

Arghyam

Presentation to Planning Commission
Feb 2007

About Arghyam

- Public charitable trust set up by Rohini Nilekani
- Rs 100 crore (\$25 million) endowment
- Exclusive focus on the Water Sector
 - Funds organizations/individuals working on equity, sustainability
 - Facilitates the India Water Portal

Recommendations for 11th Plan

Distilled from

- Partner experiences
- Field visits and interactions
- Project funding
- Critical analysis
- Not meant to be exhaustive, exclusive
- To be dovetailed into planning process

Other areas of concern

- Understanding true cost/value of water
- Hidden/ overt poorly targeted subsidies
- Irrational incentives for water-intensive agriculture/industry and urban consumption
- Climate change – mitigation/adaptation

List of Recommendations

Suggested reforms to be incentivised by PC
10 recommendations covering our learning in

1. Drinking Water
2. Sanitation
3. Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting
4. Wastewater Management
5. Water-body Restoration
6. Rainfed Areas/Watershed Development
7. Overcoming the Last-mile Challenge
8. Metering/Measuring
9. Appropriate Governance Structures
10. Reducing Knowledge Asymmetry

Drinking Water

Retain Highest Priority

Identify and secure DW source (80 % from GW)

Apply Sustainability Filters –

- Environmental, Technical, Institutional, Financial

Examples

- Sadguru Foundation

Sanitation - Rethinking & Scaling Up

Incentives to improve coverage

Filling gaps in TSC- Process Support

Appropriate solutions

Alternatives to water-borne systems in ULBs

Examples

- Slum toilets by SHGs - Gramalaya, Trichy
- Eco-sanitation - Myrada

Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting

Makes people part of water solution

Large-scale need based investments

Bharat Nirman, NREGA, other schemes

Targeted incentive structures

Safe, adequate lifeline water

Examples

- Barefoot College, BIRD-K Fluoride mitigation, Maegh Pyne Abhiyan, Rain Centre
- Bangalore potential

Wastewater Management

Wastewater - underutilized resource

Supporting emerging paradigms –
decentralized systems, closed-loop,
polluter pays

Examples

PPP – Cooum River – Chennai/Basin bridge
Thermal plant

Tertiary Treatment Plant – Yelahanka

Silk industry effluent treatment - Vijayapura

Waterbody Restoration

Releasing Trapped Value –

economic, social, cultural

Local water security

Enables community participation

Financed through NREGA, Bharat Nirman

Examples

Jala Samvardhane, Karnataka –

Traditional water structures-Rajasthan

Watershed Development - Rainfed Areas

Implementing Parthasarathy Committee Recommendations

- Social and Physical Audit
- Performance Accountability, Tenure Security
- Professionals at the grassroots

Support pricing for dryland crops – millets

Examples

ACWADAM, SPS, Dev Alt, BAIF

Overcoming the last-mile challenge

Successful, scaleable models from field
Must be embedded in program design.

Examples –

Capacity-building of SVOs - SPS

Civil society partnerships – Suvarna Jala

Subsidized connections - BWSSB

Metering/Measuring

“What gets measured gets managed”

- First step in understanding consumption/leakage
- Enables lifeline water and equity
- South Africa Model
- Required at ULB and GP level

Examples

Hebbali village, Karnataka

Myrada Project

Appropriate Governance Structures

Map institutional frameworks against need

Strengthen, merge, create

Incentivise States to emulate good models

Examples

- GSDA, Maharashtra
- DMC, Karnataka
- Urban Water Institutions spanning urban hydrological cycle
- Platform for States to share best practices
- River-basin level bodies – technical cell

Reducing Knowledge Asymmetry

Disclosure – Improved efficiency, empowered citizenry

Data & SLBs - Embedded in program design

Standardized formats for disclosure of data

- Projects/Operations– budget, milestones, PM
- Water Resources – gw, rainfall, quality
- Maps – clear guidelines, access

Examples

Portal, Sambhaav, Suvarna Jala

Thank you

Arghyam

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