

Role of NABARD in Development of Watershed in India

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ABSTRACT

For accelerating and increasing credit flow, upscale of agriculture, small-scale and cottage industries, handicrafts and other rural crafts and various other allied activities in rural areas NABARD is playing an important role. And it is also provide refinance facilities to rural financial institutions. The journey of the watershed development programme started in 1992 with people' participation in an integrated approach for water conservation ground water recharging, forestry, water budgeting and crop planning. For development of Watershed in India NABARD have introduced various programmes like WDF, SDP, Climate Proofing Soil Project, Climate Proofing in Indo-German Watershed Development Projects and Spring-shed based Watershed Development Projects.

This papers analyses the role, functions and watershed programmes of NABARD in rural development of India.

1. Introduction

NABARD was established on 12th July 1982, it is a development bank. It's headquarter is in Mumbai and it has branches throughout the country. The idea of NABARD was though by CRAFTICARD (Committee to review arrangements for institutional credit for agriculture and rural development). It was set up to help agriculture and rural India by lending credit support, services and other such initiatives. NABARD is playing a significant role in boosting the flow of credit for the upgrade of agriculture, small scale and cottage industries, handicrafts and other rural crafts and several other allied activities in rural areas of India. The main objective behind the set up of NABARD was to raise rural India by increasing the credit flow for elevation of agriculture & rural non-farm sector. NABARD does not help the farmers and other rural people directly rather it flows the credit to these people through co-operative banks, commercial banks, RRBs, etc. It is thus working as an apex body allocating with policy, planning and other operational features of rural credit for the all-round development of rural economy.

Watershed is drainage area on land superficial from which runoff from precipitation reach a particular point called common outlet. Simply, it is a land surface bounded by a divide, which contributes runoff to a common outlet. Watershed development refers to preservation, regeneration and judicious use of all the resources—natural (land, water, plants and animals) and human within a particular watershed. Watershed management tries to bring about the best possible equilibrium in the environment between natural resources and human and other living beings.

2. Literature Review

Deokar B. Mahadev, (2017), It was concluded that the initiatives taken by the Government of India for rural housing deserve gratitude. The home-less persons are reaping the benefits from this scheme. The Government needs to pay strict wake on the proper implementation of the programmes. Roy Kumar Swapan (2014), Rural development in India is very

much needed for the growth of Indian economy. Different tactics, policies and programmes have been taken for the uplift of rural development. The government needs to pay strict vigil on the proper implementation of the programmes. An awareness programmes should be arranged for the beneficiaries so that they can know the ins and outs of different schemes. If they are in dark, the ultimate goal will be defeated. Raheja Kanu (2015), Developing a modern rural development strategy for poverty reduction in Haryana in the coming decades requires recognition of institutional and technological changes, as well as of the growing role of a broadly defined and diversified agricultural system Furthermore, the rural poor need to participate in the development and implementation of the relevant policies and programs, which need to ensure gender equity , inclusion of minorities , participation of the poorest in markets and in the provision of services. Prusty Twinkle & Chaudhari Kant Ashish (2011), it is evident that NABARD is doing exceptionally well through farm and non-farm lending for rural areas so that the productivity of the persons could be increased and take them out of vicious cycle of poverty. It provides not only finance to the programmes but also prescribe rules and regulations from time to time to monitor and achieve the well-defined goals of the programme. In this way, it can be said that NABARD is playing a vital role in transforming the rural India. Nair Indira (2014), Agriculture has significance on food security and prices of goods and therefore on money wages. Further, agriculture has a strong multiplier outcome because of its influence on rural income, demand and its supply of raw materials to several industrial sectors. If viable economic development has to be achieved it is vital that rural development must be a priority. For rural development transformation of agriculture is the most significant requisite. This will lead to improvement in the economic conditions of the rural masses. Ibrahim M. Syed (2010), in this study, the performance of Regional Rural Banks, an attempt has been made to analyze the performance in terms of convinced defined parameters like number of branches, district covered, capital funds, and mobilization of deposits, loans and investments finished by these banks. The performance of

RRBs in India improved in the post-merger period. Even though number of RRBs reduced, the branch network has been increased. **Navi B.S. (2013)**, This article concludes that additional financial institutions should be set up in the localities. Government should introduce measures to develop co-operations between the financial institutions and farmers. The prime rate charged by the banks should be minimized to allow the other financial institutions to also reduce their interest rates. **Geetha R.S (2016)**, The research papers concludes that the performance of Pragati Gramina Bank in meeting its objectives is successful and appreciable based on the available data for the purpose of study. And the paper conveys a message to the Government to take additional needful support of these Regional Rural Banks to make them more viable and successful in meeting the needs of rural credit in the coming years. And the Rapid Expansion of RRB has helped in reducing substantially the regional disparities in respect of banking facilities in India. **Suresh R. (2014)**, The negative results in the above study does not mean that banks did not perform well, but due to the measures as downsizing the banks taken by the Government of India to protect the RRBs from the Doldrums. It is clear that the Regional Rural Banks are competing with other banks with its limited resources and restrictions and the state of Nagaland is totally neglected in opening the Regional Rural Banks.

3. Objective of the study

The main object of this study is to analyses the role, functions and watershed programmes of NABARD for rural development of India.

4. Research Methodology

This paper is a descriptive paper based on secondary data collected from different books, newspaper articles and research journals.

5. Role and functions of NABARD

- To provide as an apex-financing activity for the institutions providing investment and production credit for promoting various developmental activities in rural areas;
- To accomplish the rural financing activities of all institutions engaged in developmental work of India.
- To undertake monitoring and evaluation of projects refinanced by NABARD
- NABARD gives high precedence to projects formed under Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP).
- NABARD also gives advices for promotion of group activities under its programs and stipulates 100% refinance support for them.
- It is setting linkages between Self-help Group (SHG), which are organized by voluntary agencies for poor and deprived in rural areas.
- It also has a arrangement of District Oriented Monitoring Studies, under which, study is

NABARD also recommends about licensing for RRBs and Cooperative banks to RBI.

Need and Importance of Watershed Development Programme in India

The Watershed Development Programme is the basic need for integrated development and management of the land and water resources, which provide life support for rural communities. Thus the prospects for agriculture in the dry land areas are severely constrained by the specific feature of their natural resource endowments and the changed context. In a situation of low pressure on resources, viability was possible through traditional land cultivation practices. Watershed Development Programme ensures supply of water to every field, removes hunger and poverty from poor areas, provide green cover over denuded areas, bring in more rains and improve the environment. Watershed Development Programme is also described as a programme that holds the key to solve problems of employment, economy, ecology, export and equity.

6. Objectives of Watershed Development Programme

The objectives of Watershed Development Programmes are as follows:

1. Emerging wastelands or degraded lands, drought-prone and desert areas on watershed basis, keeping in view the ability of land, site conditions and local needs.
2. Endorsing the overall economic development and refining the socioeconomic condition of the resource poor and disadvantaged sections inhabiting the programme areas.
3. Extenuating the adverse effects of extreme climatic conditions such as drought and desertification on crops.
4. Reinstating ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing natural resources i.e. land, water, vegetative cover.
5. Employment generation, poverty alleviation, community empowerment and development of human and other economic resources of the village.
6. To minimize the adverse effects of drought on the production of crops, livestock and productivity of land, water and human resources for drought proofing of the pretentious areas.

7. Watershed Development Programmes of NABARD

The voyage of the watershed development programme started in 1992 with peoples' participation in an integrated approach for water conservation, ground water recharging forestry, water budgeting and crop planning under the aegis of the Indo-German Watershed Development Programme (IGWDP) on a pilot basis in Maharashtra. Based on success of the pilot, the programme was expanded further in three phases of which Phase III is under implementation covering Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

The projects in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh were completed in 2015-16, and those in Gujarat and Rajasthan, in 2016-17. Activities under the IGWDP went beyond watershed management to improve quality of life and reduce the drudgery of women in rural areas.

At present the following Watershed Development Programmes are being implemented by NABARD as follows:

1. Participatory Watershed Development Programme under Watershed Development Fund (WDF)
2. Sustainable Development Plan (SDP)
3. Soil Restoration and rehabilitation of Degraded Soils for Food Security (Climate Proofing Soil Project) through KfW, Germany and WDF of NABARD
4. Climate Proofing in Indo-German Watershed Development Projects
5. Spring-shed based Watershed Development Projects.

8. Participatory Watershed Development Programme

Watershed Development Fund (WDF) was created in NABARD in 1999-2000 with an intital corpus of Rs. 200 crore. The corpus was augmented over the years with the interest accrued on the unutilized portion of the fund. The financial support under the programme was in the form of grant or grant-cum loan. As on 31st March 2018, the total corpus stood at Rs. 1,241.53 crore.

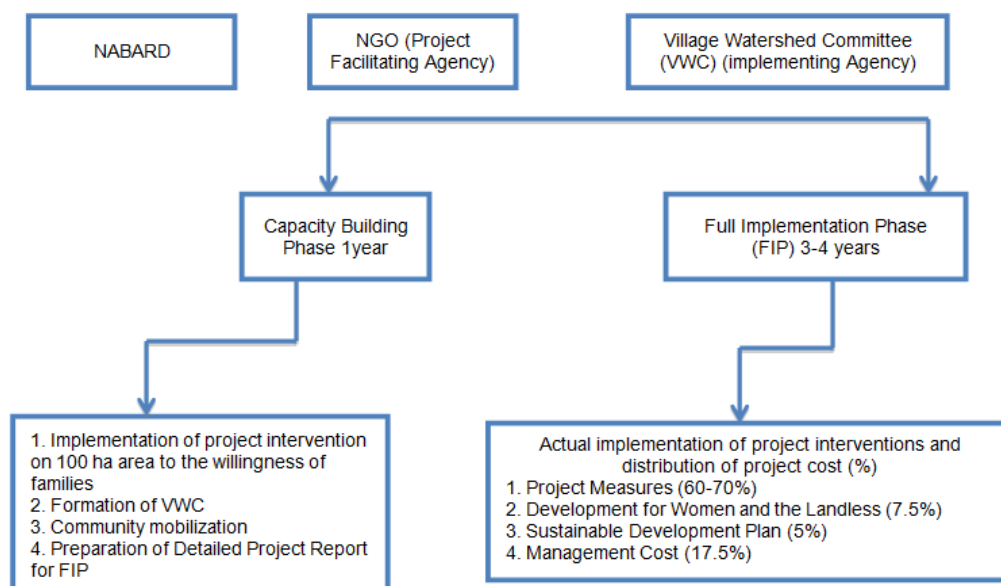
9. Impact evaluation of selected watershed projects

The major findings based on the impact evaluation studies of watershed projects in Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Karnataka and Kerala show an increase in the availability of ground water throughout the year, increase in crop production cropping intensity, net irrigated area, increase in crop diversification, resulting in increase in the income level of farmers, livestock population due to increased fodder availability, generation of additional employment, reduction in soil loss, etc. An impact assessment on watershed projects in Tamil Nadu is Presented in Box 1.1.

Sustainable Development Plan

Building on the success of the initial watershed programmes, NABARD has reoriented its approach towards sustainable development by making it more holistic. Its

10. Watershed Project Implementation Mechanism



Source: www.nabard.org

approach includes technology transfer, agriculture extension, and credit intensification, Integrated Pest Management.

Climate Proofing in Indo-German Watershed Development Programme (IGWDP) Projects

NABARD, as part of sustainable development in completed IGWDP projects in Gujarat and Rajasthan is implementing climate change adaptation and livelihood programmes in 40 projects with total financial assistance of Rs. 22.50 crore from KfW, Germany and WDF, NABARD.

Spring-shed Development Programme in NER

In view of the potential for developing freshwater springs, which from the lifeline of the North Eastern Region (NER), coupled with the need to reduce and recover from the impact of climate change, NABARD launched an innovative and integrated spring-shed based participatory watershed development programme in the NER including Sikkim in January 2017, on a pilot basis with financial support under WDF. The programme’s twin objectives are- (i) to reduce drinking water scarcity and (ii) to promote off-season farming. /as on 31 March 2018, 24 spring-shed development projects have been sanctioned in the NER, including Sikkim.

Web-based monitoring of watershed projects

NABARED signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad for monitoring of IGWDP watershed projects through geospatial technologies on a pilot basis in Gujarat, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh and NABARD assisted watershed projects under WDF in Madhya Pradesh. A separate web portal and mobile app have been developed under this initiative in which the Project Facilitating Agencies (PFAs) can upload their data. The project is facilitating NABARD in tracking physical and financial progress in real time and in impact evaluation of watershed projects. (Pre and Past) and improving the effectiveness of implementation.

11. Conclusion

India is not exclusion to the global awareness campaign and measures there of. For instance, In India, substantial awareness has developed and various efforts are directed towards the development of environmental health so as to ensure the sustained level of production through better utilization of natural resources (land, water, vegetation).

The importance on watershed approach to conserve soil and water resources has further gained momentum and evolved to operationalize several of guidelines and bringing in vast wastelands under cultivation and conservation of valuable

rain and ground water resulting in increase in crop output as well as yields. Before concluding, it is relevant to say that for effective application of any programme for welfare of people at gross root level, which requires a massive people's participation and also co-operation from the government.

The use of the micro-watershed as the rudimentary unit for planning and intervention was found to be useful, but the larger goals of defensive and conserving hydrologic services and/or managing negative downstream and groundwater influences remained to be addressed as the micro-watershed approach was carried out in separation.

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