

NOTE ON THE GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTINUATION OF SCHEME ON REPAIR, RENOVATION & RESTORATION (RRR) OF WATER BODIES IN XIIPLAN.

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1. Introduction

A water body is a structure where rain water is accumulated or water is stored by diversion from a stream, nala or river. Water bodies serve as reservoirs in the monsoon dependent areas of the country where there exists a shorter period of rainfall and a long dry spell with very high deviation of annual rainfall. The small storage tanks are called ponds which are mostly community owned. The large storage tanks whose command varies from 20 to 2000 hectares are generally constructed by government department or local bodies.

In India, tanks/ponds and lakes have traditionally played an important role in conserving water for meeting various needs of the communities. Through the ages, Indian agriculture has been sustained by natural and man-made water bodies such as lakes, tanks, ponds and similar structures. However, many of these water bodies are not in use because of development of ground water irrigation systems, silting, inadequate maintenance and management, encroachments and diversion of land for other purposes, etc.

The water bodies are even religiously quite significant. Lakes of India, such as, Pushkar in Rajasthan, Gurudongmar in Sikkim, and others are renowned for their religious importance. The striking beauty of lakes of India, like Vemnanad Lake in Kerala, Bhimtal Lake in Uttarakhand, etc. has made them favourite haunts for the tourists. The lakes of Rajasthan add vigour to the colossal forts and palaces.

The current projections suggest that by the year 2051, there is likely to be an overall water scarcity in the country, unless either new sources of water become available or existing usages of water are conserved. As per the 4th Minor Irrigation Census, about 6 lakhs tanks and storages in India are used for Minor Irrigation Schemes under surface flow and surface lift. Out of 6 lakhs, 1 lakh water bodies were not in use due to various reasons. Out of the 1 lakh water bodies which were not in use, 0.74 lakh were temporarily not in use and about 0.24 lakh were permanently in use.

2. Pilot Scheme on Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies during X Five Year Plan

During the X Plan, the Pilot Scheme namely “Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies as a state sector directly linked to agriculture was launched by the Government of India in January 2005. The Pilot scheme envisaged a Plan Outlay of Rs. 300 crore to be shared by Centre and State in the ratio of 3:1 i.e. with 75% Central Assistance by Government of India and 25% by State Government. The water bodies having original irrigation cultural command area (CCA) between 40 ha to 2000 ha were eligible for funding under the pilot scheme. Under the Pilot scheme, 1098 Water Bodies were taken up in 26 districts of 15 states. Work was completed in 1085 water bodies and work was dropped in 13 water bodies. An irrigation potential of 0.78 lakh ha was restored.

Independent evaluation of the pilot scheme done by various agencies / organisations, viz., Water Technology Centre for Eastern Region, Bhubaneswar, Water & Land Management & Training and Research Institute (WALAMTARI), Hyderabad; Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM), Kerala; Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad.

The reports of the agencies indicates that it has resulted in many positive outcomes like increase in storage capacity, increased utilization of water for irrigation, increased utilisation in annual irrigation etc. and the benefits of the scheme have percolated to SC/ST families.

3. Scheme of Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies with Domestic Support during XI Five Year Plan

Keeping in view the success of the Pilot Scheme for RRR of water bodies launched during X Plan and need for a comprehensive programme to upscale the gains from water bodies, the Ministry of Water Resources, GOI during the XI Plan introduced/ launched a state sector scheme for RRR of water bodies with two components– one with Domestic Support and the other with External Assistance during the year 2009. Under the Scheme of RRR of water bodies with domestic support, a total of 3341 Water Bodies from all over India (12 States) were taken up for restoration. Out of which 2501 Water Bodies have been completed till date and a Central Assistance (CA) of Rs. 917.259 crore has been released so far with an irrigation potential restoration of 1.458 lakh ha. There is a provision of Rs 250 crore (as central grant) has been kept in the total Central Assistance allocation of

Rs.6235 crore during XII Plan implementation for completing the repair works of the ongoing works of water bodies which were approved during XI Plan .

4. Scheme of Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies with External Assistance during XI Five Year Plan:

Under the scheme of RRR of water bodies with External Assistance, 10887 Water Bodies were taken up for restoration in the 4 States of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of Rs.3700 crore with CCA of 8.25 lakh ha was proposed to be covered. Under the scheme with loan assistance from World bank, GOI took 25% of the world bank loan and passed it on to the respective State Governments as Central Grant and 75% of the loan was transferred to the State Governments on back to back basis to meet the state share. As per the latest progress the works of 8050 water bodies have been completed. There is a potential restoration of around 8.48 lakh ha. The implementation of the scheme is being dealt by Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance and World Bank.

5. Scheme of Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies for continuation during XII Five Year Plan:

To increase the participation of all the States, it was felt to frame a new scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies during the XII Plan as a State Sector Scheme with domestic budgetary support.

The scheme on RRR of water bodies for continuation during the XII Plan has been approved by the Cabinet on 20.09.2013. Accordingly, the guidelines were issued on 28.10.2013. The Working Group for Minor Irrigation and Watershed Management for the XII Plan period had recommended an outlay of Rs. 30,000 crore for the scheme. However, in view of resource constraint, it is proposed to cover only 10,000 (9000 water bodies from Rural areas and 1000 water bodies from Urban areas) Water Bodies having culturable command area of 6.235 lakh hectares with a total project cost of Rs. 10,000 crore under the scheme during the XII Plan. The Central and State share would be Rs. 6235 crore and Rs. 3765 crore respectively. The Central share includes a liability of Rs. 250 crore on account of spilling over works of water bodies from previous years. The States would also be encouraged to seek External Assistance for funding of RRR of Water Bodies.

6. Main Objectives of the scheme:

- (i) Comprehensive improvement and restoration water bodies thereby increasing tank storage capacity.

- (ii) Ground Water Recharge.
- (iii) Increased availability of drinking water.
- (iv) Improvement in agriculture/horticulture productivity.
- (v) Improvement of catchment areas of tank commands.
- (vi) Environmental benefits through improved water use efficiency; by promotion of conjunctive use of surface and ground water.
- (vii) Community participation and self-supporting system for sustainable management for each water body.
- (viii) Capacity Building of communities, in better water management.
- (ix) Development of tourism, cultural activities, etc.

Therefore, it has been visualised that this programme will go in a long way in enhancing water availability in different parts of the country.

7. FUNDING PATTERN AND THE ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR FUNDING

- (i) The Central Assistance will be in the form of grant which will be 90% of project cost in case of Special Category States (North-Eastern States including Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand and undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KBK districts of Orissa) as well as projects lying in desert development programme(DDP), drought prone area/tribal area/Naxal affected area and Central assistance of 25% of project cost in case of Non-Special Category States/areas. The balance cost of the project as State share (10% in case of Special Category States/areas and 75% in case of Non-Special Category States/ areas) is to be arranged by the State Governments themselves.
- (ii) The works of RRR of water bodies spilling over from XI Plan would be funded as per XI Plan guidelines.
- (iii) The proposals which satisfy the following criteria should be eligible for funding:
 - a) The water bodies are approved by the State Advisory Technical Committee (TAC) constituted by the State which includes representative from Central Water Commission (CWC) and Central Ground Water Board as Member.
 - b) The water bodies lying in Desert Development Programme (DDP), drought prone area/tribal area/Naxal affected area to be taken up will be decided in consultation with Planning Commission.
 - c) The proposals not receiving any other form of financial assistance.
 - d) The works shall be completed within 2 financial years excluding the year of inclusion of water bodies under RRR.

- e) Proposals with B.C. Ratio of 1:1 for special category states/areas and more than 1 for non-special category states.
- f) Rural water bodies having minimum water spread area of 5 hectare.
- g) Urban water bodies having water spread area from 2.0 hectare to 10 hectare.
- h) The scheme will emphasize development of catchment area, desiltation and command area development in respect of water bodies. The RRR scheme in rural areas is proposed to be implemented in convergence with the Integrated Watershed Management Programme so that the catchment areas of the water body selected are located either in treated micro/mini watershed or those selected for treatment during the next year or two. The proposals of only those water bodies in which catchment area treatment works have started under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) would be included in the scheme of RRR of water bodies. In case, the scheme of IWMP is being considered for implementation in the state based on IWMP programme, the water bodies of such area will also be included in the scheme received upto March, 2013. A certificate from State Government will be required for speedy implementation of IWMP in those areas.
- g) State Government is to take necessary steps for declaring the waterbody boundary through a Government order and to ensure removal of encroachments in the water body spread area/water body boundary before submitting the proposal for release of 2nd instalment of grant for completion of work on the water body under RRR.

8. Scheme Design:

While the structure of the scheme will follow the pattern already adopted during the XI Five Year Plan period with almost the same objectives as the previous schemes, a more comprehensive approach towards integrated development of water bodies will be adopted with the following features :-

- ❖ All public and community owned water bodies may be covered under the project. Private owned water bodies will not be covered.
- ❖ All water bodies included in the project will be given a Unique Code Number. States will accordingly undertake census of these water bodies and get complete list of water bodies along with Unique Code in the first stage.
- ❖ Under the scheme, 10,000 Water Bodies would be covered out of which 9,000 water bodies would be in rural areas and 1,000 water bodies in urban areas. For the first time, the restoration works of urban water bodies are being taken up for implementation.

- ❖ Urban water bodies having water spread area from 2 hectares to 10 hectares will be included under the scheme. Rural water bodies having minimum water spread area of 5 hectares will be included under the scheme.
- ❖ The scheme will emphasize development of catchment area, de-siltation and command area development in respect of water bodies. The RRR scheme in rural areas is proposed to be implemented in convergence with the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) so that the catchment areas of the water body selected are located either in treated micro/mini watershed or those selected for treatment during the next year or two. The proposals of only those water bodies in which catchment area treatment works have started under IWMP would be included in the scheme of RRR of water bodies.
- ❖ Participatory Management and Project Implementation with active involvement of stake holders.
- ❖ Association of NGOs with the organization of Water Users' Association in the command areas may be encouraged.

9. Preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR):

The DPR of a project has to include information on the following aspects:

- (i) Details of present status of the water bodies (in use or partially used or not in use) with reasons for deterioration in condition and also its categorization in terms of location, special category states, or in non- special category states.
- (ii) Rainfall during the last ten years, ground water level, land use pattern, soil characteristics, climate conditions, availability of water in the catchment area for channelization into water body, water quality situation in the water body and adjoining areas.
- (iii) Details of original CCA, present CCA and CCA planned in the DPR, original storage capacity/present storage capacity and storage capacity planned in the DPR, water quality situation in the water body and of ground water in adjoining areas with likely impact of the project on water quality of the water body and of the ground water.
- (iv) Scope of work viz De-silting in terms of quantum of silt to be removed, repair of conveyance system, strengthening of bund(s), repair of weirs and sluices, catchment treatment, command area development, soil erosion prevention

works, quality control measures. Maps of catchment and command areas are to be enclosed in the DPR.

- (V) The scheme envisages capacity building of implementing agencies such as Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) and its attached and subordinate offices, State governments, District Implementing agencies, Water Users' Associations (WUAs) and Panchayats. Accordingly, a capacity building programme aimed at sensitization of stakeholders, identification and selection of water bodies, preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), monitoring and evaluation is to be prepared and included in the DPRs.
- (VI) The proposals of only those water bodies in which catchment area treatment Works have started under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) would be included in the scheme of RRR of water bodies. In case, the scheme of IWMP is being considered for implementation in the state based on IWMP programme, the water bodies of such area will also be included in the scheme received upto March, 2013. A certificate from State Government will be required for speedy implementation of IWMP in those areas.
- (VII) Targeted benefits under the project will include creation of additional irrigation potential, Increase in agriculture / horticulture / pisciculture production and productivity, increase in recharge of ground water, improvement in water use efficiency, increase in availability of drinking water, impact on water quality, removal of weed growth, promotion of tourism and culture.
- (VIII) Detailed calculation for working out the Benefit Cost ratio (BC ratio) for each water body.
- (IX) Implementation schedule & corresponding requirement of funds; details of arrangement for monitoring & evaluation and arrangement for use and maintenance of the restored water bodies.
- (x) The checklist as enclosed in the guidelines should be the part of DPR.

10. Implementation of the Scheme

The institutional structure/activity mapping proposed is as below:

i) Water Users' Association (WUA) at the Gram Panchayat Level:

At the water body level, the Detailed Project Reports(DPRs) would be prepared and works would be implemented by Water Users Association (WUA)/ Local Panchayat / A Government agency identified by the District Level implementing Agency (DLIA). The implementation plan of the project will be placed before the Gram Sabha and its Cooperation will be solicited by timely completion of the project. The WUA would also earn revenues by charging for its services from its members and build up a corpus for maintaining and managing the water bodies over time.

ii) Arrangements at District Level

The proposals identified/received by DLIA would be scrutinised/included in the District Plan and forwarded to State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA) for putting up to State Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

iii) Arrangements at State Level

A State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA) will be identified by the State Government which will be responsible to plan various activities envisaged under the scheme and monitor their implementation. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be constituted by the State to techno economically appraise and approve the DPR. TAC shall also include representative from Central Water Commission (CWC) and Central Ground Water Board (CGWB). After approval of the DPR by the State TAC, the State will submit the DPR to the concerned Regional/Field Office of CWC.

iv) Arrangements at Central Level

The MoWR will coordinate the programme at the central level through Central Water Commission. The Regional office of CWC shall forward the DPRs approved by the State TAC along with their recommendations to CWC Hq. Further CWC headquarter shall forward the eligible proposals to MOWR, RD & GR for their inclusion and funding. The inclusion of the Water Bodies for Central Assistance under the Scheme would be approved by the Empowered Committee of MoWR, RD& GR under the Chairmanship of Secretary/Special Secretary/Additional Secretary (WR).

11. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

- (i) At the water body level, the DPRs of the water bodies are to be prepared by WUA / Local Panchayat / a Government agency identified by DLIA. The Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) will then be forwarded to District Level Implementation Agency (DLIA) for onward transmission to the State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA).

- (ii) The proposals received by DLIA would be scrutinised, included in the District Plan and forwarded to State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA) for putting up to State TAC.
- (iii) After approval of the DPR by state TAC, the States will submit DPRs to the field office of Central Water Commission, which in turn will take further necessary action for release of funds under the scheme.

11. Release of funds:

- (i) Necessary budget provision for the total amount of the project for both Central and State shares are to be kept in the State Plan Budget for the relevant year.
- (ii) The Central Assistance (CA) will be in the form of central grant which will be as under:
 - a. For Ongoing projects already under RRR: 90% of project cost in case of special category States, projects benefiting drought prone area, tribal area and flood prone area and 25% of project cost in case of Non-special category States/areas.
 - b. For new projects under RRR: 90% of the cost of the project (work component) for Special Category States, and Projects benefiting special areas (Naxal affected areas, DPAP areas, Tribal areas, Desert Development Programme (DDP) Area of General Category States and 25% of project cost in case of Non-special category States/areas. The balance cost of the project as the state's share is to be arranged by the state government from its own resources.
- (iii) The State Governments will be required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the MoWR under the programme indicating estimated cost, benefits accrued like potential to be restored, targeted quantum of water after restoration, proposed ground water recharge, population benefitted from drinking water, etc., year-wise phasing of expenditure along with the target date of completion.
- (iv) The state Government shall transfer the Central Grant to the project implementing authority within 15 days of its release by the Government of India.
- (v) For projects receiving assistance upto 50% of the project cost, 90% of GOI share of funds is to be released after release of at least 50% State's share. For projects receiving assistance higher than 50%, 50% GOI share is to be released after the State releases its full share.
- (vi) Balance/second installment of GOI share is to be released after obtaining Utilization Certificate (UC) of minimum of 50% of GOI funds released earlier.

- (vii) Next year installment is to be released after obtaining 100% utilization of funds released in the previous year(s).
- (viii) The Utilization Certificate (UC) shall be issued by the Chief Engineer of the project and countersigned by Secretary (Water Resources / Irrigation) / Secretary (Finance) of the State Government.
- (ix) The State Government shall provide annual audited statement of expenditure incurred within 9 months of release of central grant.
- (x) If the State Government fails to comply with the agreed date of completion, the grant component released will be treated as loan and recovered as per the usual term of recovery of the central loan.
- (xi) The cost at the time of inclusion of any new project in the scheme of RRR of water bodies will be frozen. In cases where project completion is delayed due to force majeure, time extension may be considered for maximum one year.
- (xii) The check list for processing the release of funds by CWC/Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India should be enclosed.

12. Monitoring and Evaluation

- (i) Regular monitoring of the project is to be carried out at each stage. Monitoring would include maintaining of both physical and financial Progress and the outcome. Monitoring would be done with the association of the Coordination Cell of the State Govt. and standing committee of the Panchayat at the appropriate level.
- (ii) The water bodies under RRR would also be monitored periodically on sample basis by Field Office of Central Water Commission. A format for the Monitoring/Inspection of RRR works of water bodies has been circulated to all the Regional offices of CWC. A copy of the format is attached as **Annexure-A**.
- (iii) Baseline survey would be conducted before the commencement of the project execution. Evaluation and impact assessment of the scheme will be done by independent agencies to be identified by the Ministry of Water Resources. Necessary reports and field visits are to be made on regular basis for the purpose.
- (iv) The State Government shall monitor the quality of works as per the relevant BIS codes through the agency independent of the executing agency.
- (v) Concurrent evaluation is to be done by the State Government themselves by involving independent agencies which may include IIMs and IITs.

(vi) Impact Assessment shall be done after completion of the Scheme from the funds of CWC/MOWR.

(vii) State Government will be responsible to plan various activities envisaged under the scheme, monitor their implementation, provide guidelines to District Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee (DLI&MC) and ensure coordination among all concerned departments/agencies at the State level.

(viii) Out of the outlay of Rs. 6235 crore available for the scheme, a provision of funds equivalent to 1.5% of the central share shall be made for strengthening of implementation mechanism, concurrent evaluation and impact assessment to be carried out by the independent agencies like IIMs, IITs, etc., selected through transparent process.

Changes in the Guidelines of October 2013

- MoWR, RD&GR vide Letter No. 7-6/2013-WB/606-619, dated 03.07.2015, added a clause as 3-III-J ; "Priority will be given to water bodies in villages covered under Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) subject to the conditions that the said water body qualifies for assistance with the other eligibility criteria".
- National Water Mission (NWM), MoWR, RD&GR vide, Letter. No. M-31011/1/2013-NWM-91, dated 20.05.2015, advised that priority should be accorded for inclusion of water bodies located in the over exploited units, while formulating proposal for the scheme on Repair, Restoration & Renovation (RRR) of water bodies by the State/UT Governments.