Water Security & Climate Adaptation Project- Tamil Nadu

(A bilateral project of MoRD, MoJS, BMZ Implemented by GIZ -India)

5th District Level Steering Committee Meeting, Ramanathapuram

Date 08-06-2021 Time: 11.00 AM to 01.00 PM

The 5th District Level Steering Committee (DLSC) meeting of Ramanathapuram district was conducted on 8th June 2021 at Ramanathapuram under the chairmanship of District Collector and Additional Collector (Dev), Ramanathapuram, Convener of WASCA, Ramanathapuram. The meeting started with a brief introduction of WASCA and works carried out in Ramanathapuram by Mr. V.R. Sowmithri, GIZ with a welcome address by Mr. A.Sundaresan, Executive Engineer, DRDA, Ramanathapuram.

The progress made under different components of WASCA was shared by the partners. The Additional collector (Dev.) presented the model Climate Resilient Measures (CRM) planned and carried out in Ramanathapuram:

(i) The completed CRM works are: a) Mini forest plantation, Horticulture park, Avenue plantation, District nursery, Catch the Rain campaign, community Tanka (Community) for drinking water, Nutri-gardens in schools and Village level nursery.

(ii) The planned and upcoming CRM works are: Under the Public and common land development through plantation focusing on themes such as oxygen park, traditional games, horticulture fruit trees like fig and cashew, native tree species apart from works in individual farmers field like agro -forestry, drip irrigation, farm ponds etc and Tanka under rural infrastructure to meet drinking water needs.

The WASCA team member, Dr. Selvamukilan presented about the GP level proposed NRM and Non- NRM works, progress achieved in the status of GP wise KML verification, Block wise summary of works in NRM and Non- NRM categories, works identified under Catch the Rain, DPR prepared for the Cascade of Tanks, planned areas of convergence with line departments and the meetings and trainings conducted to build the capacity of the district team. Mr. Nagaraj, WASCA shared and explained about the web portal and availability of the GP/block level CWRM data as well as resources of WASCA and gallery to all the district officials for planning.

Dr. A.Balasubramanian Technical advisor for Agro forestry and Silvi pasture development appreciated the work undertaken by the district and presented the various agro forestry models suitable to different agro-ecosystems with a focus on revenue generation as well as bund plantation in farm ponds to reduce evaporation losses. Also, he highlighted the scope for reviving the tropical ever-green forest on the coastal part of the district with suitable native trees.

Dr. Manivannan, Technical advisor for Soil and Water Conservation of WASCA project gave suggestions for farm ponds, farm pond bund plantation, and tanks bund plantation on how to reduce the evaporation and seepage losses.

V.R. Sowmithri, Technical Expert, WASCA TN explained the need to take up works in convergence mode on Catch the Rain and the WASCA resource centers may be integrated as JAS (Jal Shakti Abiyan Kendras) centres for providing GIS and technical information on recharge works. Also explained the need to take up works in project mode, than individual works.

R. Nagarajan, MSSRF explained the WASCA TN cloud portal (link: About WASCA – TN | CWRM - About WASCA – TN | CWRM). The portal provides all spatial, non-spatial data collected, analyzed for 429 GPs across the state, along with studies, photo gallery, Climate Resilient measures. The portal is currently having two blocks' data. After verification of works, all the data will be placed in the portal and can be useful for all functionaries of MGNREGS and line departments for planning any activity in the district on NRM, fallow lands, tanks restoration, watersheds, drainage line treatment, water budget etc.

The following key points were discussed in the meeting:

a) Appropriate technology for conserving the water harvested in the Farm pond after rainy season to reduce seepage as well as evaporation by planting suitable trees in the bunds
b) Convergence with NABARD for coastal watershed works.
c) Shelter belt plantation in coastal areas.
d) Preparation of Catch the Rain works where in minimum 20 works are given in every GP under catch the rain. Evolving a time line to complete the same before northeast monsoon.
e) Discussed about the introduction of biofences – best suitable tree which has economic value is gum Arabic tree
f) Convergence of departments for Forests, Farm ponds, cascade of tanks and catch the rain.

The district collector interacted with the line department officials of Agriculture, Horticulture, Agriculture Engineering, Animal Husbandry, etc to work in partnership and complement each other in improving the water resources management and ensuring livelihoods of the farmers.

Following are the key points discussed and approved for further action.

Minutes of the meeting

1) Uploading of all the GIS plan in the MoRD website as KML file needs to be completed by 10 June 2021 for all 429 GPs adopting the MoRD guidelines

2) In continuation of this, the entry of works in D-29 format for all NRM and non-NRM works has to be accomplished by 15th July 2021.

3) Undertaking Catch the Rain works across the district in convergence mode with close monitoring by all line departments, regular reporting of works with gis locations, photographs of actions. WASCA resource centre to facilitate the process in the district.

3) The state RD&PR is requested to increase the proportion of allocation under material category to 40% from MGNREGS corresponding to the person days and labour component so that works under WASCA can be undertaken with saturation mode, as many works need skilled labour along with unskilled work. Hence, the state government may consider the appeal from district for more material component. Some works the are material intensive removal of encroachments to link tanks through Cascade of Tanks, community *Tanka for drinking water (rain water harvesting)* in sea water intrusion and salinity areas, Rejuvenation of Kottakariyar river rejuvenation works and salinity reduction works, Farm Pond Contruction (Depth of up to 2 mts, 1000 farm ponds are being planned), with lining and boundary planation, horticulture for in saturation for individual farmers (fallow land development) with income generation (Cashew plantation), mega nurseries, community and block plantations (Shelter belt, Avenue) are few such examples.

4) A model Climate Resilient Measures for shelter belt plantation covering 270 Kms of the coast, suitable farm ponds technology and agro-forestry models for different agro-ecosystems in the district will be developed with the scientific inputs of WASCA experts

5) To ensure the completion of the key tasks a sub group will be formed under the guidance of Executive Engineer for GIS plan uploading and D-29 works entry, Cascade of Tanks with the partnership of Water Resources Organization, Shelterbelt plantation with the support of Forest Dept and Catch the Rain works in collaboration with Agriculture and Agriculture Engineering Depts.

6) Take up all works in mission mode next 100 days to complete all works identified under WASCA for the FY 2021-22.

7) To guide the completion of the planned works for the officers, a simple weekly reporting card will be developed to review the block wise progress and extend the necessary support in completing the works.

The meeting concluded with the remarks and approval of the points discussed for action by the Chair person, Mr. Dinesh Ponraj Oliver I.A.S District Collector of Ramanathapuram.

The Additional Collector (Dev.)
District Rural Development Agency
Ramanathapuram

Annexures

1. Agenda of the 5th DLSC meeting
2. Key points planned for discussion
3. List of Composite Water Resource Management (CWRM) WASCA - NRM Works (Consolidated)
4. List of Works under Catch the Rain (as per CWRM GP Planning)
5. CRM List of activities so far identified
6. DO letter of Catch The Rain from State RD&PR, Chennai
7. Compendium of Activities WASCA TN web link

Annexure 1.

DISTRICT RURAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (DRDA)
Ramanathapuram -Tamil Nadu

5th District Level Steering Committee Meeting
Water Security and Climate Adaptation (WASCA)
(a bilateral project of State RD&PR, MoRD, MoJS, GIZ)

Date 08-06-2021 Time: 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM
Venue: Collector Chamber Meeting Hall
Online Link: BharatVC | Join From Browser

Agenda of the Meeting

Welcome Address	**Thiru A. Sundaresan** **Executive Engineer** DRDA, Ramanathapuram
WASCA - Climate Resilient models Progress and future plan	**Thiru. M. Pradeepkumar I.A.S** Additional Collector (Development) & Convenor (WASCA-RMD), Ramanathapuram
Progress and draft action plan (Two-month plan)	**Dr B.Selvamukilan** District Coordinator WASCA Ramanathapuram **MSSRF,** (WASCA TN - Technical Support Agency)
Inputs and Suggestions from members	**Er Kavitha,** SE(MGNREGS), RDPR, Chennai **Heads of all line departments** – Agriculture, Horticulture, Agriculture Engineering, Forestry, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Water Resources Organization, TWAD Board, CSRC and KVK, TNAU and NABARD. **Dr.A.Balasubramanian,** Professor, Forestry College and Research Institute, Mettupalayam **Dr.K.Palanisamy,** Emeritus Professor, International Water Management Institute, New Delhi **Dr.Kasturi Tilagam, senior** Scientist, ICAR- Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Ooty **Prof. Chandran**, Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai **Mr.V.R. Sowmithiri,** Technical Expert, GIZ, WASCA TN
Remarks and approval of project progress	**Thiru. Dinesh Ponraj Oliver I.A.S.,** District Collector and Chairperson (WASCA-Ramanathapuram) Ramanathapuram
Vote of Thanks	**Assistant Project Officer** (MGNREGS) DRDA, Ramanathapuram

Annexure 2.

Key Points for Discussion in 5th DLSC meeting

1. Completion of uploading GIS plans of 429 GPs into NREGA Soft – MoRD (GIS layers – KML and D-29 data entry)
2. Commencement of WASCA works, with all approvals (AS / TS) at the earliest
3. Implementing Catch the Rain Works in all the GPs in convergence
4. WASCA resource centre acting as JSA centre for Catch the Rain in the district
5. Finalizing convergence for implementing Climate Resilient Measure works (line department and NABARD
6. Documentation
7. Setting Target till next DLSC meeting.

Annexure3.

List of Composite Water Resource Management (CWRM) WASCA NRM Works (Consolidated)

Block wise summary of works under three themes					
No.	Block	Number of works identified			
		Improvement of Public and common lands development	Agricultural and allied Sector development	Rural water Management	Total no of works in the block
1	Bogalur	23602	3521	1617	28740
2	Kadaladi	75855	17035	5035	97925
3	Kamudi	50778	27417	4152	82347
4	Mandapam	11955	10967	12347	35270
5	Mudukulathur	46766	9629	3294	59689
6	Nairnarkoil	15450	6989	1819	24259
7	Paramakudi	30791	8495	3086	42372
8	R.S.Mangalam	44242	9159	2331	55732
9	Ramanathapuram	55525	6836	2320	64681
10	Tiruppullani	44539	9475	4403	58416
11	Tiruvadanai	89087	12443	**3336**	104867
	Total	**4,88,591**	**1,21,966**	**43,740**	**6,54,297**

Annexure 4.
List of Works under Catch the Rain (as per CWRM GP Planning)

S.NO	Name of the work	Unit of Measurement	Name of the Block											District Total
			Bogalur	Kadaladi	Kamuthi	Mandapam	Mudukuathur	Nainarkoil	Paramakudi	Ramanathapuram	RS Mangalam	Thirupullani	Thiruvadanai	
1	Traditional Water Bodies Renovation - Union Tanks	Number	25	84	56	5	68	28	46	21	81	25	99	**538**
2	Traditional Water Bodies Renovation - Ooranis	Number	78	144	158	148	142	113	108	93	158	144	332	**1618**
3	De silting and Deepening Field Channels (metres)	Meters	43258	77527	71255	6600	108292	14742	40200	61096	65265	35800	140273	**664308**
4	Recharge Shaft (Individual Borewell Farmers)	Number	94	292	415	87	312	244	139	234	247	206	218	**2488**
5	Check Dams	Number	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**0**
6	Block Community Plantation	Ha	577	2955	508	1183	805	926	1232	3702	539	2530	375	**15332**
7	Avenue Plantation	Meters	49754	106881	102092	56394	85883	50379	63022	32504	59681	48819	63457	**718866**
8	Mangrove Plantation	Ha	0	202	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	22	**246**
9	Nursery Development	HH's	5682	18190	14708	44690	12024	6326	10931	8242	8221	15807	11763	**156584**
10	Farm Trench Cum bund, Bund plantation	Number	124	770	1329	344	368	395	270	232	481	421	552	**5286**
11	Farm Ponds	Number	91	623	1195	276	290	269	187	145	329	238	403	**4046**
12	Fallow Land Development	Ha	2183	5019	7964	1720	2292	2383	4280	1028	4042	761	2636	**34308**
13	Horticulture / Agro Forestry in Individual lands	Ha	154	992	1661	430	462	494	338	290	600	527	691	**6639**
14	Roof Water Storage - Recharge Institution	Number	21	48	42	22	38	30	31	20	28	25	38	**343**
15	Community Soak Pit	Number	57	1326	147	447	148	64	108	84	82	157	118	**2738**
16	Individual Soak pit	Number	569	1770	1472	4469	1266	634	1094	824	823	1582	1179	**15682**
17	Works in Coastal Watershed(Shelter Belt)	Number	0	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	**9**

Annexure 5
List of Climate Resilient Measures identified

S NO	Name of the Block	Key Water Challenge	Proposed CRM	No of GPs
1	Bogalur	Vegetation cover – soil and water conservation	Mega forest, IFS in common land	3
2	Kadaladi	Salinity, Sand Dunes degradation, Vegetation cover – soil and water conservation	Coastal Watershed, Mega forest , IFS in common land	30
3	Kamudi	Harvesting and storage of surface runoff water	Agro-forestry models, Mega forest, IFS in common land	5
4	Mandapam	Coastal erosion, sand dune degradation	coastal watersheds	49
5	Mudukulathur	Harvesting and storage of surface runoff water	Agro-forestry models, IFS in common land	5
6	Nairnarkoil	Harvesting and storage of surface runoff water, Soil erosion	IFS in common land	5
7	Paramakudi	Harvesting and storage of surface runoff water, Soil erosion	IFS in common land, Riverbank stabilization,	5
8	R. S.Mangalam	Harvesting and storage of surface runoff water	Cascade of Tanks and River rejuvenation, mega forest	15
9	Ramanathapuram	Degraded public and common lands	Horticulture parks - IFS in common land	2
10	Tiruppullani	Drinking water, coastal erosion, sea water intrusion	IFS in common land, Community level Tanka, sea water intrusion structures	5
11	Tiruvadanai	water storage, coastal erosion, sea water intrusion	Coastal Watershed, IFS in common land	22