<p><b>Solutions</b></p> <p>Examine and scale up a successful model - Youth Volunteers Union (NGO) in Manipur, Senapathi district, Sadar Hill TD block, village Kabrang. It is supported by</p>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>Exposure visits, cost support, technical support in the form of training, training on IEC, involvement of local bodies (institutional strengthening), dialogue with government</p>

	<p>Arghyam and covers 22 households.</p> <p>Its activities include an awareness campaign, excellent working relations with the village as a result of activities prior to the demonstration of ecosan toilets; demonstration, follow up and technical support from Arghyam, use of local resources (bamboo)</p>	<p>machinery - PHED, GP, village council, possibilities of involving MFI</p> <p>Project worked because of prior relation with the community, and the dry ecosan toilet worked because the area was water scarce</p>
<b>Lack of ownership and poor governance-participation, transparency, co-ordination</b>	<p><b>Assam</b></p> <p>Satara (NGO), Darrang district, Adopted the pit latrine with a honeycomb model in the Sipajhar block. This was used in 4 villages in 350 households. CAPART supported this for 200 beneficiaries. The components included an awareness campaign, and training on technical support. The cost was Rs 2500 per unit. It took 2 years to construct 350 units (because of funding delays). The project was implemented by 2 staff members, 20 masons, village volunteers/committee to oversee implementation</p>	<p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>Provide a higher fund allocations</p> <p>Ensure greater transparency (RTI application) and conduct social audits of implementing agency</p> <p>Include sanitary and hygiene education as part of the school curriculum</p> <p>Reason for success-Trust and prior working relationship with community</p>
<p>Lack of sufficient water supply in hilly areas and dry seasons</p> <p>People have toilets but do not use them</p> <p>Ignorance/unaware</p> <p>Drainage and garbage disposal problem</p> <p>Not enough attention to solid waste management</p> <p>Entire fund not utilised</p> <p>Open type toilets cause problems during rainy seasons</p> <p>Government is not open to involving NGOs and GPs</p> <p>Poor quality of material</p> <p>Lack of ownership (low people's participation)</p> <p>Lack of devolution of power to PRIs affecting TSC implementation</p> <p>Lack of gender sensitivity</p> <p>Low use of toilets in schools</p> <p>Population increase-need to set higher targets</p>		
<b>Governance</b>		
<b>Issues</b>	<b>Solutions, strategies and Recommendation</b>	
<p>Weak local governments and traditional institutions</p> <p>There is low awareness, no</p>	<p><u>Sikkim, Tripura, Assam</u></p> <p>In Sikkim, the VWSC is composed of retired teachers, people from NGOs, SHGs, GPs, RDAs, barefoot engineers (being paid Rs 190 a</p>	

gender sensitivity, undemocratic functioning, little area specificity and low technical capacity The state government is reluctant to transfer control There is little involvement of gram sabhas in decision making and follow up, as well as monitoring of projects	day for O&M) Each household pays Rs 20 per month for O&M District planning for large expenses.  Ensure legal standing for VWSC Prevent political interference Funds transfer through ECS Conduct stakeholder analysis (for low influence and high benefit)
Lack of mass awareness on water and sanitation among the general public e.g., village youth clubs such as in Nagaland and mothers groups in Manipur	Institute Mass awareness campaigns on WATSAN for the general public Leverage youth groups (Manipur), the Nagaland students union Ensure presence of youth groups on VWSC Fund allocation should be significant (30%) for this activity
Lack of gender empowerment- no representation in traditional institutions, women are the biggest sufferers in WATSAN problems	
<b>Beyond WATSAN</b>	
<b>Issues</b>	<b>Solutions, strategies and Recommendation across the states</b>
<u>Manipur</u> Poverty is a major reason for not having toilets Excreta from semi-domesticated cause water pollution Depletion of water due to over exploitation, resulting in arsenic contamination Excessive use of chemicals in agriculture polluting ground and surface water Reduced jhum cultivation leading to water pollution Lack of awareness on water and sanitation Submergence area of Khuga dam is causing water contamination. Some water of the area may not be potable. Due to fluctuation in river water below the dam, the GW fluctuates, agriculture will be affected which is parallel to the dam	Stress on poverty eradication programme through convergence Farms and non-farm management-training should be imparted on waste management Measures for recharging groundwater through watershed, afforestation, etc Stress on organic practices by enacting law against use of chemical fertilizers Stress on land and water management, with special focus on hilly and jhum land Proper water treatment (functional) plan for controlling water contamination Better framework of coordination among the implementing agencies of WATSAN through dialogue Adequately and timely fund flow Enforcement of mining laws Popularisation of roof top rainwater harvesting structures in the hilly villages for supply of water for lean periods Alternative construction material to be used for construction of toilets (bamboo, sack, plastic, etc) Afforestation programme may be encouraged
<u>Meghalaya:</u> Lack of coordination among implementation agencies like DRDA, PHED Delayed fund allocation Constructors delaying implementation activities by more than 10 years Open cast mining contaminating water bodies	

<p><u>Tripura</u></p> <p>Construction of latrines is a failure due to bamboo flowering (super-structure material is bamboo)</p> <p>Deforestation causing scarcity of water (monoculture practice is making the groundwater more vulnerable)</p> <p>Cultural taboo in using sanitary latrines in tribal areas</p> <p>Water scarcity in hill areas (no water to flush)</p>	
<p><u>Sikkim:</u></p> <p>No norms are followed in disposal of waste in urban areas</p> <p>Surface water drying due to climate change</p> <p>No proper drainage system in M.C. due to lack of funds</p> <p>Due to poverty individual households not in a position to invest in proper drainage systems resulting in pollution of water</p> <p>Migrant labour are wasting a lot of potable water in the state</p> <p>15 % of the population of the state not covered by water awareness campaign</p> <p>Lack of community participation in government schemes</p> <p>Due to tunneling and dam construction the natural flow of water gets disturbed</p>	