



Minutes of Meeting

Hindon Yatra Exhibition & Symposium 2016

Project development workshop

GROUND WATER RECHARGE OPPORTUNITIES IN SAHARANPUR

“From Vision to Multi-stakeholder Action for River Rejuvenation”

Date : Wednesday July 13, 2016

Time : 3-6pm

Venue : IIT Roorkee Campus, Saharanpur (Technology Block)

Summary

A Workshop on “ground water recharge opportunities in Hindon river basin” was organized, partnering with Dept of Irrigation, 2030 Water Resource Group (2030 WRG), and Saharanpur Municipal Corporation. The work shop was organized under Hindon Yatra Exhibition & Symposium 2016 as an exercise leading to multi-stakeholder action for River Rejuvenation.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To initiate basin-wide knowledge exchange and coordination mechanisms across the Hindon
- Brain storming for generating tangible project proposals for implementation of the Hindon rejuvenation vision

The workshop was attended by more than 50 participants representing various stake holder groups including, government, civil society, academia and research, industry, public representatives, and NGOs. Representatives from villages around river Hindon also attended the workshop to discuss the actual state of the river as well as setting up a strategy to save Hindon on their part.

The workshop was convened by Dr. Vivek Kumar, IIT Roorkee and Mr. Nitin Verma, 2030 WRG and was conducted in two sessions. In the first plenary session, experts from Government, civil society, and industry shared their experiences of water recharging and water conservation initiatives. Second session was discussion. Discussion session was conducted in participatory mode in which all the participants were invited to deliberate. During the session some tangible project proposals were discussed among the entire stakeholders with the aim of preparing local level Hindon action plan.



Plenary session: good practice examples as inspiration for future projects

With small introduction about the objective of the workshop, the plenary session was started with the presentation of Mr. VK Mishra and Mr Jaiveer Yadav presented various initiatives taken by dept. of irrigation for Hindon rejuvenation namely construction of rubber dams at Buddhakhera & Jajner, and diversion of Ganga water to Hindon for sustaining the minimum flow in Hindon.

Next presentation was from Sh. Kesar Singh and Meenakshi Arora of India Water Portal. Mr Kesar Sng h discussed various aspects of ground water situation in India and process of ground water recharging. He presented a comparison between centralized and decentralized irrigation system and shared the experiences of a success story “Bhagirath Krishak Abhiyan”. He also discussed the importance of role of society by citing an example of Banglore story: Society’s sewage collection and use for irrigation, and use of central water submersible systems. Meenakshi Arora presented a case study on the transformation of a dry river in to a rejuvenated river, “Sukha Raula to Gad Ganga” in the village Uffail, distt Almora. Meenakshi Arora mentioned about river origination from springs and discussed the importance of plantation in recharging ground water. The case study is an excellent example of the community participation and use of local science and technology wisdom.

Sh Krishnpal Singh from GPVS presented few successful projects of Conservation, management and sustainable development of natural resources in the Bhagpat region implemented through public participation. He discussed the impact of public awareness campaigns for reversing the process of environmental (land, air and water) degradation as well as for its long term use and sustained production to fulfill local needs. His organization GPVS has revived the 17 ponds of Village Daula in Distrct Baghpat with the support of Jal Purush Sh Rajendra Singh and local communities.

Sh. Makhan Lal, CDO Gautam Budh Nagar shared how government agencies can lead social change with out of the box thinking. He informed that in Gautam Budhh Nagar several ponds were rejuvenated by district administration and all the projects were implemented through public participation. Confidence building measures (CBM) were taken through participating local social and cultural activities and public awareness campaigns. He shared his vast experiences of social forestry, tackling of lobbying of vested interest, and innovative methods to connect local farmers with Hindon Bachao campaign like branding of vegetables in the name of Hindon.



Sanjay Kashyap from ARANYA, discussed about the activities being carried out since 2001 in district Ghaziabad regarding the pond rejuvenation. He discussed about the challenges in the work including lack of awareness about the issue among the government officials. He outlined the importance of litigation and the role of NGT for such activities. He also informed that in Ghaziabad a simple act of evening Aarti at Hindon Ghat has created huge impact. He emphasized on the involvement of the stake holders for Hindon rejuvenation and suggested that public response can be invoked through simple local level socio-religious-cultural activities.

Dr. Niraj Shukla, City Commissioner emphasized on the need of rain water harvesting for the rejuvenation of water bodies. He highlighted various steps taken by the city and district administration for rain water harvesting in city area. He also mentioned that in Smart city proposal rain water harvesting is one of the important components. He also shared his experience of Paondhoi cleaning movement and assured that in future also he will leave no stone unturned for the rejuvenation of Hindon.

Sh IJ Singh discussed about the measures taken by Star Paper Mills Ltd in past. He informed that the specific water consumption and effluent generation from the SPM is well below the limits specified by the CPCB. He also informed about another initiative like installation of online monitoring system and rain water harvesting system in the mill premises. On behalf of the mill, he assured to participate in any initiative on Hindon.

Discussion session: project development opportunities in Saharanpur

Mr. Nitin Verma briefed the audience about 2030 WRG and initiated the discussion in second session. He talked about the need of multi-stakeholder tributary approaches towards river rejuvenation and emphasized implementation of local level multi stake holder projects. He referred to the case studies collected in the Hindon Yatra book and exhibition and said the 2030 WRG anticipate more than 100 such projects through the Hindon stretch and expected at least six or seven such projects from Saharanpur. He informed that 2030 WRG will not be formulating and implementing any project but it will play the role of facilitator between stakeholders and government agencies. He highlighted some of areas, like monitoring, solid waste management, tree plantation, ponds rejuvenation etc. in which projects can be planned in the next phase.

De. Vivek Kumar highlighted the importance of participatory approach and told that Hindon can be rejuvenated by the stakeholders. Industry, farmers groups, community and



government will have to join together for the Hindon. He said that blaming each other will not work and requested all to identify few workable projects after due deliberation.

Dr. Nadeem Khalil, Dr. DV Rai, Dr. S.K Upadhyaya, Dr. P.K Sharma, Dharmveer and Mr Rao Sahib, gram pradhan of Lakhnaur and Shekhpura Kadeem, respectively, Sushant Singhal, Rajeev Agrawal, participated very actively in the discussion. Industrial pollution, plantation, and recharging of ponds were the issues discussed most. Following areas were finalized for submitting project proposal for the Hindon Action Plan.

1. Water Quality Monitoring (both surface and groundwater) and Data Management
2. Forestation along the bank of Hindon with the aim of recharging springs
3. Solid Waste Management
4. Rain water harvesting (already in progress as part of Smart City initiative)
5. Pond Rejuvenation in Hindon villages
6. Construction of check dams on Hindon for water recharging / Construction of recharge ponds by Dept of Irrigation & Water Resources
7. Pilot plant for sewage treatment through constructed wetland system in Dhamola
8. Treatment and reuse of wastewater by Star Paper Mill (already some initiatives are underway)

Conclusions

Dr. Vivek Kumar, IIT Roorkee has agreed to submit a proposal on Water Quality Monitoring and data management and sharing his experience on wetlands. Dr. Vivek Kumar also agreed to support Pradhans of nearby villages in preparing projects of pond rejuvenation. Dr. Nadeem from AMU agreed to provide full assistance in the pilot project on constructed wetland. Dr. Khalil is already running a demonstration project in AMU on constructed wetland. Director Jal Nigam, and Dr. Neeraj Shukla, City Commissioner showed their inclination towards the proposal. Dr. Shukla also showed his interest for solid waste management project. UPID informed that they have already started working on rubber dams.

In the end conveners thanked all the participant for attending the workshop.