

# Capitalization of Experiences «Water, Land and People»

## Lessons learnt from the process

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## Important lessons from the process

The main objectives of Capitalization of Experiences: Water, Land and People in India (CE-WLP) were to access lessons across regions and evolve strategies to institutionalize and scale up success factors, understand the constraints and challenges in water management and generate knowledge that can contribute towards improved program design and policy dialogues. Sharing of knowledge and lessons learned among the learning group members formed the basis for the CE process. Innovative methods such as a narrative story telling process was adopted for sharing of experiences and identifying focus areas. Lessons that emerged from the process not only pertain to the thematic domain but also to the entire CE-WLP process itself.

### A broad assessment

- CE provided a platform for different practitioners to come and work together
- A positive environment was created in the sense it provided an openness to discuss and share information
- Innovative methods such as story telling method provided scope for an informal setting that provided a base for active interaction and engagement of the members for the entire duration of the CE process
- The areas identified evolved from the collective experience of the members
- Provided learnings that could be incorporated into the members own field areas
- Cross exchanges proved to be useful to the members in terms of broadening their knowledge base
- Created a network of individuals and there has been to an extent a perspective of contributing towards the focus areas rather than towards an organization.

### Constraints and limitations

- Participation of all members at all times proved to be difficult due to hectic schedules of the members and also due to large geographical distances.
- The amount of participation and involvement by the members also differed. Some times the since the members held key responsibilities in their respective organizations, it became difficult for them to give their full attention to the commitments towards CE. Participation by the same individual at all times has its own difficulties (question of participation of the organization or the individual may be of relevance)
- Bringing in government officials onto a common platform is also a challenge given the procedures and changes that occur in the government systems. In spite of these constraints, we were successful in having active participation.

### Outlook for CE

- Harvested lessons complement other activities and studies (sharing observations at other national workshops, link or add value to other CE like experiences)
- The relevance of focus areas is to a wide range of resource management apart from water resources
- The CE process builds a kind of knowledge capital that can be tapped into anytime in the future, as it forges a kind of network within the subgroups.



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