Problems Associated with Watershed Development Programme in District Jalaun of U.P.

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ABSTRACT

An attempt has been made on "Studying the problems associated with the Implementation of Watershed Development Programme in District Jalaun U.P." Findings of the study revealed that most of the farmers were perceived as a key factor which affects the working of watershed programme i.e., new generation do not want to work in agriculture, lack of awareness, poor economic conditions of the farmers, high cost of inputs, officials cannot solve the non-technical problems of the farmers, indifferent behaviour in the administration, lack of guidance, non-availability of staff at the time of farmers need, lack of technical supervision in the operation of occupation and non availability of labour in time were the major constraints which affects the participation and working of farmers in Watershed Development Programme.

Key words : *Watershed development; New generation; Constraints*

Water is a prime resource which fulfils a number of significant functions. Unlike most other natural resources. Water does not have a substitute in its main use. It can be used frugally, but cannot be replaced. It is an indispensable, finite, and valuable resource. Virtually no activity in society community, or process in the landscape or in the environment would be possible in the absence of water. Water is the source of life and without this life is unthinkable on our mother earth and that's why it is aptly known as life. Despite its preciousness, water has remained as a neglected issue till today. Water as supply freely by nature is taken for granted in India. This is the reason why in less than half a century of independent existence, India a water rich country has been reduced to a water insecure nation. The acuteness is such that during 2025, there may be a water emergency era where less than 1450 cu.m. of precipitation is considered critical for human survival. This will be clear from the following statistics. Annual per capita availability of renewable fresh water.

1955	-	5277 cu.m.
1990	-	2464 cu.m.
2003-04	-	2200 cu.m.
2025	-	1450 cu.m. (expected)

Water problem is one of the most pressing issues facing the world in the 21st century. We are faced with the critical question of how to provide stable supply of water for drinking and food production for an estimated population of about 8 billion people in 2025. Agriculture is facing a number of problems in food production mainly non-availability of water.

Watershed management is an integrated approach, considering holistic development for all users of the watershed. Therefore a combination of few approaches is required to be adopted in given watershed. Integrated watershed management of the all resources with people's participations is a well-accepted concept for the management of natural resources. To solve this problem a new concept has come up into existence, i.e., *'watershed'* conceptually defined as *"A geohydrological unit"* or a piece of land that drains water at a common point.

Watershed Management is necessary to protect, conserve and improve the land resource for efficient and sustained production; to protect and inhance water resource, moderate floods and reduce silting up of tanks, increase irrigation and conserve rain water for crops and thus mitigate drought; and to utilize the natural local resources for improving agriculture and allied occupation or industries (small and cottage industries) to improve socio-economic conditions of the local residents. Conformity to the nature and type of problems following objective have been formed. "Studying the problems associated with the implementation of Watershed Development Programme in district Jalaun U.P."

METHODOLOGY

The State of Uttar Pradesh was purposively chosen as the locale of the study. In order to have an appropriate coverage of the area, it was felt proper to identify district namely Jalaun. Two blocks namely Jalaun and Nadigaon from Jalaun, district was selected purposively. Two villages from each block were taken purposively for the present investigation.

Thus, a total 4 villages were included in the present

study. A group of 50 farmers from each watershed unit were selected randomly. Thus, a total of 200 respondents were interviewed on structured schedule. A set of ten officials were also drawn from both blocks. An interview schedule was prepared on the basis of pilot study, personnel of agriculture department and available literature. Average percentage correlation, standard deviation and mean score were used for précising the results.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

There has been number of problems associated with the Watershed Development Programme. An attempt has been made to document problems of different nature *viz* - social constraints, economic and administrative related to respondents and other problems related to project workers.

Social constraints : Table 1 reveals that the new generations do not want to work as the problem number one, as it obtained highest mean value 2.62 with the first rank. This was followed by "lack of awareness" ranked second with mean value 2.43, "lack of education" ranked third with mean value 2.43, etc. Among other problems *viz.* dominating nature of high caste, were also observed during the study. (Gandharappa and Hulgar 1998). The findings reflect that a number of social problems play an important role in restricting the efficient implementation of watershed development programme.

Table 1. Social constraints in implementation of watershed development programme (N=200)

S.No.	Statement	Mean score	Rank order
1.	Lack of education	2.34	III
2.	Caste feeling	2.20	VII
3.	Dominating nature of high caste	2.32	IV
4.	Lack of awareness	2.43	II
5.	Caste structure of the village discourage the execution of some activities	2.30	V
6.	Out look of village leadership restricted the social growth	2.25	VI
7.	The new generation do not want to work in agriculture	2.62	I

Economic constraint : Table 2 reveals that poor economic condition of the farmers was the priority problem of the project beneficiaries with mean value of 2.49. It was followed by high cost inputs with mean values of 2.42. Lack of loan facilities and corruption in sanctioning loan ranked third with mean value of 2.38. Low price of the produce with mean value 2.38 ranked fourth and lack of availability of inputs at proper time with mean value 2.30 ranked fifth.

Administrative constraints: Table 3 reveals that official staff can not solve non-technical problems of farmers, was the priority problem of the beneficiaries with mean value of 2.47. It was fallowed by indifferent behaviour of the administration with mean value of 2.42 and ranked second. Political interference ranked third with mean value of 2.30. Biased attitudes of officers of the project ranked fourth with mean value of 2.25.

Table 2. Economic constraints in implementation of watershed development programme (N=200)

S.No.	Statement	Mean score	Rank order
1.	Poor economic condition of the Farmers	2.49	I
2.	High cost of inputs	2.42	II
3.	Lack of availability of inputs at proper time	2.25	V
4.	Lack of loan facilities and corruption in sanctioning loan	2.38	III
5.	Low price of the produce	2.30	IV

Table 3. Administrative constraints in implementation of watershed development programme (N=200)

S.No.	Statement	Mean score	Rank order
1.	Official staff cannot solve non-technical problem of farmer	2.47	I
2.	Biased attitudes of officers involved the project	2.25	IV
3.	Political interference	2.30	III
4.	Indifferent behaviour of the administration	2.42	II

Constraints associated with the supervision and guidance: Table 4 reveals that lack of guidance due to non-availability of staff at the time of farmer's need, was the priority problem of the project beneficiaries with mean value of 2.62, it was followed by lack of technical supervision in the operation of occupation with mean value of 2.45. Unavailability and delay in demonstration at farmer's field ranked third with mean value of 2.41. Lack of poor evaluation of the work done by the various extension agency with mean value 2.39 ranked fourth, outdated knowledge of the team specialist (2.30 mean value) followed them after. The findings reveal various problems which are associated with the supervision. The necessary action is required to be taken so as to facilitate timely supervision and valid guidance to the project beneficiaries.

Constraints related to supply: The respondents of watershed have perceived financial problem as the top most problem with mean value of 2.6, inadequate irrigation facilities with mean value of 2.54. The higher cost of farm inputs and less price of farm produce ranked third with mean value 2.41, non-availability of labour in time with mean value of 2.39 ranked fourth, discrimination in making the facilities available to growers ranked fifth with mean value of 2.32, inadequate and untimely supply of inputs with mean value of 2.28 ranked sixth, marketing problem ranked seventh with mean value 2.25, etc., were some other supply related important problems perceived by the beneficiaries (Table 5).

The study reflected number of supply related problems which can not be addressed without having greater people' participation in management and distribution of inputs. This can be achieved by establishing a greater self realization about the 'project assets'.

Table 4. Constraints in supervision and guidance in implementation of watershed development programme (N=200)

S.No.	Statement	Mean score	Rank order
1.	Lack of technical supervision in the operation of occupation	2.45	II
2.	Out dated knowledge of the team specialist	2.30	V
3.	Lack of guidance due to non-availability of staff at the time of farmers need	3.62	I
4.	Unavailability and delay demonstration of farmer's field	2.41	III
5.	Lack of poor evaluation of the work done by the various extension agency	2.39	IV

Table 5. Constraints related to supply in implementation of watershed development programme (N=200)

S.No.	Statement	Mean score	Rank order
1.	Inadequate and untimely supply of inputs	2.28	VI
2.	Inadequate irrigational facilities	2.54	II
3.	Non-availability of plant protection measures	2.15	X
4.	Financial problem in time	2.60	I
5.	Non-availability of labour	2.39	IV
6.	Higher cost of farm inputs and less price of farm produce	2.41	III
7.	Marketing problems	2.25	VII
8.	Discrimination in making the facilities available to growers	2.32	V
9.	Unavailability of advanced farm machineries	2.20	IX
10.	Lack of communication	2.26	VIII

CONCLUSION

It has been found that only few farmers had high level of extension contact. So, the extension contact of beneficiaries need to be further improved. The information access was found low, which could be attributed to low level of possession of television and radio sets by the households and at the same time the access of other sources like print media, regular extension literature, etc. This is need to be further improved. An overall view of the finding depicts that low level of involvement of beneficiaries in pre-project stage activities. The new watershed guidelines suggest for bottom up planning and pre-project stage as the crucial stage for initiating bottom up planning. This has to be realized in true sense. The guidelines issued by Ministry of Rural Development regarding National Watershed Development programme in Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA) clearly laid down parameters for involving people to the extent of having total control over planning and implementation of activities. However, the out come of this study is indicate of the fact that the guidelines are not being properly followed. Therefore it is suggested to have effective monitoring system for the implementation of the guidelines. It was found that the physical gains interns of food, fodder and fuel availability on regular basis, are the key to sustain the interest of the people in watershed project leading to their real participation. Thus, the watershed projects should be run in such a way that continues flow of physical and financial gains are ensured. The finding reveals various problems associated with the supervision and guidance. In the light of the findings, the necessary action is required to be taken so as to facilitate timely supervision and valid guidance to the project beneficiaries. The findings further indicated a need for closer co-operation and regular contact among beneficiaries and project officials. The study reflected that number of problems related to supply, which can not be addressed without having greater farmer's participation in management and distribution of inputs. This can be achieved by establishing a grater self realization about the project assets. The major suggestions are intensification of various agricultural productivity increment programmes as well as ensuring proper availability of irrigation, quality seeds, agro-techniques, finances and other inputs etc.

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