

Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration: GSWMA

Gujarat State Watershed Management Agency (GSWMA) has been conferred Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Public Administration for the year 2010-11. for the initiative entitled "Participatory Watershed Management Programme". GSWMA is the nodal agency to implement Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) across Gujarat state.

The main aims of the IWMP are to restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water. The outcomes anticipated are prevention of soil run-off, regeneration of natural vegetation, rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table. This is expected to enable multi-cropping and the introduction of diverse agro-based activities, which help to provide sustainable livelihoods to the people residing in the watershed area.

Processes have been Standardized and accordingly Technical Manual, Capacity Building Manual, Human Resource Manual, Livelihood Manual & Operational Guidelines have been framed and operationalized. It has been made mandatory to converge with other schemes and programmes to bridge the fund gap and remove the duplication of works.

Total 21.34 Lac Ha. Area with an outlay of 2769.72 crores has been covered under IWMP for the implementation that includes 3 batches sanctioned in the year 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively. Convergence worth 283.02 crores have been taken up for the projects sanctioned in year 2009-10. GSWMA reached its second phase of the project IWMP 2009-10 and the detailed activities implemented at the ground level in Gujarat state are in the table given below:

Sr. No	Major Heads	Activities	Units created
1	Water Harvesting	Village Ponds, Farm Ponds, Check Dams, Causeway-cum-CheckDams, Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies, Earthen Embankments etc.	2123
2	Drinking Water Security	Rain Roof Water harvesting, Drinking water facilities at doorstep, Renovation of Panchayat wells & repair of Pump Houses etc	1857
3	Soil Erosion Control	Gully Plug, Nala Plug, Protection Wall, Field Outlets etc.	1739
4	Dairy Development	Cattle Trough, Cattle Health Camps	904
5	Harnessing Non-Conventional Energy Sources	Solar, Wind Energy	164
		Total	6787
6	Agriculture Productivity	Crop Demonstration, Grassland development	51 Ha.
		Farm Fencing	5433 R.mt.
7	Afforestation		334

Outcome of the watershed programme has been impressive. A study conducted by Gujarat Institute of Development Research (GIDR) for National Institute for Rural development (NIRD) recently has provided the following impacts of WDP. Around 90% of watersheds report increase in ground water (more than 1 meter). 88% of watersheds have reported reduction in soil loss (more than 25%). 85% of watersheds reported more than 100% increase in cropping intensity. 60% watersheds reported increase in cereal yield (more than 50%) and 62% reported increase in yield (more than 25%) of cash crops. 93% watersheds reported increase in employment as labour days