

*Seminar on*  
**REFORMS IN WATER SECTOR :  
IMPLICATION FOR SUSTAINED  
WATER AND FOOD SECURITY**

**22-23 September 2016, Pune**

*Organised by*



Central Board of Irrigation and Power



WRD, Govt. of Maharashtra



Maharashtra Water Resources  
Regulatory Authority



Central Water Commission



Indian Council of  
Agricultural Research

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## INTRODUCTION

Water law reforms unfolding as a part of the overall water sector reforms have been unfolding in an atmosphere of virulistic expansion and exposition of liberalization, privatization and globalization in developing countries. Set within this context, facing challenges from issues like the water pollution, water conservation, water governance and management, traditional water law is being challenged and undergoing alterations. The physical scarcity of water has come to rule the perceptions and governing rules in the water sector. A school of thought propounded that the conservation of the scarce water resource can be achieved by putting a price on it like a commodity so as to establish its cautious and economical usage. Thus establishing water as an economic good. These economic good proposition are generally lead by many multi-lateral agencies as a condition of financial assistance. Extending this proposition a bit further; logically any economic good should be used to provide maximum economic gain. And therefore water should move to the sector that pays the highest for the resource and makes the most efficient use of water!

This puts the irrigation sector in the most disadvantaged position given the high water consumption and low returns that agriculture generates compared to other industrial sector. Extension of the economic good theory to the drinking water sector means that the access of poor, who cannot pay for the drinking water and related service, is restricted. Nonetheless, under the conditions imposed by the multilateral agencies, the focus of water sector reforms is to make agriculture and drinking water economically viable by transforming the structures, management principles, legal and policy framework, governing it for heralding changes for carrying forward the economic good theory that have far-reaching implications.

The water and irrigation reforms are set in the era of economic liberalization in favour of privatization or for public private partnerships. The economic goods theory and these neo liberal approaches are extended to agriculture and drinking without any debate and appreciation of life supporting nature of water. Rather water is treated as any other underlying financial instrument at par with many negotiable instruments.

Irrigation is critical to food security and economic growth in contemporary India. The challenges for increasing the productivity of irrigation systems to meet the additional demands of food for an increasing population in the face of increasing scarcity and competition for water has forced countries to think of new strategies. Despite an impressive growth in irrigated agriculture, there has been a growing recognition that the benefits are not always commensurate with the investments. The last two decades have clearly shown a reduction in investments in the irrigated sector.

In India, more than 60% of the additional food will have to come undoubtedly from irrigated agriculture. With limited scope in the horizontal growth of the irrigation sector, the challenges for vertical growth of the sector hold great potential for meeting additional food demands.

Reforms in the irrigation sector have so far followed two main, not necessarily exclusive, paths. These are:

- Management transfer of irrigation systems to farmers and water users. or
- Reform of public agencies, either by increasing participation of users in governance; turning them into professional service providers to irrigating farmers or the involvement of the private sector through concessions, joint ventures, management contracts etc.

The performance of irrigation systems is of serious concern to farmers who rely on them for their crops and livelihoods and to

governments that have invested heavily in their development. The most severe problems facing Indian irrigation systems are the increasing costs of new schemes, the huge backlog of incomplete schemes, and the increasing neglect of existing systems. Large-scale canal irrigation systems, in particular, are in poor condition: they are not properly maintained, operations are inadequate, water supplies do not reach the end of systems, and the timing of water supply is unreliable. The wide gap between actual and desirable performance threatens the sustainability of irrigated agriculture.

As irrigation systems have expanded, their upkeep has become more expensive. Fiscal crisis have made the subsidies required to sustain system operations and maintenance (O&M) unaffordable. Investment needs in other sectors have challenged the priority accorded to irrigation financing. The heart of the problem, however, lies in the improper institutional structure for irrigation management and the lack of incentives for agencies and farmers.

The present seminar shall focus on options for institutional reform and the outcome of pilot reform programs in several States which have launched action on reforms e.g. Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The private sector is increasingly interested in the area of development. Recently there has been a notable increase in the collaborations between public and private sectors for the development and maintenance of environment and infrastructure projects. The Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) involve collaborations between governments, the private sector and society that may, ideally become mutually beneficial. There are many forms of private sector involvement ranging from private provision of some services and supplies (e.g., maintenance of pumping stations), to contracting with a private firm for operation and maintenance (delegation of management) or contracting for design, construction and operation. This is an evolving concept and must be tailored to suit each individual project.

While PPPs can present a number of advantages, it must be remembered that irrigation and drainage schemes are also complex to design, implement and manage. Several key factors are noted as influential in project design and management. There are examples of well-run and poorly-run public and private organizations in the water supply sector. A wide range of policy options for the irrigation sector competing on the basis of their responsiveness to local requirements could be an option when promoting institutional reforms. The seminar would examine different forms of private-public collaboration and their advantages and disadvantages. The Seminar is aimed to provide a platform to share the recent knowledge and experiences about public-private partnerships relevant to irrigation projects and explore opportunities for future successful arrangements.

Sustainable agricultural development depends on sustainable water use. Governments today recognize that the search for sustainable economic growth requires, in part, both economy and sector-specific policy reforms. Economic policies attempt to create a favourable macro-economic environment while water sector policies, for example, seek to encourage resource efficiency among water users.

The current emphasis on macro-economic policy reforms and economic liberalization has several important implications for irrigation. One of the most important is that the era of large direct and indirect subsidies is nearly over. Moreover, recognition of the value of water (and the high cost of turning a water source into a service delivered to a farm) makes the water sector a prime target for further policy reforms. Nonetheless, irrigation remains a resource-hungry sector in this transitional period. Even successful irrigation consumes large quantities of capital and foreign exchange and ties up scarce skilled personnel.

Keeping in view the above, Central Board of Irrigation and Power (CBIP), Central Water Commission, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, WRD, Govt. of Maharashtra, Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority and International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage; New Delhi Associate Centre of World Water Council (NDC-WWC); Geographical Committee of the International Water Resources Association (India) (IWRA) are joining hands to organize a two days seminar on “Reforms in Water Sector : Implications for Sustained Water and Food Security” on 22-23 September 2016 at Pune.

## OBJECTIVES

- To review state-of-the art thinking on water sector reforms;
- To share latest knowledge and experiences about public-private partnerships relevant to water resources projects and also to facilitate opportunities for future successful arrangements;
- To examine the options available for reforms in sustained agriculture management for food security;

## THEMES

The following themes have been identified for discussions during the Seminar:

### 1. Water Governance for Equity and Sustainability

- Experiences in water regulatory reforms in India and other countries
- Prioritizing and allocating water entitlements among different uses
- Achieving equity in water allocation and distribution, policies and strategies
- Experiences in groundwater regulation
- Achieving water, energy and food security towards profitable farming

### 2. Managing Water at River Basin Level

- Concept, necessity and typology of River Basin Organizations
- Experiences of basin level water management in India and other countries
- Integrated water resources planning, development management at basin and state levels including environmental flows.
- Relieving stress on ground water for irrigation applications
- Need for public domain databases and simulation models as basis for informal dialogue

### 3. Technological Options for Efficient Use of Water in Irrigated Agriculture

- Modernization of public irrigation schemes – Approaches and tools
- Water saving technologies, off-farm and on-farm
- Smart meters for regulating groundwater pumping
- Use of remote sensing and ICT in water resources management and system operation
- Experiences in use of treated/untreated wastewater for irrigation
- Challenges of modifying water application methods in existing command

### 4. Water Pricing and Impact of Subsidies in Irrigated Agriculture

- Determining criteria for charging of irrigation water
- Challenges in assessment & recovery of irrigation charges

- Experience of volumetric water supply and pricing of irrigation water
- Impacts of electricity pricing policy on sustainability of irrigation schemes

### 5. Participatory Irrigation Management

- Evaluation of the performance of Water User Associations
- Opportunities and constraints in up-scaling of PIM
- Legal, administrative and institutional reforms required for implementing PIM
- Sustainability of the PIM and alternative approaches

### 6. Emerging Trends in Public-Private Partnership in the Public Irrigation Schemes

- Scope and existing models for public-private partnership
- Incentive for private investments in water sector
- Legal and administrative measures and safeguards required for public-private participation
- Examples of successful PPP in irrigation sector

## DATES AND VENUE

The Seminar will be held on 22-23 September, 2016 at Hotel Conrad, Mangaldas Road, Pune 411 001, Maharashtra

## SPECIAL TARIFF FOR THE PARTICIPANTS

Single Room 5500+Taxes (24.64%) per day - Single Occupancy  
6000+Taxes (24.64%) per day - Double Occupancy

## PROGRAMME

22 September 2016	
09:00-10:00 hrs.	Registration
10:00-11:00 hrs.	Inaugural Session
11:30-13:00 hrs.	Plenary Session
14:00-15:30 hrs.	Technical Session I : Water Governance for Equity and Sustainability
16:00-17:30 hrs.	Technical Session II: Managing Water at River Basin level
23 September 2016	
09:30 -11:00 hrs.	Technical Session III: Technological Options for Efficient Use of Water in Irrigated Agriculture
11:30 -13:00 hrs.	Technical Session IV: Water Pricing and Impact of Subsidies in Irrigated Agriculture
14:00 -15:30 hrs.	Technical Session V: Participatory Irrigation Management
16:00 -17:30 hrs.	Technical Session VI: Emerging Trends in Public-Private Partnership in the Public Irrigation Schemes
Morning Tea: 11:00-11:30 hrs. Lunch 13:00-14:00 hrs. Evening Tea: 15:30-16:00 hrs.	

## CALL FOR PAPERS / CASE STUDIES

**There will be invited presentation only from the professionals.** In the exceptional cases where the authors who wish to contribute papers related to the above mentioned themes are requested to send the full text of their papers on any of the above topics, so as to reach the organizers by 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016 either by e-mail or by post to the Seminar Secretariat.

### Paper should contain:

- A descriptive title, the name(s) and affiliation(s) of the author(s).
- The address for correspondence (including telephone, fax and e-mail) and preferred mode of presentation (oral or poster).

- The text must include introduction (objective), methods, result and conclusion.

An important condition of acceptance of paper is that the author/ one of the authors in case of multiple authors will attend the seminar and present the paper. The full length paper will only be included in proceedings volume of the seminar if the Registration Fee of an author, as specified, is paid in advance along with the full length paper. The persons intending to contribute paper(s) and to participate in the seminar are required to send the intimation to Seminar Secretariat.

## OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

The official language of the Seminar will be English.

## REGISTRATION

The registration fee payable by the participants, including authors of papers, for participation in the seminar is as follows:

Countries	Delegates	Members of NDC-WWC, IWRA, INCOLD
SAARC	INR. 10,000*	Rs. 9,000*
Others	US \$ 500	-

\* Service tax extra @ 15%.

The registration fee includes the seminar material, registration kit, working lunch, tea/coffee. The participants will have to make their own arrangements for travel, boarding and lodging, etc.

The participants, desirous of attending the seminar are requested to send the intimation to Seminar Secretariat. Registration fee payable through demand draft drawn in favour of 'Central Board of Irrigation and Power, New Delhi'. The last date for Registration is 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Seminar will provide an excellent opportunity to national and international organizations; central / state government organizations, public sector undertakings, industrial organizations, equipment manufacturers, entrepreneurs, financial and funding institutions, consulting and construction organizations to publicize themselves by being Platinum / Golden / Silver sponsors or Supporter of the Seminar. The sponsorship fees payable and benefits are mentioned below. Interested organizations may communicate their willingness to the Seminar Secretariat.

Entitlement	Levels					
	Co-organiser/ Lead sponsor	Co-sponsor	Supporter	Kit Sponsor	Lunch Sponsor	Dinner Sponsor
	INR 5.00 lacs	INR 3.00 lacs	INR 2.00 lacs	INR 2.00 lacs	INR 2.00 lacs	INR 3.00 lacs
Logo on the Backdrop	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complimentary Delegates	10	4	2	2	2	4
Audio Visual Presentation (in minutes)	15	-	-	-	-	-
Distribution of catalogues	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
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Advertisements (in page/s)	Two	One	Half	Half	One	One
Display of name during lunch hours	-	-	-	-	✓	-
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## SEMINAR SECRETARIAT

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## CONTACT PERSONS

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## ADVERTISEMENT IN PROCEEDINGS VOLUME

A limited space will be available on first-come-first served basis, for publishing advertisement in the proceedings volume of the seminar. The interested organizations are required to send the advertisement material (Art Work/Negative/Positive) along with payment as detailed below:

- |                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| (i) Inner pages            | US\$ 500/Rs. 20,000   |
| (ii) Second or third cover | US\$ 1,000/Rs. 25,000 |
| (iii) Back cover           | US\$ 1,500/Rs. 50,000 |

### Notes:

- The rates mentioned in INR are for SAARC countries.
- The last date for advertisement reservation is 10<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2016
- The advertisement material in the form of soft copy in PDF or Coreldraw format of maximum size 175 mm × 225 mm is required to be sent before 10<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

## PAYMENTS

- All payments should be made by Demand Draft drawn in favour of "Central Board of Irrigation and Power", payable at HDFC Bank, Saving Bank Account No: 00031110004411, Branch/RTG/NEFT IFSC: HDFC0000003, MICR Code: 110240001, Swift Code; HDFCINBBDEL, Branch & Address: 209-214, Kailash Building, 26 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi
- Participants will have to make their own arrangement for travel, boarding and lodging, etc.
- Last date for receipt of Registration Form is 15<sup>th</sup> Sep 2016.
- Spot registration facility will also be available, provided prior information is received.
- Last date for sponsorship and advertisement is 10<sup>th</sup> Sep. 2016.