

PROGRAMME SPECIFIC MONITORING

5.1 Mahatma Gandhi NREGA

- Transaction based MIS
- Monitoring by Central Employment Guarantee Council

5.2 Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)

The Ministry has also launched a web-based local language enabled MIS programme to capture beneficiary-wise data to monitor the scheme. **AWAASSoft** is a local language enabled workflow based transaction level Management Information System to facilitate e-governance in the System. **AWAASSoft** starts with setting of targets by Ministry of Rural Development for a financial year and provides for tracking release of funds to each beneficiary along with status of house construction. The objective of AWAASSoft are work flow automation, transparency in the system, information exchange among stakeholders and empowering people. The MIS will be accessible not only to all the stake holders including beneficiaries but also citizens at large.

5.3 Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP)

- Periodical monitoring:** The Department monitors the progress of works under Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) through the instruments of quarterly progress reports, utilization certificates, Audited Statement of Accounts, etc. Any further installment in a project is released only when the unspent balance is less than 50% of last installment released and satisfactory physical progress. These projects are also monitored through the quarterly progress reports furnished by the States in the online Management Information System (MIS) operational on the departmental website www.dolr.nic.in. For Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) projects, a Management Information System has been developed.
- Mid-term evaluation:** All the ongoing DDP, DPAP and IWDP projects in which 45% of project cost has been released by DoLR are required to be evaluated by

an independent evaluator before release of further central assistance. Thus Mid-Term Evaluation Report (MTER) and Action Taken Report on the findings of the MTER are mandatory for release of next installment of central assistance.

- (iii) Review meetings with State Government officers are held to review the performance of various programmes being implemented by the States.
 - (iv) The Vigilance & Monitoring Committees of Ministry of Rural Development, comprising of Members of Parliament, elected representatives of the people in State Legislatures and Panchayati Raj Institutions monitor the quality of Rural Development programmes including watershed programmes.
- (a) & (c): The Department has also undertaken following evaluation and impact assessment studies of watershed development projects:

(i) **International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), 2008:** A study titled “Comprehensive Assessment of Watersheds programmes in India” was assigned to ICRISAT, Hyderabad to assess the impact of various watershed development programmes in India. This study evaluated the impact of watershed programmes with the help of 636 micro-level studies including 311 studies included in the previous study to get more authentic and realistic results. The study *inter-alia* reported that:

- Soil loss of 1.1.tonne/ha/year was prevented due to interventions of the watershed programme.
- Additional water storage capacity of about 38 hectare –meter was created in a 500 ha watershed as a result of watershed programme.
- There was an increase of 52% in area under irrigation, while the cropping intensity increased by 35.5%.
- Benefits of the watershed programmes were more in the low-income regions as compared to high-income regions and also the benefits were more pronounced in the rainfall regions ranging between 700 mm and 1000 mm with the available technologies.

- Most of the watershed programmes were not sensitive to the needs of small & marginal farmers, women & landless labourers and they were left out of watershed related decision making process.
 - There was lack of appropriate institutional arrangement to attain potential benefits of watershed programmes.
 - People's participation is the key determinant in the success of the watershed programmes. The benefit cost ratio was greater in watersheds where people's participation was higher.
 - The macro-watershed (area more than 1000 ha) performs better than micro-watershed area below 500 ha.
- (ii) **The Energy & Resources Institute (TERI), 2004:** TERI prepared a compendium in 2004 which summarises the major impacts due to the intervention caused by watershed projects in 230 districts of 16 States by independent institutions and bodies. Some of the estimated yields and economic implications as derived from the Impact Assessment Studies of watershed projects compiled by TERI are:
- Overall improvement in land use
 - Increase in the net sown area, gross cropped area and area sown more than once
 - Increase in the number of irrigation options in all the areas of watershed projects
 - Increase in Fuel wood and fodder availability
 - Changes in their cropping pattern from one to two crops annually
 - Availability of irrigation water in the dry season
 - An increase in agriculture-related employment opportunities among beneficiaries and in other sectors for non-beneficiaries
 - Marked preference for improved breeds after the project
 - Emergence of fishery potential following the development of tanks and other water bodies

5.4 Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)

The Government of India administers the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC), a comprehensive programme started in the year 1999 to ensure sanitation facilities in rural areas with the main goal of eradicating the practice of open defecation and ensuring clean environment. Total Sanitation Campaign is a demand driven, project based programme. The programme has strong monitoring mechanism using the following provisions:

- The physical and financial progress reports are being submitted by project districts through an on line monitoring system, which is accessible through internet.
- Regular review meeting of state secretaries are organized.
- In addition, a panel of National Monitors has also been made which includes experts working the water & Sanitation sector in Government of India, State Governments, External Support Agencies, Non Governmental Organisations, Training Institutions etc. They go to the states to review the quality of Implementation.
- The Ministry of Rural Development has developed a comprehensive system of monitoring the implementation and impact of the Programmes including utilization of funds, through Periodical Progress Reports, Performance Review Committee meetings, Area Officer's Scheme, National Level Monitors, District Level Monitoring and Vigilance and Monitoring Committees at the State/District Level. Besides, the States have been advised to adopt a five-pronged strategy consisting of (i) creation of awareness about the schemes, (ii) transparency, (iii) People's participation, (iv) accountability/social audit and (v) strict vigilance and monitoring at all levels. These measures are to help in maximum utilization of funds under the rural development schemes.

Evaluations/ Studies: Mid Term Review of TSC was conducted by Agriculture Finance Corporation in 2004. It was felt that there was a need to revise the unit cost and some other parameters of the programme. It also mentioned that there was need to improve IEC activities including mass media campaign. It was felt that there was need to encourage those involved in the programme at the grass root level and efforts should be made to increase their capacity to deliver. Based upon the recommendations, the incentive for Individual Household Latrine (IHHL) for Below Poverty Line (BPL) households was revised upwards in the year 2008. A new component of Solid & Liquid Waste Management was introduced as part of TSC and a concept of revolving fund was introduced to encourage families above poverty line (APL) also to create sanitation facilities for themselves.