

Watershed Development Fund (WDF)

The Union Government has established a Watershed Development Fund (WDF) during 2000 with total cost of Rs.200 crore which includes Rs.100 crore by DAC and Rs.100 crore by NABARD as matching contribution. The total corpus and its management is vested with NABARD. Objective of WDF is to promote participatory watershed development involving Watershed Community, State Government Departments, Banks and NGOs. Presently, WDF scheme is being implemented in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and West Bengal. During 2006, after announcement of Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package in 31 distressed districts in States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, it was decided to implement participatory watershed development programme in all these distressed districts through WDF. Since inception and up to end of September, 2012 an amount of Rs.607.78 crore consisting of Rs.573.30 crore as grant and Rs.37.48 crore as loan has been released to NGOs by NABARD. Out of Rs.573.30 crore grant component, Rs.484.18 crore has been released. At present, a total number of 1356 watersheds have been selected comprising 585 in non-distressed districts of 13 States and remaining 773 watersheds under PM's package for 31 distressed districts in four states under WDF.