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Constraints and suggestions on people's participation in integrated watershed management programme in Mungeli district of Chhattisgarh

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Abstract

The study was carried out during 2016-17 in the Mungeli district of Chhattisgarh state. This study aims to assess information on extent of people's participation in integrated watershed management's programme. This study was conducted in selected 12 villages identified from 2 blocks of Mungeli district and the sample comprised of 120 farmers. The data collection was done by structured interview schedule and through personal interview. The major constraints found in this study is lack of the poor knowledge and finance management among the IWMP farmers (62.5%); followed by 56.67 per cent respondents had faced lack of exposure of watershed farmers to successful watershed ventures. While the major suggestions came out from the respondent is the government should be provided funds well in time (85.83%), followed by 80.83 per cent of respondents suggested that the technical staff / higher officials should be visited at watershed area frequently.

Keywords: Watershed management, constraints, suggestions

Introduction

The Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) one of the flagship programme of Ministry of Rural Development is under implemented by the Department of Land Resources since 2009-10. Watershed in general is an area that supplies water by surface or subsurface flow to a given drainage system or body of water – a stream, river, wetland, lake or ocean. The interaction between land and water and its use and management decides the characteristics of the water flow and its relationship to the watershed. In recent decades, in many parts of the world, watershed degradation has emerged as a most serious problem causing natural resource degradation, which has been acting as a “pull factor” for the efforts of achieving food security and led to negative environmental and socio-economic consequences (World Bank, 2010a). People's participation in watershed management programmes is an important strategy of government of India for making watershed programmes successful. The major benefits flowing from the participation of the people in development are: In the planning and programming stages and throughout the implementation of development programmes, rural people can provide valuable social-cultural, ecological, economic and technical indigenous knowledge ensuring consistency between objectives of development and community values and preferences; people can mobilize local resources in the form of cash, labour, materials, managerial talent and political support which are critical to programme success.

The programme should meet the daily requirements of the majority of the stakeholders like supply of drinking water, fodder for cattle and fuel for kitchen. The watershed development programmes are made for local people. During 2010-11 Government targeted 0.236 million ha area, but as an achievement finally 0.284 million ha area was Sanctioned under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) in Chhattisgarh. Central Funds Released and Utilized under Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) in Chhattisgarh from 2009 to 2015 were 152.44 crore and 157.93 crore respectively. Keeping this in view in mind the present investigation was done.

Methodology

The study was carried out during 2016-17 in the Mungeli district of Chhattisgarh state. This study was conducted in selected 12 villages (10 respondents from each village) identified from 2 blocks of Mungeli district and the sample comprised of 120 [10 x 12 =120] farmers.

The data collection was done by structured interview schedule and through personal interview. Collected data were processed, tabulated and analyzed by using appropriate statistical scales and methods like frequency, mean, per-cent, correlation coefficient and multiple regression analysis.

Constraints

Simple ranking technique was applied to measure the constraints faced by the respondents in integrated watershed management programme. Each respondent was asked to mention his constraints in integrated watershed management programme in order of degree of difficulties. The response was calculated and presented on the basis of frequency and percentage.

Suggestions

Farmers were asked to give their valuable suggestions to overcome the constraints faced by them in integrated watershed management programme. The suggestions obtained from respondents were summarized on the basis of frequency and per cent of respondents who reported for the respective suggestions

Result and Discussion

Constraints faced by the respondents during participation in IWMP

Multiple responses were taken to ascertain the constraints faced

by the farmers during participation in IWMP. The constraints as perceived by the respondents were presented in table which shows that the poor knowledge and finance management among the IWMP farmers was found as major constraint (62.50%), followed by 56.67 per cent respondents had faced lack of exposure of watershed farmers to successful watershed ventures, 54.17 per cent of respondents had unfavorable attitude of officials because they due to frequent transfer and short term engagements of IWMP, 48.33 per cent of respondents faced constraint that Lack of proper supervision by the technical staff/ higher officials, about 35.83 per cent respondents faced of problem of important works like bundings etc. are not prioritized, 29.17 per cent of respondents had problem that funds are not released well in time, 26.67 per cent respondents faced lack of adequate support and follow up from IWMP officials to the farmers in maintaining of water harvesting structures, 54.16 per cent respondents faced problem of not favourable attitude of officials engaged in IWMP due to frequent transfers and short term engagements, only 21.67 per cent respondents faced lack of coordination of various concerned departments with each other.

Constraints faced by the respondents during participation in integrated watershed management programme

Table 1: Constraints faced by the respondents during participation in integrated watershed management programme

Sl. No.	Constraints	F*	%
01	Funds are not released well in time.	35	29.17
02	Some of the most important works like bundings etc. are not prioritized.	43	35.83
03	Lack of proper supervision by the technical staff/ higher officials.	58	48.33
04	Lack of coordination of various concerned departments with each other.	26	21.67
05	Lack of exposure of watershed farmers to successful watershed ventures.	68	56.67
06	Poor knowledge on finance management among the IWMP farmer.	75	62.50
07	Lack of adequate support and follow up from IWMP officials to the farmers in maintaining of water harvesting structures.	32	26.67
08	Unfavorable attitude of officials because they use to frequent transfer and short term engagements of IWMP.	65	54.17

*Frequency based on multiple responses

Suggestion obtained from the respondents to overcome the constraints faced in IWMP

Multiple responses were taken to ascertain the suggestions given by respondents in participation in IWMP. Various suggestion obtained from the respondents are presented in table which is shown that majority (85.83%) of respondents suggested that the government should be provided funds well in time, followed by 80.83 per cent of respondents suggested that the technical staff / higher officials should be visited at watershed area frequently, 79.16 per cent respondents suggested with regards to works should be identified in consultation with the farmers, about 65.83 per cent of respondents suggested that more training

programmers should be organized towards watershed activities, 63.33 per cent respondents suggested that exposure visits should be ensured by the IWMP officials for farmers in successful watershed projects. 61.66 per cent of respondents suggested that involvement of all the concerned departments like DWMA, Departments of Micro Irrigation and State Department of Agriculture etc. should be increased and 55.83 per cent respondents suggested that Govt. should be formulated the suitable policy for transfer of staff working under IWMP.

Suggestion given by the respondents to overcome the constraints

Table 2: Suggestion given by the respondents to overcome the constraints

Sl. No.	Suggestion	F*	%
01	The government should be provided funds well in time	103	85.83
02	The works should be identified in consultation with the farmers.	95	79.16
03	The technical staff / higher officials should be visited at watershed area frequently.	97	80.83
04	Involvement of all the concerned departments like DWMA, Departments of Micro Irrigation and State Department of Agriculture etc. should be increased.	74	61.66
05	Exposure visits should be ensured by the IWMP officials for farmers in successful watershed projects.	76	63.33
06	More training programmers should be organized towards watershed activities.	79	65.83
07	There should be proper feedback from the farmers about various stages of IWMP.	76	63.33
08	Govt. should be formulated the suitable policy for transfer of staff working under IWMP.	67	55.83

*Frequency based on multiple responses

Conclusion

The study concluded that about 62.5 per cent of respondents faced lack of the poor knowledge and finance management among the IWMP farmers; followed by 56.67 per cent respondents had faced lack of exposure of watershed farmers to successful watershed ventures.

Maximum 85.83 per cent of respondents suggested that the government should be provided funds well in time, followed by 80.83 per cent of respondents suggested that the technical staff / higher officials should be visited at watershed area frequently.

Therefore the level of the education, social participation and extension contact of the respondents is to be increased then the participation in integrated watershed management programme would be increased.

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