

Z-11011/11/2010-PPC  
Government of India  
Ministry of Rural Development  
Department of Land Resources

6<sup>th</sup> Floor, 11<sup>th</sup> Block  
CGO Complex, Lodhi Road  
New Delhi 110 003

Date: 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2011

To

The Chairman, SLNA for IWMP in all States (as per list attached)

**Subject: Comprehensive amendments in Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects, 2008 - reg.**

Sir,

This has the reference to various amendments made in the Common Guidelines to facilitate smooth implementation of Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), after various rounds of discussions with States and consultations during workshops.

2. A comprehensive list of amendments made so far in the Common Guidelines is enclosed herewith for necessary action at all levels of implementation. It is further informed that the current comprehensive list includes the amendments in para 9.IX – regarding ‘Multi-Tier approach’ and para 29 – regarding the Chairman of Watershed Cell cum Data Centre (WCDC) which have already been communicated by the Department, vide letter no. S-21011/1/2009-DDP dt. 05.07.11 and Z-11011/11/2010-PPC dt. 19.09.11, respectively.

Encl.: As above.

Yours faithfully,

(Dr. Savita Anand)  
Joint Secretary (WM)  
(011-2436 2396)

Copy to

1. The PPS to secretary (LR)/ PPS to AS (LR)/ PS to JS (WM), DoLR
2. Director/ AIGF/ DC/ US (M&E), DoLR
3. The Principal Secretary/ Secretary/ Commissioner of Nodal Department for IWMP in all States (as per list attached)
4. The CEO. SLNA for IWMP in all States (as per list attached)

Copy also to

The Chief Executive Officer, National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), NASC Complex, DPS Marg, PUSA, New Delhi

**Comprehensive list of amendments made in the Common Guidelines for Watershed Projects, 2008 (as on 22.09.11)**

Chapter/ para No.	Items as in common guidelines	Items after amendments may be read as:
<b>Para 9</b>	<b>Multi Tier Approach</b>	
<b>9.IX</b>	<p>There would be a multi tier ridge to valley sequenced approach, which should be adopted towards the implementation of the Watershed Development Projects. The higher reaches or the forests are actually where the water sources originate. The approach, therefore, will be to identify an area, and first look at the forest and the hilly regions, in the upper water catchments wherever possible. When suitable treatment is undertaken, with the support of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, or from the States' Forest programmes or other sources, then the hardest part of the watershed is tackled. Forest Department is managing structures such as check dams, contour-bunds etc. to arrest the erosion and degradation of the forests, which in turn, actually benefit the lower tiers. Thus, in the upper reaches, which are mostly hilly and forested, the onus of implementation would mainly lie with the Forest Departments and the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMC).</p> <p>The second tier is the intermediate tier or the slopes, which are just above the agricultural lands. In the intermediate slopes, the watershed management approach would address all the necessary issues by looking at all the best possible options including treatment, cropping pattern, horticulture, agro-forestry etc.</p> <p>As to the third level of the plains and the flat areas, where typically, the farmers are operating, there would be a large concentration of labour intensive works. The watershed development process would be synergized with the employment generating programmes such as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) etc thus providing strong coordination.</p>	<p>There would be a multi tier ridge to valley sequenced approach, which should be adopted towards the implementation of the Watershed Development Projects. The higher reaches or the forests are actually where the water sources originate. The approach, therefore, will be to identify an area and first look at the forest and the hilly regions, in the upper water catchments wherever possible. When suitable treatment is undertaken in forest areas in upper catchments with the funding support from watershed development projects then the hardest part of the watershed is tackled. Forest department is managing structures such as check dams, contour-bunds etc. to arrest the erosion and degradation of the forests, which in turn, actually benefit the lower tiers. Thus, in the upper reaches, which are mostly hilly and forested, the onus of implementation would mainly lie with the Forest Departments and the Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs). Irrespective of the type of forests, the land forming integral part of the selected watershed project area having agriculture/wasteland and forest land use, the fringe-forest areas and the degraded areas needing treatment which have implications for the lower reaches of watershed in terms of runoff/ water yield, soil erosion &amp; sedimentation, fodder, etc should be part of the holistic watershed treatment plan, with major focus on soil &amp; moisture conservation. Works undertaken in such forest areas can be funded through IWMP scheme to derive full advantage of the investments made. All efforts should be made to converge MGNREGA, Afforestation Schemes, etc. with IWMP for treatment of forest areas.</p> <p><i>(Already communicated by DoLR to all States vide letter no. S-21011/1/2009-DDP dt. 05.07.11)</i></p>
<b>4:</b>	<b>Institutional Arrangements at National, State and District Level</b>	-
<b>4.5:</b>	<b>District Watershed Development Unit</b>	<b>Watershed Cell cum Data Centre (WCDC)</b>
<b>Para 29</b>	<p>In districts, where the area under the watershed development projects is about 25,000 hectare, a separate dedicated unit, called the District Watershed Development Unit (DWDU) will be established at district level, which will oversee the implementation of watershed programme in each district and will separate independent accounts for this purpose. Where the area under the Watershed Development Projects is less than approximately 25,000 hectare, the projects will be implemented in accordance with the existing arrangements. However, in each cases one officer shall be exclusively appointed within DRDA either on contract or on deputation to coordinate watershed projects at the district level. DWDU will function in close coordination with the District Planning Committee. There will also be a representation in</p>	<p>A separate Cell, called the Watershed Cell cum Data Centre (WCDC) will be established at the district level, which will oversee the implementation of watershed programme in each district and will have separate independent accounts for this purpose. It will be set up in DRDA/Zilla Parishad/District Level Implementing Agency/Department in all programme districts as per the convenience of the State Governments and strengthen the same with professional support in the districts implementing large number of watersheds with area more than 25,000 ha. WCDC will function in close co-ordination with the District Planning Committee. District Collector/ CEO, ZP may be designated as Chairman of WCDC and a District Officer of the Department, in which WCDC has been located, may be called the Project Manager for WCDC. The Project Manager will attend to day to day functioning</p>

Chapter/ para No.	Items as in common guidelines	Items after amendments may be read as:
	DWDU for NREGA, BRGF implementing agencies at the district level. Alternatively, the mechanism of approval and implementation of project by District Level Committee/ Collector may continue to prevail.	of WCDC and implementation of watershed programmes in their jurisdiction whereas, District Collector/CEO, ZP will have role in securing coordination and convergence along with periodical review of the programme. Representatives of MGNREGS, BRGF implementing agency at the district level should be included in the periodical review meeting of the programme for convergence. <i>(For IAP Districts in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal the District Collector should be the Chairman of WCDC - Communicated by DoLR to all States vide letter no. Z-11011/11/2010-PPC dt. 19.09.11)</i>
<b>Para 30</b>	DWDU will be a separate unit with a full time Project Manager and 3 to 4 subject matter specialists on Agriculture/Water Management/ Social Mobilisation / Management and Accounts appointed on the basis of their qualification and expertise on contract/deputation/transfer etc. The Project Manager, DWDU would be a serving government officer on deputation or would be recruited from open market by means of a transparent process. If he/she is a serving Government Officer, his/ her posting will be done by the State Government. If open market recruitment is necessary, this will be done by SLNA. The Project Manager, DWDU will sign a contract (for a period not less than three years) with the SLNA that will spell out well-defined annual goals, against which his/her performance will be consistently monitored. The arrangements for setting up/ strengthening the DWDUs/District Data Cell will be financially supported by Government of India after review of available staff, infrastructure and the actual requirement.	WCDC will be a separate unit with a Project Manager and 3 to 6 full time staff (3 in districts with less than 25,000 ha project area and 6 in districts with more than 25,000 ha project area) comprising of subject matter specialists on Agriculture/ Water Management / Social Mobilisation/ others as appropriate/ Management & Accounts, and data entry operator appointed on the basis of their qualification and expertise on contract/deputation/transfer etc. A District Officer of the Department in which WCDC has been located will be the Project Manager. The Project Manager, WCDC in consultation with SLNA will spell out well-defined annual goals, against which his/her performance will be consistently monitored. The arrangements for setting up/ strengthening the WCDCs will be financially supported by the Government of India after review of available staff, infrastructure and the actual requirement.
<b>4.5</b>	<b>District Watershed Development Unit (DWDU)</b>	<b>Watershed Cell cum Data Centre (WCDC)</b>
<b>Para 31</b>	<b>The functions of DWDU will be as follows:</b>	<b>The functions of WCDC will be as follows:</b>
<b>a</b>	Identify potential Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) in consultation with SLNA as per the empanelment process as decided by the respective state governments.	Identify potential Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs) in consultation with Zilla Parishad/ Zila Panchayat/ District Council as per the empanelment process to be decided by the respective state governments.
<b>5</b>	<b>Institutional Arrangements at Project Level</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Project Implementing Agency (PIA)</b>	
<b>34</b>	The SLNA would evolve appropriate mechanisms for selecting and approving the PIAs, who would be responsible for implementation of watershed projects in different districts. These PIAs may include relevant line departments, autonomous organizations under State/ Central Governments, Government Institutes/ Research bodies, Intermediate Panchayats, Voluntary Organizations (VOs). However, the following criteria may be observed in the selection of these PIAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ They should preferably have prior experience in watershed related aspects or management of watershed development projects.</li> </ul>	The SLNA would evolve appropriate mechanisms for selecting and approving the PIAs, who would be responsible for implementation of watershed projects in different districts. These PIAs may include relevant line departments, autonomous organizations under State/ Central Governments, Government Institutes/ Research bodies, Panchayats, Voluntary Organizations (VOs). However, the following criteria may be observed in the selection of these PIAs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ They should preferably have prior experience in watershed related aspects or management of watershed development projects.</li> <li>▪ They should be prepared to constitute dedicated</li> </ul>

Chapter/ para No.	Items as in common guidelines	Items after amendments may be read as:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ They should be prepared to constitute dedicated Watershed Development Teams.</li> </ul>	Watershed Development Teams.
<b>6</b>	<b>Institutional Arrangements at the Village Level and People's Participation</b>	
<b>6.3</b>	<b>Watershed Committee (WC)</b>	
<b>Para 44:</b>	<p>The Gram Sabha will constitute the Watershed Committee (WC) to implement the Watershed project with the technical support of the WDT in the village. The Watershed Committee (WC) has to be registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860. The Gram Sabha may elect/appoint any suitable person from the village as the Chairman of Watershed Committee. The secretary of the Watershed Committee (WC) will be a paid functionary of the Watershed Committee (WC). The Watershed Committee (WC) will comprise of at least 10 members, half of the members shall be representatives of SHGs and User Groups, SC/ST community, women and landless persons in the village. One member of the WDT shall also be represented in the Watershed Committee (WC). Where the Panchayat covers more than one village, they would constitute a separate subcommittee for each village to manage the watershed development project in the concerned village. Where a watershed project covers more than one Gram Panchayat, separate committees will be constituted for each Gram Panchayat. The Watershed Committee (WC) would be provided with an independent rented office accommodation.</p>	<p>The Gram Sabha will constitute the Watershed Committee (WC) to implement the Watershed project with the technical support of the WDT in the village. The Watershed Committee (WC) has to be registered under the Society Registration Act, 1860. The Gram Sabha may elect/appoint any suitable person from the village as the Chairman of Watershed Committee. Sarpanch and /or ward member/ Panchayat members may also be member/ Chairman of WC. The secretary of the Watershed Committee (WC) will be a paid functionary of the Watershed Committee (WC). The Watershed Committee (WC) will comprise of at least 10 members, half of the members shall be representatives of SHGs and User Groups, SC/ST community, women and landless persons in the village. One member of the WDT shall also be represented in the Watershed Committee (WC). Funds may be released to WC.</p> <p>Alternatively, the WC shall be constituted by the GS and it will be a sub-committee of GP. In such situation, WC need not be registered under Society Registration Act. Funds will be released to WC.</p> <p>The States may adopt any one of the above two options.</p> <p>Where the Panchayat covers more than one village, they would constitute a separate subcommittee for each village to manage the watershed development project in the concerned village. Where a watershed project covers more than one Gram Panchayat, separate committees will be constituted for each Gram Panchayat. The Watershed Committee (WC) would be provided with an independent rented office accommodation.</p>
<b>Para 45:</b>	<p>The Watershed Committee will open a separate bank account to receive funds for watershed projects and will utilize the same for undertaking its activities. The expenses towards the salaries of the WDT members and Secretary of Watershed Committee (WC) shall be charged from the administrative expenses under the professional support to the PIA.</p>	<p>The funds may be released to Watershed Committee. The Watershed Committee will open a separate bank account to receive funds for watershed projects and will utilise the same for undertaking its activities. The expenses towards the salaries of the WDT members and Secretary of Watershed Committee (WC) shall be charged from the administrative expenses under the professional support to the PIA.</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>Allocation of Funds, Approval of Projects and Release of Funds</b>	-
<b>9.1</b>	<b>Allocation of Funds to States</b>	
<b>Para 66</b>	<p>By the end of February each year, the States will submit detailed Annual Action Plans indicating ongoing liabilities as well as new projects which they wish to take up. The Departmental Nodal Agency at the central level will thereafter, based on total available budget for the year and the criteria as given in Para-64 and 65, allocate specific amounts for individual states from whom proposals have been received. After States have received their</p>	<p>By the end of February each year, the States will submit detailed Annual Action Plans indicating ongoing liabilities as well as new projects which they wish to take up. The Departmental Nodal Agency at the central level will thereafter, based on total available budget for the year and the criteria as given in Para-64 and 65, allocate specific amounts for individual states from whom proposals have been received. After States have received their allocation against ongoing and new</p>

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	allocation against ongoing and new projects, they will be free to sanction their projects within the State allocation. On receipt of the sanction orders for the new projects from SLNA; the Nodal Ministry would release funds directly to the district level agency. The existing release procedure of Departmental Nodal Agencies may however continue if release of funds to the district level agency is not feasible.	projects, they will be free to sanction their projects within the State allocation. On receipt of the sanction orders for the new projects from SLNA; the Nodal Ministry would release funds directly to the <b>SLNA</b> .																								
<b>Para 67</b>	<table border="1" data-bbox="313 457 849 989"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="313 457 618 527">Budget component</th> <th data-bbox="618 457 849 527">Existing provision in IWMP as per CG 2008 (% of total project cost)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 527 618 621">- Administrative costs - Monitoring - Evaluation</td> <td data-bbox="618 527 849 621">10 1 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 621 618 762">Preparatory phase, including: - Entry point activities, - Institution and capacity building, - Detailed Project Report (DPR).</td> <td data-bbox="618 621 849 762">4 5 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 762 618 930">Watershed Works Phase: - Watershed development works, - Livelihood activities for the asset less persons, - Production system and micro enterprises.</td> <td data-bbox="618 762 849 930">50 10 13</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 930 618 961">Consolidation phase</td> <td data-bbox="618 930 849 961">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="313 961 618 989"><b>Total</b></td> <td data-bbox="618 961 849 989"><b>100</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Budget component	Existing provision in IWMP as per CG 2008 (% of total project cost)	- Administrative costs - Monitoring - Evaluation	10 1 1	Preparatory phase, including: - Entry point activities, - Institution and capacity building, - Detailed Project Report (DPR).	4 5 1	Watershed Works Phase: - Watershed development works, - Livelihood activities for the asset less persons, - Production system and micro enterprises.	50 10 13	Consolidation phase	5	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<table border="1" data-bbox="881 457 1432 989"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="881 457 1214 527">Budget component</th> <th data-bbox="1214 457 1432 527">Amended provision (% of total project cost)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="881 527 1214 621">- Administrative costs - Monitoring - Evaluation</td> <td data-bbox="1214 527 1432 621">10 1 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="881 621 1214 762">Preparatory phase, including: - Entry point activities, - Institution and capacity building, - Detailed Project Report (DPR).</td> <td data-bbox="1214 621 1432 762">4 5 1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="881 762 1214 930">Watershed Works Phase: - Watershed development works, - Livelihood activities for the asset less persons, - Production system and micro enterprises.</td> <td data-bbox="1214 762 1432 930">56 9 10</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="881 930 1214 961">Consolidation phase</td> <td data-bbox="1214 930 1432 961">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="881 961 1214 989"><b>Total</b></td> <td data-bbox="1214 961 1432 989"><b>100</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Budget component	Amended provision (% of total project cost)	- Administrative costs - Monitoring - Evaluation	10 1 1	Preparatory phase, including: - Entry point activities, - Institution and capacity building, - Detailed Project Report (DPR).	4 5 1	Watershed Works Phase: - Watershed development works, - Livelihood activities for the asset less persons, - Production system and micro enterprises.	56 9 10	Consolidation phase	3	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>
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<b>Para 70</b>	The central share of funds shall be released to the DWDUs / agency for the three phases of the implementation spread over the project period in the following manner or as decided by the Nodal Ministry.	The central share of funds shall be released to the <b>SLNA</b> for three phases of the implementation spread over the period in the following manner or as decided by the Nodal Ministry.																								
<b>Para 71</b>	The release of funds to district implementing agencies / State Government will be done directly on the basis of specific annual proposals received from each district keeping in view their ongoing commitments and the new projects sanctioned and the overall budgetary provision for the district and upon approval of their action plans by the SLNA. DWDUs / Agencies shall release the funds to the PIAs and the watershed committees within 15 days of the receipt of the fund.	The release of central funds to SLNA will be made directly on the basis of specific proposals received from SLNA. The fund flow pattern will be as follows:  i. Project fund relating to Watershed Works, Livelihood and Production System and microenterprises may flow from DoLR to SLNA to WCDC to WC.  ii. Administrative cost, Capacity Building, EPA, DPR, Monitoring component of project funds may flow from DoLR to SLNA to WCDC to PIA.																								
<b>Para 73</b>	One of the mandatory conditions for selection of villages for watershed projects is people's contribution towards the Watershed Development Fund (WDF). The contributions to WDF shall be a minimum 10% of the cost of NRM works executed on private lands only. However, in case of SC/ST, small and marginal farmers, the minimum contribution shall be 5% of the cost of NRM works executed on their lands. However, for other cost intensive farming system activities such as Aquaculture, Horticulture, Agro-forestry, Animal Husbandry etc on private land directly benefiting the individual farmers, the contribution of farmers will be 40% for General category and 20% for SC & ST beneficiaries and the remaining cost of the activities	One of the mandatory conditions for the selection of villages for watershed projects is people's contribution towards the Watershed Development Fund (WDF). The Contribution of WDF shall be a minimum 10 % of cost of NRM works executed on private land only. However, in case of SC/ST, small and marginal farmers, the minimum contribution shall be 5 % of cost of NRM works executed on their land.  These contributions would be acceptable either in cash at the time of execution of works or voluntary labour. A sum equivalent to the monetary value of the voluntary labour would be transferred from the watershed project account to the WDF bank account that will be distinct from the Watershed Committee (WC) bank account. User charges, sales proceeds and																								

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	i.e. 60% for the General and 80% for SC/ST category will come from the project funds subject to a maximum limit of an amount equal to double of the standard unit cost norm for Watershed Development Project.	other contributions, disposal amounts of intermediate usufruct rights shall also be deposited in the WDF bank account. Income earned from assets created under the project on common property resources shall also be credited to WDF.
<b>Para 74</b>	These contributions would be acceptable either in cash at the time of execution of works or voluntary labour. A sum equivalent to the monetary value of the voluntary labour would be transferred from the watershed project account to the WDF bank account that will be distinct from the Watershed Committee (WC) bank account. User charges, sales proceeds and disposal amounts of intermediate usufruct rights shall also be deposited in the WDF bank account. Income earned from assets created under the project on common property resources shall also be credited to WDF.	<p>For other cost intensive farming system based livelihood activities/interventions such as Aquaculture, Horticulture, Agro-Forestry, Animal Husbandry etc. on private land directly benefiting the individual farmers, the contribution of farmers will be 20 percent for general category and 10 percent for SC/ST beneficiaries and the project funds will meet the cost of farming system activity to a maximum limit of an amount equal to double of the unit cost of the project for watershed development (i.e. Rs 12,000/15,000 per ha, as the case may be). Farmers' contribution i.e. 20 percent for general category and 10 percent for SC/ST of this amount (i.e. a maximum of Rs 4800/6000 and Rs 2400/3000 as the case may be, respectively for general category and SC/ST beneficiaries) will go to WDF.</p> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <p><b>a) Assuming the total cost of farming system activity/intervention = Rs 30,000</b>  <b>Cost of farming system activity to be met from Project fund (@Rs 12,000/ha project unit cost)</b>  <b>(General category) = Rs 24,000</b>  <b>(SC/ST) = Rs 24,000</b>  <b>Farmers' contribution towards WDF</b>  <b>(General category, 20% of 24,000) = Rs 4800</b>  <b>(SC/ST, 10% of 24,000) = Rs 2400</b></p> <p><b>b) Assuming the total cost of farming system activity/intervention = Rs 20,000</b>  <b>Cost of farming system activity to be met from Project fund (@Rs 12,000/ha project unit cost)</b>  <b>(General category) = Rs 20,000</b>  <b>(SC/ST) = Rs 20,000</b>  <b>Farmers' contribution towards WDF</b>  <b>(General category, 20% of 20,000) = Rs 4000</b>  <b>(SC/ST, 10% of 20,000) = Rs 2000</b></p> <p>Farmers' contribution to WDF in such case would be acceptable in cash at the time of execution of works.</p>