

Training for 'Change'

IAMWARM, a unique project in letter and spirit, strives for increasing the productivity of water that is used for agriculture. It brings different stake-holders to a common platform to put collective efforts for ensuring more profit per every drop of irrigated water. The project provides plenty of space for innovative ideas, approaches and methodologies in order to facilitate a farmer in transforming agriculture a productive way of life.

In the above context, capacity building activities of IAMWARM Project have been designed to strengthen "Convergence Approach" so that all the eight participating line departments form a team in order to ensure better cooperation and coordination among themselves.

On an experiment basis, a Team Building workshop was organized for Varahanadhi sub-basin in the month of March 2008 in which eight line departments participated. The experiment has produced encouraging results and paved the way for organizing similar workshops for other sub-basins too.

Capacity Building of farmers:

Capacity building programmes of farmers in the Sub-basins would focus on two major components, viz, 1. Change Behaviour and 2. Technical input.

Both the components would find their respective places at two levels namely village and cluster. However, training efforts at village level would focus more on "Change Behaviour", while training programmes at cluster level would give priority for technical input.

Prior to initiation of Capacity Building programmes for farmers, it has been proposed that the Field Functionaries of each Line Department may have informal discussions with farmers in small groups. As mentioned above, sensitisation of farmers on the "WATER CONSERVATION & THE NEEDED COLLECTIVE ROLE FOR ACHIEVING IT" lays foundation for all the capacity building activities for the farmers in the Project.

The sequence of Capacity building programmes at Sub-basin level could be as enlisted below.

1. Village Meetings and Campaigns: IEC materials will be used. Farmers will be sensitized through Village meetings and Campaigns on "Water Resources and Conservation" along with the need for new methods and best alternatives for enhancing their farm income.

2. Exposure visits: This is organized at cluster level. Selected farmers will be taken for exposing them on new agricultural practices, methods, skills and ideas .
3. Seminar / Workshop: This is also at Cluster level. Active and Potential farmers will be identified to be referred as "Change Agents". These Change Agents will attend Seminar / Workshop. IEC materials such as Posters, Pamphlets and leaflets may be used as training aids.
4. On field/site trainings: The Change Agents, who have attended Seminar / Workshop will also be the resource person for On field training programmes at village level, along with the concerned Department Field Functionaries or Officers.
5. Follow-up Visits: Follow-up visits should be made to ensure the sustainable application of new skills, methods and ideas.

