

State level consultative meeting, Bhopal - Preparation of DPR for Rejuvenation of River Narmada by Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur

A state level consultative meeting involving multi Departments was organized by Tropical Forest Research Institute, Jabalpur to deliberate on various issues related to the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for rejuvenation of River Narmada through forestry interventions. The meeting was held 19.06.2019 at Office of the MFP Federation, Bhopal.



Dr. G. Rajeshwar Rao, ARS, Director, TFRI while welcoming the guests informed that the Institute is looking forward from the delegates to provide scientific and technical suggestions in their respective fields. Shri. Behera, IFS and Nodal Officer of the project presented an overview of land use patterns in Narmada basin and explained the scope and objectives of the project. The delegates consisted of experts from various central and state government departments viz., state Forest Department, Forest Development Corporation, Central Water Commission, State Biodiversity Board, Barkatullah University, Indian Institute of Forest Management, National Institute of Technology, Narmada Valley Development Authority, Geological survey of India, Central Groundwater Board, Environmental Planning and Coordination Organization, Central Soil and Water Conservation, etc.

Eminent officers, professors, scientists and academicians from different R & D organisations who are directly and indirectly involved in the preparation of this important report.

Mr. J. K. Mohanty, IFS, PCCF and HoFF, Madhya Pradesh Forest Department, while congratulating TFRI for its initiative emphasized that River Narmada which also can be connotated as Ma Narmada is the 'Life Line of the State of Madhya Pradesh. He mentioned that in the recent past water flow at selected stretches has been receding specially during summer. He



stressed that DPR must emphasise various soil and water conservation measures across the river basin. He was of the view that involving Joint Forest Management Committees would greatly help in rejuvenating the forest land adjoining the river. He assured extensive support of the Forest Department in preparation of DPR. Other Forest Officers like Dr. U. Prakasam, IFS, Sh. B. B. Singh, IFS, Sh. P. C. Dubey, IFS and Sh. Pushkar Singh, IFS gave valuable suggestions.

Mr. Srinivasava Murthy, IFS, Member Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Biodiversity Board emphasised that water is a living resource and the approach for rejuvenation of Narmada should be more of a restoration model rather than plantation models. He also stressed the importance of treating the headwaters of rivers and tributaries.

Dr. R.J. Rao, Vice Chancellor, Barkatullah University, Bhopal informed that extensive work on aquatic ecosystem along with Biodiversity documentation has been carried out at various locations of Narmada Basin. He believed that this DPR would go a long way in reviving and rejuvenating Narmada.

Dr. Rakesh Singh, Senior Scientist, Central Groundwater Board, viewed that it is time now to document scientifically the forest area recharge measures rather than revenue lands alone.

Dr. R. S. Chaudhary, Senior Scientist from Indian Institute of Soil Science, Bhopal, while appreciating multidisciplinary and coordinative approach stressed that base flow and e-flow of revenue village and forest village adjoining the river basin has to be documented.

Mr. C.K. Patil, from Narmada Valley Development Authority informed that extensive work has already been carried out by the Authority. He mentioned that lift irrigation schemes is increasing and many cities are coming under command area. Therefore, proper understanding of water budgeting and its utilisation has to be thoroughly discussed in the DPR.

Dr. Omprakash M. D. , Professor, IIFM was of the view that socio economic conditions of the farmers along the river basin has to be assessed as the water utilised by the farming community and pollution foot print is to be urgently addressed.

Various other officers shared their experiences and assured their extensive support in bringing out the DPR so that river Narmada regains its earlier glory.

The programme was compered by Dr. Fatima Shirin and vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. S. Saravanan.





