
Stakeholder Participation

Decisions regarding water resources management can affect nearly every sector of the economy and the public as a whole, and stakeholder participation should be established in a form that elicits direct input from people at all levels of engagement. Stakeholder involvement should be an integral part of water resources management, at all stages of the project cycle. Towards that objective there should be a complete reorientation of the institutions for increasing the role of stakeholders and the civil society in decision making and implementation of water projects. The Government has to be at the core of the effort to help build the local institutions and to impart a precise awareness of the issues and an unambiguous understanding of their role in water management. Similarly, Government must lead the effort to ensure greater participation of women in this endeavor.

In order to ensure that all stakeholders actively and fruitfully participate in water resources management decision making at all stages, it is the policy of the Government that:

- a. The "Guidelines for People's Participation (GPP) in Water Development Projects" be adhered to as part of project planning by all institutions and agencies involved in public sector management of water resources.
- b. Guidelines for formation of water user groups (WUG) and similar community organizations will be formulated.
- c. Generally, 25 percent of the earthwork of any public water project will be offered to specific target groups or beneficiaries.
- d. All opportunities are explored and efforts undertaken to ensure that the landless and other disadvantaged group are directly involved in participatory management of local water resources.
- e. New projects proposed by a community or local institution will be considered for implementation on a priority basis only when the beneficiaries have mobilized a certain percentage of the total cost as their contribution to the project.