P-ISSN: 2618-0723
E-ISSN: 2618-0731

NAAS Rating: 5.04
www.extensionjournal.com

International Journal of Agriculture Extension and Social Development

Volume 8; SP-Issue 2; February 2025; Page No. 10-13

Received: 09-11-2024
Accepted: 15-12-2024

Indexed Journal
Peer Reviewed Journal

Extent of participation by the farmers in the integrated watershed management programme (IWMP)

[1]SM Gholape, [2]SC Holkar and [3]YS Ekhande

[1]Assistant Professor, Department of Agricultural Extension & Communication, Dr. D.Y. Patil College of Agriculture, Talsande, Maharashtra, India

[2]Principal, College of Agriculture, Sangulwadi, Maharashtra, India

[3]Assistant Professor, Vrindavan College of Agriculture, Gunjalwadipathar, Sangamner, Maharashtra, India

DOI: https://doi.org/10.33545/26180723.2025.v8.i2Sa.1596

Corresponding Author: SM Gholape

Abstract

The study was conducted in Raigad district of the Konkan region of Maharashtra state, where Integrated Watershed Management Programme was started to implement from the year 2010-11. In Raigad district, Mahad and Poladpur tahsils were selected for the study, where IWMP had completed the phases of work, so it was purposively selected for this study. From each tahsil, eight villages were selected randomly. Thus the total numbers of selected villages was sixteen. A list of farmers was obtained from the IWMP Cell of the Department of Agriculture of concerned tahsils. From 16 villages, total 160 respondents were selected for the present study. The study employed an ex-post facto research design & Personal interview technique was used for data collection in the year 2015. The study revealed that majority (71.25 percent) of the respondents had medium extent of participation in the Integrated Watershed Management Programme. In case of individual participation in Integrated Watershed Management Programme activities, overall full participation was observed in activities like awareness programme campaign, giving consent to the programme, meeting with local bodies, determining the needs, participation in group meetings, determining the different treatment for community land as well as private, determining different training programmes/Exposure tours, finalizing different livelihood activities, determining the locations for entry point activity, identification of different types of employments, deciding on different livelihood activities, strengthening of existing bunds, maintenance, restoration and development of assets in community land and selection and planting of forest tree species for community land.

Keywords: Participation, integrated watershed management programme (IWMP), livelihood

Introduction

Watershed development is an approach to build and strengthen the basic resources in a watershed area, so as to enable the establishment of sustainable support for living standard of participant farmers. This is an integrated approach on a natural hydrologic unit known as watershed. Watershed is a natural hydrological entity that covers a specific area of land surface within whose boundaries the entire run-off ultimately passes through a specifically defined stream. Watershed is defined as a hydro-geological unit of area in which the rainwater drains through a single outlet. Watershed development refers to the conservation, regeneration and judicious use of all the natural resources (like land, water, plant, animals) by human beings. Watershed management brings about the best possible balance between natural resources on the one side and human being on the other. Human beings and ecology are interdependent. The changes in the environment directly affect the lives of the people depending on it. A degraded environment means a degraded quality of life of the people. Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) was introduced during 1992 with 100 percent central assistance. This programme made afforestation and soil and moisture conservation in wasteland under government or community or private control as its predominant activity, without much focus on saturation of complete micro watershed and participation of people. The programmes of dry land development in Andhra Pradesh have undergone a major change from 1995-96 with the introductions of new watershed guidelines based on the recommendations of Dr. Ch Hanumantha Rao's Committee report (Hariyali guidelines-2008). Integrated approach and total participation of village communities are the main features of these guidelines. All the area development programmes like DPAP, IWDP and Desert Development Programme (DDP) were implemented through these new guidelines. The number of rainy days does not average more than 40-50 days in most part of the country. The challenges are to find ways of using this water where it falls. The aim of watershed development is to stop and conserve the rainfall where it falls, so that it can be used for from the period of time. The balanced ecosystem and human system are vital indicators of a sustainable environment and better quality of human life. In rural areas livelihood and natural resources such as land, water, vegetation and livestock are inter-linked. India's national economy is depended on agriculture

and the magnificence of its natural resources is legendry. As 70.00 percent of cultivated land under the rain-fed areas, watershed management is one of the critical factors for improving agricultural production. The Natural resource base on which existence of living beings depend-soil, water and vegetation is under degradation. Most of the arid and semi-arid regions have concentration of eroded and degraded natural resources. Loss of vegetal cover, followed by soil degradation through erosion has resulted in lands lacking in water as well as solid nutrients.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Raigad district of the Konkan region where Integrated Watershed Management Programme was started to implement from the year 2010-11. In Raigad district, Mahad and Poladpur tahsils were selected for the study, where IWMP had completed the phases of work, so it was purposively selected for this study. From each tahsil, eight villages were selected randomly. Thus the total numbers of selected villages was sixteen. A list of farmers was obtained from the IWMP Cell of the Department of Agriculture of concerned tahsils. From 16 villages, total 160 respondents were selected for the present study. Personal interview technique was used for data collection in the year 2015. Extent of participation is operationalized as the degree of which the beneficiary has actually involved in different activities of Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). For this measurement, the procedure developed by Ramanna (1999) was followed in the present study. In all, 40 items were identified and included in the eight programme planning steps to find out the extent of participation of beneficiaries in IWMP. The responses were collected on three point continuum *viz*., fully participated, partially participated and not participated in the activity and the responses were scored as 2, 1 and 0, respectively to each of the response

Results and Discussion

Table 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their Participation in selected activities of IWMP

	Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) activities	Extent of Participation (N=160)					
		Full participation		Partial participation		No participation	
		Freq.	Perc.	Freq.	Perc.	Freq.	Perc.
A	**Collection of Facts**						
1	Collection of information through PRA	51	31.87	105	65.63	04	02.50
2	Awareness programme campaign	119	74.37	41	25.63	00	00.00
3	Arrangements for meeting officials	73	45.62	79	49.38	08	05.00
B	**Analysis of the situation**						
1	Decision regarding the availability of resources	41	25.63	116	72.50	03	01.87
2	Giving consent to the programme	108	67.50	50	31.25	02	01.25
3	Meeting with local bodies	82	51.25	72	45.00	06	03.75
C	**Identification of the problems**						
1	Identification and analysis of the problems	37	23.13	121	75.62	02	01.25
2	Determining the needs	108	67.50	50	31.25	02	01.25
3	Consulting officials of IWMP	90	56.25	64	40.00	06	03.75
4	Participation in group meetings	76	47.50	73	45.62	11	06.88
D	Decide on objectives						
1	Deciding about the different programme contents	52	32.50	105	65.63	03	01.87
2	Determining the different treatment for community land as well as private	103	64.37	49	30.62	08	05.01
3	Determining different training programmes/Exposure tours	126	78.75	29	18.13	05	03.12
4	Finalizing different livelihood activities	98	61.25	53	33.12	09	05.63
E	**Developed plan of work**						
1	Constitute a village watershed committee	48	30.00	109	68.13	03	01.87
2	Determining the locations for entry point activity	95	59.37	62	38.12	03	01.87
3	Identification of different types of employments	95	59.37	57	35.63	08	05.00
4	Deciding on different livelihood activities	83	51.87	62	38.76	15	09.37
F	**Execution of plan**						
1	Introduction of livelihood activities	67	41.88	86	53.75	07	04.37
2	Strengthening of existing bunds	97	60.62	59	36.88	04	02.50
3	Selection and planting of forest tree species for community land	105	65.63	47	29.37	08	05.00
4	Maintenance, restoration and development of assets in community land	88	55.00	58	36.25	14	08.75
G	**Determining the progress**						
1	Evaluating the effectiveness, impact of difference	29	18.13	124	77.50	07	04.37
2	Assessing the cause of failure/success	73	45.63	75	46.87	12	07.50
3	Dissemination of success to others	57	35.62	68	42.50	35	21.88
4	Participation in field days	48	30.00	72	45.00	40	25.00
H	**Reconsideration with evaluation in each step**						
1	Identification of deficient in planning and implementation in overall programme	20	12.50	123	76.88	17	10.62
2	Providing opinion and suggestion	59	36.87	76	47.50	25	15.63
3	Observation in results of other	25	15.62	82	51.26	53	33.12
4	Discussion with officials and analysis of further success	20	12.50	63	39.38	77	48.12

The data presented in Table 01 revealed that, regarding extent of participation in individual watershed development practices, overall full participation was observed in activities like awareness programme campaign, giving consent to the programme, meeting with local bodies, determining the needs, participation in group meetings, determining the different treatment for community land as well as private, determining different training programmes/exposure tours, finalizing different livelihood activities, determining the locations for entry point activity, identification of different types of employments, deciding on different livelihood activities, strengthening of existing bunds, maintenance, restoration and development of assets in community land, selection and planting of forest tree species for community land.

The possible reasons that could be attributed to full participation in above activities could be the intensive use of extension teaching methods, use of participatory techniques, planning based on felt needs, active involvement of farmers. The other possible reason could be that above activities are directly related to farmers around which the whole Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) is planned.

Further, no or less participation was observed in discussion with officials and analysis of further success. The possible reasons which could be attributed to the above results may be that the above activity is complex in nature and requires expertise like evaluation and dissemination of success achieved to others which might have resulted to less or non-participation.

Table 2: Distribution of the respondents according to their overall extent of participation in the Integrated Watershed Management Programme

Sl. No.	Category (Score)	Respondents (N=160)	
		Numbers	Percentage
1.	Low (Up to 33)	28	17.50
2.	Medium (34 to 48)	114	71.25
3.	High (49 and above)	18	11.25
(Average:41.01) Total		160	100.00

It is observed from the Table 02 that, majority of the respondents (71.25 percent) exhibited medium participation, while 17.50 percent of them had high participation. Low extent of participation was exhibited by 11.25 percent of the respondents.

The possible reason may be attributed to the fact that, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) was developed based on farmers' felt needs, further it had involvement of farmers in planning and implementing stages and participatory methodology was employed by the department officials.

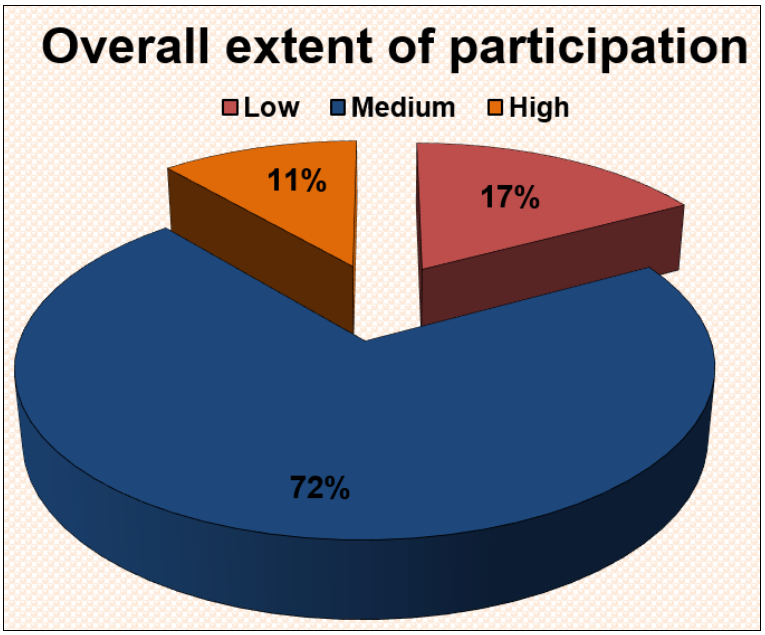

Fig 1: Distribution of the respondents according to their Overall Extent of Participation in IWMP

Conclusion

It is observed that 88.00 percent of the respondents come under medium and low level of participation in the integrated watershed management programmes, there is also need to motivate or encourage the peoples to participate. Proper awareness campaign should be carried out by the concerned department to get high participation of the peoples.

People's participation has turned out to be a key success in all developmental exercises and holds similar grounds in case of watershed development also. It is essential to see that people participation is ensured to highest order in any programme organized by the various agencies, be it Government or Non-government or private so that the programme becomes successful one and the benefits reach the concerned.

References

1. Bagadi G, Kurothe R. People's participation in watershed management programmes: Evaluation study of Vidarbha region of Maharashtra in India. Int J Soil Water Conserv Res. 2014;2(3):57-66.
2. Kumar R, Sheoran DK, Singh J. People's participation in Integrated Watershed Management Programme in

Haryana. Ann Biol. 2014;30(4):754-757.
3. Madhavareddy KV. People's participation in watershed development programme implemented by Government and non-government organization – A comparative analysis. M.Sc. (Agri.) Thesis, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore, Karnataka. 2001.
4. Vaithiyanath AO, Samuel G, Rao IS. A study on extent of participation and perception of farmers on benefits of IWMP (integrated watershed management programme). Journal of Extension Education. 2018, 30(2).
5. Kumar R, Sheoran DK, Hudda RS, Yadav K. Extent of People's Participation in the Process of Implementation of Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP). Journal of Community Mobilization and Sustainable Development. 2015;10(1):34-37.