

N R E G S FOR WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT IN KERALA

*V.N.Jithendran
Mission Director
NREGS(Kerala*

BACKGROUND

- Policy decision for convergence of People's Plan and NREGA
- Focus on NRM and Eco restoration
- Expert agencies roped in for preparing watershed based District Perspective Plan

STEPS TAKEN

- Detailed Guidelines issued for Watershed Master Plan preparation
- State level convergence meeting of HoDs
- SRT, DRT, BRT, Grama Sabha Facilitators in place
- Capacity building plan for convergence

FOCUS AREAS OF NREGS IN 2008-09

- Renovation of farm ponds
- Renovation of canals
- Protection of water bodies
- Construction of check dams
- Eco restoration of natural springs
- Renovation of abandoned water bodies
- Flood proofing of water logged areas

RECENT INITIATIVES

- Focus on overexploited, critical and semi critical Blocks-artificial recharge of ground water
- Renovation of irrigation projects under NREGA-desilting
- Construction of field channels
- Large projects-Eco restoration of major rivers-Bharata puzha and Kabani

RECENT INITIATIVES (contd...)

- Sharing of water resources related data base of all actors-meeting held
- Common effort for popularising appropriate technologies for water conservation and water management

NEXT STEPS

- Framework for convergence of NREGA and water resources development projects- to be issued as guidelines
 - PRI s to prepare project document for the integrated plans
 - NREGA Action Plan
 - People's Plan
 - CSS for water resources development
 - State projects for water resources development

NEXT STEPS (contd...)

- Roles and responsibilities of partners to be clearly spelt out in the Guidelines
- Integrated projects - Labour component to be met by NREGS and material by People's Plan
- IEC and participatory processes involving-
 - User Groups
 - Kudumbasree network
 - NREGA workers-Labour Bank
- NREGA implementation-watershed based
- Common review and monitoring mechanism
- Social Audit of processes outcomes of convergence

ISSUES

- Lack of practical expertise in watershed development
- Freedom to decide unit cost based on prevailing SoR
- Rationalise institutional framework-
multiplicity of committees