

8

STANDING COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE
(1996-97)

ELEVENTH LOK SABHA

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
COOPERATION)

NATIONAL WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT FOR RAINFED AREAS

*[Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/
Observations contained in the Thirty-Eighth Report of the
Standing Committee on Agriculture (1995-96) (Tenth Lok Sabha)]*

131

EIGHTH REPORT



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

January, 1997 / Pausa, 1918 (Saka)

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Presented to Lok Sabha on.....

Laid in Rajya Sabha on.....



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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE
(1996-97)

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar — *Chairman*

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| 6. Smt. Jyochnamayi Sinha | — | <i>Reporting Officer</i> |

INTRODUCTION

1. the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1996-97) having been authorised by the Committee to submit Report on their behalf, present this Eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the 38th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1995-96) (Tenth Lok Sabha) on National Watershed Development Project For Rainfed Areas of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation).

2. The Thirty Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1995-96) on National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas of the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Co-operation) was presented to Lok Sabha on 12th March, 1996. The Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture and Co-operation) was requested to furnish action taken replies of the Government to recommendations contained in the Thirty Eighth Report. The replies of the Government to all the recommendations contained in the Report were received.

3. The Committee considered these action taken replies furnished by the Government and approved the draft comments and adopted the Eighth Report.

4. An analysis of the Action taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the 38th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given in Appendix II.

NEW DELHI;
January, 1996
Pausa, 1918 (Saka)

SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

CHAPTER I

REPORT

This Report of the Committee on Agriculture deals with the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty Eighth Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (1995-96) on the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture & Co-operation) on National Watershed Development Projects for Rainfed Areas which was presented to the Lok Sabha on 12th March, 1996.

1.2 Action taken notes have been received from the Government in respect of all the 11 recommendations contained in the Report. These have been categorised as follows :—

- (i) Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by the Government : Chapter II of the Report)
Recommendation Nos. 1,2,7,9,10 & 11
(Total 6)
- (ii) Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies : (Chapter III of the Report)
Recommendation No. 4
(Total 1)
- (iii) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee : (Chapter IV of the Report Commented upon in Chapter I of the Report) Recommendation Nos. 6 & 8
(Total 2)
- (iv) Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited : (Chapter V of the Report)
Recommendation Nos. 3 & 5
(Total 2)

1.3 The Committee will not deal with the recommendations which have not been accepted and have been included in Chapter IV of the report.

Recommendation No. 6

1.4 The Committee express their pleasure at the commendable effort put in the creation of the comprehensive WARASA Manuals by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Committee note that different sets of guidelines have been issued on the concept of Watershed Development by the Ministry of Agriculture and by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and these guidelines with varying objectives required some resolution. The Committee also note that the Ministry of Agriculture has already initiated some steps to resolve the issue. The Committee feel that the matter requires to be addressed on an urgent basis and, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment should immediately sit together and hammer out a uniform strategy within a period of three months so that there is no confusion in the implementation of the Project by the State Government agencies. The Committee further recommend that the task of watershed development should be assigned to one particular Ministry instead of it being handled by two Ministries in the interest of economy, clear accountability, better monitoring and optimum utilisation of funds and manpower resources.

Reply of the Government

1.5 In order to harmonise the guidelines of watershed development issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, meetings of the concerned officers of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and Ministry of Agriculture were held under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Deptt. of Agriculture and Coöperation.

The representatives of the two Ministries had agreed to treat the geohydrological unit as the unit of implementation, keep the cost norms between 3500 to 5000 Rs. /ha., exclude pucca concrete masonry structures and implement project through Watershed Development Team and members of Watershed Community at field level.

However no mutually acceptable solution could be found on the issues of having similar project objectives, common criterion for selection of watersheds and operational flexibility at the State, district and project levels. The matter has been referred to the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment for formal communication of their concurrence on areas of agreement and views on possible resolution of unresolved outstanding issues.

It is understood that the Ministry has undertaken the exercise of review of their own guidelines and they have stated that they would keep the concern for

common guidelines in view while finalising the review of their own guidelines. The matter is expected to be resolved through the continued process of dialogue within minimum feasible time frame.

The views of the Committee to assign the task of watershed development to one particular Ministry instead of its being handled by two Ministries have been communicated to the Planning Commission for the consideration of the working group on 25 year perspective plan.

Comments of the Committee

1.6 The Committee note that different sets of guidelines with varying objectives have been issued on the concept of Watershed Development by the Ministry of Agriculture and by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and this requires resolution. The Committee feel that the matter requires to be addressed on an urgent basis and recommend that the Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment should immediately arrive at some uniform strategy within a period of three months to avoid confusion in the implementation of the project by the State Government agencies. The Committee observe that the matter has not been resolved within the stipulated time frame. They find that the matter is expected to be resolved through the continued process of dialogue within minimum feasible time frame. The Committee are disappointed to note that no early solution could be found out even after having undertaken an exercise in the past six months. Therefore, they desire that efforts should be made to expedite a solution to this matter in view of the urgency involved in this programme and in the interest of economy, clear accountability, better monitoring and optimum utilization of funds and manpower resources.

Recommendation No. 8

1.7 The Committee note that there are 1426 composite nurseries established all over the country in 2653 microwatersheds selected for development. The Committee also note that there is not even a single nursery available in Bihar which has got 209 microwatershed projects selected for development. Some State Governments have stated that sufficient number of composite nurseries could not be established due to non-availability of land with the State Agriculture Departments. Besides, it has been brought to the notice of the Committee that the cost norms for establishment of block plantations in Agro forestry under NWDPR are far below the norms prescribed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the purpose. The Committee feel that the establishment of nurseries is one of

the most important key components in the entire strategy of Watershed Development, as this component provides the necessary inputs for the vegetative conservation measures on which high reliance has been placed. The Committee find the present availability of composite nurseries highly inadequate and it requires urgent augmentation. The Committee, therefore, recommend that necessary steps should be taken immediately to boost up this activity. The Land Revenue Departments of the State Governments should be asked to identify suitable lands for the setting up of nurseries and make them available to the State Agriculture Departments on priority basis within one year of receipt of requests in order to make the Project a definite success. In addition parts of the land available with the State Agriculture farms, Agriculture Universities, other agricultural institutions, KVKs and NGOs should also be utilised for the purpose. The Committee also recommend the Union Agriculture Ministry should examine the cost norms fixed in respect of block plantations in agro-forestry keeping in view the cost norms adopted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Committee recommend the Forest Department should be invariably associated in the work of the Watershed Development Teams.

Reply of the Government

1.8 Under NWDPR, the component of Agro-forestry and not the Block Plantations have been included due to the fact that Block Plantation envisages plantation of trees en-block on the farm land whereas under Agro-forestry, the trees are planted on farm's bunds and are scattered on the cultivators' holdings, inter-spersed with the cultivation. The number of trees is kept at 20 trees per hectare under Agro-forestry to facilitate proper agricultural operations, whereas under block plantation, the number of trees planted per hectare generally varies from 700 to 1000 depending on the site.

The beneficiaries are given planting material, other inputs and an incentive @ Rs. 7.50 per plant in lieu of labour for planting and maintenance for 3 years so that he develops attachment to the programme. The incentive for planting horticulture trees is Rs. 15 per plant.

As for the number of nurseries, in 2554 microwatersheds taken up so far, 1583 composite and 1542 kisan and Government nurseries have been established. NWDPR guidelines provide that the composite nurseries may be managed and operated by the Self-Help-Thrift Groups (SHGs) after some initial training and "hands on" experience in an operating nursery. The land for nursery can be given to them on lease. These SHGs can later on become self reliant and operate on commercial lines even after the project period is over.

As far as establishment of nurseries in the State Agriculture farms, Agricultural Universities and other agricultural institutes is concerned, the State Governments have been advised to establish composite nurseries on lands of State Agricultural Department where Community land is not available. On the issue of providing land for nurseries in the Krishi Vigyan Kendras, ICAR authorities have been requested to extend cooperation in this regard.

Forest Department has already been associated at various levels in the planning and implementation of the project. Special Secretary to Govt. of India-cum-IG Forests is a member of National Watershed Development Policy and Implementation Committee (NWDPIC). Representatives of the Forest Deptt. are the members of the Watershed Development Teams and also the Monitoring Committees constituted by the State Governments to review the progress of the project at various levels.

Supplementary Reply of Government

Composite Nursery in Bihar

1.10 In spite of all the efforts by the Ministry at the highest level the progress of National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR) in Bihar has how very poor. Till now only a sum of Rs. 2.13 crore has been spent by Govt. of Bihar out of a total allocation of Rs. 64.52 crore by the State during VIII Plan and the sum of Rs. 17.38 crore released by the Ministry up to 1995-96. The State Govt. is being regularly persuaded to implement the project properly and achieve physical and financial targets including establishment of composite nurseries and Barani Chetna Kendras.

Block Plantation

In addition to the facts, already stated on this issue, it may be mentioned that farmers do not prefer 'Block Plantation' on arable lands as their first necessity is to grow food crops. Scattered plantation does not interfere with the growing of food crops and at the same time it offers security in the long run against the risks of weather aberrations. In the non-arable lands also in place of conventional practice of Block Plantation under NWDPR three tier system of plantation involving grasses, shrubs and trees in a topo-sequence has been advocated. This system ensures greening of non-arable lands in a much more effective manner. The practice of Block Plantation on non-arable lands without due regard to soil and moisture conditions has not been found successful where mortality of plants is found to be very high.

Comments of the Committee

1.11 The Committee feel that the establishment of nurseries is one of the most important key components in the entire strategy of Watershed Development, as this component provides the necessary inputs for the vegetative conservation measures on which high reliance has been placed. The Committee note that there is not even a single nursery available in Bihar which has got 209 microshed projects selected for development.

The Committee are very perturbed to note that despite the Committee's recommendation, the Government has furnished a very vague reply which has no mention regarding the action taken by the Government to improve the condition in Bihar. Therefore, the Committee reiterate its earlier recommendation and recommend that the Government should expedite the pace of work regarding the availability of composite nurseries on the lines indicated by the Committee in its original recommendation and furnish a revised reply.

CHAPTER II

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

Recommendation No.1

2.1 After going through the various details about the concept and implementation of the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR) placed before the Committee by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, the Committee observe that NWDPR is the most comprehensive programme with a holistic and economically sound approach by which the basic objective of enhancing both production and productivity in the acutest areas which do not have any assured source of irrigation could be achieved for certain (extent) within a definite period of time. The Committee are sure that the vigorous implementation of NWDPR would lead to reduction in the regional disparity between the irrigated and the vast rainfed areas which constitute 70% of our cultivated land and this would in turn have its own impact on the resultant socio-economic, nutritional and ecological imbalances. The Committee hope that the present major concern for the conservation of dwindling natural resources *i.e.* water, soil, plant and animal germplasm would be further enhanced in the programme content of NWDPR in the coming years, as this alone would lead to an eternally sustainable development in all agricultural sectors in the rural areas. Therefore, keeping in view the potential of high returns from the Project and also the urgent need to develop the rainfed areas, the Committee desire that the wisdom of economic planners should dictate that NWDPR should be assigned the prime of place in the strategy to be adopted for the assault on rural poverty. The Committee feel the this Project should be accorded number one status among all other developmental schemes, as this confers the greatest advantage on farmers, going by the cost-benefit analysis. The Committee are convinced that NWDPR is the magic wand by which alone economic prosperity could be ushered in the vast rural expenses of this country and therefore, recommend that the highest financial allocation should be made in favour of NWDPR in the coming Ninth Five Year Plan and also in the National Perspective Plan for Development of Rainfed Areas which is under preparation. The Committee are, however, dismayed to note that despite many recommendations made on NWDPR in the Fifth Report of the Committee on Agriculture (1991-92), no perceptible results could be achieved in dryland farming and therefore, recommend that the

earlier Report should be taken as guideline for the Project for all purposes.

Reply of the Government

2.2 While preparing the Ninth Five Year Plan and also the National Perspective Plan for Development of Rainfed Areas, the views of the Committee will be taken into account. The Planning Commission which is engaged in the formulation of Perspective Plan for Rainfed Areas has been requested to taken into account there Committee's views. The following recommendations of the Standing Committee have been sent to the Commission for consideration:—

- (i) To enhance the present concern for the conservation of dwindling natural resources *i.e.* water, soil, plant and animal germplasm in the programme contents of NWDPRAs in the coming years ;
- (ii) To assign NWDPRAs the primary place in the strategy to be adopted for the assault on rural poverty;
- (iii) To accord NWDPRAs number one status among all other developmental schemes; and
- (iv) To make the highest financial allocation in favour of NWDPRAs.

The details of main concerns as are expressed in the recommendations of the Committee in the fifth report and the present status thereon are given in the Appendix-I.

The recommendation to take earlier Report as guideline for all purposes is noted for appropriate compliance. As stated by the Hon'ble members in para 13.11 of the report, the Planning Commission has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Agriculture) for preparation of a 25 year Perspective Plan.

Recommendation No. 2

2.3 The Committee note that NWDPRAs envisages the systematic treatment of (i) arable land (ii) non-arable land and (iii) drainage lines in a chosen project area and it also envisages livestock management activities suitable to that chosen area. The Committee also note that micro-watershed areas chosen for development would make use of vegetative measures and simple low-cost, replicable technology for conservation of land and water resources with erosion-control and *in-situ* moisture conservation as their objectives. These projects would be demonstrative in nature and would inspire the local community with very limited resources to adopt these simple and cheaper conservation means. Since affordability and replicability are the prime criteria, the Committee recommend that location-specific low cost technology should be developed, clearly avoiding the engagement of engineering agencies to construct structures and then to maintain them later on.

The Committee further note that higher reliance in the entire strategy would be on vegetative measures both on individual holdings and on community lands and this component envisages vegetative hedges, agroforestry, overseedings of grasses and legumes for forage and pasture development and cultivation of shrubs for fodder and fuel etc. However, during the study tours the Committee are disappointed to note that not much headway has been made in the matter of creation of green pasture under NWDPRRA in the States. Therefore, the Committee recommend that equal emphasis should be laid on this aspect also at all stages while implementing the programme, as this is closely linked not only to soil conservation but also to the question of restoration of the ecological balance in the vast denuded barren lands of the rural areas.

Reply of the Government

2.4 Location specific low-cost technology is being adopted under the project. The technology being adopted is primarily based on the accumulated wisdom and skill of the watershed community and the watershed project plans are being prepared in consultation with the local people. Higher reliance is placed on vegetative and other low cost measures. The engineering structures *i.e.* structures involving masonry work are discouraged under the project.

In fact, Integrated Farming Systems Approach including a blending of diversified and mix farming consisting of crop husbandry, agroforestry, dryland horticulture, pisciculture, overseeding of grasses and legumes for forage and pasture development and cultivation of shrubs and trees for fodder and fuel, etc. is under implementation.

In respect of Committees observations regarding development of green pastures in some of the States, it is submitted that in the States of Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh and Sikkim there is a good success under this component. In semi arid States like Maharashtra, Karnataka etc., it takes some time to create suitable climate by *in-situ* moisture conservation for successful creation of green pastures.

However, keeping in view the concern of the Committee on this account, it has been conveyed to the States urging them to pay greater attention to this component. The present physically achievement under overseeding of grasses for pasture development is about 70% and 64% respectively of the targets fixed in the States of Maharashtra and Karnataka.

The issue was also discussed with the representatives of the participating States/UTs in the National Conference of NWDPRRA held on 18th & 19th July, 1996 at New Delhi. The importance of pasture development component was again emphasised in this workshop conveying the concern expressed by the Committee.

Recommendation No. 7

2.5 The Committee note that the proportion of Mahila Mitra Kisans trained under the 6-day comprehensive Training Programme on NWDPRRA in the total number of persons imparted training is considerably low in some states and they recommend that more women Mitra Kisans should be trained in view of the quantum of their work participation in various agricultural activities.

Reply of the Government

2.6 We note the concern expressed by the Committee on the need to train more women mitra kisans. The matter has appropriately been taken up with the State Governments to provide for active involvement of more women mitra kisans.

It is pertinent to mention that the project has got sufficient gender sensitivity. The guidelines envisage selection of minimum 2 women mitra kisans out of the 5 mitra kisans to be selected from each participating village. There is also a provision for exclusive women's self-help-groups. Self-help-thrift groups are being organised to take up marketing of surplus produce and empower them with the benefits accrued.

During the national workshop on NWDPRRA on 18th & 19th July, 1996 at New Delhi, it was again stressed upon the States to give due emphasis on training of women mitra kisans for their active and constructive participation in the programme.

Recommendation No. 9

2.7 The Committee note that State level reviews are conducted periodically to monitor the implementation of the Project and to Identify the problems of implementation. Intensive efforts have been made to initiate corrective measures in each State. However, the Committee note that the activities relating to Livestock Management under NWDPRRA has not picked up the desired level despite corrective measures initiated in various States. The Committee desire that the government should analyse the reasons as to why the livestock management activities have not, picked up with a view to chalk out suitable remedial measures. This aspect requires immediate attention of the government as livestock rearing is an integral part of the rainfed farming system all over the country and the production of fodder on the cultivable lands would ensure the nutritional requirements of the cattle besides conserving the ecological balance of the area.

Reply of the Government

2.8 Realising the slow progress in the implementation of the various activities relating to Livestock Management, the specific guidelines on Livestock Development Component of NWDPRRA have been issued.

Lack of coordination between the nodal department & the Animal Husbandry Deptt. was found to be main reason for slow performance in majority of the States. Only the States of Orissa, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Nagaland and Punjab have shown better performance under livestock component.

The State Nodal Departments of the NWDPRRA have been requested to effectively liaise with the Animal Husbandry Department to improve the performance in this regard. Review of the progress on the basis of feed back from the participating States is an ongoing process depending on the remedial measures taken.

During the National Workshop of NWDPRRA held on 18th & 19th July, 1996 at New Delhi, the States were again requested to improve the performance under this component in close coordination with the Animal Husbandry Department.

Recommendation No. 10

2.9 The Committee note that under NWDPRRA, five percent of the total available funds are earmarked for rendering research support to the Project. The Committee recommend that a substantial portion of the research effort should focus on the kind of suitable location – specific activities that could be taken up by farmers including farm women in a rainfed farming system in various agro-climatic zones. The research spectrum should be widened to include water percolation studies, water duty, evolution of suitable crop patterns, comprehensive on farm activities such as poultry, piggery, sericulture, beekeeping, rabbit rearing, mushroom cultivation, pisciculture, farm waste management, etc. The Committee further recommend that Farming Systems Model (FSM) for one hectare, two hectares, five hectares and ten hectares of farm holding sizes may be worked out and be tested through on-farm trials.

Reply of the Government

2.10 Presently the following topics are being covered for research and studies under National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRRA):

1. Identification of local grasses, shrubs and trees for : (a) Soil and moisture conservation, and (b) for alternative production systems based on perennial vegetation.

2. To determine suitable farming systems for lands of different capability class keeping in view improved moisture conservation, prevention of soil erosion and higher income levels to farmers following adoption of recommended farming systems.
3. Diagonosis of constraints faced by the farmers in the adoption of recommended farming systems.
4. To determine most suitable mix of vegetative or a combination of vegetative and engineering measures for controlling sheet and gully erosion and regulated surface run-off in the natural drains in upper, middle and lower reaches of watersheds in different agroclimatic zones.
5. Development of operational land use system with the use of local material for treatment of problematic soils.
6. Planting and management technologies for establishing vegetative barriers without any adverse effects.
7. Evaluation of improved farm implements for different agricultural operations, preparation of bunds, trenches for different agro-climatic zones.
8. Determine site, size and effectiveness of different farm ponds/water harvesting structures for different agro-climatic zones to maximise rainwater conservation.
9. Identify suitable and available feed and fodder material for livestock and poultry nutrition.
10. Efficient utilisation of harvested water for duck and fisheries.
11. Studies on primary state of processing of agricultural produce.
12. Demonstrate the use of organics including green manures and bio-fertilisers for promoting integrated nutrient management.

The recommendations of the Committee to work out Farming Systems Model (FMS) for one hectare, two hectares, five hectares and ten hectares of farm holding sizes has been conveyed to ICAR for requisite compliance.

Recommendation No. 11

2.11 The Committee note that the Planning Commission has constituted in 1994 a Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Agriculture) for preparation of a 25 year Perspective Plan for development of rainfed areas. The Committee has set up five Working Groups to examine five aspects of the

Perspective Plan. The Committee have been informed that the working Groups have held meetings in August, 1995 and in January, 1996. The Committee have been informed that the deliberations of these Working Groups are at various stages and once their reports are available they will provide the necessary inputs for the preparation of the Perspective Plan. The Committee feel that there is an urgent necessity to speed up the pace of work done by the Working Groups. The Committee desire that the National Perspective Plan for Development of Rainfed Areas should be got ready well in time before the formulation of the 9th Five Year Plan is undertaken so that the Perspective Plan could find implementation in the very first year of the 9th Five Year Plan. They, therefore, recommend that the national Perspective Plan for the Development of Rainfed Areas should be formulated within six months. The Committee also recommend that the Perspective Plan should be supported by adequate financial allocations so that the laudable objectives of the plan are achieved in real terms for the betterment of the geographically disadvantaged regions of the country.

Reply of the Government

2.12 The recommendations of the Committee were communicated to the Planning Commission.

The Commission have informed of their endeavour to finalise the 25 years perspective plan before the commencement of the 9th plan.

CHAPTER III

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES,

Recommendation No. 4

3.1 The Committee note that NWDPRAs in their present form have been confined only to rainfed areas and the project does not cover vast irrigated areas where the ground-water level has been depleting at a rapid pace which has brought those stretches of land almost at par with the rainfed areas as far as availability of water for irrigation is concerned. The Committee also points out that a lot of rain-water goes waste unharvested every year due to floods and also due to cyclonic storms especially along the coastal regions. The Committee wish to point out that treatment is also required for hilly areas, dam catchment areas and ravine areas of the Northern India. Since the main thrust of the watershed development strategy is on the harvesting of rain-water and its conservation to ensure proper infiltration and ground-water recharge, the Committee feel that the scope of the NWDPRAs requires to be expanded to cover the above-mentioned areas as well. The Committee, therefore, recommend that comprehensive and holistic schemes should be worked out to make NWDPRAs truly a 'National' programme as indicated in its very nomenclature.

Reply of the Government

3.2 Out of 142 million hectare net sown area in the country, only 50 million hectare is irrigated. Thus the rest 92 million hectare constitutes rainfed arable area under NWDPRAs, a total of 4.5 million hectare only has been taken up so far. On an aggregate basis approximately 16.50 million hectare area is estimated to have been taken up upto 8th plan through various project interventions.

Taking into account the extent of area likely to be brought under irrigation in successive plan periods, very broad indication of arable area coverage by other watershed development schemes, the magnitude of rainfed area, both arable and non-arable is truly enormous, and raises huge demand in financial and human resource terms. As such, the proposed extension of the ambit of project to include area suffering from depleting ground water level may not only dilute the primary focus of the project but also may not be feasible unless matching gigantic resources, and expert human resource can be arranged and

organised, through appropriate cohesive organisational structures. However, the views of the Committee have been conveyed to the Planning Commission for consideration while finalising the 25 year perspective plan.

The NWDPRAs at present cover only rainfed areas and may include hilly, ravine and other problematic areas if they happen to come under the category of rainfed.

Besides, River Valley Project (RVP) and Flood Prone Rivers (FPR) are also in operation as centrally sponsored schemes which follow watershed approach. The RVP covers the catchments of major rivers of the country on which big, multi-purpose dams have been constructed while FPR covers catchment areas of identified major flood prone rivers of the country.

CHAPTER IV

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE

Recommendation No. 6

4.1 The Committee express their pleasure at the commendable effort put in the creation of the comprehensive WARASA Manuals by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Committee note that different sets of guidelines have been issued on the concept of Watershed Development by the Ministry of Agriculture and by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and these guidelines with varying objectives required some resolution. The Committee also note that the Ministry of Agriculture has already initiated some steps to resolve the issue. The Committee feel that the matter requires to be addressed on an urgent basis and, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment should immediately sit together and hammer out a uniform strategy within a period of three months so that there is no confusion in the implementation of the Project by the State Government agencies. The Committee further recommend that the task of watershed development should be assigned to one particular Ministry instead of it being handled by two Ministries in the interest of economy, clear accountability, better monitoring and optimum utilisation of funds and man-power resources.

Reply of the Government

4.2 In order to harmonise the guidelines of watershed development issued by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, meetings of the concerned officers of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment and Ministry of Agriculture were held under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation.

The representatives of the two Ministries had agreed to treat the geohydrological unit as the unit of implementation, keep the cost norms between 3500 to 5000 Rs./ha., exclude pucca concrete masonry structures and implement project through Watershed Development Team and members of Watershed Community at field level.

However no mutually acceptable solution could be found on the issues of having similar project objectives, common criterion for selection of watersheds and operational flexibility at the State, district and project levels. The matter has been referred to the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment for formal communication of their concurrence on areas of agreement and views on possible resolution of unresolved outstanding issues.

It is understood that the Ministry has undertaken the exercise of review of their own guidelines and they have stated that they would keep the concern for common guidelines in view while finalising the review of their own guidelines. The matter is expected to be resolved through the continued process of dialogue within minimum feasible timeframe.

The views of the Committee to assign the task of watershed development to one particular Ministry instead of its being handled by two Ministries have been communicated to the Planning Commission for the consideration of the working group on 25 year perspective plan.

Recommendation No. 8

4.3 The Committee note that there are 1426 composite nurseries established all over the country in 2653 microwatersheds selected for development. The Committee also note that there is not even a single nursery available in Bihar which has got 209 microwatershed projects selected for development. Some state governments have stated that sufficient number of composite nurseries could not be established due to non-availability of land with the State Agriculture Departments. Besides, it has been brought to the notice of the Committee that the cost norms for establishment of block plantations in Agro forestry under NWDPR are far below the norms prescribed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the purpose. The Committee feel that the establishment of nurseries is one of the most important key components in the entire strategy of Watershed Development, as this component provides the necessary inputs for the vegetative conservation measures on which high reliance has been placed. The Committee find the present availability of composite nurseries highly inadequate and it requires urgent augmentation. The Committee, therefore, recommend that necessary steps should be taken immediately to boost up this activity. The Land Revenue Departments of the State government should be asked to identify suitable lands for the setting up of nurseries and make them available to the State Agriculture Departments on priority basis within one year of receipt of requests in order to make the Project a definite success. In addition parts of the land available with the State Agriculture farms, Agricultural Universities, other agricultural institutions, KVKs

and NGOs should also be utilised for the purpose. The Committee also recommend that the Union Agriculture Ministry should examine the cost norms fixed in respect of block plantations in agro-forestry keeping in view the cost norms adopted by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The Committee recommend that the Forest Department should be invariably associated in the work of the Watershed Development Teams.

Reply of the Government

4.4 Under NWDPRRA, the component of Agro-forestry and not the Block Plantations have been included due to the fact that Block Plantation envisages plantation of trees en-block on the farm land whereas under Agro-forestry, the trees are planted on farm's bunds and are scattered on the cultivators' holdings, inter-spersed with the cultivation. The number of trees is kept at 20 trees per hectare under Agro-forestry to facilitate proper agricultural operations, whereas under block plantation, the number of trees planted per hectare generally varies from 700 to 1000 depending on the site.

The beneficiaries are given planting material, other inputs and an incentive @ Rs. 7.50 per plant in lieu of labour for planting and maintenance for 3 years so that he develops attachment to the programme. The incentive for planting horticulture trees is Rs. 15 per plant.

As for the number of nurseries, in 2554 micro-watersheds taken up so far, 1583 composite and 1542 kisan and Government nurseries have been established. NWDPRRA guidelines provide that the composite nurseries may be managed and operated by the Self-Help-Thrift Groups (SHGs) after some initial training and "hands on" experience in an operating nursery. The land for nursery can be given to them on lease. These SHGs can later on become self reliant and operate on commercial lines even after the project period is over.

As far as establishment of nurseries in the State Agriculture farms, Agriculture Universities and other agricultural institutes is concerned, the State Governments have been advised to establish composite nurseries on lands of State Agricultural Department where community land is not available. On the issue of providing land for nurseries in the Krishi Vigyan Kendras, ICAR authorities have been requested to extend cooperation in this regard.

Forest Department has already been associated at various levels in the planning and implementation of the project. Special Secretary to Govt. of India-cum-IG Forests is a member of National Watershed Development Policy and Implementation Committee (NWDPIC). Representatives of the Forest Deptt. are

the members of the Watershed Development Teams and also the Monitoring Committees constituted by the State Governments to review the progress of the project at various levels.

Supplementary Reply of Government

Composite Nursery in Bihar

4.5 In spite of all the efforts by the Ministry at the highest level the progress of National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR) in Bihar has been very poor. Till now only a sum of Rs. 2.13 crore has been spent by Govt. of Bihar out of a total allocation of Rs. 64.52 crore for the State during VIII Plan and the sum of Rs. 17.38 crore released by the Ministry up to 1995-96. The State Govt. is being regularly persuaded to implement the project properly and achieve physical and financial targets including establishment of composite nurseries and Barani Chetna Kendras.

Block Plantation

In addition to the facts already stated in this issue, it may be mentioned that farmers do not prefer 'Block Plantation' on arable lands as their first necessity is to grow food crops. Scattered plantation does not interfere with the growing of food crops and at the same time it offers security in the long run against the risks of weather aberrations. In the non-arable lands also in place of conventional practice of Block plantation, under NWDPR a three tier system of plantation involving grasses, shrubs and trees in a topo-sequence has been advocated. This system ensures greening of non-arable lands in a much more effective manner. The practice of Block plantation on non-arable lands without due regard to soil and moisture conditions has not been found successful where mortality of plants is found to be very high.

CHAPTER V

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

Recommendation No. 3

5.1 The Committee note that the structures and assets created during the project period are expected to be maintained by the Mitra Krishak Mandals and Self-Help Groups of Beneficiaries once the project authorities withdraw from the scene on the completion of a project. The Committee also note that no specific role has been assigned to the village panchayats in the implementation of the projects or in the maintenance of the structures and assets in the post-project period. There appears to be some expectation on the part of the beneficiaries that the structures could be maintained with some assistance from the State Governments after the project period is over. Under these circumstances, the Committee apprehend that all the structures and assets created during the project period may become ineffective or even perish in the absence of a permanent institutionalised arrangement for the maintenance of these structures. The Committee feel that the structures created in the community land/barrenlands would be the worst-hit in the entire scheme of things with none to maintain them on a long-term basis. To the Committee, this aspect is the weakest link in the total strategy planned and requires to be strengthened on an emergent basis. The Committee are of the opinion that the whole question of substantiability of the entire scheme hinges upon this pivotal point and they recommend that the Government should come forward with a permanent solution for the maintenance of the structures created during the project lest thousands of crores of rupees spent on the creation of these structures should literally go down the drains due to lack of provision for their maintenance and this ambitious project launched with the laudable objective of rural upliftment should only be reduced to total failure. The Committee further wish to clarify that no new posts/department should be created for the maintenance work and only the existing institutional arrangements such as panchayati institutions, NGOs, agricultural department etc. should be given the responsibility.

Reply of the Government

5.2 Active association of village Panchayats has been ensured in the project in the following manner :

- i) A Committee comprising Pradhans of the participating village Panchayats

and headed by the Block Pramukh acts as supervisory Committee at block level.

- ii) As per NWDPRRA guidelines 10% of the proceeds obtained out of the sale of the usufructs from common property resource are to be deposited in the Village Development Fund of the Panchayat for carrying out various developmental activities.
- iii) General assembly of each participating village selects a group of 5 Mitra Kisans representing different sections of the Village Community. One of the five members is a progressive farmer, two landless labourers and two women. This group of nearly 25-30 Mitra Kisans in one watershed is called Mitra Krishak Mandal (MKM) and helps in supervision of the project activities.
- iv) Hamlet wise and vocation wise Self-Help-Groups/Self-Help-Thrift Groups are being organised to carry out various activities and help in implementation of various components through active participation and constructive involvement making it as their own programme.

The main emphasis of this programme is thus to get the project implemented with the active involvement of the beneficiary groups themselves while following the watershed approach.

The watershed being a geohydrological unit, its limits transcend the boundaries of a village; it generally covers 4-5 villages. Mitra Krishak Mandals have been formed to ensure effective execution of project activities on the basis of cooperation of all beneficiary villages encompassed by a project.

The project involves people in a much wider manner it associates both Panchayats, Mitra Krishak Mandals and Self-Help i.e. users groups as mentioned above.

The Committee's suggestion for finding a permanent solution for the maintenance of the structures created during the project is extremely valuable. The Committee's recommendation that only the existing institutional arrangement such as Panchayat Institutions, NGOs, Agricultural Department etc. should be given the responsibility and that no new post/department should be created for this purpose has been noted for appropriate action.

The matter was in fact, deliberated upon in the discussion held by the Working Group constituted by the Planning Commission for suggesting strategy for Rainfed Agriculture with particular reference to watershed development based schemes including National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRRA). The view that association of Panchayat with maintenance of assets created under NWDPRRA should be ensured found clear articulation and support, and forms one of the recommendations of the Working Group. The recommendation will be given a concrete shape while formulating the scheme for IX Plan.

Comments of the Committee

5.3 The main thrust of the recommendation is on the maintenance of structures and assets in the post project period. The Committee have stated that it appears that there is some expectation on the part of the beneficiaries that the structures could be maintained with some assistance from State Governments after the project period is over. The Committee also felt that the structures created in the community land/barren lands would be worst but with none to maintain them on a long-term basis in the post-project period.

The Government has valued the suggestion of the Committee but it has not spelt out any measures, which will be undertaken towards giving some assistance or evolving a procedure for long term maintenance of permanent structures from the current year onwards. The assurance that the recommendation will be given concrete shape while formulating the scheme for IXth Plan will have to be watched after the implementation of the IXth Plan starts after several months from now. The Committee desire concrete action in this regard in this year itself.

Recommendation No. 5

5.4 The Committee note with concern the statement of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation that in some States like Bihar, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Nagaland the project implementation has still not picked up the desired tempo. The Committee have been informed that NWDPRAs were sanctioned in October 1990 and the initial two years of 1990-91 and 1991-92 were devoted to put the Project on ground and this meant that it is only from the year 1992-93 the implementation proper is said to have started. Even after the implementation started in 1992-93, the work suffered in the subsequent years in some States such as Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Meghalaya and West Bengal, as the Finance Departments of these State Governments delayed the release of funds already received by them from the Union Government to the Watershed Development Teams. It has been reported to the Committee that in the State of Bihar the problem is not still completely solved, despite repeated requests from the highest levels in the Ministry of Agriculture including the Union Minister of Agriculture. The reasons advanced for the delay in putting the Project on ground are hardly convincing to the Committee as the whole process has taken an unduly long time and the concept of watershed development is not that new. What is more distressing to the Committee is the fact that even after seven years of implementation of the Project, the desired tempo could not be achieved still in some states like Bihar, West Bengal, Meghalaya and Nagaland. The Committee are further concerned to note that the Finance Department of Bihar Government still continues to delay the release of central funds to the Watershed Development Teams, despite repeated requests from the

Union Government at the highest levels. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Union Government should contemplate taking stern action against the official functionaries concerned in the defaulting states for their utter disregard of Central Government's request to release funds in time and for their attempts to throttle the life-line of the entire Project which has all its focus on the most deprived parts of the country and on the most needy sections of the society. The Committee also recommend that in respect of these defaulting states, alternate methods of reaching the funds quickly to the implementing agency should be worked out and the disbursement should be made forthwith accordingly.

Reply of the Government

5.5 In the States of West Bengal, Meghalaya and Nagaland, there has been considerable improvement in the implementation of the project since last financial year. In Bihar, the project has still not picked up the desired tempo.

The matter has been pursued with the State Government of Bihar at different levels, including the senior most official level i.e. Agriculture Production Commissioner and Secretary (Agriculture) level. Not only that the Union Minister of Agriculture reviewed the progress on 24.2.96 at Patna. The major problem in Bihar is on account of delayed release of funds to concerned agencies.

As for the release of funds, various alternatives have been thought of. Two alternative proposals regarding release of funds to the State Governments have been suggested for their consideration. These proposals are :

- (i) Release of funds directly to a designated agency as in the case of schemes of the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment where funds flow to DRIDAs.
- (ii) Existing method to continue i.e. to the State Finance Department. However, through the formulation of an internal mechanism, it may be ensured that the Head of the concerned Department, in this case Director of Agriculture can straightway make districtwise allotment and releases subject to the amount having been provided for in the State budget and its having been approved.

Out of the 27 participating States/UTs, 11 have responded on the issue so far out of which only 2 States Nagaland and Tripura have supported alternative at Sr. No. (i). On receipt of the responses from all the States, a view will be taken in this matter accordingly.

NEW DELHI;
17 January, 1997

27 Pausa, 1918 (Saka)

SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR,
Chairman,
Standing Committee on Agriculture.

APPENDIX I

MINUTES OF THE NINETEENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE HELD ON FRIDAY, THE 17TH JANUARY, 1997 AT 1500 HRS. IN COMMITTEE ROOM 'B', PARLIAMENT HOUSE ANNEXE

The Committee sat from 1500 hrs. to 1540 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar—*Chairman*

MEMBERS

Lok Sabha

2. Shri Padamsen Chaudhary
3. Shri Bhimrao Badade
4. Shri Gordhanbhai Javia
5. Shri Manibhai Chaudhuri
6. Shri Sohanveer Singh
7. Shri Gulam Mohd. Mir Magami
8. Shri Vishveshwar Bhagat
9. Shri M.H. Yamanappa
10. Shri Mahaboob Zahedi
11. Dr. K.P. Ramalingam
12. Shri Suresh Jadhav (Patil)
13. Shri Bhim Prasad Dahal

Rajya Sabha

14. Maulana Habibur Rahman Nomani
15. Shri Suresh Pachouri
16. Shri Shiv Charan Singh
17. Dr. Ranbir Singh
18. Shri Ramnarayan Goswami
19. Shri Anil Kumar
20. Shri Devi Prasad Singh

SECRETARIAT

1.	Shri P.D.T. Achary	—	<i>Director</i>
2.	Shri S. Bal Shekar	—	<i>Deputy Secretary</i>
3.	Shri Mange Ram	—	<i>Under Secretary</i>
4.	Shri K.L. Arora	—	<i>Asstt. Director</i>

At the outset Chairman (AC) welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee and requested them to take up the adoption of the Draft Eighth Report of the Committee on Action Taken Report on Thirty Eighth Report on National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas in respect of Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation.

The Draft Report was considered para-wise alongwith the replies furnished by the Government and the comments of the Committee pertaining thereto and unanimously adopted the comments without any change.

The Members of the Committee, thereafter authorised the Chariman to present the Report to the House on a date and time convenient to him. Then the Hon'ble members approved the tour programmes for Study Group I and II from 27th January to 1st February, 1997 and gave their option to join the Study Tour.

The meeting then adjourned.

APPENDIX II

(Vide introduction of the Report)

ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT ON THE 38TH REPORT OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE (10TH LOK SABHA)

(i)	Total Number of Recommendations	11
(ii)	Recommendations/Observations which have been accepted by Government (Nos. 1, 2, 7, 9, 10 & 11)	
	Total	6
	Percentage	54.4
(iii)	Recommendations/Observations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of Government's replies (No. 4)	
	Total	1
	Percentage	9.0
(iv)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which Government's replies have not been accepted by the Committee (Nos. 6 & 8)	
	Total	2
	Percentage	18.1
(v)	Recommendations/Observations in respect of which final replies are still awaited (Nos. 3 & 5)	
	Total	2
	Percentage	18.1

**ACTION TAKEN ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE
FIFTH REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

Para No. of the Report	Recommendation	Action Taken
1	2	3
1.	Urge the Govt. to give utmost priority to Watershed Management in Rainfed Areas	The Govt. has given utmost priority to National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas with an allocation of Rs. 1100 crore during VIII Plan.
2.	Adoption of modified traditional Indian system of rain water management—taking up network of dug out sunken structures for recharging ground water.	This has been adopted under NWDPRRA for both recharge of ground water and in-situ moisture conservation. (Drainage line Treatment and Rain-water Management incorporated in WARASA-7 page 19, para 10).
3.	Treatment of both arable and non-arable lands in the watershed	The importance of treating the watershed as a whole as one unit has been recognised and watershed approach is being adopted in NWDPRRA wherein a set of appropriate activities is taken up for the development of arable land, non-arable land and drainage line in the same watershed. (WARASA-1 page 17, para 5.1).
—	Adoption of Integrated conservation	This has been adopted under

1	2	3
	measures and production systems on simple technology	Farming Systems approach in NWDPRRA (WARASA-7 page 12, para 6).
-	Processing of biomass technology and household production systems.	This has been taken up under household production systems (WARASA-7, Page 15, para 8).
4.	Involvement of local people, adoption and replication of low cost and simple technology	The approach of NWDPRRA envisages that beneficiaries should be so involved that programme becomes the peoples programme with financial and technical support from Govt. The guide-lines also envisage adopting cheap, replicable and affordable simple technology. (WARASA -7 page 20, para 11).
-	To accord priority to grass-land and pasture development	Adequate emphasis is being laid on development of pastures and grazing grounds. (WARASA-1 page 17, para 5.1)
-	Development of National Perspective Plan	Being developed by the Working Group constituted by planning Commission under the Chairmanship of the Member (Agriculture).
-	To involve NGOs/Voluntary Agencies to the maximum possible extent	NWDPRRA has been conceived as people's programme. The project is being implemented with active participation of the concerned village community in association with Voluntary agencies wherever possible. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding has been evovled involving Govt., NGO and watershed commnunity.

1	2	3
		(WARASA-1page 35, para 6.4, WARASA-7, page 20, para 11.3)
	- To train atleast one dynamic, young farmer in scientific seed production.	ICAR has been approached to indicate the possibility of imparting training in Krishi Vigyan Kendras.
	- Employment Generation	Efforts are being made to collect the information about the employment generated under NWDPRAs through NICNET.
	- Development of Livestock component and breed improvement	Priority has been given to the development of livestock component which includes castration of scrub bulls, breed improvement preferably by natural service and primary health care. Ten per cent of the project funds has been allocated for livestock development. Detailed guidelines on this component have also been issued. (WARASA-7 page 62-80)
	- Adoption of organic farming, recycling of organic matter	This component is included in the production system on arable land and has been given considerable importance. (WARASA-7 page 14, para 7).
	- To promote on farm activities like poultry, piggery, sericulture, pisciculture etc. to supplement income and create employment throughout the year.	This is included under household production systems. (WARASA-7 page 15, para 8).
5.	To promote farm and non-farm enterprises to add to the employment and income of farm women.	The women beneficiaries under the project are appropriately trained to promote farm and non-

1	2	3
6.	To give credit support To dryland farmer	<p>farm activity for better income and employment. (WARASA-7 page 12, para 55).</p> <p>NWDPRA enables the farmers in getting credit support from the banks by promoting savings out of the income generated from common property resource. Farmers are organised into Self-Help-Thrift Groups by taking up different project related activities. These Self-Help-Thrift Groups start accumulating the savings and after a period of 6 months or more the Bank is in a position to extend them loan upto four times the savings. (WARASA-7 Page 10, Para 4.2)</p>
7.	<p>To develop a useful scientific model for short, medium and long-range region-wise weather forecast in the country.</p> <p>To apply remote sensing technologies for ground survey and data collection.</p>	<p>India Meteorological Deptt. (IMD) is already seized of the issue. The Department has recently developed and put into use a new forecast model known as "Parametric and Power Regression Model" for long-range forecast of South-West Monsoon. However, work is continuing to develop medium and short-range weather forecast models. Application of remote sensing technologies as a primary input for ground survey and data collection has been introduced specially for selecting sites non-contiguous to the sites being treated under NWDPRA. The technique shall be used for</p>

1	2	3
<p>To develop reacher programme for developing sustainable farming systems in rainfed areas.</p>	<p>assessing pre and post project status of the area.</p>	<p>Five per cent of the funds under NWDPRRA have specifically been ear-marked for reasearch on various issues concerning watershed approach in rainfed areas. Research on considerable number of projects is already going on at various research institutes of ICAR/State Agriculture Universities. Increasing productivity and sustainability for rainfed areas has been identified as one of the major areas of research by ICAR. Proposals from CRIDA, Hyderabad; CSWCR&TI, Dehra Dun are also under examination to provide support to these institutions for carrying out adaptive research on watershed.</p>
<p>8. Recommendation of a suitable cropping pattern for different agro-climatic zones and to prepare of a watershed planning and implementation mannual indicating conservation measures and production systems for different agro-climatic zones.</p>	<p>The Planning and implementation of different activities under NWDPRRA is being done agro-climatic zone-wise. The model watershed projects are prepared agro-climatic zone-wise and finalised in close association with the centres for research set-up in each agro-climatic zone under National Agriculture Research Project (NARP).</p>	<p>Considering the vast spread of the area under NWDPRRA and need to impart training upto block and village level, there is a merit in utilising the large infrastructure available with existing training centres near the watershed.</p>
<p>9. To establish a single Centrally Sponsored training institute in each State instead of having multiplicity of training centres.</p>	<p>Considering the vast spread of the area under NWDPRRA and need to impart training upto block and village level, there is a merit in utilising the large infrastructure available with existing training centres near the watershed.</p>	

1	2	3
<p>10. Formation of body of beneficiaries for maintenance management of assets created on regular basis.</p>		<p>The beneficiaries are being organised into Self-Help-Groups for post management of common property resources. As per NWDPRAs guide-lines, 10% of the net proceeds from sale of usufructs shall be deposited in the development funds of the village Panchayat for carrying out various development activities and 15% will be deposited into the revolving fund of Self-Help Group to meet the future needs of maintenance of CPR. (WARASA-7 page 18, Para 9). However, this mechanism needs to be further strengthened and has been duly considered while finalising the recommendations of the working Group on Rainfed Agriculture for the preparation of 9th plan.</p>
<p>11. To develop coordination between various Ministries taking up watershed Development.</p> <p>Setting up of Committee with substantial representation of beneficiaries at National, State and Block levels.</p>		<p>The issue of coordination between different Ministries involved in watershed Development is being looked into and the process of harmonisation of guidelines has already been initiated by a Committee having representatives from the Ministries concerned. Committees have been set-up at Watershed and Block level with the representation of farmers. Farmer's role in NWDPRAs has been focussed more at project planning & implementation level which is very important for the success of the projects with peoples participation.</p>