

**TAMIL NADU IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE MODERNIZATION AND WATER-BODIES
RESTORATION AND MANAGEMENT PROJECT (TN-IAMWARM) – TWO DAY
IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT VISIT (MAY 27-28, 2011)**

Report of Findings

I- Introduction

1. A World Bank team composed of Joop Stoutjesdijk (Lead Irrigation Engineer) and Ranu Sinha (Operations Analyst) undertook a two-day implementation support visit for the TN-IAMWARM project from May 27 to 28, 2011. The purpose of the visit was to review the following issues: (i) the SWARMA work plan and steps to take that forward; (ii) progress in mobilizing the Support Organizations (SOs) for WUA capacity building and finalizing the orientation training program for them; and (iii) an update on the work of the M&E consultants, including plans for the upcoming Mid-Term Review. The mission would like to thank Government of Tamil Nadu (GoTN) representatives, the MDPU, and staff of the implementing agencies who worked with the team for their hospitality and collaboration.

II. Major Issues

2. **SWARMA.** The Bank has given written and verbal approval of the SWARMA draft work plan and advised WRO to proceed with implementation. The Bank team advised WRO to revise the composition of the Executive Wing to include membership from other line ministries as per the mandate of SWARMA. This was agreed with the Engineer-in-Chief. The Bank team was informed that PWD Principal Secretary, M. Sai Kumar, gave approval to set up the Executive Wing. An SE level officer from the WRO has been deputed to the Executive Wing. It was agreed that a detailed cost estimate for planned activities included in the work plan and a schedule for staffing of SWARMA will be submitted to the Bank for review, preferably by July 30. One of the first activities of the newly formed SWARMA wing will be to prepare the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a consultant to develop a web based information database. As the Hydrology II project is working on similar tasks in a number of river basins and there is already a consultancy for developing a Decision Support System (DSS) database for four river basins under the TNIAMWARM project, the mission urges close coordination between the SWARMA, the Institute of Water Studies and Hydrology teams.

3. **Support Organization Contracting.** The contracts for five SO packages under phases I and II are ready for signing. Draft agreements for packages 4, 7, and 8 have been forwarded to the Bank for approval and subsequently the Bank has issued No Objection Letters (NOLs) for these draft contracts. In addition, the draft agreements for packages 5 and 6 have been returned to the concerned WRO Circle division due to the service tax being excluded from the final contract value. The mission was assured that this will soon be corrected and will be forwarded to the Bank once revised.

4. The shortlists for the 16 phase III packages are being prepared. A draft Request for Proposal (RFP) is in preparation and is to be forwarded to the Bank for review and no objection. The WRO PIM cell raised the issue with the mission of the duration of the Phase III contracts as once the contracts become effective their termination date is likely to fall at least seven months after the current project closing date. The mission discussed with the Project Director (PD) and MDPU officials various solutions for addressing this issue. It was agreed to proceed with the full set of services as envisaged in the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the draft RFP, even if for now the services will go beyond the original closing date of the project. Towards the end of this year or early next year it will be clear whether GoTN will request an extension of the closing date. If that is the case, the SO services can be fully completed. In case there will be no extension, the services will have to be amended so that the key SO activities can take place before project closing. This issue is to be taken up in more detail during the next full Bank mission.

5. **Orientation for SO Packages for Phases I & II.** During the February mission it was agreed that IMTI would prepare a proposal for SO capacity building and that this proposal would be submitted to the Bank for review by March 20. The proposal was presented to the Bank team during this visit. The team found the proposal inadequate. It did not provide details of the content for the proposed training modules for the orientation nor has a ToR been prepared for hiring external experts on PIM and WUA development to draft the required training modules. The mission reiterated the importance of having high quality training modules for the SOs to effectively carry out capacity building activities.

6. In the view of the Bank, the MDPU will need to take the lead in coordinating the required orientation for the ten SOs. This will follow the same format as previous training workshops that have been conducted on PIM for WUAs by MDPU in conjunction with IMTI under the project. The MDPU, through its training unit, should prepare the ToR to hire consultants to develop the required training modules and to serve as master trainers to administer the necessary training for all of the orientation sessions. The Bank team is to forward sample training modules and sample ToRs to MDPU for reference. Secondly, MDPU should take the lead, coordinating with the WRO PIM Cell, in drafting the workshop agenda, finalizing schedule of trainings, managing consultants to produce training modules in a timely manner, and administer the training by utilizing a mix of IMTI faculty and external experts as needed. IMTI is to work closely with MDPU to determine the venue and provide logistical support to the team as required. MDPU, WRO PIM cell and IMTI agreed that the timeline to conduct the orientation workshops for the concerned SO staff be before the end of August 2011.

7. **IMTI Capacity Building.** The Bank team recommended that IMTI representatives pay a visit to the Andhra Pradesh WALAMTARI in Hyderabad to learn from AP's experiences in setting up a training and management center. The Bank team also recommended during the AP trip to visit sites of the AP Tanks Project where best practices in the field can be shared. The IMTI Director, WRO Engineer-in-Chief, and PD were in agreement that such a visit would be very useful for the IMTI team. The mission also encouraged MDPU staff to join the study tour with IMTI and to request materials from WALAMTARI on WUA training modules which have been prepared for the Bank assisted project in the state. It was agreed that the visiting team from Tamil Nadu would include members of the IMTI management team, WRO staff, and MDPU staff. The mission agreed to facilitate the visit with the Bank TTL of the AP Water Sector Project and assist in the coordination of a visit in the near future. Subsequent to the mission, the Bank team learned that the visit has been scheduled in conjunction with WALAMTARI for June 20th to 24th 2011.

8. **M&E Consultancy.** The team received an update from the M&E Consultancy Firm, SMEC, on the status of its work. The Bank is disappointed with the pace of work that the Firm is demonstrating. As of the September 2010 implementation support mission, it was agreed that the Mid-Term Review (MTR) would be held in March 2011. During the February 2011 mission, the Consultant requested that the MTR be delayed to June 2011. The team was informed that the expected date for the MTR is now December 2011. *In the view of the Bank, this delay is unacceptable.* Submission of the baseline results is also greatly delayed. SMEC informed the Bank team that the initial baseline survey results report would be available to the Bank within three weeks. During the presentation of the baseline survey results, the Bank team noted that in the sample size of 100 tanks, the Firm had selected 75 tanks from phase 2 and 3 and reserved 25 tanks to be surveyed from phase 4. However, the Bank team noted that robust results from phase 4 would not be available in time as works under this phase are still in the early stages, thus the team advised SMEC to reformulate the sample size and add the 25 tanks from phase 4 into the phase 2 and phase 3 samples. This was supported by the PD and the Bank team was assured that this would be done. In addition, the team noted that the control group of the baseline survey does not serve as a pure control as some other GoTN interventions from other departments have already taken place in the designated control area. Based on these findings, the Bank team advised SMEC to make a note that the control group data is muddled in the baseline survey report.

III - Key Agreed Actions

Sl. No.	Actions	Date by	Responsibility
1	Submit draft agreements for revised packages 5 and 6 SO phase I and II contracts to Bank for NOL	June 30, 2011	WRO
2	Submit finalized SO phase III RfP to Bank for approval	June 30, 2011	WRO
3	Send sample ToRs and training modules to MDPU for SO orientation	June 20, 2011	WB
4	Finalize ToR for hiring external experts to produce training modules for SO orientation	June 30, 2011	MDPU/IMTI
5	Hire external experts for producing training modules and administering orientation to SO	July 15, 2011	IMTI/MDPU
6	Conduct SO Orientation Workshops	August 31, 2011	MDPU/IMTI
7	Study tour to AP WALAMTARI	June 20-24, 2011	IMTI/MDPU/WRO
8	Reformulate composition of new SWARMA Executive Wing in dialogue with PS PWD, E-in-C	July 30, 2011	WRO
9	Submit detailed cost and budget for SWARMA operations to Bank for review and clearance	Preferably by July 30, 2011	SWARMA
10	Submit M&E baseline survey report based on revised sample size	June 20, 2011	SMEC

VI - Next Mission

The next implementation support mission is scheduled for September 2011.