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Govt. of India
Ministry of Water Resources

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING
OF THE INTER SECTORAL ADVISORY GROUP FOR NATIONAL WATER MISSION GOAL-IV
HELD ON 20TH DECEMBER, 2011 IN NEW DELHI

The first meeting of the Inter Sectoral Advisory Group for National Water Mission "Goal IV : Increasing water use efficiency by 20%" was held under the Chairmanship of Shri D.V. Singh, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources on 20th December, 2011 in the Conference Room of Ministry of Water Resources, Shram Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi. The list of participants is at Annexure.

The Secretary (Water Resources) welcomed all the participants of the Inter Sectoral Advisory Group for National Water Mission Goal IV, which was followed by self introduction by the participants.

The Additional Secretary (WR) & Mission Director, National Water Mission gave a brief background information about the strategies identified for Goal IV in the National Water Mission Document. He emphasized on the need for carrying out a baseline study to assess water footprints for various water uses and evaluation of benchmarks/targets for achieving water use efficiency. He informed that Ministry of Water Resources is proposing to set up a National Bureau of Water Use Efficiency to promote, regular and ensure efficient use of water.

Secretary (WR) stated that India has already become a water stressed country and is leading towards water scarcity situation. The availability and requirement of water for various purposes was assessed way back in 1999 by National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD). He stated that scenario has changed since then and there was a need to make reassessment of projections of water demands for various uses, particularly for industrial uses, which is expected to be much more than projected 9% as assessed by NCIWRD. Agriculture sector accounts for more than 80% of water use and that too at a low efficiency and, therefore, there is need to ensure adoption of efficient techniques in this sector. He stated that the strategies identified in the Mission Document are in general nature and could be redefined and more focussed and called for the view points of the participants in this regard.

Representative of FICCI agreed with the observations of Secretary (WR) that the current as well as projected use of water by industry need to be realistically assessed. He stated that FICCI is promoting voluntary disclosure of water uses by its member industries. He proposed that efficient use of water in industries should be incentivised.

Representative of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation stated that some efforts have been made on establishing benchmarks for water use in urban areas. He stated that water consumption rates are technology specific and, therefore, benchmarks/targets should be evolved taking into account these aspects.

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Representative of Ministry of Agriculture stated that National Mission on Micro Irrigation has already been launched to promote use of micro irrigation techniques to bring efficiency in water use in agriculture. He also advocated provisions of separate feeder line for electric supply to pumps for groundwater and ensuring last mile connectivity.

Managing Director, Krishna Bhagya Jala Nigam Limited suggested that grants-in-aid under Centrally sponsored schemes should be linked to performance to incentivise efficient use of water.

Chairman, Central Water Commission opined that use of re-cycled treated water should be made mandatory for industries. He informed that the Working Group for the 12th Five Year Plan has proposed adequate incentivisation for efficient use of water. Informing that the Water Technology Centre of ICAR has evolved water foot prints for various crops, he suggested that through a similar exercise in industry and other sectors, a fair assessment of present level of efficiency in water use can be assessed.

Representative of Sikkim informed that they have initiated actions for rainwater harvesting, drought-prone area development, treatment and re-cycle of waste water, etc.

Representative of Andhra Pradesh emphasized the provisions of adequate funds for proper operation and maintenance of water infrastructure.

Summing up the discussions, Secretary (WR) suggested that following actions should be undertaken for effective implementation of the strategies identified for Goal IV :

- i. A baseline study should be initiated to assess the prevailing water foot prints for various water uses.
- ii. Benchmark or normative water foot prints should also be assessed in order to fulfil the target of increasing water use efficiency by 20%
- iii. A meeting of the industry associations should be called to promote voluntary disclosure of water use and water audit by the industries.
- iv. Demonstrative or benchmark projects should be undertaken to demonstrate improvement in water use efficiency by different scientific measures.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.
