

File No. 1-5/2007-RFS-III
Government of India
Ministry of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture & Cooperation
(RFS Division)

Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi
Dated 23rd July, 2008.

To

The Agriculture Production Commissioner/Principle Secretary (Agri.)/
Secretary (Agri.), NWDPR
(As per list)

Subject: Operational instructions regarding adoption of Common Guidelines for Watershed Development projects issued by NRAA and Guidelines of Revised MMA in implementation of NWDPR during the XI Plan

Sir / Madam,

Reference is invited to this office's letters of even number dated 11th April 2008 and 24th April 2008 regarding adoption of Common Guidelines for Watershed Development projects in implementation of National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR) with effect from 1.4.2008. The NWDPR is a programme subsumed under Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme of DAC which has been amended for the XI Five Year Plan. The guidelines of the revised MMA are also applicable from the financial year 2008-09. In the event of adoption of the above two guidelines, there is requirement for restructuring of the projects in line with the provisions made in these guidelines. A set of operational instructions on the various aspects of programme implementation of NWDPR, corresponding to the provisions in the Common Guidelines and the MMA Guidelines are enclosed for information and necessary follow up.

Yours faithfully,

-Sd-
(Upma Srivastava)
Joint Secretary (RFS)

Encl: As above

Copy for information to:

- 1) Director (Agriculture)/ State Nodal Officer (NWDPR)
(As per list)
- 2) Director, Macro management Division, DAC, Krishi Bhavan, New Delhi

**Operational Instructions to adopt Common Guidelines issued by NRAA and
Guidelines of Revised MMA for implementation of NWDPRA in the XI Plan from
the financial year 2008-09**

1. NAME OF THE PROGRAMME

The programme will continue to be named as National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA).

2. OBJECTIVES

The broad objectives of the NWDPRA are as under;

- Conservation, development and sustainable management of natural resources including their use.
- Enhancement of agricultural productivity and production in a sustainable manner.
- Restoration of ecological balance in the degraded and fragile rainfed ecosystems by greening these areas through appropriate mix of trees, shrubs and grasses.
- Reduction in regional disparity between irrigated and rainfed areas.
- Creation of sustained employment opportunities for the rural community including the landless

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Sequence of activities and their operational modalities under NWDPRA would vary from situation to situation depending upon the status of land degradation, prevailing farming system practices in the selected watershed and prioritization of activities set by the watershed community. Hence, the instructions are made flexible to the extent that desired modifications could be considered at different levels, subject to the condition that provisions contained in the WARASA JANASAHABHAGITA Guidelines, Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects issued by the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) and those approved for the Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) scheme of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation as detailed in subsequent paragraphs for XI Five Year Plan are not altered.

These instructions are indicative in nature. Corresponding provisions contained in the WARSA JANSAHABHAGITA Guidelines, Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects and those approved for the Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme as the case may be, will be followed in the matters not reflected. In the event of any implementation difficulties of the programme, the State level Nodal Agency will be the final authority to take appropriate decision.

4. TRANSITIONAL PHASE

These operational guidelines will be applicable to all new projects selected for implementation of NWDPRA during the XI Plan. The projects implemented during the first year of the XI Plan, i.e. during 2007-08 will however, be considered to have been subsumed under these guidelines. The financial allocation in case of ongoing watersheds will be as per the financial provisions prescribed under the Common

Guidelines and the cost norms for NWDPRA prescribed in the Guidelines of revised MMA w.e.f. the Financial Year 2008-09.

The spill over NWDPRA Watersheds of the X Plan will however, be executed as per the WARSA JANSAHABHAGITA Guidelines and the cost norms prescribed there will be applicable in respect of spill over works.

5. PROJECT AREA

The projects will be implemented in the selected watersheds duly approved by the State Level Nodal Agency (SLNA) constituted by the State Government in pursuance to the provisions contained under para 4.4 of Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects. For the XI Plan, watersheds selected and approved by the State Watershed Committee (SWC), prior to 01.04.2008, as per WARASA JANASAHABHAGITA Guidelines for execution will continue for implementation during the Plan period. The State Governments, however, will be required to obtain the *post facto* ratification from the SLNA in this regard.

6. PROJECT PERIOD

The period for implementation of NWDPRA will continue to be of five years, *i.e. co-terminus* with the five year plan.

7. CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF WATERSHED PROJECT

- The criteria for selection of watershed project has been given under para 7 of the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects like acuteness of drinking water, preponderance of wastelands / degraded lands, extent of exploitation of ground water, contiguity of watersheds, willingness of community, non availability of assured irrigation etc., which may be adhered to in respect of NWDPRA Programme.
- Identification of priority micro watersheds is essential before taking up any watershed development project.
- During the XI Five Year Plan, the programme will be implemented only in the micro watersheds approved by the State Watershed Committee (SWC) in the year 2007-08 and ratified by the SLNA.
- However, looking into the revision in cost norm, the revised estimate may lead to a higher financial requirement in a year and may not be accommodated under the financial outlay approved under the Annual Work Plan of MMA.
- To ensure completion of targeted activities in the plan period, the State Governments may re-examine the project area identified in the strategic plan approved by the SWC. If activities are not initiated in all the watersheds, only the prioritized watersheds fulfilling the conditions indicated under para 7 of the Common Guidelines may be taken up.
- It should be ensured that the watershed area of the NWDPRA projects should not overlap with any other developed/ongoing watershed projects funded by MoRD, State Governments or any other agencies.

8. SIZE OF WATERSHEDS

The Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Project envisages a new approach with a broader vision of geo-hydrological unit normally of average size of 1000 – 5000 hectares comprising of cluster of micro watersheds. Therefore, the size of watersheds selected under NWDPRAs may correspond to this size limit. However, small size projects may be sanctioned in the hilly / difficult terrain areas. Attempt should be made to make clusters of micro watersheds already approved by the SWC for effective treatment so that the benefit of the programme is long lasting. However, for isolated micro watersheds where the works have already initiated in the year 2007-08, the project area should be restricted to the net treatable area taking into account the hydro-geologic conditions to ensure their development to full potential after seeking fresh approval from the SLNA.

9. DELINEATION OF NWDPRAs WATERSHEDS

For watershed development under NWDPRAs in new project areas, the following criteria will be used for territorial delineation:-

- All watersheds located in blocks identified as DDP blocks by the MoRD will be saturated under the Desert Development Programme (DDP).
- All watersheds located in blocks identified as DPAP blocks by the MoRD will be saturated under the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP).
- In the remaining Blocks either the NWDPRAs and/or Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) would operate.
- Reports of Land Degradation Mapping prepared by National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) and Soil and Land Use Survey of India (SLUSI), erstwhile AISLUS, should be utilized by the State and District levels agencies for identification of watersheds to be taken up under watershed programmes.

For the purpose of approval of new watershed projects in a block, necessary certificate will have to be obtained from the competent district level authority, namely, the District Collector indicating therein that no other watershed projects are/will be taken up in the same watershed.

10. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The major activities of the Watershed Development Projects will be sequenced into (i) Preparatory, (ii) Works and (iii) Consolidation and Withdrawal Phase spread over five years, *i.e.*, co-terminus with the five year plan. The project duration for NWDPRAs may be spread over 3 different phases as given below :

Phase	Name	Duration
I	Preparatory Phase	1 year
II	Watershed Works Phase	3 years
III	Consolidation and Withdrawal Phase	1 year

Further, the details given in respect of these three phases in the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects may strictly be adhered to. The ongoing Watersheds of XI Plan, in which development activities started in the year 2007-08, may be suitably phased out by the States / UTs for this purpose, in accordance with the Common Guidelines.

11. COST NORMS

As against the cost norm of Rs. 4500 per ha for lands with less than 8 % slope and Rs.6000 per hectare for lands with 8% or more slope , a uniform cost norm of Rs.12000 per hectare has been approved by the Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs for NWDPRAs Watershed Programmes under Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme for the XI Plan. This cost norm, however, will be applicable with effect from 2008-09. The revised cost norm is the upper limit; however, the actual treatment cost of watersheds will be based on the location specific requirement and approved activities in the micro plan of the watershed.

12. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS, APPROVAL OF PROJECTS AND RELEASE OF FUNDS

- As the NWDPRAs Programme is subsumed under the Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Scheme of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC), Government of India, the funds would be allocated by the Macro Management Division of DAC for the projects on the basis of approved Annual Work Plan.
- The approval for physical area and corresponding financial allocation will depend on past performance of the State (physical and financial), unspent balances available with the State at the end of the previous financial year, outstanding utilization certificates, percentage of the completed projects out of total sanctioned projects etc.
- The State level perspective and the strategic plans for watershed development projects will also be taken into consideration.
- Percentage of rainfed area in the State to total cultivated area and percentage of wasteland /degraded lands in the State to the total geographical area of the state will be other criteria for allocation of funds / approval of the projects.
- The percentage distribution of budget for specific watershed projects for the various components is given below:-

Budget Component	% of the Budget
- Administrative Costs	10
- Monitoring	1
- Evaluation	1
Preparatory phase, including:	
- Entry point activities,	4
- Institution and capacity building,	5
- Detailed Project Report (DPR)	1

Watershed Works Phase:	
- Watershed development works,	50
- Livelihood activities	10
- Production system and micro enterprises.	13
Consolidation Phase	5
Total	100

- In the case of XI Plan NWDPRAs Watersheds in which development work commenced during the year 2007-08, the cost norm and budgetary provision as per WARSA JANSABHAGITA Guidelines will be applicable for the year 2007-08 and from the year 2008-09, the revised cost norms and budgetary allocations as prescribed above will be applicable for different items of work.
- For release of funds under NWDPRAs, the procedure adopted for other programmes under the Macro Management of Agriculture Scheme of DAC will be followed in accordance with the Macro Management of Agriculture (MMA) Guidelines. However, the SLNA will be required to ensure that funds for NWDPRAs are made available to the District Watershed Committees (DWC)/District Watershed Development Units (DWDU) within 15 days of the receipt of the funds so that the same is transferred to PIAs and WCs timely.

13. RESTRUCTURING OF WATERSHED PROJECTS

In the beginning of plan period the project reports were designed restricting the project area as well as activities to accommodate within the prevailing cost norm and provisions envisaged in the WARASA JANSABHAGITA Guidelines. In the event of revised cost norms and guidelines, it will require restructuring of the projects for extending the project activities in terms of quantity, quality and size of intervention and also in some cases expansion of area to ensure potential development. The Detailed Project Reports are required to be prepared again taking into the above aspects and in accordance with the procedures indicated in para 51-58 of the Common Guidelines. However, while preparing the revised project estimate, the financial requirement as per the prevailing norms needs to be worked out only for the remaining activities (other than those activities that have been completed in the first year i.e. 2007-08).

14. PATTERN OF ASSISTANCE FOR WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT FUND (WDF)

The farmer's contributions to the Watershed Development Fund (WDF) shall be a minimum of 10% of the cost of NRM work executed on private lands only. However, in case of SC/ST, small and marginal farmers, the minimum contribution shall be 5% of the cost of NRM works executed on their lands. For other cost intensive farming system activities such as Aquaculture, Horticulture, Agro-forestry, Animal Husbandry etc. on private land, directly benefitting the individual farmers, the contribution of farmers will be 40% for General Category and 20% for SC and ST beneficiaries and the remaining cost of the activities i.e., 60% for the General and 80% for SC/ST

category will come from the project funds subject to a maximum limit of an amount equal to double of the standard unit cost norm for watershed development project.

Under para 9.5 of Common Guidelines, procedure for User Charges has been prescribed which will be followed under the NWDPRA. The user charges collected shall be radiated to the WDF for maintenance of assets created within the project.

15. TECHNOLOGY INPUTS

In the Common Guidelines under Para 3, detailed account of technology inputs has been given which will be applicable in the case of NWDPRA Watersheds during the XI Plan.

16. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

In the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects under para 4, Institutional arrangement at State, National and District level have been given. Similarly, under para 5 of these guidelines, institutional arrangement at project level and under para 6, institutional arrangement at the village level have been illustrated. In the restructured NWDPRA, the provisions contained in the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects will be followed. At the Central level, the RFS Division, Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture will be the Nodal Agency for NWDPRA.

The State level Nodal Agencies like Agriculture/Soil Conservation/ Watershed Department who have already been identified will continue to function as State Nodal Agency until a dedicated State Level Nodal Agency is constituted by the State Government as indicated in para 4.4 of the Common Guidelines.

Approval and Implementation of project at district level by the District level Committee as per the constitution adopted in the WARASA Jan Sahbhagita Guidelines will prevail until a dedicated District Watershed Development Unit is established as indicated in para 4.5 of the Common Guidelines.

The Project Implementing Agencies may be the Line Department/ Autonomous Bodies/Voluntary Organisations after ensuring the provisions indicated in para 5 of the Common Guidelines.

17. MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE PROJECTS

- A participatory, outcome and impact-oriented and user-focused Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning system as envisaged in para 11 of the Common Guidelines would be put in place to obtain feedback and undertake improvements in planning, project design and implementation.
- The quarterly, half yearly and annual progress reporting as per proforma enclosed at Annexure-I will be required to be submitted to the RFS Division of DAC within a fortnight of completion of the quarter, half year and the year respectively.
- Web-based online progress monitoring as per the system designed by the RFS Division of DAC in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre (NIC) will continue.

- The system of half yearly/ annual desk review of the programme in DAC will also continue for periodic monitoring of the programme.
- The concurrent and post project evaluation of programme both by the State and the Government of India including the National Rainfed Area Authority will be taken up in sample watersheds as per the decision taken by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation from time to time and in accordance with the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects.

18. MISCELLANEOUS

Foreclosure of Projects

Procedure relating to Foreclosure of Projects is given in para 9.8 of the Common Guidelines which will be applicable to NWDPRAs provided the prescribed conditions for such foreclosure are satisfied.

Capacity Building Strategy

The Capacity Building Strategy as given under Para 10 of the Common Guidelines will be followed for NWDPRAs.

Resource Organization and Developing Partnership

Provisions in respect of identified resource organization are given under Para 10.2 of the Common Guidelines which will be applicable as such in the case of NWDPRAs.

Research backup to individual watershed projects

For technical backstopping, it has been decided to link local research/ scientific institutions, such as, KVKs/ SAUs/ ICAR Centres etc. for providing need based technical/ scientific support to each of the selected NWDPRAs watersheds of XI Plan. Each watershed is, therefore, required to be linked to a specific research organization available in the vicinity of the watershed under implementation. The arrangement made to this effect shall be finalized within a month of initiating development work in the watershed. A consolidated statement indicating such arrangements should be sent to the RFS Division of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

Outcomes / End Results

At the end of implementation of NWDPRAs projects, it will be the responsibility of the State Government to enlist the outcomes / end results in respect of parameters indicated under Para 11.4 of the Common Guidelines.

Annexure-I

**PROFORMA FOR REPORTING PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PROGRESS
UNDER NWDpra SCHEME**

(Phy.in ha/Fin. Rs.in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Components/Activities	Unit No./ Ha	Physical		Financial	
			Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
A.	<u>Management Component</u>					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Administration costs</u> • <u>Monitoring</u> • <u>Evaluation</u> 					
	<u>Preparatory Phase</u>					
B.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Entry point activities</u> • <u>Institution and Capacity Building</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. State / District level training cost b. PIA: Training cost at identified Institutes c. Others • <u>Preparation of detailed project report</u> 					
	<u>Watershed Works Phase</u>					
C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Watershed Development Works</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Arable Land 					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil and moisture conservation activities • Agronomic conservation practices • Others 					

<p>D.</p>	<p>b. Non Arable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Run off management structures • Water harvesting structures • Dry land Horticulture • Conservation and development of bio-mass (Agroforestry / Silviculture / Pasture etc.,) • Others <p>c. Drainage Lines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper reaches • Middle reaches • Lower reaches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Livelihood support system</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Small entrepreneurship b. Household production system c. Bio-mass based rural industry activities d. Dairy, sericulture, Bee keeping, Mushroom cultivation, commercial poultry etc. e. Livestock management including Goatary, Piggery etc., f. Others <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Production system & Micro enterprises</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establishment of nurseries for planting material 					
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	<p>b. Production of seeds</p> <p>c. Crop Diversification</p> <p>d. Integrated Farming System</p> <p>e. Adoption of proven/ new technologies</p> <p>f. Livestock management</p> <p>g. Others</p> <p>Consolidation Phase</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upscaling of successful activities • Watershed Plus activities • Documentation of successful experiences • Preparation of Project Completion Report • Mechanism for sustainability of interventions • Watershed Development Fund & its management 					
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Note:

1. *Targets and achievements in terms of beneficiaries, category-wise-(i) Small and Marginal farmers a) Women, b) SC, c) ST, d) Others, (ii) Large & Medium farmers a) Women b) SC c) ST d) Others iii. Total farmers a) Women, b) SC, c) ST, d) others may be indicated.*
2. *In case of group activity, number of groups category-wise 9k) Small & marginal farmers a) Women, b) SC, c) ST, d) Others, (ii) Large & Medium farmers a) Women b) SC c) ST d) Others iii. Total farmers a) Women, b) SC, c) ST, d) others assisted/benefited should be indicated separately.*