

National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)

The Union Government has constituted a National Rainfed Area Authority on 3.11.2006 to give focused attention to the problems of the rainfed areas of the country. The Authority is an advisory, policy making and monitoring body charged with the role of examining guidelines in various existing schemes and in the formulation of new schemes including all externally aided projects in this area. Its mandate is to address all aspects of sustainable and holistic development of rainfed areas, including appropriate farming and livelihood system approaches.

The Authority has published the Common Guidelines for Watershed Development Projects with a fresh framework for the next generation watershed programmes. The Guidelines coupled with the flexibilities inherent in them would provide an enabling framework for the planning, design, management and implementation of all watershed development projects in the country. New watershed projects are being implemented in accordance with these Common Guidelines with effect from 1st April 2008. The Authority has also prepared a Vision Document for Harnessing Opportunities in Rainfed Areas. The Vision Document will help to guide and provide for future initiatives to harness innovative policies, knowledge, technologies and opportunities for holistic and sustainable development of rainfed areas. The Authority has developed a detailed format for facilitating the states in preparing the perspective plan for development of rainfed areas in the states. The Authority has organized workshops in the states for adoption of Common Guidelines and have also started organizing workshops for preparation of perspective plans. The Authority has also prepared a comprehensive report on Mitigation Strategy for the Bundelkhand Regions of UP and MP. NRAA has been transferred to the Planning Commission.