

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



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



1 – 2 June 2017
Hyderabad



National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad – 500 030
www.nird.org.in

National seminar on
Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sustainable Development Goals
(1 – 2, June 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 73rd 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
- Access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation
- 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
- Effectiveness of NRDWP
- Water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensuring sustainable withdrawals
- Health aspects of rural drinking water supply
- Best practices in rural drinking water supply
- Water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies

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). The full paper (even in draft form) can be sent by 1st May 2017. You shall receive a reply (of reviewer’s comments) within one week’s time from the date of your sending the full paper. Ideas that seem workable are to be collated for discussion during a workshop that will be planned subsequently. NIRD shall publish selected papers in the form of a book also. The authors shall receive copies. Alternatively, if the quality of writing can convince the editor of the (JRD) Journal of Rural Development, it can appear in JRD as well. Those who wish to put up standees of posters (3 x 6 feet) may let us know beforehand so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

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: 1st May 2017

Last date for receiving full papers: 22nd May 2017

Last date for receiving nominations: 29th May 2017

Seminar Dates: 1 – 2 June 2017

Seminar Coordination Team (You can contact any of us)

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