

### **CONSOLIDATION AND WITHDRAWAL PHASE**

The last two years are the Consolidation and Withdrawal Phase of the Watershed development programme. This is the crucial phase of the project as the local institutions will be trained to manage the project independently after withdrawal of the Government Institutions from the project area.

The main purpose of this phase is to create innovative nature based, sustainable livelihoods and raise productivity levels of the augmented resources and local economic development plans developed during the watershed works phase.

The activities those will be under taken during this phase are:

1. Completion of various works under taken during work phase.
2. Consensus among the villagers to take up any new works out of any unspent amount.
3. Preparation of Project completion report with details about status of each asset.
4. Documentation of successful experiences as well as lessons learnt for future use.
5. Evolving mechanisms to improve the sustainability of various interventions made in the project area.
6. Formulation of mechanisms for allocation of user right over common property resources.
7. Formulation of mechanisms to collect user charges for common property resources.
8. Creation of awareness and building capacity of the community to repair, maintain and protection of common property resources.
9. Training the user groups for optimum utilization of the developed natural resources.
10. Up scaling of successful experiences related to farm production system and off-farm livelihood activities undertaken through revolving fund under the project as well as credit and technical support from external institutions.
11. Evolving marketing arrangements of the farm produce as well as the off-farm and other micro enterprises.
12. Formation of Farmers' Federation for credit, input procurement, sale of local produce etc.
13. Forward and backward linkage of the SHGs and User groups for sustainable

livelihoods.

14. Formulating mechanisms for empowering Watershed Committee and its smooth management in a long run.

15. Formulating mechanism for utilising the Watershed Development Fund

The subsequent activities are planned to be carried out during this stage.

1. **Documentation** : It is proposed to document the activities carried out during the watershed implementation period. It will help to maintain the records and identify and propagate the successful activities carried out under the project.
2. **Up-Scaling of successful experiments** : It is proposed to identify the best practices carried out during the project period and up-scaling the same as per feasibility and propagate the same among others members of the watershed area.
3. **Evaluation** : Evaluation is a very important activity to assess the success of implementation of the project. It is proposed to carry out evaluation at the following levels.

a. *Social Audit* : It is proposed to conduct the social audit of the programe at the watershed level where the Gram Sabha will evaluate the programme where the beneficiaries should explain their benefits and current status of the activity. The watershed committee should place the books of accounts of watershed programmes for approval.

b. *Evaluation by external agency* : An external agency with experience in implementation and monitoring and evaluation of watershed projects should be assigned for the evaluation of the watershed programme

The proper and regular monitoring and evaluation of the project can trim down the improper implementation of activities so that the quality can be controlled at the right time. The chapter extends with the appropriate post-project techniques for project sustainability and research and documentation for maintaining the records, locate the loop falls in implementing and follow up the project with a new and suitable adaptation for the area development.

### **Plans for Monitoring**

To control the activities at the stage of implementing, proper plans was formed for monitoring and Evaluation. Project monitoring is one of the important components in

watershed development programmes. The broad objectives of a watershed project demand good monitoring framework. A monitoring framework is suggested within the capacity of watershed development teams and watershed committees. No great deal of training, human resources or instruments are expected to be employed. The monitoring should actually assist the project team to provide a guideline for improvement in the activities and output the project. Selection of an appropriate measure for the given area and ensuring the quality of project measures are to be given great attention at the time of monitoring.

**Three Tiers of Monitoring:**

The following three tiers of monitoring are planned:

**First Tier (Monitoring of activities):**

This will be carried out by PIA along with WDT and WC to monitor the implementation of all activities as per the action plan. The monitoring also aims at ensuring that the quality of work is as per the guidelines prescribed for each activity.

**Second Tier (Monitoring of outputs):**

To check the outputs of the activities, PIA along with WDT monitors as per the logical frame work. The indicators are selected considering the broad objectives of the project. One can adopt or modify these as per requirement at the time of implementation. The output level indicators needs to be devised by the project team based on the outcome level indicators on. Outputs need to be monitored frequently, may be once in a quarter/ six months.

**Third Tier (Monitoring of Outcomes):**

Project Implementation Agency along with the WC will monitor the overall outcomes of the objectives as per the logical frame. The outcomes level monitoring will start in the second year and continue on an annual basis. Most of the information can be available from the sets of output level indicators. Participatory methods will be used at the time of monitoring the activities.

The methods of collecting sample data for the monitoring activities will be clearly documented in the monitoring report. The detail of the monitoring system is presented in the table as under.

Tiers of Monitoring	Basis of monitoring	Frequency of monitoring	Orientation of the Indicator	Monitoring by
First tier	Immediate result basis	Regular Monthly Monitoring	Activity oriented	Local People organizations
Second Tier	Monitoring of Outputs	Regular monitoring (Quarterly, half yearly and annually )	Objective oriented	Internal project team (WDT, PIA & Experts)
Third Tier	Monitoring of Outcomes	Annually but monitoring start from second year onwards.	Goal Oriented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specified monitoring team formed by WCDC,</li> <li>External Monitoring team by PIA</li> </ul>

### Vigilance and Monitoring Committees

1. For every work sanctioned under the Scheme, there should be a local vigilance and monitoring committee, composed of members of the locality or village where the work is undertaken, to monitor the progress and quality of work while it is in progress. The Gram Sabha will elect the members of this committee and ensure that SC/STs and women are represented on it.
2. The Implementing Agency should apprise this committee of estimates regarding the work, time frame and quality parameters. The final report of the committee should be attached along with the Completion Certificate of the work, and should also be placed at the next meeting of the Gram Sabha in the Panchayat where work has been executed.
3. Local beneficiary committees may also be constituted for effective articulation of their entitlements and their access to them. The PIA members will be responsible for ensuring that local monitoring committees/beneficiary committees are constituted.

### Research support in watershed management:

Watershed management requires the support of research. Watershed projects will be used as on-farm sites for research designed and implemented with significant

involvement of farmers and extension workers to produce site-specific technological solutions. This leads to problems in adoption and up-scaling of research findings within specific watersheds. There is also the question of up-scaling technologies and approaches beyond a designated watershed. At the same time, researchers will be able to relate research activities to the real problems facing farmers or to capture the locally developed or modified technologies. Yet there is a need to give technologies appropriate technical and scientific definition and to disseminate them widely.

**Farmer organization and empowerment:**

The management of natural resources requires strong and effective farmer organizations. Such organizations empower farmers and create a good foundation for the transfer, adoption and use of information on new technologies. They also help in negotiating for inputs at favorable prices. Strong farmers' organizations can be a conduit for services that meet felt needs. These needs include information to improve production and marketing, credit, and demand driven approaches that ensure ownership and sustainability of interventions. Farmers' organization allows the use of participatory approaches that recognize local capacity and indigenous knowledge. It incorporates the aspirations and perceptions that influence decision-making, while giving farmers an important role in planning and implementation of watershed management activities. Such participation is important for the success, continuity and sustainability of the resource management programmes. Often a successful watershed knits together many aspects of the people's lives apart from purely technical issues. Many conservation and basic group production initiatives have widened into a social movement dealing with matters such as weddings, funerals, care for the elderly and the disadvantaged, and other issues in the community. The initial natural resources focus also widens into a set of integrated activities such as the improvement of houses, provision of water and electricity, acquisition of improved tools, seeds and livestock, all in the name of watershed management. Empowerment of farmers therefore allows farmers to demand services and to ensure the continued role of the state in supporting watershed development.

**Use of traditional institutions and indigenous knowledge:**

Experience has shown that to effectively reach the farmers and to create viable watershed management options, it is important to respect indigenous knowledge and

combine it with the formal modern science and technology. Local traditional institutions should be part and parcel of the process. For instance, there is a lot of under-used indigenous knowledge about climate, soils, biodiversity and other production conditions that confront farmers. A lot of research findings are abstract to extension providers and farmers alike. Such findings need to be married with indigenous knowledge and disseminated in a language that farmers and members of traditional institutions can understand.

**Withdrawal Mechanism:**

1. At the end of the project, The Watershed Committee is to take the responsibility for post project management .For which the Memorandum of Agreement is to be formulated between the PIA and Watershed Committee basing on the following terms and conditions.
2. The list of assets created under EPA, NRM, Farm production system and Livelihood support system is to be prepared with joint signature of the Chairman, Secretary of the Watershed committee and PIA. The Watershed Committee will retain one copy of the list for future reference.
3. The amount lying unspent as on closing date will be transferred to the Watershed Development Fund.
4. Watershed Committee will be authorised to use only one Bank account i.e WDF account.
5. Yearly auditing of the accounts by the Chartered Accountant will be mandatory and to be adhered strictly.
6. The office bearer of the Watershed Committee shall involve all the community irrespective of caste, creed and religion.
7. The Gram Sabha shall have the right to decide the user charges to be collected from the beneficiaries which shall be deposited under the watershed development fund.
8. The cost of repair and maintenance of the assets created out of NRM component shall be borne out of Watershed development fund by using maximum 50% of the amount collected in a year.
9. The WDF account will primarily run as revolving fund.

10. No individual beneficiary should be granted any sort of grant or financial assistance in any form.
11. The SHGs and UGs shall have the eligibility to take loan from the WDF with marginal interest as decided by Gram Sabha.
12. The Watershed Committee is also at their liberty to start new profit making ventures by utilising WDF as security deposit and the profit earned should go to the WDF.
13. The remuneration for the Watershed secretary will be finalised in the Gram Sabha.
14. The Watershed Committee may collect financial assistance from any other sources to augment the WDF. All donations, interests, fines and fees shall be deposited in the WDF.
15. The WDF shall be jointly operated by the Chairman and Secretary of the watershed committee.
16. All the expenditure shall be authenticated by the Watershed committee.
17. Annual meering of the Gram Sabha is mandatory. However it may meet at any time if required.
18. The Watershed Committee should meet in every quarter to review the income and expenditure.
19. Any change in the Watershed Committee or its office bearer shall be made once it is resolved in the Gram Sabha. The Gram Sabha should believe in rotational leadership.
20. All the group representatives, at least one from each group shall be ensured in the Watershed Committee.
21. The decision approved and resolved in the Gram Sabha will only be implemented by the Watershed Committee.
22. In case of any embezzlement of fund, the Administrative system shall proceed according to Rules and Laws.
23. In the event of Gram Sabha and watershed Committee become defunct, the assets created under the project and WDF will be transferred to the Panchayat.