



IWP E-NEWS

India Water Partnership's Newsletter
(January to April, 2020)

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Foreword

We started 2020 with a fresh spirit and a plethora of new activities and challenges to be taken up. While stakeholder mobilization, youth empowerment and water management still remain at the core of our programmes. IWP will also facilitate projects that will promote community action for village water security; prepare capacity building modules on drinking water, sanitation and waste water management issues and use of digital media for awareness generation; conduct stakeholder consultation on monitoring framework for SDG 13 to track progress in implementation of adaptation of interventions as per the Madhya Pradesh State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC) for measuring the effectiveness; support multi-stakeholders for Hindon/ Ganga tributary management. In accordance with the Jal Jeevan Mission, IWP has also been invited as an official NGO partner by District Administration - Gurugram to be a part of the District Water Sanitation Committee.

The year started with the life threatening pandemic COVID-19 that has slowed down economic activity and stalled growth across the world. We hope that the situation will improve with time and our lives will be back on track soon. We acknowledge the efforts of some of our network partners who are relentlessly providing support in many districts/cities of India and helping district administration and panchayats to combat the spread of COVID-19.

In this issue of the newsletter, we also bring to your attention to a positive step taken by GWP - the Water ChangeMaker Awards, 2020 launched by GWP on World Water Day-2020 to promote the efforts of global change makers who work to build climate resilience through water.

JANUARY 2020

Workshop on Community Resilience to Water Induced Disasters and Climate Change in Assam:



Date: 9th January

Venue: IIBM, Khanapara, Assam

On completion of the study, a stakeholder workshop was organized on 9th January, 2020 at Indian Institute of Banking Management (IIBM), Khanapara, Guwahati, Assam to share the outcomes of a study and documentation of good practices in selected three river islands of Brahmaputra river to seek support and guidance of the stakeholders to take-up policy issues with the Government of Assam as per findings and recommendations of the study. The workshop included a Technical Session and three presentations which documented the lives of people, their vulnerability and adaptability to climate induced disasters in Majuli, Chalakura and KobuChapori Islands. A detailed panel discussion was also held with the panellists like; Er. P. Changkakati, Former Secretary, Water Resource Department, Govt. of Assam; Dr. Jaideep Baruah, Head, Environment Division, Science & Technology and Environment Council, Government of Assam; Mr Moferjal Sarkar, District Project Officer, District Disaster Management Authority, Dhubri; Dr. Partha J. Das, Head - Water, Climate and Hazard Division, Aaranyak;



Dr. Arnab Sarma Faculty, Water Resource Engineering, Royal Global University, Guwahati, Assam and Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, India Water Partnership. The workshop was attended by more than 40 participants representing district and panchayat officials of three river islands, research organizations, local community based organizations, Aaranyak and IWP team members. The study has produced the following outcomes:

- Documentation of sources of vulnerability of the communities living in the three study sites as well as their good practices in coping and adaptation with respect to risk of natural disasters and climate change.
- Different aspects of Governance viz. policies, institutions and program in the sectors of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Rural Development (RD) which will help decision makers in identifying lacunae in development schemes, gaps in formulation and implementation of policies and need for institutional reforms.

Meetings with UNICEF, India:

Date: 20th and 30th January

Venue: UNICEF Office, Lodhi Road, Delhi

As a follow-up to the UNICEF Regional Office for South Asia (ROSA) Climate Resilience WASH training (held in Kathmandu, Nepal from 16th to 18th July, 2019) recommendation, UNICEF Delhi office invited IWP on 20th and 30th January, 2020 for meetings to examine opportunities for WASH (Water, Sanitation and Health) in India by analysing the existing data and updating the risk assessment to see its impact on

women and children. From the UNICEF team, Ms. Marije Brokhuisen, Mr. Sarabjit Sahota and Ms. Triveni Chidanandaiah were present during these meetings, and from IWP Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, Ms. Sudha Kumari, Research Associate and Mr. Rahul Naithani, Communication Officer along with Dr. Vijaya Lakshmi, (Former RC Member) from Development Alternatives attended. The agenda of the meetings was to discuss the impact of WASH Practices on the stakeholders in India, developing or adapting to water potential solutions (technical, policy-related or otherwise), analyzing solutions that can be replicated and monitoring & evaluation, and identifying solutions to incorporate WASH principles with the State climate change plans/policies. It was decided that UNICEF will develop a format to collect the existing information and share with IWP for necessary action. Format from UNICEF is awaited.

FEBRUARY 2020

Support Hindon Multi-stakeholders Platform for rejuvenation of Hindon river and its tributaries:

Date: 5th February

Venue: Shamli, Uttar Pradesh

Rejuvenation of Hindon and its tributaries has been a continuous effort of the Multi-stakeholder Partnership (MSP). IWP is working in Shamli district with the District Administration and 8 gram panchayats through IWP's network partner Green India Corporation. On the basis of IWP's efforts in the past, District Administration, Shamli invited IWP to participate in a meeting organized by the District Magistrate - Mr. Akhilesh Singh, for rejuvenation of Krishni River and to discuss on the action plans with 40 village Gram pradhans. In order to provide technical support for tributary rejuvenation and safe water solutions, IWP invited two of its network partners, Asbah and J.S. Water Energy Life Co. Pvt. Ltd., to visit Kheri Karmu and Lillon located near the Krishni River to assess the current condition of the river, its impact on health of human beings, animals and natural resources and to see the potential for its revival.



The team included Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary & Mr. Rahul Naithani, Communication Officer from IWP; Ms. Ena Robinson and Mr. Prateek Aggarwal from Asbah (a student body that works to provide communities access to safe drinking water) and Mr. Sunil Nanda, Managing Director, J. S. Water Energy Life Co. Pvt. Ltd. and his associate Mr. Chandan Singh. Also present in the meeting were Mohd. Umar Saif, Director, Green India Corporation and the village pradhans (Village Heads) of Kheri Karmu and Lillon. The field visit was followed by a meeting with the DM along with the Shamli Chief Development Officer, Mr. Shambhunath Tiwari and Gram Pradhans of 40 villages of Shamli District. The agenda of the meeting was to make efforts to improve the condition of River Krishni and its adjoining areas. The DM stressed that Krishni won't revive without public support and further made a call for action with the village heads to come forward and to develop a park (green belt) and a running track along the river and make efforts to revive ponds in their respective villages.

Link to the news article: <https://rashtriyajungtimes.page/article/krshee-nadee-bina-janasahayog-ke-purnajeevit-nahee-kee-ja-sakatee-jilaadhikaaree/wEzKiN.html>

Exhibition displaying IWP's work on Youth Mobilization and Gender Inclusion at Gyanotsav (Festival of Knowledge), 2020

Date: 14th February

Venue: Gohana Block, Sonapat District, Haryana

IWP was invited to participate in an exhibition that was organized as a part of Gyanotsav 2020, an annual conference organized jointly by Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya and Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas in Gohana Block, District Sonapat, Haryana. The aim of this annual conclave was to bring educational institutions, organizations and individuals at one platform, where innovative ideas and practice can be exchanged in fields of education, contemporary classroom teaching methods, innovative pedagogies and community engagement for natural resources management.

The central idea of IWP's stall was to exhibit its outstanding and rigorous contribution towards making India a water secure country by the means of Youth Mobilization and Gender Inclusion. On behalf of IWP, the communication officer and the field assistant were present at the exhibition. IWP's exhibition showcased its work on promoting women entrepreneurs working for increasing access to safe drinking water in a sustainable manner and its fellowship program for young students in Delhi - NCR.



Workshop on Pavitra Ganga Project: Unlocking Wastewater Treatment, Water Re-Use and Resource Recovery Opportunities for Urban and Peri-Urban Areas in India:

Date: 27th February

Venue: India Habitat Center, Delhi

The Pavitra Ganga (Sacred Ganga) Project links directly to the Namami Gange programme of Government of India and builds on existing cooperation between EU/India, supported by the National governments. The objective of the project is to fulfil Sustainable Development Goal-6 by unlocking the environmental and economic benefits of municipal wastewater treatment and reuse solutions for urban and peri-urban areas in India by focusing on three pillars which are - People, Planet and Profit. Under this project, a workshop was organized by TERI-The Energy and Resource Institute on innovative wastewater treatment and reuse technologies that are being developed and piloted in the Pavitra Ganga Project in Delhi and Kanpur were briefly presented. The plenary session introduced the project. The second session focused on engagement in current opportunities and constraints of wastewater treatment systems with focus on policy, governance practices, and techniques. The third and final session discussed past experiences with wastewater treatment, reuse and resource recovery. The workshop was attended by senior officials of National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti, GoI, Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi Jal Board, IIT Kanpur, IIT Delhi, IRAP, IHE Delft Institute of Water Education, Ion Exchange India Ltd. Akvo, Delft University of Technology, India Water Partnership, Development Alternatives, etc.

Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary, IWP attended the workshop and shared her experience of Hindon river basin and its tributaries and suggested that apart from existing two pilots, water reuse and resource recovery treatment technologies can be piloted in Hindon basin also.

Stakeholder meeting for rejuvenation of river Hindon and its tributaries and initiatives for water conservation under the chairmanship of Secretary DoWR, RD & GR

Date: 4th March

Venue: Meerut, Uttar Pradesh



A stakeholder meeting for rejuvenation of Hindon River was organized at the Divisional Commissioner's Office, Meerut, Uttar Pradesh on 4th March, 2020. The stakeholder's meeting addressed three major issues- Water Conservation; Rejuvenation of Traditional Water Bodies; and Rejuvenation of Hindon River along with its tributaries - Krishni, Kali (West) and Kali (East). The meeting was chaired by Shri U. P. Singh, I.A.S., Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and Co Chaired by Shri Rajeev Ranjan Mishra, Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India. Present at the meeting were representatives from Central Ground Water Board, Central Poll-

ution Control Board, the District Magistrates of a few districts of Uttar Pradesh, the Chief Development Officer, Meerut, the Divisional Commissioner, Meerut along with other senior State Government officials. The Director General, National Mission for Clean Ganga made a presentation on "Sewage and Industrial Effluent Waste Management" and the Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board presented a PowerPoint on "Over Exploitation of Ground Water". In the meeting, representatives of business groups like Indian Paper Manufacturer Association, Naini Group, Star Paper Mills, Indian Agro and Recycler Paper Mills Association, senior officials of line departments of Government of Uttar Pradesh, Community Based Organizations like HESCO, India Water Partnership, Neer Foundation were invited and a few of them presented their views on work that has been done so far. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator attended the meeting on behalf of India Water Partnership.

Women in GWP share their Leadership Journeys on International Women's Day, 2020.

International Women's Day 2020 was celebrated on 8th March on the UN theme, "I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women's Rights". On this occasion, GWP reached out to women in its network, requesting them to share stories on what they learned on their journey to taking on leadership roles in the water sector. The issue featured stories of 10 women leaders playing an active role in GWP's Network worldwide. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary-cum-Country Coordinator, IWP shared her journey from a Simple Woman to a Woman Facilitator. The story is based on two basic questions of GWP : (i) What has been your journey to become a woman leader in the water sector; and (ii) How can we collectively tackle the unfinished business of empowering all women and girls in the years to come?



Read the story at: <https://www.gwp.org/en/About/more/news/2020/iwd2020-gwp-women-share-leadership-journeys/dr-veena-khanduri-my-journey-from-a-simple-woman-to-a-woman-facilitator/>

Water ChangeMakers Awards, 2020:

Date: 6th April to 7th June

Mode of Application: Online

The world is facing grave realities and uncertainties in the midst of the global COVID-19 emergency. Now more than ever, smart decisions that can be used to tackle multiple, long-term, and interconnected global crises are needed. One such decision is the way we use and safeguard water and how we protect ourselves from water induced hazards, such as floods and droughts and pollution-related challenges in the midst of climate change. Taking this into account the GWP has launched the Water Change Maker Awards. These awards have been launched at an extraordinary time, when the whole world is reeling with global health crisis due to COVID-19 and the economic future of many countries is at great risk. This has called full attention of governments, businesses and citizens around the world. However, essential functions must continue to sustain the nature. Thus, the time has come to look upon smart decisions on how to use and safeguard our water and natural resources; and how to protect ourselves from water-related hazards, such as floods and droughts as the climate crisis continues. The Water Change Maker Awards will make visible the efforts of the teams and organizations that shape water decisions that build climate resilience. The journey towards such decisions will involve changing mind-sets from inertia to action, finding new ways to work, building new coalitions, changing laws or policies, mobilising etc. GWP will collate such stories of GWP network partners (30 stories from 13 GWP regions) because, at the time like this, learning from and celebrating those who have made things happen is more important than ever and take the lessons forward for better water resources management in their respective countries of operation.



IWP is facilitating the process by sharing the communique and important updates with all the India based GWP partners. Receipt of online application form will remain open till first week of June, 2020.

Full details are given here: <https://www.gwp.org/en/waterchangemakers/>

Government of Haryana online consultation with NGO's in Haryana for Post Lock Down Challenges:

The Government of Haryana has started an initiative to cope-up with the challenges that may arise after the lock-down. In this regard, the Government of Haryana invited IWP and other NGOs working in the State for an online consultation on 8th April, 2020 so that the State is prepared well in advance to tackle the problems as well as State's preparedness for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The consultation was held to address the challenges Haryana might face immediately after the lockdown period (imposed due to COVID-19) and involve NGOs working on ground. Appreciating the efforts of NGOs in helping the Government during COVID-19 crisis, the State Government has also called upon Corporate Sector and the Civil Society Organizations to make proactive decisions to tackle this unprecedented challenge which requires a systematic approach and the mobilization of all stakeholders to respond. Overall 50 participants including representatives of the State Government, UNDP and NGOs attended the online consultation. Dr. Veena Khanduri, Executive Secretary and Sudha Kumari, Research Associate from IWP participated and presented a few points on the role of water, hygiene and awareness for the prevention of COVID-19. In the consultation, IWP stressed that apart from food and medicines, availability of safe water for drinking and other purposes must be ensured by the government. In the request of the Haryana Government a list of problems and suggestions by IWP was also shared with them and the same was circulated to IWP Board Members and the Communication Officer, GWP - South Asia.

A set of guidelines drafted by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India on preparation of masks at home and a video on tele-medicine by the Government of Haryana was also circulated to IWP Board Members and Partners. As a follow-up to the discussions, IWP was asked to be a part of a WhatsApp broadcast group for all information concerning COVID 19. In order to collaborate with the SDG Coordination Centre (SDGCC) and Swarna Jayanti Haryana Institute for Fiscal Management (SJHIFM), IWP was further requested to register on their website for a SDG-NGO Network along with the list of SDGs on which IWP is working.

Please see link of Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and video on Tele-medicine by Government of Haryana:

- <https://cwp-india.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/advisoryMORD.pdf>
- <https://cwp-india.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Video-2020-04-08-at-17.14.34-1.mp4>

NITI Aayog's call for NGOs/CSOs to work to combat COVID-19:

IWP received a mail from NITI Aayog asking for support from NGOs to combat COVID-19. The same mail was shared with all the IWP partners and in response we received emails from some of our partners asking for more details to follow up with the Government for the relief work. IWP Secretariat has circulated the list of Nodal Officers from all states along with the respective state helpline numbers that NITI Aayog shared with IWP. IWP Network partners like AIM Trust, Indian Social Welfare Society and Aaranyak have come forward to share their contribution towards relief work and spread awareness about the precautions to be taken up to prevent the spread of disease.

First Online Working Group Meeting on Water Quantity Management organized by 2030 Water Resources Group:

As a follow-up of Hindon Multi-Stakeholders Platform (MSP) launched by the Chief Secretary, Government of Uttar Pradesh in 2019, an online water quantity management meeting was organized by 2030 WRG on 13th April 2020. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss water quantity management program overview; restoration of Mamore Lake; afforestation planning and pond rejuvenation in the Hindon basin and identify potential projects in the basin for managing water quality. The meeting was chaired by Mr. V.K Jain Conservator of Forests, Saharanpur district and co-chaired by Mr. Suresh Babu, Director -Rivers Wetlands and Water Policy (WWF). Mr. Ajith Radhakrishnan, India Country Representative/Senior Water Resources Management Specialist, 2030 WRG in his welcome address stated that four working groups have been formed under Hindon MSP having participants from Government of Uttar Pradesh, public, private, research, academia and CSOs. Inputs and collaborative efforts from MSP will provide practical solutions for rejuvenation of Hindon river and its tributaries. The meeting was attended by 25 participants from Nirman Nigam, Saharanpur; Shamli District Forest Department, Natural History Research & Conservation Centre, Shamli, India Water Partnership, Natural Heritage Division, INTACH, ITC, TATA Trusts, Evolve Engineering, University of Chicago Trust, State Mission for Clean Ganga, Geovale, SayEarth Foundation, etc. The online discussion concluded with following recommendations:-

- To scope out work plan for 6-12 months for Hindon basin to balance water demand.
- To plan agro-water management synergy with ground water management efforts/practices.
- For undertaking demonstration projects, mainly for lake restoration technical guidance and support is required from stakeholders for preparation of DPR.
- To prepare funding proposal incorporating innovative, cost effective decentralized demand driver solutions.

Mr. Anil Sinha Senior Strategic Adviser, 2030 WRG thanked the participants and said the actionable activities will be planned to balance the water demand in the Hindon Basin.