

Drought Prone Areas Programme

Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is the earliest area development programme launched by the Central Government in 1973-74 to tackle the special problems faced by those fragile areas, which are constantly affected by severe drought conditions. These areas are characterized by large human and cattle populations which are continuously putting heavy pressure on the already degraded natural resources for food, fodder and fuel. The major problems are continuous depletion of vegetative cover, increase in soil erosion and fall in ground water levels due to continuous exploitation without any effort to recharge the underground aquifers.

Though the programme had a positive impact in terms of creating durable public assets, its overall impact in effectively containing the adverse effects of drought was not found to be very encouraging. In addition, many of the States had also been demanding inclusion of additional areas under the programme. With a view to identifying the infirmities in the programme and also for considering the case for inclusion of additional areas under the programme, a High Level Technical Committee was constituted in April 1993 to critically review the contents, methodology and implementation processes of all area development programmes and suggest suitable measures for improvement.

The Committee in its Report submitted in April 1994 had attributed the unsatisfactory performance of the programmes to the following major factors:

- * Implementation of programme activities over vast areas in a sectoral and dispersed manner



Protection Wall Developed under Watershed Programme

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- * Inadequate allocations to the programme and programme expenditures thinly spread over large problem areas
- * Programme implemented through government agencies with least or no participation of the local people.
- * Taking up of a vast array of activities, which were neither properly integrated nor necessarily related to the objectives of the programme.

Based on the recommendations of the Hanumantha Rao Committee, comprehensive Guidelines for Watershed Development, commonly applicable to Drought Prone Areas Programme, Desert Development Programme and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme were issued in October 1994 and were made applicable with effect from 1.4.1995. Subsequently, based on the feedback received from States, Project Implementation Agencies and others concerned, the Guidelines were revised in September 2001.

Objectives

The basic objective of the programme is to minimize the adverse effects of drought on the production of crops and livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources thereby ultimately leading to the drought proofing of the affected areas. The programme aims at promoting overall economic development and improving the socio-economic condition of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections inhabiting the programme areas through creation, widening and equitable distribution of the resource base and increased employment opportunities. The objectives of the programme are being addressed in general by taking up development works through watershed approach for land development, water resource development and afforestation/pasture development. The recent impact studies sponsored by the Ministry have revealed that with the implementation of watershed projects under Drought Prone Areas Programme,



Water Conservation under DPAP



the overall productivity of land and the water table have increased and there has been a significant impact in checking soil erosion by water and wind. The programme has also helped in overall economic development in the project areas,

Strategy

The common Guidelines for Watershed Development provide for a uniform strategy in the implementation of all area development programmes. The main features of this strategy are:

- * Area development programmes to be implemented exclusively on watershed basis.
- * Programme activities to be confined to the identified watershed of about 500 hectares and to be executed on a project basis spanning a period of four to five years.
- * Watershed project to be, as far as possible, co-terminus with village boundary.
- * Direct participation of the people in planning and development of watershed areas and maintenance of assets in the post project period.
- * Panchayati Raj Institutions have the right to monitor and review the programme at district,

block and village levels. They can also function as Project Implementation Agencies if they so desire.

- * Voluntary agencies to be given effective role in the implementation of the programme particularly in motivating people, community organisation and training.

Coverage

The Drought Prone Areas Programme was in operation in 627 blocks of 96 districts in 13 States during 1994-95. On the recommendation of the Hanumatha Rao Committee, 384 new blocks were brought into the purview of this programme and 64 were transferred from DPAP to DDP. Consequently, coverage of the programme was extended to 947 blocks of 164 districts in 13 States. With the reorganization of States, districts and blocks, at present the programme is under implementation in 972 blocks of 182 districts in 16 States. The States where DPAP is under implementation along with the number of Districts, Blocks and area are indicated in the table below:

Sl. No	States	No. of Districts	No. of Blocks	Area in Sq. Kms.
1.	Andhra Pradesh	11	94	99218
2.	Bihar	6	30	9533
3.	Chhattisgarh	8	29	21801
4.	Gujarat	14	67	43938
5.	Himachal Pradesh	3	10	3319
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	2	22	14705
7.	Jharkhand	14	100	34843
8.	Karnataka	15	81	84332
9.	Madhya Pradesh	23	105	89101
10.	Maharashtra	25	149	194473
11.	Orissa	8	47	26178
12.	Rajasthan	11	32	31969
13.	Tamil Nadu	16	80	29416
14.	Uttar Pradesh	15	60	35698
15.	Uttaranchal	7	30	15796
16.	West Bengal	4	36	11594
	Total	182	972	745914

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Funding Pattern

Until March, 1999 the funds were shared on 50:50 basis between the Central Government and the State Governments. However, with effect from 1st April, 1999, the funding is shared on 75:25 basis between the Centre and State Government. For completion of ongoing projects that were sanctioned prior to April 1999, the old funding pattern will continue. The projects of 500 ha. are sanctioned under the programme. Until March, 2000 following cost norms were adopted under DPAP for various eco-systems.

S. No.	Ecosystem Type	Per Ha. Average Cost (Rs.)	Watershed Project Cost (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Semi-Arid Region	4,000	20.00
2.	Dry-Sub-Humid Region	3,000	15.00
3.	Dry Sub-Humid (Hill) Region	4,000	20.00
4.	KBK districts of Orissa	5,000	25.00

However with effect from 1.4.2000, uniform cost norms @ Rs.6000/- per ha. have been introduced. These norms are applicable to projects sanctioned during and after 2000-2001. In respect of earlier projects sanctioned upto 1999-2000, the pre-revised cost norms will be applicable.

Physical Performance

Under DPAP, 18803 watershed development projects covering an area of 94.01 lakh hectares with a total cost of about Rs.4804.20 crore were sanctioned upto 31.3.2004. As on 31.12.2004,

out of these, the entire central share of about 4803 projects has been released and thus these projects are deemed to have been completed. During 2004-2005, 2550 new projects have been sanctioned and these are to be implemented under the Guidelines for Hariyali. These projects shall cover an area of 12.75 lakh hectare, and the total cost for these projects is Rs.765.00 crore involving Central share of Rs.573.75 crore. The Table at *Annexure-XXX* indicates the number of DPAP projects sanctioned since 1995-96.

Financial Performance

Year-wise Central funds released under the programme since 1995-96 has been indicated below:

YEAR	AMOUNT RELEASED (Rupees in Crores)
1995-1996	118.95
1996-1997	109.98
1997-1998	90.75
1998-1999	73.00
1999-2000	94.99
2000-2001	189.51
2001-2002	208.99
2002-2003	249.99
2003-2004	294.80
2004-2005 (upto 31.1.2005)	280.72
TOTAL	1711.68

The Table at *Annexure-XXXI* indicates the State-wise and year-wise break-up of central assistance released under the programme.

