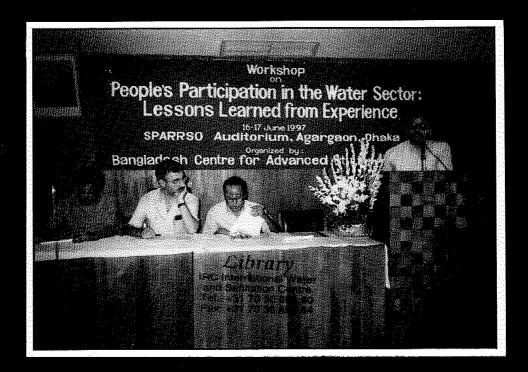
People's Participation in Water Sector

Lessons Learned from Experience



Proceedings of a Workshop

Organized by

BANGLADESH CENTRE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES

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WORKSHOP ON

PEOPLES' PARTICIPATION IN WATER SECTOR: LESSONS LEARNED FROM EXPERIENCE

Venue: SPARRSO Auditorium, Agargaon, Dhaka Date: 16-17 June 1997

PROGRAMME

DAY 1: MONDAY, 16 JUNE 1997

Inaugural Session

09:45-1000	Guest take seats		
10:00-10:15	Welcome address	Dr. Saleemul Huq, Executive Director, BCAS	
10:15-10:25	Address by the Special Guest	Dr. A. T. M. Shamsul Huda, Secretary Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Bangladesh	
10:25-10:45	Inaugural address	Mr. Abdur Razzak, Hon'ble Minister for Water Resources, Government of Bangladesh	
10:40-10:55	Address by the Chair	Mr. M. H. Siddiqui, BU Director General, WARPO	
10:55-11:00	Vote of thanks	Dr. Rafiqul Islam, In-charge, Agriculture and Social Sciences Department, BETS	
11:00-11:30	Tea Break		
First Technical Session (1st Plenary)			
11:30-11:40	Briefing on issues and methods	Dr. Saleemul Huq, Executive Director, BCAS	
11:40-13:30	Short presentation by	Participants	

13:30-14:00 Lunch Break

14:00-15:30 Short presentation by Participants

15:30-15:50 Tea Break

vi

Second Technical Session (Group Discussion)

15:50-16:00 Break out in group

- * NGO experience
- * Government experience
- * NGO-Government collaboration experiences

16:00-17:00 Group discussion

- * NGO experience
- * Government experience
- * NGO-Government collaboration experiences

DAY 2: TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 1997

Third Technical Session (Group Discussion)

09:30-11:00 Group discussion

11:00-11:30 Tea Break

Fourth Technical Session (Second Plenary)

11:30-13:30 Presentation by Group Team Leader

discussion & finalization of recommendations

13:30-14:00 Lunch Break

Concluding Session

14:00-14:20 Review of the

Dr. Saleemul Hug, Executive Director, BCAS

workshop proceedings

14:20-15:30 Presentation

Group Team Leaders

15:30-15:50 Ensuring people's

Mr. M. H. Siddiqui, BU Director General, WARPO

participation in

formulating National Water Management Plan

15:50-16:00 Concluding address by the Chief Guest

Mr. Jan Weijenberg, World Bank, Dhaka

16:00-16:10 Address by the Chair Dr. A. T. M. Shamsul Huda, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Bangladesh

16:10-16:30 Tea

People's Participation in Water Sector Lessons Learned from Experience

Summary

Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS) organized a two-day workshop on "People's Participation in Water Sector: Lessons Learned from Experience" at the SPARRSO auditorium in Dhaka on 16 and 17 June 1997. The main objective of the workshop was to share experiences of practitioners involved in water sector activities to develop an agreed modality for ensuring genuine people's participation in future water sector planning and activities both at micro and macro levels. Water Resources Minister Md. Abdur Razzague was present as the Chief Guest and Dr. A.T.M. Shamsul Huda as the Special Guest. Dr. Saleemul Hug Executive Director of BCAS welcomed the workshop participants. The inauguaral session was also addressed by M.H. Siddiqui, BU, Director General of Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO) and Dr. Rafiqul Islam of Bangladesh Engineering and Technological Services (BETS). Mr. Jan Weijen berg of the World Bank was the Chief Guest at the concluding session. It was attended by over hundred government officials of the concerned departments and agencies, experts, development practitioners and professionals.

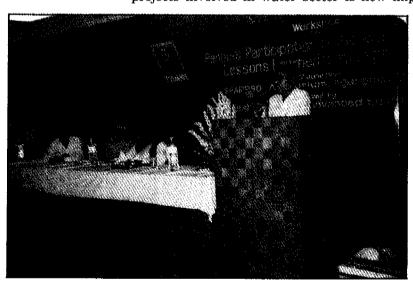
Dr. Saleemul Huq, Executive Director of BCAS gave the welcome address. He said that the aim and objectives of the workshop were to gather and share experiences on water regarding people's participation in this sector. He also informed that following the Fourth FAP Conference in December 1995, the concept of people's participation and GO-NGO collaboration in water sector projects have been accepted by the Government of Bangladesh and are being applied in a number of on-going projects including the Khulna-Jessore Drainage Rehabilitation Project (KJDRP), Compartmentalization Pilot Project (CPP), System Rehabilitation Project (SRP), North East Regional Water Management Project (NERP) as well as others. Besides the government projects, there are also considerable experiences amongst different NGOs on people's participation in various projects in general and water sector projects in particular. There are also good examples of Government and NGO cooperation in natural resources and environmental planning through the National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP) exercise.

There are also considerable experiences amongst different NGOs on people's participation in various projects in general and water sector projects in particular.

The government can not bear the costs of the large projects, so, the beneficiaries and people at large should have the motivation to bear the maintenance and operational costs.

As the National Water Plan is about to be started through the process of people's participation, so the GO-NGO collaboration has already been established. The workshop was organized to try to develop a feasible modality for ensuring the desired people's participation and GO-NGO collaboration. In his speech Dr. Hug further said that the general objectives of the workshop were to learn and share recent experiences in people's participation and GO-NGO collaboration in water sector and to develop an agreed modality for future actions to ensure genuine people's participation and fruitful GO-NGO collaboration. The discussion and recommendations of the workshop will be published in proceedings and disseminated as a permanent record. He also informed the participants that the main discussion would be guided by three questions which are: Is there real people's participation in water sector activities (FCDI, Irrigation, Fisheries and others) in Bangladesh? If not, what should be done to ensure genuine people's participation? How GO and NGO collaboration could be enhanced in this regard?

Dr. A.T.M. Shamsul Huda in his speech said that performance of the projects involved in water sector is now improving satisfactorily. Even



though the resources are insufficient, still organizations are conducting various development researches and ensuring their implementation. He informed the audience that at present there are 550 projects in this sector. All of them are not delivering yet due to lack of motivation of people, training proper and material supply. Dr. Huda also noted that it is very difficult to initiate the process of National Water Plan because of differences

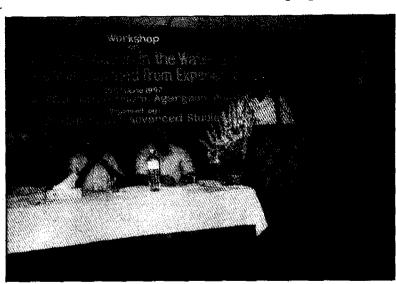
of opinions between the government and local NGOs. He also said that, water is a valuable resource and it has competing demands. The high demand for water is all over the world and this will influence future water sector planning and activities of Bangladesh. The government can not bear the costs of the large projects, so, the beneficiaries and people at large should have the motivation to bear the maintenance and operational costs of projects initiated through the participatory process and face the liabilities too.

Mr. Abdur Razzak, the Minister for Water Resources addressed the inaugural session as the chief guest. He said "people's participation is to be ensured in

the future water sector planning activities at all levels from the beginning to the end including the periods of need assessment, project designing, implementation, operation and maintenance, institutionalization, evaluation and monitoring". He also said that water management plan is obviously a crucial agenda. On the basis of trust, transparency and helpful thinking of both India and Bangladesh, a common river water management plan can be successfully made. The Minister hoped that the recommendations of the workshop would be helpful and effective for designing future National Water Management Plan.

Mr. M.H. Siddiqui said that the benefits from most of the projects could not be achieved because of inadequate maintenance and lack of sense of ownership among the people.

The inaugural session was followed by one plenary. three group discussions on specific issues and a concluding plenary, where the participants shared their experiences and had intensive discussions on different aspects with a view to identify what practices would work better and even more important what might not work so that the recommendations would be practical and acceptable to all.



Recommendations

The main recommendations were as follows:

- Dialogue between government and NGO practitioners on people's participation in water sector should continue
- Guidelines for people's participation need to be reviewed and revised periodically based on experiences gained
- Information on experiences gained in people's participation should be collected and disseminated
- The National Water Management Plan should ensure genuine people's participation and also healthy dialogue with NGOs.

The benefits from most of the projects could not be achieved because of inadequate maintenance and lack of sense of ownership among the people.



Welcome address by Dr. Saleemul Huq

Executive Director Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS)

I will discuss very briefly about the organizational background of the workshop. For the benefit of our foreign guests the inaugural session will be in English but all the subsequent sessions will be in Bangla, because we want to encourage as much interactions and discussion as possible.

The background of this workshop in fact goes back to the period of the preparation of the Flood Action Plan where various parties including the government and NGOs had raised issues during the whole period of the Flood Action Plan which was essentially resolved at the final and the last conference of the Flood Action Plan where the government of Bangladesh reached decisions particularly with respect to incorporating environmental issues, incorporating peoples' participation and also encouraging and involving NGO's along with the government agencies in the new phase of the activity which is the National Water Management Plan, which is now being developed. Since then a lot of preparatory activities have been taking place and we hope that the National Water Management Plan will soon go into implementation phase under the leadership of the Ministry of Water Resources with particular responsibility of the Water Resources Planning Organization (WARPO). In a sense, this is a much better arrangement in that WARPO is much stronger and has relevant authority to carry out what is essentially a very long term planning exercise for major natural resource like water whereas the previous exercise FAP was done by an ad hoc institutionalized structure of the Flood Plan Coordination Organization (FPCO). Now I think, we are in a much better institutional pattern. Participation of people in planning, in designing, particularly in interpretation and making the project sustainable in the long term. It also recognized that it needs working with grassroot, working with people and organizing them. Participation is not something that can be willed, nor something that can be done by a consultant for half a man month or one man month and say that go and deliver participation. It is much more process involved activity where you need to work with people and in that the NGOs have wide experience of working with the people particularly the poor and particularly poor women. The idea here is to try and bring together practitioners, people who have done things in the field both from the NGO sector as well as the government sector. In fact there is a considerable store of experience and activities that have already been done in various projects by various government agencies particularly the Water Development Board. So there is experience, there is

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knowledge, there is know how residing in the country also in the government as well as the NGO sector. The idea of this workshop is to bring those experiences together, sharing with each other so that people in the NGO sector may be aware what the government agencies are doing and vice versa the field that the government agencies may be aware about the NGO's work. So what we wanted to do was bring together approximately half and half groups from the different sectors particularly people who have experience, people who have done something, who have tried something, who know what works and what doesn't. So that we can share the experience with each other and hopefully the outcome of this will then be able to inform the new National Water Management Plan while it is being developed in a participatory manner. We will be able to base it from the experience that we have already gained from environment as well as the GO sector and next whatever we do that will be more practical, more substantial, more likely to succeed rather than depending as we have done or had a tendency to do in the past of simply writing T.O.Rs for the consultants expecting some national or international consultants to deliver people's participation. It is not design or an engineering plan that an expert can come and run models and deliver, it is a process oriented activity that has to go to the field that has to work with the local people that have to be drawn into the process, bring them in and that is not as easily performed or delivered as a consultancy contract. One of the idea behind this workshop is to get this sense of what participation needs? What it entales into the thinking process of the future planning of the water sector which we are about to work on. So that is if you like the background and the cause of setting up this workshop. We are very very happy to report that we have had excellent co-operation and excellent feedback from everybody whom we talked to about it and a tremendous support was shown for participatory support that we should certainly do something, in fact we had to turn back people and say that there is a certain limit of number of people who can actually interact effectively and we do not want to become too big. So, the subsequent sessions that will take place after the inauguaral session there we will essentially breakout it to a smaller groups of people who will share things themselves in smaller groups and come up with ideas. We are basically asking them initially to share their own experiences with each other so that people from the NGO sectors get to know people from the government sector and vice versa and they know what kind of experiences are there and secondly in smaller groups to share their experiences and come up with answers to certain questions, the questions just to share with you all that we will be asking to these groups are:

- Is there real people's participation in water sector activities (FCDI, Irrigation, Fisheries and others) in Bangladesh?
- If not, what should be done to ensure genuine people's participation in water sector activities in Bangladesh?
- How GO and NGO collaboration could be enhanced in this regard? I hope you have a fruitful discussion.

Speech by Chief Guest Mr. Abdur Razzak Minister, Ministry of Water Resources

Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen. It gives me great pleasure to be here today at the inaugural session of the Workshop on "Peoples' Participation in Water Sector Projects" organized by the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies.

The Government of Bangladesh has made the water issue one of the highest priorities and has already made some notable achievements such as the Water Sharing Agreement for the Ganges River between Bangladesh and India. This historic agreement will ensure the minimum share of dry season water flows from the Ganges River to Bangladesh.

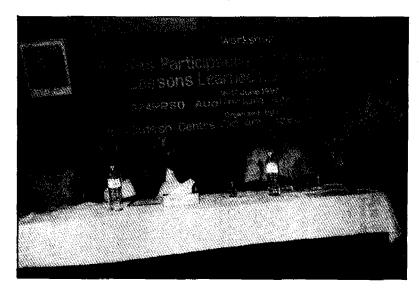
However, we fully realize that it is not enough to obtain our due share of water from across the borders but we must also use the water wisely once it is within our national borders. To this end the Government is about to announce a National Water Policy after due consultations with experts and other concerned groups. This will give the overall policy guidelines for the wise use of water which is one of our most precious resources.

The Government is also about to start very soon the implementation of the River between National Water Management Plan which has as two of its primary principals Bangladesh (i) ensuring environmental compatibility and (ii) ensuring people's and India.

participation in planning of all water resources and water sector projects and activities.

It is for this reason that I find today's workshop organized by the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies particularly timely as it aims to gather the experiences already gained through both government as well as NGO projects on involving people in planning, designing and implementing water sector

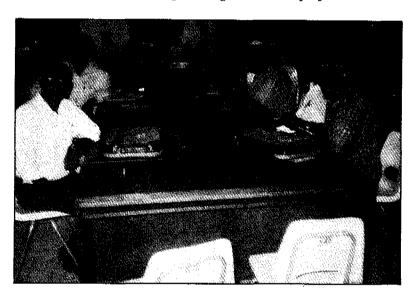
The Government of Bangladesh has made the water issue one of the highest priorities and has already made some notable achievements such as the Water Sharing Agreement for the Ganges



The Water
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projects in Bangladesh. I am pleased to note that so many experienced people from different organizations are attending the workshop and I hope that you will have a very good interaction and exchange of views. As you are no doubt aware, it is the policy of this Government to cooperate with the NGOs who are our partners in seeking people's development and the Water Ministry whole-heartedly believes that the NGOs have good experiences and capabilities to share with the government, particularly in the Water Sector.

Therefore, I can assure you that I shall certainly be looking forward to receiving the outcome and recommendations of this workshop which I hope will be a set of very practical recommendations on how to best ensure both people's participation as well as Government-NGO cooperation in the Water Sector planning and future projects. These recommendations will be most



I wish you all a very successful meeting.

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen.

valuable not only for the forthcoming National Water Management Plan but also for a number of other on-going and planned water sector projects as no project can hope to fulfil the people's aspirations unless it can successfully involve people in its planning and implementation.

With those words, I once again thank the organizers of this workshop for inviting me to inaugurate it and hereby declare the workshop open.

Speech by Special Guest Dr.A.T.M. Shamsul Huda Secretary.Ministry of Water Resources

Sixty years ago there was no concept of people's participation in any stage of project formulation. Everything used to be technical data based and technically evaluated with the result that we now have 554 completed projects in our portfolio of which more than fifty percent are unable to deliver their objectives. We occasionally come across the data for embankments which have not been repaired for a long time because local people have not been aware. A thorough check list of completed projects should be made which were started by the Government Irrigation Department which are now under Bangladesh Water Development Board. The two important projects which started under the Government Irrigation Department one of them is G.K. project and other one is North Bangladesh Tubewell Project. It transpired that for North Bangladesh Tubewell Project the target was to irrigate more than fifty thousand hectares and ended in only less than ten thousand hectares being irrigated. One reason is that the main project cost for the lining of the canal was done but the subsidiary canal fixtures were to be done by the people, but since people were not involved at the initial stage they didn't do those. And secondly getting water alone is not enough. they want food. As they were not given food, a combination of circumstances have together reduced the effectiveness of the project. In the recent past they have been given to Grameen Bank who has been able to run them more efficiently. The Water Resources Ministery, the Water Resources Planning Organization and Bangladesh Water Development Board now have improved the level of efficiency which I personally agree. It was not there even 6 or 7 years ago. You visit one of our institutions, even a certain institution at open area is neglected such as Faridpur River Research Institute. The level of professionalisation and the quality of work that has developed there is poor due to lack of resources. Recently we have transformed the Surface Water Modeling Centre using various steps and now it is functioning more effectively.

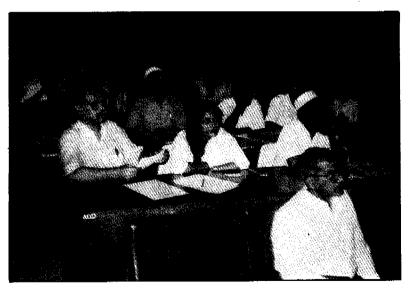
In future we will develop our experts in the water sector to be more multidisciplinary and modern in their outlook. We hope that this will result in a better approach to planning in the water sector.

We now have 554 completed projects in our portfolio of which more than fifty percent are unable to deliver their objectives.

Speech by Mr. M.H. Siddiqui, BU Director General, WARPO

Therefore, it has been well recognized that in future, particularly regarding the preparation of the National Water Management Plan we shall definitely ensure that people's participation in the planning phase is accomodated.

Honourable special guest, Dr. Saleemul Huq and distinguished participants. While Dr. Saleemul Hug and Dr. Huda have spoken in such great detail, it is difficult for me to add anything. But being the chair of this session it is obligated that I speak, Dr. Saleemul Hug in his deliberation says that the workshop is being held to exchange experiences. Now our experiences say that for any water related problem in any area in Bangladesh, we find the engineering solution by and large, very mechanical and hardly creative except in one or two cases. One problem is handling a big river or a wide river and the other one is handling the people who will be benefited or badly affected by the problem. For the engineering solution as I say its easy and mechanical and its solution is possible. But handling people and handling a river again is a matter of great difficulty. For nevertheless as Dr. Huda, mentioned that out of 554 completed project we are getting some benefit only from 50% projects. Rest are not performing. This is because the people who were supposed to run the project are not doing it. And given our resources the government is not able to do it all themselves.



Therefore, it has been well recognized that in future, particularly regarding the preparation of the National Water Management Plan we shall definitely ensure that people's participation in the planning phase is accommodated.

Technical Plenary Session I

The first Technical Session was held in Plenary with Dr. Saleemul Huq giving a further elaboration of the purpose and format of the workshop followed by some sharing of experiences from the participants. After the Plenary the participants broke up into Groups for detailed discussions. The main points of the Plenary session are given below.

Dr. Saleemul Huq, BCAS.

- There have been some good examples already of participatory planning including NEMAP and PPP
- Soon we will be breaking into 3 Groups. Each group should have a mixture of GO and NGO representatives.
- One of the main objectives is to develop strategies for GO and NGO collaboration in PP in water sector.
- Water has to be considered as a broad based issue, which will cover, rivers, flood, FCDI, irrigation, fishery, domestic uses, both surface and ground water and wetland habitats.
- People's participation should be ensured at different level such as planning, operation and maintanence, installation, evaluation and management.
- The outcome will be useful for upcoming programmes such as:
 - New large scale projects like Ganges Barrage,
 - People's Participation
 - Environmental Survey.
 - National Water Planning.
- Future planners and actors are the clients and user of the workshop findings.
- Interaction among the participants and further collaboration among different actors in planning and actions.
- An agreed mechanism for resolving conflicts between different actors.
- NGOs could help to resolve conflicts and enhance compensation and reduce social and environmental losses in large projects (Credit, rehabilitation, occupational back-up).
- This is a start in PP and GO NGO collaboration, it will continue further
 and usher a new phase in water sector activities, which will establish the
 dialogues and interaction.

People's participation should be ensured at different level such as planning, operation and maintanence, installation, evaluation and management.

Dr. Rafiqul Islam, BETS

- Gave some experiences from Chandpur Project and Coastal Development, highlighting the need for people's participation.
- He then asked participants to share their experiences.

Mr. Fazlul Huq Ripon, Jamalpur

- Participation as an imposition is being exercised in Bangladesh.
- People are not involved at formulation and implementation phases.

It must be cleared who are the people and how are we going to ensure their participation?

It must be Mr. Mosharraf Hossain, NERP

- Flood in early monsoon creates number of socio-environmental problems.
- CIDA has initiated a project in North East region to involve people in development projects.
- Flood Protection through raising village platform has been successful.

Mr. Ali Haider, BWDB

 BWDB has developed its projects consulting with people, mainly, Union Parishad, local MP, but there is still questions about people's participation. It must be cleared who are the people and how are we going to ensure their participation?

Mr. Hamidul Huq, UST

Who are the people? What is people's participation? When we talk to UP chairman he is known as the people's leader. He is a member of the society and he is a distinguished person, he has his own class position and interest. He rarely works for the poor and the real stake holders. So, UP Chairman is not the real people.

Md. Liyakat Ali, BWDB.

 Time changes should be accounted while discussing and developing plans.

Mr. Khorsed Alam, UST

- The stakeholders are to be treated primarily as the people, hence, their participation are to be ensured.
- People are to be involved even at the stage of need assessment.
- People's participation in FAP is one of the instance. FAP has two
 dimensional view on people's participation.
- Information dessemination is one of the components of people's participation.
- People's participation varies from project to project and in time and space.

Mr. Sohrab Hossain, K-JDRP

- Our project conducted need assessment at the initial stage of the project
 male, female participation was ensured, occupational groups were consulted.
- Information dissemination in english and bangla is being practiced.

People's
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- Cooperation among different social and occupational groups in Bil Dakatia. Some people
- Validitation process was done and consultation held more than one time.
- People suggested the project people to conduct EIA before finalizing the master plan of KJDRP.
- Local experience and indigenous knowledge were explored.
- Some people are not interested in participatory process (passive). Elites interested in are not interested in people's participation. interested in people's
- Stakeholder groups are enthusiastic to participate but they need to be mobilized and facilitated.
- Perceptional differenciations exist among different social strata, particularly among the project people and local people.
- Women could not be easily involved in project activities.

Mr. Masum Sarrower, LGED

- Should we ignore UP chairman, other members and MP? We have to involve these rural power allies? Without their participation, project activities can not be done.
- We also involve people in monitoring and evaluation.

Ms. Nabanita, Nijera Kori

- Some projects have started in Khulna area including water related construction program. There are committees involving rural people but they are almost non-functional.
- Shrimp culture made huge negative impacts on society and environment.
 People can not say anything against these shrimp projects. These farms are powerful and they get the favour from the local government officers.
- The water projects which were undertaken for the benefit of the people are now going against people. How to reverse this?

Ms. A Begum Shelly, CARITAS

- Third Fisheries Project (TFP) did not have any people's participation at the initial stage.
- In the project formulation, there were ideas and provisions for need assessment and peoples consultation.
- Only people's participation in TFP was the involvement of local UP Chairman and they have achieved the major benefits of the program.
- TFP did not include any women group, but CARITAS at one point, forced the project to involve women.
- Marginal farmers were ignored in individual shrimp farming but they
 were encouraged in shrimp farming through group farming. The marginal
 farmers need micro-credit, this was met by CARITAS's program in
 shrimp farming.
- TFP failed in achieving the objectives of the poverty alleviation through strengthening issues.
- CARITAS initiated a fingerling raising farm in northern region and succeeded. involve women.

Some people are not interested in participatory process (passive). Elites are not interested in people's participation.

The water projects which were undertaken for the benefit of the people are now going against people. How to reverse this?

TFP did not include any women group, but CARITAS at one point, forced the project to involve women.

Mr. Shaheed-ul Haque, CPP

- We conducted need assessment of different stakeholders and working groups including farmers, fishermen, boatmen, landless and women in the project areas.
- What should be done in the locality for flood control and irrigation? These issues were consulted with people and their representatives through RRA and survey. Needs assessment of the beneficiaries group and different users in canal designing and drainage were undertaken.

FAP had some failures and WARPO has learned lesson from the FAP exercise and other projects.

Mr. Halimur Rahman, WARPO

- Upto 1980's people were not consulted, rather they were just informed about the water sector projects. After 1990, changes were made in project design, social and environmental issues were incorporated in the project.
- WARPO has formulated a guideline for people's participation in water sector projects. People can be involved in projects in different ways and different degrees. FAP had some failures and WARPO has learned lesson from the FAP exercise and other projects.
- It was suggested in the guideline that people should be involved at all phases of any project.

Md. Zakaria, GOUF, Khulna

- Our organization has consulted with stakeholders at the need assessment period.
- Robert Chambers initiated the process of people's consultation through PRA at planning level in India where he got popularity. This is very useful but can not be exercised generally. PP should be with informed people.
- Water sector planning might have some different dimension and perspective. It needs local consultation.
- GOUF has some local experience which could be used for national planning. GOUF works in the coastal region. People's perception about PP is very narrow. PP has broad perspectives: landless and marginal occupational groups, rickshawpullers, should be involved in all project design, implementation and evaluation.
- Awareness among multi-stakeholders and indirect beneficiaries has to be done prior to PP.
- People do not know their role in management. So, information dissemination and empowerment should be ensured.
- Conflict resolution through local level leadership. GOUF has initiated some workshop and training to enhance cooperation among project people and stakeholders.

Mr. Salim Samad, LMEG

- What we have said in the past 5 years, the govt. and FAP people are talking about that now. People's Participation was in practice and had provision for peoples participation but it was hampered by the autocratic regime.
- Consulted water user groups include farmers, fishermen even women.
- NEMAP is a success story for people's participatory process in national planning.

NEMAP is a success story for people's participatory process in national planning. M

Group Discussion

The participants brokeup into three groups (Group A,B and C) with approximately equal representatives from government and NGOs. The main points of each group discussion are presented below. The Group outputs were then presented at the Concluding Plenary Session.

Group - A

Mr. Ahmed Salahddin, EIP Consultant asked about people's participation, whether it was done after project design or prior to that.

People are involved in the implementation phase. Local manpower mainly landless group and women are engaged in some EIPs projects.

People are not involved in the whole project because of lack of sense of ownership.

In some cases though people's participation is practiced but there is not enough institutional development for its sustainability.

He further said that constraints exist not only within the projects but also in the social process and social systems.

Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Nijera Kori said that attempts were made to ensure people's participation in some projects but it was not done sufficiently. He emphasized that we should learn from the past experiences and review: What were the limitations? What is the learning?

Mr. Zakaria, GOUF said that there is example of people's participation in Baor management and some credit programmes were undertaken by NGOs. But the main problems remains as the lack of sense of ownership and organization building in association with management skill. One of the key area of PP is information sharing. Further, for sustainability of any programme, socio-environmental needs have to be assessed first with participatory research.

Mr. Lyakat Ali of EIP said, it is easy to ensure PP in small projects which is being practiced by some organizations. He said a guideline for ensuring people's participation in government projects was developed which should be widely shared. He further pointed out that:

- Make a review of the documents and existing literature.
- NGOs were requested to revise the GPP, but they were not so serious in this regard.
- GPP should be simplified and modified. Five tiers to be reduced upto three tiers.
- Information sharing and awareness raising through publication and workshop.

Md. Khorshed Alam, UST, said that without empowering the people their participation in development activities could not be ensured. He informed that Gram Unnayan Parishad (GUP) is trying to involve people and it is

In some cases though people's participation is practiced but there is not enough institutional development for its sustainability.

One of the key area of PP is information sharing.

Without empowering the people their participation in development activities could not be ensured.

getting institutional shape but yet to get maturity. For managing of water resources for household and farm level activities we have to know how much changes happened in this traditional process of water use and management. One of the important fact is that people are becoming more conscious. We are always focusing benefits and success, we should also consider the limitation and negative impacts on society and its cultural process. He mentioned that there has been no hard rules and methods for people's participation. But, if we have good intention, we can achieve this through concentrated and coordinated work. One method can not be thoroughly applied for every project, but experience and learning can be used.

The group further discussed in a very interactive mood and made some recommendations which include:

- People's participation is very delicate issue in water-sector projects.
- Participation should be at all levels including need assessment, project designing, implementation, evaluation and monitoring.
- The steps which are taken are not sufficient, problems exist within the project and in social process.
- GO and NGO collaboration to be enhanced
- Ideal situation of PP does not exist; it needs further attention and sincerity. Participatory research is an important phase for ensuring people's participation.

Participation should be at all levels including need assessment, project designing, implementation,

evaluation

monitoring.

and

Md. Mohsin, ITN-Bangladesh, BUET

- NEMAP is treated as a model for PP. It needs a short presentation.
- Credit issues should be settled.
- Is there any project with prior need assessment?

Mr. Ahmad Salahuddin, EIP

• World Bank or other donors have never tried to take project in haor area but EIP started a project in the haor area starting with need assessment.

Mr. Khorshed Alam, UST

• 1952 Act had some limitation but this had been distorted by the amendment recently by H.M. Ershed. This is to be repelled.

Group - A. Member Naima islam - Sociologist, Action Research Institute Mizanur Bahman - Nilera Kori Nasir Uddin Ahmed-GUP Ayub Ali - Proenika Md. Zekaria - GOUF Khorshad Alam - UST Mil. Liveitat Ali - BNEE Annelssmal filling the grown 8 Sharidul Hug Shahin - EFF Mehammad Moham - FTN. Bar A.B. W. Shahishan - BWDB

Group - B

- People's participation or opinion should be taken to ensure the direct participation of the people in water project.
- Since, water modelling, so far formulated from the central stage, has not approached the people, people's real participation could not be ensured.
- Projects formulated by the people should be implemented but actually in our country the projects are implemented on the basis of FAP.
- To ensure real people's participation and the success of the project, we should mix with people sincerely at first and then prioritize their problems and needs. Then considering their ability we should advance to implement projects for solving their problems.
- The picture of the water sector at present may be changed in future. So the water planning should be for a phased period of time and reformulated after each phase.
- People's participation should be process oriented, not project oriented.
- Who are the people? Those who will be benefitted or affected from the project are considered as people.
- According to LGED approach, projects should be implemented with the help of affected and benefited people as well as the political leaders.
- Before starting a project, the people of the project area or the members of the maintenance committee are not given a complete idea about the objectives and methodology of the project. As a result they do not know their responsibilities and activities.
- At first we have to decide how will we prepare participation criteria: through project basis or need basis?
- In shrimp cultivation areas, the large shrimp farm owners are subjugating
 the marginal farmers in various ways. For instance, they dig the channels
 over the lands of marginal farmers, though, they are getting more water
 depriving the latter by taking the canal mouth directly to their own lands.
- No attempt on people's participation can be fulfilled without sharing information data between interministerial agencies, GO-NGO and experts involved in this sector.
- The criteria of people's participation has to be chosen considering the advantages and not from the decisions or choice of the donor agencies and government.
- On the basis of national and regional views, people's participation process will be different.
- Depending on hydrological variability and socio-economic condition, ways of people's participation should be determined.

To ensure real people's participation and the success of the project, we should mix with people sincerely at first and then prioritize their problems and needs.

People's participation should be process oriented, not project oriented.

• Donor based participation and need based participation are quite different in respect to their criteria. At first the type of participation of the government must be known.

Institutional Framework through which people's real participation could be ensured should be developed.

- People's participation framework must be developed in every stages like planning, evaluation, implementation and project operation.
- people's real participation could be All projects in water sector have been taken by the government. People's participation varies for different level, different circumstances and different classes of the people.
 - should be Since people's participation could not be ensured, all FCDI project have failed or not been successful completely.
 - All projects should be cost effective, beneficiary labour based and acceptable by the people.
 - All projects have been taken only considering agriculture but not the benefit and measures of the mass of people.
 - Process oriented (not project oriented) people's participation should be initiated.
 - Before taking projects financed by ADB and IFAD, two points are judged;
 - Feasibility study is done on the basis of environmental assessment.
 - Effects of the project on the lives of the people and any major difficulties collectively arise are considered seriously.
 - In projects executed by the LGED, people's participation is ensured as follows:
 - To have continuation of a project, a committee is formed with the local people.
 - Some income generating activities viz. plantation, fisheries etc. are initiated so that from the income of those activities, cost of maintenance could be collected.

No accurate definition of people's participation has yet been decided.

- Fishermen and farmers, all want to use water resources according to their needs. So projects should be initiated through which all concerned people would be benefitted and only then, people's participation would be ensured.
- Institutional Framework through which people's real participation could be ensured should be developed.
- If the projects could be maintained centrally considering needs based project prioritization, then those could be taken.
- No accurate definition of people's participation has yet been decided.
- Some of the people engaged in the government and non-government sector want to be benefitted from a project, as a result no correct plan is being taken or implemented.

- Such a water management model should be developed by which specially At the time of the lower level people can be benefitted, as they are the major portion of the population.

 At the time of planning for utilization of
- Water should be considered as a resource and the limit of accessibility of specific class of people should be discussed.
- At the time of planning for utilization of water resource, we have to take
 into account the conservation of suitable environment and rights of the
 people who are completely dependend on water to earn their livelihood.
- Water has always been regarded as the cause of flood or source of irrigation, but in the real sense water is a broad based resource.
- If initially we can make a proper management, then people will manage the resource spontaneously.
- NGO's have been giving the description of problems of water management planning only, but they are not trying to build up any methodology by which the problems can be solved and ensure people's participation.
- We have to have a National Water Plan and on the basis of that planning, projects should be taken according to the priority of the different parts of the country in different time.
- Participants should have total knowledge about the water issue. They should know about overall historical background not necessarily the technical knowledge only.
- Water sector should be used as integrated approach. Potentials from GO, NGO and users should be mobilized properly.
- Local government or authority or any involved organization must have the tools and technology to protect the resource and make it beneficial.
- There should be no distinction between GO and NGO but consideration should be made for the massive scale benefit.
- Donor agencies play politics with water resource of our country.
- Ordinance on people's participation declared by presidend Ershad must be stopped.
- Every water organization must be reformed based on the National Water Plan

utilization of water resource, we have to take into account theconservation of suitable environment and rights of the people who are completely dependent on water to earn their livelihood.



- GO-NGO joint collaboration should be ensured in making planning process, implementation and continuation of the project.
- A methodology has already been developed through which total and real people's participation can be ensured.
- There should be a national platform for the development in water sector to ensure the accountability and the accessibility of the concerned bodies.

always been regarded as the cause of flood or source of irrigation, but in the real sense water is a broad based

resource.

Water has

Mr. Hamidul Huq, UST

- Small projects can be done by the beneficiaries but for big projects, this is a burden for the beneficiaries. So, those should be excluded.
- Fisheries were not discussed during project planning

Mr. Fazlul Huq Ripon, Sakti Samannay

- People's Participation needs a historical evaluation of the process.
- There is distinction between donor's project and need based project.
- Socio-economic situation and power dynamics are to be considered while developing and implementing projects.
- Water has multidimensional use, so its planning should have integration with other sectors.
- Central planning to be restricted.
- The existing participatory planning process exercised to be reformulated and modified.
- Information dissemination and sharing is another vital issue for participatory planning in any projects.
- The embankment Act to be amended.
- Broaden GO and NGO cooperation involving people in process.
- Real participatry planning is not practical in government projects.
- A mandatory PRA/EIA/SIA/PIA for project formulation.
- NEMAP model to be followed.

Information dissemination and sharing is another vital issue for PP in any projects.

- Partial cost from beneficiaries for sustainability of the project.
- The government, people, donor should come to common consensus and close perception about project and activities.
- Women participation to be ensured.
- $\bullet \ \ Right to \, access \, information \, which \, is \, a \, pre-requisite \, for \, PP \, in \, any \, projects.$
- GO-NGO people's representative joint monitoring
- GO-NGO consultation committee at national and local levels.

Group - B Members

- 1. Md. Omar Faruk CDSP
- 2. Shorab Hossain K-JDRP
- 3. Hamidul Hug UST
- 4. Mian Akbar Hussain SCI
- 5. Md. Masum Sarower LGED
- 6. Shah Md. Fahim Ahsan LGED
- 7. Francis Atul Sarker CARITAS
- 8. Ferdous Parveen Dept. of Fisheries
- 9. Alamgir Chowdhbury EIP
- 10. Carol Eggen Northeast Project/CIDA
- 11. F.H. Ripon SSS, UK
- 12 Mozaharul Alam BCAS
- 13. Golam Mohiuddin BCAS

Group - C

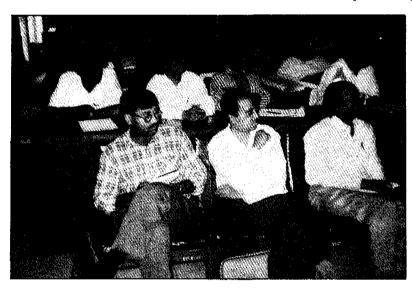
Mr. Salim Samad, LMEG

Most GO project do not have PP.

National •
Water Plan
could be
developed •
through
NEMAP

model.

- Some projects have initiated PP partially.
- If, attitude toward people are changed, PP could be ensured.
- developed PP could be ensured if PRA and RRA is done for project formulation.
 - National Water Plan could be developed through NEMAP model.
 - Ensure cost sharing and cost recovery.
 - Review and modify guideline for people's participation in water sector.
 - Donors, implementors and stakeholders should hold common concerns and consensus. Their roles and responsibility need to be identified.



- Women and vulnerable group should be involved.
- GO and NGO consultation group at different level
- Ensure holding effective meeting and participation of GO-NGO
- GO and people's representative collaboration for monitoring and review.
- Replication of lessons from pilot projects.

Dr. Saleemul Huq, BCAS

- Regarding NEMAP at the planning level, Government tried to have good people's participation
- Two instance, of need assessment before project can be cited: one was done by BCAS at Chanda and another by CNRS.
- In the past, we started from step two (i.e. after project identification), we should start from one step back that is from need assessment through consultation with people.

Ms. Ferdousi Hannan, Dhaka University

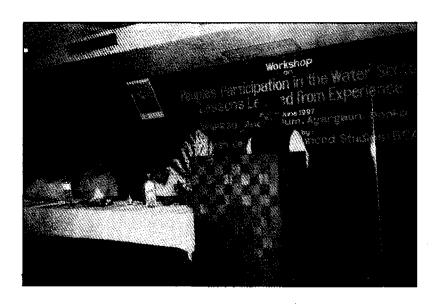
 In all pilot projects, GO and NGO collaboration should be ensured for planning,implementation and evaluation activities.

Two instances of need assessment before project can be cited: one was done by BCAS at Chanda and another by CNRS.

- People's participation concept has diverse meanings.
- People's participation is a process.
- There is hardly any people's participation at planning level, it is only in implementation.
- There are different forms of people's participation, these should be made appropriate for respec-tive project activities.
- Project should be acceptable to the people both at micro and macroplanning.
- Each ways of needs specific ways of people's participation.
- Central planning process to be reformulated.
- National Water Resource Management plan should be need based.
- Technical knowledge to be complemented with local knowledge and sociological aspects.
- Local government body to be strengthened and re-institutionalized.
- Information sharing should be done.
- Integrated process water planning should be integrated with agriculture, environment, human resources.
- National level and local level project. On the basis of local needs, national planning to be developed.

Mr. Mosharraf Hossain, CIDA

- People may have different interest: some are land owner, some are executing agencies.
- It needs local action and reaction.



Technical knowledge to be complemented with local knowledge and sociological aspects.

Group - C Members

- 1. Saleem Samad LMEAG
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- 15. Nasima Akhter ADAB
- 16. Syed Shah Tariquzzaman DLS
- 17. G.M.M.E. Karim WNCS
- 18. Ms. Ferdusi Hannan Dhaka University
- 19. Dr. Saleemul Hug Executive Director, BCAS

Concluding Session

Dr. Saleemul Huq, BCAS

Thanked all the group discussants and appreciated the ideas which came up through program.

- We expect, all the participants will maintain cooperation and if possible another workshop can be arranged for sharing experience of exercise already being done in project planning.
- The idea of the workshop was to elicit from practitioners how to involve people in project planning. We have received good responses from both GO and NOGs. We have addressed three questions.
 - Is there people's participation in water sector?
 - If not, what could be done in this regard?
 - How to enhance Government and NGO collaboration.
- We have learned that there is no proper people's participation in the water sector. The participants have developed ideas about the strategies for involving people in projects at each level.

 GO and peoples collaborated in projects at each level.
- I am happy to get the synthesis reports of each group. They have recommended to continue consultation between GO and NGOs and turn it into GO and peoples collaboration.
- Larger projects have bigger problems "Who are the people?" should be defined properly.
- The participants are a mixture of NGO, GO, donors and academics.
- One of the recommendation is to review the documents and guideline of people's participation in the water sector.
- The other recommendation was that NEMAP experience could be used in National Water Planning.
- All stakeholders and grassroot people need to be involved in future plannings.
- The output will be very useful for planning and preparing project activities.

Mr. M. H. Siddiqi, WARPO

- Inadequate maintenance, so majority benefits goes away.
- People should take over the project.
- There is no ownership of the projects at present.

They have recommended to continue consultation between GO and NGOs and peoples collaboration.

Involve people from the beginning to the end.

- Involve people Involve people from the beginning to the end.
 - How to involve them, there is no simple formula. It depends on social situation and it should be need based.
 - Institutionalization could ensure sustainability.
 - For example: Micro planning and National Planning.
 This is one of the option for involving people in projects. There might be other options and ways.
 - At national level planning, we had the plan of 1965 then it was reformulated in 1985. We have also FAP which have identified a number of regional projects.
 - National Water Management Plan is now in a clean slate. Formulate methodology to ensure people's participation from the beginning.
 - Agriculture is the government's priority in all water plan. Fisheries and environment are also getting importance.
 - We need a water policy, the world is going to have shortages of sweet water.

Mr. Siddiqui thanked Dr.S. Huq for organizing the workshop for eliciting opinion of the professionals and experts. This will give valuable inputs in formulating next-water management plan.

Not only the issues of people's participation but the access of people to resources have to be considered while developing a National Water Management Plan.

Mr. Jan Weijenberg, World Bank

Bangladesh, as a lower riparian country should integrate resources and production systems from mountain to the Bay of Bengal where not only the issues of people's participation but the access of people to resources have to be considered while developing a national water management plan. National Water Management Plan should be an integrated management plan. Preparing a National Water Plan should be continuous process and WARPO should continue its efforts to involve experts as well as peoples views. There is a management process within the society, which is to be better coordinated, and it should be based on local, national and regional needs. There are a number of projects at local and national levels which are to be evaluated and attempts should be made to redistribute benefits to the people of all stages. The efforts should be how people could be better involved to manage their resources and organize their livelihood and well being. He thanked BCAS and other concerned for organizing the workshop.

Dr. A.T.M. Shamsul Huda, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources
I am glad to see that the seminar is successful and it will give valuable input,
but this workshop will not resolve all the issues and problems ensuring
people's participation in water sector. I am not sure, whether you did discuss
People's participation in the context of emerging world market economy
which needs to be considered.

All people who get benefits should be involved directly or indirectly. In USA, All people who usually private companies are formed to raise funds from beneficiaries to get benefits develop and run projects. In our country, we are also moving to that end. Government can not bear the cost of projects, so, cost sharing with the involved beneficiaries will be introduced.

should be directly or indirectly.

Problems exist in social and political system which encourage mismanagement of resources and government property. The Govt. spends money on education, sanitation and can not provide any more free water. Government investment will be replaced by the market in near future.

The beneficiaries should have some motivation and it will incur some cost because some liability is to be borne by everybody. For the National Water Plan we have to go to the professional groups to do some preliminary tasks and develop appropriate methodology for National Water Management Plan. The ministry is very much interested in participatory planning. We would like to involve NGOs and people in formulating and implementing National Water Management Plan in the country.

Government investment will be replaced by the market in near future.

Recommendations

Group - A

Peoples participation in real sense is not practiced in water sector projects

- In most cases people are involved during operation and maintenance phases of the project and shoulder all the defects of feasibility, design and implementation faults. They are simply asked to play a role in operation and maintenance.
- People are not consulted adequately during project identification, prefeasibility, feasibility, planning and design phases.
- Mere applications from M.Ps.U.P Chairmen or a group of people are seldom termed as a matrix of peoples participation which is unfortunate, These representations in a way misrepresent peoples verdict.
- any stage of Participation of all the effected classes of peoples are not ensured in project present peoples participation concept.
 - Development of peoples institution is not getting adequate attention by the project implementing agency, Measures for sustainability of the peoples organizations are not been taken care of by executing agency.
 - Adequate institutional frame work and legal entity for conflict resolution are not taken care by the executing agency.

Means to ensure genuine peoples participation.

 Beneficiaries are to be involved from identification through pre-feasibility, feasibility, design, implementation and O&M stages.

- Ideas of implementing agency are not to be imposed over beneficiaries rather the ideas be given as options to choose or reject by describing the pros & cons to the people.
- Adequate project facility has to be created so that peoples institutions become sustainable,
- Sufficient facility for training, motivation and mobilization of peoples representatives be made.

For monitoring, evaluation etc independent organizations/ individuals (those are not involved in project implementation) such as universities/ research organization/ capable NGO's should be

involved.

- In Bangladesh, where literacy rate is low, expert services will always be needed to motivate, develop, train and establish peoples organization. Project

 Since these need very close linkage between the experts and target groups, these works be vested to the NGO's. Adequate fund for this purpose be provided to the NGO in the project proposal.

 At local level,

 Project

 Councils be formed by taking
- For monitoring, evaluation etc, independent organizations/individuals (those who are not involved in any stage of project implementation) such as universities/research organization/capable NGO's should be involved.
 - Review existing GO-NGO collaboration in various water sector projects and further promote the existing GO-NGO collaboration
 - Participatory research must be promoted before participatory planning.
 - GO-NGO collaboration will take place in the light of participatory planning.



Project Councils be formed by taking representatives from GO,NGO, peoples representatives, related organizations. journalists, intellectuals which will be highest authority for operational policy.

Strengthening of GO and NGO collaboration.

• At local level Project Councils should be formed by taking representatives from GO,NGO, peoples representatives, related organizations, journalists, intellectuals who will be highest authority for operational policy.

Group - B

Real People's Participation in Water Sector Activities.

There is hardly any people's participation in the project identification process.

- The concept of people's participation has got manifold implications.
- hardly any The term "Real" is not necessary. Define and perceive it as a process by developing and incorporating various aspects.
 - The nature, dimension and characteristics of people's participation varies from project to project, from region to region. The form, extent and perspective of people's participation's depend on how one perceive water.
 - Water is a resource and this is one of the unique sectors.
 - There is hardly any people's participation in the project identification process.
 - There are distinctive differences between donor driven participation and need-based participation.
 - The forms, procedure and tools for launching a process participation should be defined for all stages of the project life cycle.



- Most of the projects and initiatives in the water sector have been implemented and coordinated by government. Taking into account the characteristics of the project, socio-economics and power dynamics, the process of people's participation will have to be defined.
- There are many forms of people's participation as well as strategies for people's participation.
 There are micro-level

FCDI projects, where participation have been extensive and there are phenomenon which need to be perceived and analysed in order to look into the various alternatives of people's participation.

- After 1988, while FAP crept onto agenda, the concept of peoples participation came into fore front. All projects should be acceptable to the people.
- Water has a multisectoral meaning in life. That is why integrated, comprehensive planning is required.

The institutional framework through which people's participation can be ensured, should be strengthened.

- There are powerful groups who are having control or access over water resources. There should be an attempt to devise projects that would largely benefit all cross sections of people.

 If we can draw up a national water resource
- The institutional framework through which people's participation can be ensured, should be strengthened.
- In many small scale projects and some components under FAP, the people's participation, in some form and extent have been practiced.
- To involve people, at micro level, at the level of project identification, each project has its own process of negotiation and formulation.

 participation process will be
- The central planning and management for need assessment and development issues for the project to be adopted.
- If we can draw up a national water resource management plan through participatory manner, the existing participation process will be improved, refined and strengthened.
- Grassroot institutional framework will have to be developed.
- The combination of technical and sociological knowledge with recognition to people's knowledge is required.
- Information dissemination and sharing process should be improved and strengthened.

The process to ensure genuine people's participation

- Strengthening of local govt. and a cell to support these local govt. is essential.

 essential.
- Awareness raising for importance of people's participation should be initiated.
- There should be an integrated process for water sector planning.
- The Embankment Act 1952 should be reviewed.
- Reform and strengthening of water related organisation.

GO-NGO collaboration

- A national platform comprising organisations concerned, can be comprising established.
- A methodology has to be developed to ensure people's participation in planning like participatory strategic project planning.
- Not only GO-NGO, it should broaden cooperation accommodating stakeholders.

If we can draw up a national water resource management plan through participatory manner, the existing participation process will be improved, refined and strengthened.

Strengthening of local govt. and a cell to support these local govt. is essential.

A national platform, comprising organisations concerned, can be established.

Group - C

Real Peoples participation

Some project are partially participatory.

- Real peoples participation is not practiced in most govt. projects.
- Some projects are partially participatory.
- At grassroots, people's needs to be analysed for real participation by all disciplines namely agriculturists, fishermen, transport workers, business community etc.

Ensure Genuine People's Participation

- Mandatory RRA/PLE/PRA/IEE/EIA for project formulation.
- Institution building & strengthening at all levels.
- National water resources management plan can be developed similar to NEMAP Model.

National water resources management plan can be developed like NEMAP Model.

- Ensure cost sharing for O & M and act of cost recovery from beneficiaries for sustainability of the project.
- Review & modify existing guideline of peoples participation for water sector.
- Donor/Implementator/stakeholder should have consensus for peoples participation in water sector.
- Ensure transparency and accountability at all levels: project formulation, implementation and O & M.
- Roles & responsibilities of project beneficiaries, stakeholders & implementor should be well defined.
- Ensure women's participation at all levels.
- Right to information is pre-requisite for real peoples participation.

GO-NGO collaboration

Ensure women's participation at all levels.

- GO-NGO consultation group at national, project and grassroot level.
- Ensure regular holding of effective meetings.
- Participation of GO-NGO in need assessment, consultation, formulation, implementation and O & M in a pilot project.
- Ensure joint monitor & review of NGO-GO- people's representatives.
- Replication of lessons learned from pilot projects in future.

List of Workshop Participants

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