

**Platform Meeting on Community based Tank Management Systems  
April 7<sup>th</sup> 2006, IC-Delegation Office, Hyderabad**

**Background**

Tank irrigation systems of India are centuries old. Unfortunately, performance of most of these systems has been on a decline due to improper management and policies. Some of the major problems afflicting these systems are increased siltation, poor maintenance of bunds and other structures, mismanagement of catchment area and command areas, encroachments etc. Policy interventions envisaged include physical investments, management and legal aspects.

The Government of Karnataka (GoK) has initiated a process of reforms in tank management with World Bank support that aims to improve rural livelihoods and reduce poverty by developing and strengthening community-based approaches to improving and managing selected tank systems. Towards this end, the GoK took a decision to transfer management of all tanks to communities and a society called Jala Samvardhane Yojana Sangha (JSYS) was created to facilitate this process. The project has been implemented in 34 taluks of 9 districts covering about 2005 tanks at a cost of US \$92.61 million. A similar project is now being proposed in Andhra Pradesh.

**A platform Meeting**

After a recent field visit by the members of the Capitalization of Experiences (CE) process, supported by SDC/Intercooperation, it was proposed to have a platform meeting in order to learn from the experiences of NGOs who were involved in the Karnataka Community Based Tank Management project. As a next step to this process of learning and sharing, the CE subgroup (concerned with rules, regulations and management systems in water management) is organizing a small meeting at Hyderabad, facilitated by Intercooperation, to bring together individuals and organizations involved and interested in tank management. Dr.M.V.N. Rao of Grama Vikas, who has been involved in the tank management project in Karnataka would share his experiences of being an NGO partner implementing the project.

**Objectives**

The objectives of the meeting are:

1. To learn from the NGO experiences in the Karnataka Community Based Tank Management project
2. Sharing NGO experiences from the Karnataka Community Based Tank Management project and their own tank restoration programs
3. To understand the pitfalls and gap between the stated objectives and the reality
4. To share Andhra Pradesh experiences and to formulate guidelines/advocacy agenda to contribute effectively to a larger Government/World Bank program for tank restoration anticipated in A.P.

**When and Where**

The meeting would take place on 7th April at IC-Delegation Office in Hyderabad at 10 AM. All individuals and organizations interested in tank management issues are cordially invited to participate in the meeting.

Agenda for Platform Meeting on Community based Tank Management Systems:

Time	Event
10.00–10.15 AM	Welcome and Introduction
10.15-11.15 AM	<p>Sharing of Experiences on Tank Management in Karnataka: by Dr. M.V.N. Rao, Executive Director, Grama Vikas, Kolar District, Karnataka</p> <p>Concerned Issues pertain to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Desiltation in tank restoration process</li> <li>• Creation of viable wage employment through desiltation activities</li> <li>• Access to silt by small and marginal farmers</li> <li>• Income generating options from tank restoration</li> <li>• Representation of different interest groups in tank management</li> <li>• Issues of resettlement and rehabilitation plans during tank restoration process</li> </ul>
11.15-11.30 AM	Tea
11.30-1.00 PM	<p>Discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual NGO experiences with regards to tank management in A.P.</li> <li>• Challenges foreseen in implementing tank management projects</li> <li>• Open issues and strategies to address them</li> </ul>
1.0-1.30PM	Wrap up
1.30 PM	Lunch