

Externally Aided Projects

I World Bank Assisted Integrated Watershed Management Projects

Three World Bank Assisted Integrated Watershed Management Projects in the States of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Assam are being implemented. The DAC is involved in the supervision, coordination, and monitoring of these projects. The funds for these are directly given to the State Governments by the World Bank. Brief descriptions of ongoing projects are as under:

(i) **Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Project:** The Uttarakhand Decentralized Watershed Development Project was launched in September, 2004 and will end in March 2012. The project aims at improving the productive potential of natural resources and increasing incomes of rural inhabitants in selected watersheds through socially inclusive, and environmentally sustainable approaches. The project envisages Participatory Watershed Development and Management, Enhancing Livelihood Opportunities and Institutional Strengthening. The total cost for this project is Rs. 402.98 crores and the total area to be covered is 2.34 lakh hectare in 468 Gram Panchayats of the 11 districts namely Almora, Champawat, Nainital, Rudrapur, Uttarkashi, Bageshwar, Dehradun, Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Pithoragarh, and Chamoli. At present work is in progress in selected 467 Gram Panchayats with an investment of Rs. 258.93 crores by end of December, 2009.

(ii) **Himachal Pradesh Mid Himalayan Watershed Development:** The Mid-Himalayan Watershed Development project became operative in February, 2006 and it will end in March 2013. The project aims at prevention of degradation and protection of bio-diversity, improving accessibility to rural areas and productivity of livestock etc. The project envisages institutional strengthening, watershed development and management, enhancing livelihood opportunities, project management and coordination. The total outlay of the project is Rs. 365 crores. The total cost of the project is Rs. 337.50 crores and the total area to be covered is 602 Gram Panchayats in 10 districts namely, Sirmour, Solan, Bilaspur, Shimla, Kullu, Mandi, Hamirpur, Kangra, Chamba and Una. At present work is in progress in all the selected Gram Panchayats and a total of Rs. 152.92 crores has been spent by end of September, 2009.

(iii) **Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project:** The Assam Agricultural Competitiveness Project was launched in February, 2005 and it will end in March, 2010. The project aims at increasing the productivity and market access of targeted farmers and community groups to stimulate the growth of Assam's agricultural economy. The total cost of the project is Rs. 1,022 crores covering 23 districts for infrastructure development like rural roads, agricultural services & market chain development and minor irrigation. As on December, 2009, an amount of Rs 504.13 crores has been incurred towards installation of 36,129 shallow tube wells (STW), 11,674 lift pump sets, supply of 1077 power tillers, provided 700 tractors and drainage treatment of 15,908 hectare.

II. GTZ (German Technical Cooperation) Assisted Project

Strengthening Capacity Building for Decentralized Watershed Development:

The objective of the programme is to strengthen the capacities and networking of the cultural, regional and state organizations for decentralized watershed management. The first phase of the project, is being implemented in the States of Karnataka, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand on a pilot basis. The project is aimed at strengthening the capacity development system for Watershed Development Projects at the regional and state level. A National Consortium comprising of the Ministry of Agriculture, GTZ, International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) and the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management (MANAGE) has been constituted for achieving the project objectives. The duration of the project was 3 years from December, 2006 to November 2009 which has now been extended upto November, 2010. The total cost of the project is a grant of 3.5 million Euros from the GTZ in the form of Technical cooperation.