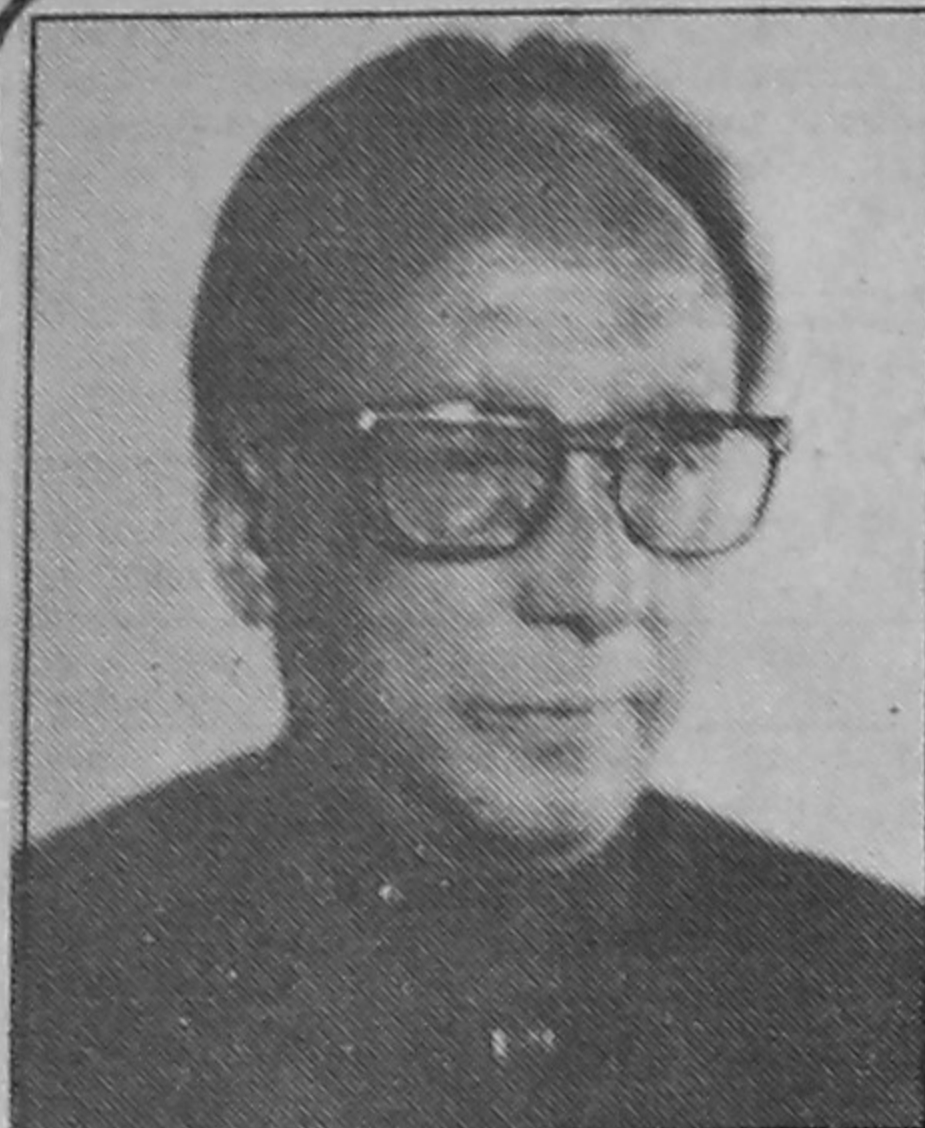


GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATORY WATER MANAGEMENT : A MILESTONE FOR PEOPLE'S PARTICIPATION & OWNERSHIP

Local Government Division, Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development & Co-operatives and Ministry of Water Resources • SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT • Planned & Designed by Anupam Publicity Agency



MINISTER
Local Government
Ministry of
Local Government,
Rural Development and
Cooperatives
Government of the
People's Republic of
Bangladesh

Message

I am very glad to know that the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Local Government Division and the Ministry of Water Resources have jointly formulated the draft Guidelines for Participatory Water Management. It has been planned that the draft guidelines will be presented in the workshop to be held on 10 June, 2000.

It may be emphasized that the role of the Local Government Institutions as a stakeholder in participatory water management is of significant importance. As per relevant Ordinance/Acts, the Local Government Institutions at various levels are responsible for over all development at the local level including participatory water resource.

After the formulation of the National Water Policy in 1999, preparation of the Guidelines for Participatory Water Management is another milestone of development in the matter.

I would earnestly hope that the draft Guidelines which will be finalized on the basis of comments will significantly contribute towards effective utilization of scarce water for socio economic development of the country.

Zillur Rahman

Md. Zillur Rahman



SECRETARY
Local Government Division
Ministry of Local Government,
Rural Development & Cooperatives
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh

Message

I am happy to note that the draft Guidelines for Participatory Water Management has been prepared by the Inter-Agency Task Force constituted by the Government.

It is of utmost importance that people should be at the centre of all development activities and without their active involvement, it is very difficult to achieve real development. These principles equally apply in respect of water resources development activities. Therefore, it is a step in the right direction that the Guidelines for Participatory Water Management has been formulated.

It is also an important step that the role of the local government institutions has been recognized as an important component in the participatory water management at the local level.

I am quite hopeful that with the concerted efforts of all the stakeholders, participatory water management activities will be further stimulated in Bangladesh.

Badiur Rahman
Badiur Rahman

Salient Features of the draft Guidelines for Participatory Water Management : Inter-agency Task Force

Introduction

Participation is an important voluntary process. With increased participation of the local stakeholders in managing water resources, project selection, service delivery and cost sharing are likely to improve. The participatory water management will enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the water resources projects/sub-projects/schemes.

In Bangladesh, the principal public sector agencies for water resources are the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) under the Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) and the Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives (MLG-RD&C), Local Government Division (LGD). On the initiative of BWDB, the Ministry of Water Resources (MWR) formulated and adopted the Guidelines for Peoples' Participation (GPP) in Water Development Project in 1994. In addition, BWDB formulated a few project based Guidelines on Participatory Process under the System Rehabilitation Project (SRP), Compartmentalization Pilot Project (CPP) and the Water Sector Improvement Project (WSIP). LGED developed project based guideline for operation and maintenance of Small Scale Flood Control and Drainage Schemes in 1986 and it formulated a revised Guideline for the participatory process in 1999.

Consequent upon the declaration of the National Water Policy (NWP) by GOB in January, 1999, it has been found imperative to revisit those documents for formulating a common Guideline to avoid conflicts and duplications and to accommodate flexibility, integrity and complementarity in participatory water management.

For that purpose, the Government, through a Notification issued by MoWR in May, 1999 constituted an Inter-Agency Task Force comprising officials from BWDB and officials and experts from LGED for formulation of the Guidelines for Participatory Water Management (GPWM).

The Task Force has formulated the draft Guidelines in two volumes - volume one containing the text and volume two covering the annexes.

Objectives

The immediate objectives of the Guidelines are to:

- Elaborate the provisions incorporated in NWP, 1999 in respect of stakeholder participation.
- Make available harmonized Guidelines for Participatory Water Management for application in the field.
- Increase/improve stakeholder participation in water management.
- Give the local stakeholders a decisive voice at all stages of water management.

The long term objectives of the

Guidelines are to:

- Develop capacity of the local stakeholders in participatory water management
- Gradually establish ownership of local stakeholders in water resource management
- Achieve sustainable participatory water management.

Stakeholders

The stakeholders of participatory water management comprise:

- Local stakeholders
- Water User Organization (WUO)
- Local Government Institution (LGI)
- Non-Government Organization (NGOs)/Community Level Self-help groups
- Other Public Sector Agencies

Inhabitants of an area who are directly or indirectly affected by water management are referred to as "local stakeholders".

The institutional framework in which the local stakeholders will participate for water use/management will be known as the Water Users Organization (WUO) comprising Water Users Group (WUG), Water Users Association (WUA) and Water Users Federation (WUF). The Local Government Institutions (LGIs) will render support and facilitate the process of participatory water management at the local level. The NGO/Community level Self-help Groups will assist in community/beneficiary mobilization regarding participatory water management.

The implementing agencies of the water resource development projects, while ensuring execution of schemes, will provide technical assistance and create an overall environment conducive to involvement of the local stakeholders in all stages of water management.

The role of other public sector agencies is to deliver services in their respective fields of activity for participatory water management.

Participatory Process

Participation of the local stakeholders is a continuous process in the pursuit of sustainable development. For water resources development, participation starts from the very early stage of identification of land and water resources in general, and schemes or projects in particular. Water sector projects involve two parallel but inter-related process - one dealing with engineering, agricultural and environmental issues and the other concerning local stakeholder participation including its institutional framework. When the process is defined within a project cycle, it can be framed in six stages:

- Identification
- Feasibility study
- Detailed planning, design and Stakeholders' Institution Building
- Implementation and Trial Operation
- Operation and Maintenance
- Monitoring and Evaluation

Early participation of all level stake-

holders for taking an inventory of problems/constraints, full range of alternative actions as potential solutions and assessment and reconnaissance process constitutes the identification stage.

During the feasibility study stage, stakeholders' participation includes crystallizing the project concept and integrating the needs of all sub-sectors using water on the basis of a full range of environmental assessment and alternative studies.

During the detailed planning, design and institution building stage, stakeholder participation includes assisting the professional teams of the implementing agency to get the necessary local experience, insights and best-practice-examples for locating the water infrastructures in user-friendly way. The local stakeholders will examine, suggest and agree to the best possible alternative design prepared by the experts of the implementing agency for achieving workable, efficient, manageable and environmentally sustainable water management system.

During the implementation and trial operation stage, local stakeholder participation is to make sure that construction is done as per the detailed design.

Water Users Organization

To be meaningful and sustainable, local stakeholder participation has to be institutionalized. Water users will be encouraged and assisted to form different types of Water Users Organization, such as, Water Users Group (WUG), Water Users Association (WUA) and Water Users Federation (WUF) depending on the size and complexity of the project/sub-project/scheme. For each project/sub-project/scheme, there will be at least one level of WUO. The types of WUO which may be formed are:

For Sub-Project/Scheme Upto 1000 ha, one or two WUOs may be formed:

- WUG at the lowest level for each smallest hydrological unit or social unit (Para/Village)
- WUA at the apex level of the Project/Sub-project/scheme.

For Project/Sub-project/Scheme of More than above 1000 ha and below 5000 ha, the WUO may consist of two or three levels:

- WUG at the lowest level for each smallest hydrological unit or social unit (Para/Village)
- WUA either at the mid-level for each sub-system of the project/ sub-project/scheme or at the apex level

for the project/sub-project/scheme. **For Project/Sub-Project/Scheme above 5000 ha, there may be three tiers of WUO:**

- WUG at the lowest level for each smallest hydrological unit or social unit (Para/Village)
- WUA at the mid-level for each sub-system of the project/sub-project/ scheme.
- WUF at the apex level of the project/sub-project/ Scheme.

The membership of the WUO will be open to farmers, fishermen, small traders, craftsmen, boatmen, aquaculturist, landless people, women, PAPs etc. within the project/sub-projects/scheme area who are influenced directly or indirectly and they will be treated as the general members of the WUO. The representatives from the LGIs may be included as advisors to the WUOs.

The WUG may or may not be registered. The WUA will be registered. The WUF may or may not be registered.

Registration of the Water Users Organization will be done within the framework of the Cooperative Societies Ordinance, 1984 and the Cooperative Societies Rules, 1987 as amended from time to time. This system of registration will prevail till such time the government will frame separate rules for registration of the Water Users Organization for participatory water management.

Capacity Development

In order to achieve the objectives of the guidelines, capacity development of WUOs is essential in respect of organizational, technical and financial aspects. Capacity development also needs to be achieved in respect of other stakeholders, such as, LGIs, NGOs and the Implementing Agencies. Capacity development approach should, therefore, be taken as a comprehensive task and aimed at enhancing capacities of all the key stakeholders in participatory water management. This can be achieved through appropriate training/orientation programmes.

Such orientation / training programmes will cover all relevant issues from the identification stage to the monitoring and evaluation of the water resource project/sub-project/scheme. The orientation/training programmes for different stakeholders will be planned and implemented in an integrated manner, so that efforts made in this respect for different categories of the stakeholders will be mutually supportive to each other. Separate orientation/training modules for various topics/issues and stakeholders will be prepared as considered necessary.

The need for choosing appropriate training method and training aids in implementing various types of courses for different categories of stakeholders is important. The training/orientation courses will be implemented in a participatory manner.



MINISTER
Ministry of
Water Resources
Government of the
People's Republic of
Bangladesh

Message

I am extremely pleased to know that the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives, Local Government Division have jointly formulated the draft Guidelines for Participatory Water Management which will be presented in an one day workshop to be held on 10th June, 2000.

For effective management of water resources, the Government of Bangladesh formulated the National Water Policy in January, 1999. The Water Policy has included, inter-alia, the issues related to participatory water management by all stakeholders through involvement of the public and the private sectors.

The present draft Guidelines on Participatory Water Management has been formulated to operationalize the relevant principles as incorporated in the National Water Policy and also on the basis of experience of the previous guidelines prepared in the matter.

I would sincerely hope that the draft Guidelines which will be finalized through the feedback of the workshop will go a long way in ensuring effective participatory water management in the country.

Abdur Razzaq
Abdur Razzaq

SECRETARY

Ministry of Water Resources
Government of the People's
Republic of Bangladesh



Message

I am pleased to note that the Inter-Agency Task Force constituted by the Government has prepared the draft Guidelines for Participatory Water Management.

Consequent upon formulation of the National Water Policy in January, 1999, it was considered necessary to formulate the Guidelines for Participatory Water Management within the framework of the policy and also on the basis of experience in the field.

The draft guidelines will be discussed in the workshop to be held on 10th June, 2000 and it will be finalized on the basis of comments/feedback from the workshop participants.

It is hoped that the guidelines will be an important document for participatory water management in Bangladesh in future.

I would like to congratulate the members of the Task Force for their commendable work and look forward to a very pragmatic set of guidelines for implementation in the field.

Dr. A.T.M. Shamsul Huda

Dr. A.T.M. Shamsul Huda

Composition of the Inter-agency Task Force on the Guidelines for Participatory Water Management

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 1. Mr. Md. Shahidul Hassan | Convenor |
| Additional Chief Engineer, LGED | |
| 2. Mr. Salahuddin Md. Humayun | Member |
| Project Director/ Superintending Engineer
CPP (FAP-20), BWDB, Tangail | |
| 3. Dr. Q. R. Islam, Agronomist, SSWRDSP, LGED | Member |
| 4. Mr. Nitayananda Chakravorty | Member |
| Director, Economic Planning, BWDB, Dhaka | |
| 5. Mrs. Sultana Afroz, Sociologist, SSWRDSP, LGED | Member |
| 6. Mr. Saeedur Rahman | Member |
| Director, Planning Scheme-IV, BWDB, Dhaka | |
| 7. Mr. S. M. Towheed | Member |
| Senior Agricultural Planning Officer
Directorate of Planning General, BWDB, Dhaka | |
| 8. Mr. H. R. Akanda | Member |
| Senior Management Consultant, LGED | |
| 9. Mr. F. R. M. Khaled | Member |
| Deputy Chief Agronomist
Directorate of Land & Water Use, BWDB, Dhaka | |

Members Co-opted by the Task Force

- Mr. Md. Nurul Islam, Project Director, SSWRDSP, LGED
- Mr. G. J. N. Murshed, Senior Scientific Officer, WARPO
- Mr. Tofail Ahmed, Sociologist, SSWRDSP, LGED
- Mr. Ataur Rahim, Aquaculture Specialist, SSWRDSP, LGED



Labour Contracting Society (LCS) members engaged in embankment compaction



Women's workshop in Ichapur, Daudkandi