

Externally Aided Projects

I World Bank Assisted Integrated Watershed Management Projects

Four World Bank Assisted Integrated Watershed Management Projects in the States of Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Assam are being implemented. The RFS Division is involved in the supervision, coordination, and monitoring of these projects. The funds for these are directly given to the State Governments by the World Bank. Brief descriptions of ongoing projects are as under:

(i) Karnataka Watershed Development Project (Sujala):

The Karnataka Watershed Development Project (Sujala) was launched in September, 2001 and will end in March, 2009. The objective of the project is to reduce poverty alleviation and improving the livelihood of the people living in watershed area by increasing production potential and natural resources base through strengthening of institutional arrangement. The total revised cost of the project is Rs. 504.44 crores and the total area to be covered is 4.34 lakh ha in 5 districts namely Chitradurgh, Dharwad, Haveri, Kolar and Tumkur. An area of 3.67 lakh ha. has been developed at the cost of Rs.454.97 crores till 30th November, 2008.

(ii) Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Project:

The Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Project was launched in September, 2004 and will end in March 2012. The project aims at improving the productive potential of natural resources and increasing incomes of rural inhabitants in selected watersheds through socially inclusive, institutionally and environmentally sustainable approaches. The project envisages Participatory Watershed Development and Management, enhancing Livelihood Opportunities and Institutional Strengthening. Total cost for this project is Rs.402.98 crores and the total area to be covered is 2.34 lakh ha in 451 Gram Panchayats of 11 districts namely Almora, Champawat, Nainital, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, Dehradun, Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Pitorgarh, and Chamoli. An area of 6211 ha. has been developed at a cost of 147.26 crores till 30th November, 2008.

(iii) Himachal Pradesh Mid Himalayan Watershed Development:

The Mid Himalayan Watershed Development project became operative in February, 2006 and it will end on March 2013. The project aims at Prevention of degradation of high potential area, prevention and protection of high bio-diversity, Improving of accessibility to rural areas and productivity of livestock etc. The project envisages institutional strengthening, watershed development and management, enhancing mountain livelihood opportunities, project management and coordination. The total outlay of the project is Rs.365.00 crores. The total cost of the project is Rs. 337.50 crores and the total area to be covered is 602 Gram Panchayats covered in 10 districts namely Sirmour, Solan, Bilaspur, Shimla, Kullu, Mandi,

Hamirpur, Kangra, Chamba and Una. At present work is in progress in all the selected Gram panchayats and an area of 13320 ha. has been developed at the cost of Rs.148.48 crores till 31st October 2008.

(iv) **Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project:**

The Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project was launched in February,2005 and it will end in March 2010. The project aims at increasing the productivity and market access of targeted farmers and community groups to stimulate growth of Assam's agricultural economy. The total cost of the project is Rs.1022 crores covering 23 districts for infrastructure development like rural roads, agricultural services & market chain development, minor irrigation. As on September 2008, an amount of Rs. 222.71 crores has been incurred towards installation of 5183 Shallow Tube Wells (STW), 6602 Lift Pump sets, supply of 936 Power Tillers and treatment of 11108 ha.

II. GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) Assisted Project

Strengthening Capacity Building for Decentralized Watershed Development:

The objective of the programme is to strengthen the capacities and networking of the cultural, regional and State organizations for decentralized watershed management. In the first phase of the project, it is envisaged to address 3 Natural Resource Regions comprising of 13 States namely, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Rajasthan and Gujarat. The project is aimed at strengthening the capacity development system for the Watershed Development Projects at the regional and State level. A National Consortium comprising of the Ministry of Agriculture, GTZ, International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) has been constituted for achieving the project objectives. The duration of the project is 3 years from December 2006 to November 2009. The total cost of the project is 3.5 million Euro grant from the GTZ in the form of technical cooperation.