

NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

(a) Inaugural Session

Secretary (A&C) in her opening remarks made the following observations:

- There is need to take appropriate measures to enhance the productive potential of degraded areas for enhancing the food grain production.
- About 65% of the total cultivable land is rainfed, therefore, there is need to address these areas during coming Rabi season for enhancing the productivity.
- As irrigation plays a major role in enhancing the crop production, therefore, there is need for increasing the water use efficiency and water application system.
- To meet the increasing demand of water, there is need in crop diversification besides thrust on conservation of rainwater for improving the moisture regime.

(b) States responses

(i) Andhra Pradesh -

- Thrust is being given for implementation of soil & water conservation programme under NWDPRRA and RVP & FPR programmes in the watersheds where more than 54% of the soil are subjected to high erosion, so that further degradation is reduced and productivity is sustained.
- Alkalinity Reclamation programme is being undertaken as per package recommended by APAU under MMA.
- The data base for watershed development programmes, District-wise Soil Resource Map has been prepared in collaboration of NBSS&LUP and NRSA. Now village-wise Soil fertility Maps are under preparation.

(ii) Gujarat

- Various measures for conservation of rain Water Harvesting Structures Tallawadi etc. are being undertaken to conserve every drop of water.
- For augmenting the water resources, the Watershed Development Programmes have been given highest priority in the State.
- Soil Health Card is being provided to each farmers and about 5 lakh such cards have been distributed in the current year.

(iii) Haryana

- The programme of Reclamation of Alkali Soils (RAS) is being undertaken with 50% subsidy comprising 25% GOI and additional subsidy of 25% from the State. The demand for enhancing subsidy was raised for covering larger area under this programme.

(iv) Himachal Pradesh

- For prevention of land slides and land degradation, soil & water conservation measures viz. Check Dams, Water Harvesting Structures, Retaining Walls etc. are being given priority.
- The agreement for starting a pilot project on Diversified Agriculture with financial assistance of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been agreed and project will start within this financial year.

(v) Jammu & Kashmir

- State requested for early release of fund including PM's Package to achieve the target of treatment of degraded areas.
- The State has proposed to diversify the agricultural production to sustain the water resources.

(vi) Madhya Pradesh

- More than 70% of the total cultivated area is rainfed area in the State; therefore, State has attached high priority to Watershed Development Programmes.
- State requested for large number of construction of Water Harvesting Structures.

(vii) Punjab

- State is giving priority to water conservation and management.
- Rs.200.00 lakh has been allocated under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) for Reclamation of Alkali Soils. Application of Gypsum in irrigated area is found useful and therefore, subsidy on the cost of Gypsum was proposed to be raised to 50%.

(viii) Rajasthan

- Several Jal Chetana Yatra have been organized to disseminate the message of water conservation, rain water harvesting and efficient use of water etc.
- About 2.10 lakh Soil Health Card has been distributed during 2006-07.

(ix) Tamil Nadu

- Thrust is given for development of degraded lands through Watershed Development Programmes.
- To combat after effect of Tsunami the land reclamation measures are being conducted to restore the productivity of lands.
- So far about 20.00 lakh Soil Health Card has been distributed during 2006-07.

(x) Uttar Pradesh

- In addition to Centrally Sponsored, programmes, Bhoomi Sena Yojana under the State Plan has been started for reclamation and development of degraded lands.
