

National seminar on  
**Rural Drinking Water Supply &  
Sustainable Development Goals**



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
17 GOALS TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD



30 – 31 March 2017  
Hyderabad



**National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)**  
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad – 500 030  
[www.nird.org.in](http://www.nird.org.in)

National seminar on  
**Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sustainable Development Goals**  
(30 – 31 March 2017)

## **Background**

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS) is playing a major role in allocating funds to the provinces for managing rural water supply. However, managing rural water supply in India is a State subject. Ensuring clean water and sanitation for all is one of the 17 SDGs. For this to become a reality, a fundamental requirement is enhancing the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management. The 73<sup>rd</sup> Constitutional Amendment Act prescribed that the powers and responsibilities of rural water supply be delegated to the lowest appropriate body that is close to the rural community. Since then, the State governments are looking up to the Gram Panchayats to operate, manage and maintain rural drinking water supply.

The MDWS has come out with patterns of funds, functions and functionaries that can ensure devolution of powers to take place at the Gram Panchayat level. When it comes to devolution in actual practice - in rural drinking water sector - the progress being reported by States provide a divergent picture. An acceptable set of indicators that make up measuring devolution through an index include: funds, functions and functionaries. Going by the Management Devolution Index provided by the National Rural Drinking Water Policy – 2013 analyzing what progress States have made shall add immensely to the approaches and strategies of development practice in the task of managing rural water supply in India. With this purpose in focus, this seminar invites practitioners, researchers, and academics to participate and contribute.

## **Objectives**

1. Identify the nature and extent of devolution that has taken place in rural water supply sector in various States of India, going by the Management Devolution Index (MDI)
2. Recognize the steps taken by States that are reportedly making noteworthy progress in terms of devolving power and delegating responsibilities to the Gram Panchayats
3. Draw lessons to devise strategies that can step-up devolution process in rural drinking water supply sector to take place at a faster pace so that the vision of NRDWP is realized

## **Themes**

- Rural Drinking Water Supply under Sustainable Development Goals
- Community Participation in rural water supply
- Drinking Water: Availability and Accessibility
- Convergence Approach for drinking water sustainability
- Operation and Maintenance of rural water supply
- Water quality surveillance and monitoring
- Devolution in rural drinking water supply sector
- Availability and Transfer of funds to Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)
- Local Institutions Management: Village Water and Sanitation Committee, User Groups
- Public Private Partnership and net working
- Local capacity – managerial and technical – to manage water supply
- State level policy initiatives / G.Os in favour of devolution in rural water supply
- Devolution Index for managing rural water supply at the grassroots level
- Rainwater harvesting for drinking water
- Effectiveness of NRDWP
- Health aspects of rural drinking water supply
- Best practices in rural drinking water supply

## **Who can participate?**

State Water and Sanitation Mission (SWSM), State Water and Sanitation Organisations (SWSO) Public Health Engineering Departments/Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Departments/Boards, Key Resource Centres (KRCs), Academic and Research institutions, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), NGOs, INGOs, Researchers working on drinking water and sanitation related issues; Private Operators in rural drinking water supply.

## **Paper Presentation**

Those who wish to make paper presentation are welcome to send a one-pager (abstract in single space – use Times New Roman 12 font size), and PowerPoint slides, if it can be sent along with the one-pager (not exceeding 20 – 25 slides). The full paper can be submitted in person while at

the seminar. Selected posters can be made as standees, if sent beforehand. The size shall be 3 x 5 feet. NIRD shall publish selected papers in the form of book, or in (JRD) Journal of Rural Development, and the authors shall receive copies.

### **Venue**

National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR), Rajendranagar, Hyderabad – 500 030

### **Registration and Logistics**

Those papers that are selected either for presentation or as a poster shall pay no registration fees, and the authors shall get free board and lodging at the NIRD&PR, Hyderabad. Others who wish to participate are welcome too. NIRD&PR shall not make any reimbursement of travel expenses incurred by participants.

### **Important Dates**

Last date for receiving abstracts / posters: 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2017

Last date for receiving nominations: 28<sup>th</sup> March 2017

Seminar Dates: 30 – 31 March 2017

### **Seminar Coordination Team**

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