

**Z-11011/08/2008-PPC**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Rural Development**  
**(Department of Land Resources)**

11<sup>th</sup> Block, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, CGO Complex,  
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003  
Dated: 17.12.2018

**Subject: Minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee for Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 at 11:00 AM at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi**

The undersigned is directed to forward a copy of the minutes of the 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of 'Steering Committee for Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana' held under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Department of Land Resources on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 at 11:00 AM in the Committee Room, Department of Land Resources, NBO Building, Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi, for information and necessary action.

The minutes is also available at the website of the Department, [www.dolr.gov.in](http://www.dolr.gov.in)

  
(Mahinder Singh)  
Director (WM)  
Ph. No.: 011 24364603

To,

- 1 The Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog , Sansad Marg Area, New Delhi 110001
- 2 The Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare , Krishi Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi - 110001
- 3 The Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Krishi Bhavan, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road, New Delhi - 110001
- 4 The Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Shram Shakti Bhawan, Rafi Marg, New Delhi-110001
- 5 The Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan, Jorbagh Road, New Delhi - 110 003

- 6 The Chairman, Central Ground Water Board, Bhujal Bhawan, NH-IV, Faridabad – 121001
- 7 The Chairman, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), Plot C-24, G Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, BKC Road, Bandra East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400051
- 8 The Director, National Remote Sensing Centre, Department of Space, Balanagar, Hyderabad-500037
- 9 The Director, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500030,
- 10 The Director, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Patancheru 502 324 Telangana
- 11 The Director, Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture (CRIDA), Santoshnagar, Hyderabad - 500 059
- 12 The Director, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad - 500 030, Telangana
- 13 The Director, National Informatics Centre, NIC Headquarters, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi
- 14 The Chairman for WDC-PMKSY in all States (except Goa)
- 15 The Chief Executive Officer for WDC-PMKSY in all States (except Goa)
- 16 All other participants

Copy for information to:

- 1 PS to Hon'ble MRD, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
- 2 PS to Hon'ble MOS (RD), Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
- 3 PPS to Secretary, Department of Land Resources, New Delhi
- 4 PPS to Special Secretary and Financial Adviser, Ministry of Rural Development, New Delhi
- 5 Sr. PPS to Special Secretary, Department of Land Resources, New Delhi
- 6 PA to DDG (WM), Department of Land Resources, New Delhi
- 7 DIGF (WM)/ DC (WM), Department of Land Resources, New Delhi
- 8 Technical Director (NIC) for WDC-PMKSY, CGO Complex New Delhi-with a request to make arrangement for uploading of the same in the website of the Department.

  
 (Mahinder Singh)  
 Director (WM)  
 Ph. No.: 011 24364603

**Minutes for the 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee for Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 at 11:00 AM at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi**

The 39<sup>th</sup> meeting of Steering Committee on Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) was held on November 20, 2018 at 11:00 AM under the Chairpersonship of Secretary (LR). The list of participants is at **Annexure**.

2. DDG (WM) welcomed the participants and informed that the last Steering Committee meeting was held on 31.10.2014 and also gave an overview of the WDC-PMKSY programme.

- 8214 watershed development projects were sanctioned during 2009-10 to 2014-15 in 28 States involving an area of about 39.07 million. Rs 33,642.24 crore was the Central share, out of total project cost of Rs.50,739.58 crore. There were no new watershed projects sanctioned after 2014-15.
- Of the 8214 projects, 1733 projects have been completed in 18 States and 1832 projects transferred to the States. Thus 4649 projects remain under implementation. Out of these, 653 projects are in the Consolidation Phase and 3996 projects are in the Works phase. Further, out of 1832 projects that have been transferred to the States, 1487 projects were in preparatory phase and 345 were uninitiated projects.
- 5,58,059 water harvesting structures have been created, 11,14,451 ha of area was brought under protective irrigation and about 21,13,899 farmers have benefited during last four years and as on 30.06.2018.
- Rs 16,627.80 crore has been released till 10.11.2018 as Central share. BE for 2018-19 is Rs 2,146 crore. Out of which, Rs. 944.96 crore has been released.



3. The details of the discussions and decisions arrived on each Agenda item is below:

**Agenda 1: Wastelands Atlas 2015-16: *Ex post-facto* Approval of Project proposal of NRSC**

- (i) The Committee was apprised by the DDG(WM) that the Department of Land Resources in collaboration with NRSC, Department of Space, Hyderabad has published Wasteland Atlas in India in 2000, 2005 and 2010. These studies have been funded by DoLR under Technology Development Extension and Training (TDET) scheme. As per the TDET Guidelines, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) scrutinizes and recommends the project proposals for consideration in the Steering Committee.
- (ii) The DDG (WM) informed the Committee that the project of updation of the Wasteland Change Analysis in India between 2008-09 to 2015-16 and updation of Wasteland Atlas 2011 was assigned to NRSC, who formulated a proposal at a total cost of Rs.273.34 lakh. The cost details are enclosed at Annexure-I. The deliverables of the projects were:
- State-wise seamless updated wasteland layers in GIS format
  - GIS layer on major wasteland changes areas
  - Atlas with Maps & Statistics

TAC recommended the project proposal in its meeting held on 31.10.2014.

- (iii) While approving the proposal for the release of first instalment, the Secretary (LR) directed that the matter may be placed for ratification at the next meeting of the Steering Committee. Accordingly, the first instalment of Rs.136.67 lakh was released to NRSC on 05.05.2016 with the concurrence of the IFD.
- (iv) The draft of Wasteland Atlas (2015-16) has been received from the NRSC in WM Division on 11.04.2018. All deliverables have been completed. As per the report the area of Wasteland has reduced from 58.03 m ha in 2008-09 to 57.27 m ha in the year 2015-16. The draft report has been forwarded



to State Governments on 10.08.2018 for comments / objections / suggestions. So far, only 9 States have responded. The States by and large are in agreement with Wasteland Atlas. However, three States have suggested some modification in the Atlas, which have been sent to NRSC for necessary action and comments.

(v) NRSC again requested the release of Rs. 136.67 lakh on 26.04.2017 as the last and final instalment of the project. It was informed that the payment has not been made for want of project approval by the Steering Committee. Now the proposal is being placed before the Steering Committee for consideration.

(vi) Shri T. Ravisankar, NRSC informed that the wasteland Atlas has been prepared on 1: 50000 scale, while technology of 1: 10000 scale is available and easily replicable in Indian condition and more useful for tracking of watershed project and its analysis. NRSC was asked to explore the possibility and need of preparation of next Wasteland Atlas with a technology of 1:10000 in addition to 1:50000 scale for better results in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare (M/o AC&FW).

(Action: NRSC)

(vii) The Committee suggested that the analysis of reduction in wasteland area is essential especially with respect to the first Wasteland Atlas prepared by NRSC in 1985 so that the reason for reduction are known, as to how much of wasteland has gone down due to urbanisation and how much by treatment due to watershed projects.

(Action: NRSC)

(viii) After due consideration the Committee accorded the *ex post-facto* approval to the project on Updation of Wastelands Atlas 2011 and change analysis between 2008-09 to 2015-16 being implemented by NRSC for Rs. 273.34 lakh.

(Action: WMD, DoLR)

**Agenda 2: Project proposal of NRSC on Monitoring of IWMP Watersheds (presently WDC-PMKSY) using Geospatial Technologies**

- (i) The Department of Land Resources, with the objective of real time geospatial monitoring in all WDC-PMKSY (erstwhile IWMP) Projects in the country and to create a platform to enable such monitoring using Bhuvan Geo Portal Services requested NRSC to develop such a proposal.
- (ii) A five years project plan proposal for monitoring of IWMP projects using RS & GIS technology was given to the NRSC with the in-principle approval of the then Secretary (LR) and also concurred by IFD on 08.12.2014 with a total expenditure of Rs. 35.03 crore. The MoU was signed between DoLR and NRSC on April 29, 2015. In pursuance, IWMP Bhuvan portal developed by NRSC, was launched for planning and monitoring of projects. It was informed that Rs. 15.00 crore has been released so far to NRSC.
- (iii) However, while making last release of Rs. 5.00 crore to NRSC during FY 2017-18, it was *inter alia* proposed that a meeting of Steering Committee may be convened at the earliest, to discharge its assigned responsibilities and to also in particular holistically examine and review this venture. The same was approved by Hon'ble MRD.
- (iv) NRSC made the presentation in the meeting about the progress of the project. It was informed that the main deliverables of the project were:
- Finalization of watersheds for monitoring
  - Preparation of Project Execution Plan & MoU
  - Customization of Bhuvan software & development of IWMP Web page.
  - Development of mobile application software for field data collection.
  - Incorporating of field data collected by SLNAs in Bhuvan.
  - Capacity building using Bhuvan services to the users
  - Generation of land use / land cover maps for change detection
  - Satellite data procurement for Monitoring & Interpretation.
- (v) The project is being implemented by the NRSC using the following main tools:

- **Srishti**- is a GIS based Geo-portal developed to assist in monitoring, evaluation, change assessment and provide inputs in planning for watershed management and preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR).
- **Drishti**- is the Mobile Application tool to capture data including visuals from the field for real time monitoring of WDC-PMKSY projects.

(vi) NRSC informed that the major achievements on the deliverables are as under:

- A dashboard for single window monitoring for all the activities to view the status and generate reports has been developed.
- Drishti – new version (with interactive map, provides for download of existing points, and allows revisit – project-wise) has been released
- Drishti v2.3 Manual has been prepared and hosted on Bhuvan Srishti
- Download option for Drishti points to all SLNA's (Project-wise) has been provided
- Satellite Data for the year 2017-18 has been ordered. 5100 shape files (covering Batch 1- to Batch 5 Projects) have been uploaded.

(vii) Using the mobile application Drishti, 9.69 lakh photographs have been uploaded as on 17.11.2018 by the States on the Srishti portal. Shortcomings as evidenced are appropriately taken up on a continuing basis by the projects implementers.

(viii) NRSC desired that in the portal, State should make available a geo-tag for the indicator 'Additional area brought under Irrigation' due to this scheme intervention, which will enable NRSC to get information about the impact of the intervention on agriculture in a particular project area.

(Action: NRSC / States)

(ix) It was informed by NRSC that numbers of reports were sent to DoLR but they could not be analysed due to non-availability of required technical staff. Taking note of this issue for regular and instant monitoring of watershed

projects through Geo-spatial technology, it was suggested to set up a monitoring cell in the Department.

(x) Following decisions were taken:

- (a) The Committee accorded the *ex-post-facto* approval to the project assigned to NRSC on Monitoring of IWMP Watersheds (presently WDC-PMKSY) using Geo-spatial Technologies for an amount of Rs. 35.03 crore for a period of five year from date of signing of MoU i.e. five year from 29.04.2015.

(Action: WMD, DoLR)

- (b) The Committee recommended to set-up a Geo-spatial Cell in DoLR in collaboration with NRSC.

(Action: WMD, DoLR/NRSC)

- (c) The Committee directed that WM Division may review the progress on Deliverables on monthly basis and co-ordinate with States for optimal utilisation of the monitoring tools developed by NRSC.

(Action: WMD, DoLR)

### **Agenda 3: Protocol on formal completion and closure of WDC-PMKSY projects**

- (i) It was informed that a protocol on formal completion and closure of WDC-PMKSY projects has been formulated by the Department of Land Resources in consultation with Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and NITI Aayog. The protocol *inter alia* envisages to ensure (i) the due completion of unfinished works (if any), (ii) maintenance, (iii) security and (iv) sustainability of the watershed development projects. It also includes (v) an apt, quick and low-cost / cost-effective end-line evaluation of the project or a group of projects within the approved cost norm for M&E component.
- (ii) All States (except Goa) have been accordingly requested on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017 that before the projects are formally treated as closed by the Department of Land Resources, the completion and closure protocol has to be duly adopted by the States in respect of the projects administratively reported to have been



completed. The actual closure and completion protocol sent on 12.07.2017 by the Ministry to the States was ratified by the Committee for adoption by all the states.

(Action: WMD, DoLR / States)

- (iii) It was informed that 1733 projects in 18 States have been completed (upto 10.11.2018) against the 3189 projects that has become due for completion as on 31.03.2018. Although End-line evaluation is part of the Closure Protocol, but End-line evaluation reports have been received in respect of 144 completed projects only. Defaulting States have been advised to submit end-line evaluation reports as per the closure protocol. Committee was apprised of the State-wise and Batch-wise current and expected status of projects.
- (iv) Considering that some of the States are not undertaking end-line evaluation for the completed projects, Committee recommended to take up the matter with the States regularly to expedite the end line evaluation of completed projects. It was also decided to develop a uniform evaluation framework for submission of end-line evaluation reports.

(Action: WMD, DoLR / States)

- (v) Regarding the Watershed Development Fund (WDF), the committee suggested that the guidelines on use of WDF prepared by the Karnataka may be examined and if found suitable the same may be circulated as guidelines to all States for adoption or modifications as per their needs. It was also suggested that the States may be apprised of the mandatory requirement of having a State Government signatory for any withdrawal of funds from WDF Account.

(Action: States)

**Agenda No. 4: Transfer of 345 uninitiated projects in the preparatory phase and further 1487 projects in preparatory phase to States**

- (i) The Committee was apprised that NITI Aayog and Prime Ministers' Office had earlier reviewed the progress / performance of WDC-PMKSY projects in a series of meetings during 2017, 2018 and in compliance of a decision taken in the meeting in PMO on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2017, 345 uninitiated projects in the



preparatory phase in which (a) no expenditure has been incurred and (b) no committed liability has been created have been transferred to the respective States on 08<sup>th</sup> February 2018 for the States to take them up under their respective States' budget.

- (ii) Further, in compliance of subsequent PMO's directions, 1487 projects in preparatory phase have also been transferred to the States on 01.08.2018 to take them up under their respective States' budget.
- (iii) The Committee was informed that on receiving representations from States, the matter is again taken up with PMO to reconsider the decision for exclusion of Central assistance for 1832 projects (1487 projects + 345 projects).
- (iv) Committee has noted the information

#### **Agenda No. 5: Third Party Monitoring & Evaluation of WDC-PMKSY Projects**

- (i) The Committee was informed that the Department had taken up third party Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning (ME&L) of the watershed projects sanctioned during 2009-10 to 2013-14. For this purpose, the States were grouped into five regions viz. East, West, North, South and North East.
- (ii) Out of 5 regions, ME&L agencies were appointed for 3 regions. However, after notice of serious irregularities, the decisions to rescind the contracts has been taken. These contracts are mired in several litigations.
- (iii) Hon'ble Minister has directed to locate a professional Government agency with requisite expertise in watershed development for monitoring and evaluation of WDC-PMKSY in the remaining regions. The representatives of NIRD&PR/MANAGE participating in the meeting expressed the willingness of their organization for engagement as ME&L agency.

(Action: WMD, DoLR / NIRD&PR and MANAGE)





- (iv) The Committee **advised** to expedite the process to identify reputed Government organizations as per the provisions of GFR to undertake monitoring and evaluation work in the remaining two regions i.e. South and East region.

(Action: WMD, DoLR / States)

#### **Agenda No. 6: Implementation issues from the States**

- (i) The problem/issues highlighted by the States were : (i) prioritization of projects for optimal utilization of available budget, (ii) inability to take up transferred projects with State funds, (iii) extension of time limit for meeting the committed liabilities of the transferred projects, (iv) seeking Sanction of new projects, (v) inadequate funding and consequential foreclosure of projects etc.
- (ii) The committee suggested for building synergy with the States to re-align their strategies for expediting and optimizing fund utilization. States may also be requested to complete the projects with the available resources and convergence under various Central Ministries/Departments and State Government schemes relevant to watershed development programmes. MoRD/ MoA/ MoPR were requested to provide funds to States for projects transferred to States for taking them to the utility level.

(Action: WMD, DoLR / States / MoRD / MoPR)

#### **Agenda No. 7: Continuation of the WDC-PMKSY scheme beyond 2019-20.**

- (i) The Committee was informed that 8214 watershed development projects were sanctioned during 2009-10 to 2014-15 in six Batches. WDC-PMKSY scheme has been approved upto the year 2019-20, but the projects as per the norms are to be completed by 2021-22. As a consequence, it would require continuation of the scheme beyond 2019-20 for completing the remaining projects.
- (ii) It was informed that the Central share released and expected to be released till 2018-19 is about 53% of the total sanctioned Central share of Rs.

33642.24 Crore. As per an estimate, this would treat an area of 21 m ha only against the target of 39.07 m ha as provided in the existing scheme.

- (iii) It was mentioned that as per an official assessment, an area of 44.74 m ha is yet to be considered for treatment. Hence considering that an estimated 18.0 m ha would be left untapped in the existing programme, the total area that would be available for watershed development is 62.74 m ha and this would necessitate the continuation of the existing scheme beyond 2019-20 and sanction of new projects under the scheme. A proposal to this effect has been sent to the 15<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission for consideration.
- (iv) The Committee expressed that the present focus should be on optimal utilization of the available funds and timely completion of the already sanctioned projects. The Committee in-principle agreed that the Department may take up the issue of continuation of scheme beyond 2019-20. WM Division should begin work accordingly after due appraisal.

(Action: WMD, DoLR)

8. Other issues :

- (i) SS &FA pointed out that financial status reported by the States in physical form to the DoLR is not getting reflected in PFMS along with unspent balance and suggested that physical reporting should be commensurate with financial release reflected on PFMS. The State share and unspent balance should be reflected in the PFMS. CCA was advised to take this issue in Video Conferences and follow up with the States.

(Action: CCA / States)

- (ii) SS &FA advised that the PFMS and MIS should be reconciled and the data should be synchronized.

(Action: CCA / States)

- (iii) SS&FA reiterated that it should be ensured that no expenditure be incurred from Central release on projects which have been transferred to the States.

(Action: WMD, DoLR / States)

- (iv) SS&FA directed that multiple accounts for the Scheme should be closed and State should maintain a single account.

(Action: WMD/ CCA / States)



- (v) Committee suggested that for considering the projects' duration, the cut off date be taken as the end of the financial year in which the projects complete the 7<sup>th</sup> Year from project sanction date.

(Action: States)

- (vi) Committee expressed concern about the huge unspent balance lying with States. It was also suggested that for proper utilization of funds and to facilitate timely release of Central share, approval of the Annual Action Plan from SLSC should be taken well in advance. It was expressed that early release of Central share would help the States to plan the activities both for the working season prior to monsoon and post monsoon.

(Action: CCA / WMD, DoLR / States)

- (vii) Committee desired that the progress of the remaining watershed projects be regularly monitored and properly analyzed for streamlining the fund flow and for ensuring their optimal utilization.

(Action: WMD, DoLR /CCA /States)

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



**List of participants in the 39<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Steering Committee for WDC-PMKSY held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 at 11.00 AM at Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi**

1. Shri Anant Kumar Singh, Secretary, Department of Land Resources
2. Shri Jaideep Govind, Special Secretary & Financial Adviser, Ministry of Rural Development
3. Smt. Veena Ish, Special Secretary, Department of Land Resources
4. Shri Mitter Sain, Deputy Director General (WM), Department of Land Resources
5. Shri Vipin Bansal, DIGF (WM), Department of Land Resources
6. Shri Mahinder Singh, Deputy Secretary(WM), Department of Land Resources
7. Dr. C. P. Reddy, DC (WM), Department of Land Resources
8. Shri Niraj Kumar, Deputy Secretary (WM), Department of Land Resources
9. Shri Avinash Mishra, Joint Adviser (WR & LR), NITI Aayog, New Delhi
10. Shri Pankaj Tyagi, Director, RFS, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, New Delhi
11. Shri N.S. Gahlod, Assistant Soil Survey Officer, Soil and Land Use Survey of India, Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare, New Delhi
12. Shri Rajeev Sharma, Under Secretary (MGNREGA), Department of Rural Development, New Delhi
13. Shri Ankita Sharma, Programme Officer (MGNREGA), Department of Rural Development, New Delhi
14. Shri Ashwini Kumar Shukla, Joint Commissioner-SPR-II, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, New Delhi
15. Shri Avanti Verma, Deputy Commissioner State Project Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, New Delhi
16. Shri R.C Meena, ACF, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, New Delhi
17. Shri P.K Parchure, Member, Central Ground Water Board, Faridabad
18. Shri Y. N. Mahadevaih, Deputy General Manager, Farm Sector Development Department, NABARD, Mumbai
19. Sh. T. Ravisankar, Group Head (LRUMG), RSAA, National Remote Sensing Centre, Department of Space, Balanagar, Hyderabad

20. Shri G.S Pujar, Scientist, National Remote Sensing Centre, Department of Space, Balanagar, Hyderabad
21. Shri Rajiv Kumar, Scientist, National Remote Sensing Centre, Department of Space, Balanagar, Hyderabad
22. Dr. A. Venkataradha, Scientist, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) Patancheru, Telangana
23. Shri Ravindara S Gavali, Professor & Head, Centre for National Resource Management, National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad
24. Dr. B. Renuka Rani, Senior Assistant Director, National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad, Telangana
25. Shri Ajay. M. Joshi, Scientist 'F', National Informatics Centre (NIC)
26. Sh Prabhash Chandra Ray, CEO, State Level Nodal Agency, Karnataka
27. Shri G.S Panesar , CEO, State Level Nodal Agency, Assam
28. Sh. Shivraj Ghorpade, Joint CEO, State Level Nodal Agency, Maharashtra