
Public and Private Involvement

Water resources management requires involvement of the public and private sectors, communities and individuals that benefit from the delivery of water-related services. The ultimate success and effectiveness of public water resources management projects depends on the people's acceptance and ownership of each project. It is important to delineate the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in water resources management. The principle that community resources should be managed by the community concerned, along with local government institutions unless a greater national interest prevails, should guide water resource

management. It is recognized that women have a particular stake in water management because they are the principal providers and carriers of water, main caretaker of the family's health, and participants in many stages of pre and post-harvest activities. The policies of the Government regarding the respective roles of the public and private sectors are:

- a. Government's investments in water programme will be directed towards creation of public goods or for addressing specific problems of market failure and protecting particular community interests.
- b. Policies and programmes of any public agency involving water resources will be coordinated with the policies and programmes of all other public and private bodies to build synergy and avoid conflict.
- c. Public water institutions will, to the extent feasible, use private providers of specific water resources services in carrying out their mandates, giving preference to beneficiary groups and organizations.
- d. The management of public water schemes, barring municipal schemes, with command area up to 5000 ha will be gradually made over to local and community organizations and their O&M will be financed through local resources.
- e. Public water schemes, barring municipal schemes, with command area of over 5000 ha will be gradually placed under private management, through leasing, concession, or management contract under open competitive bidding procedures, or jointly managed by the project implementing agency along with local government and community organizations.
- f. Ownership of FCD and FCDI projects with command area of 1000 ha or less will gradually be transferred to the local governments, beginning with the ones that are being satisfactorily managed and operated by the beneficiary/ community organizations.
- g. Appropriate public and private institutions will provide information and training to the local community organizations for managing water resources efficiently.
- h. Enabling environment will be created for women to play a key role in local community organizations for management of water resources.

Government, where appropriate, will restructure its present institutions and design all future institutions for efficient implementation of the above policies.