

Certificate Course on Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM)

Module 1- The Necessity of Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM)

Topic 1.3 – The Concept and Need of PIM

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The Concept and
Need of PIM

Topics of Module 1:

- 1.1 Status of Agriculture and Irrigation
- 1.2 Problems in Traditional Irrigation Management
- 1.3 The Concept and Need of PIM
- 1.4 Successful Examples of PIM – Past and Present

1. What is participation?

To understand Participatory Irrigation Management, It Is necessary to first understand the concept of participation.

Although participation and cooperation seem to be synonymous, but they are completely different. In the process of cooperation, where individuals help each

other, which can also be momentary, whereas the participation is the process of taking decisions together and working together which is long lasting.

Participation requires that all parties have a partnership in management, mental and emotional attachment to it and a desire to do something positive. In partnership, all parties strive for the attainment of a common and positive objective, in which all partners are involved in the costs and benefits received.

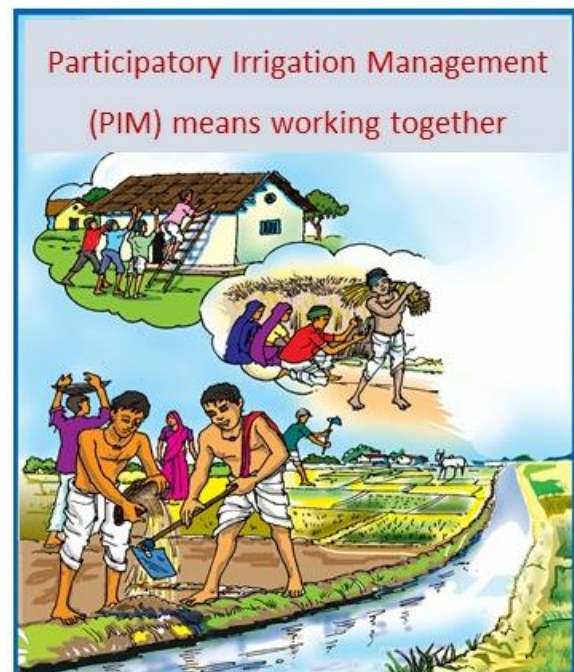
Results of participation -

- All decisions and work are carried out in partnership mode
- Increases transparency.
- The burden of work, expenses and losses are distributed equally among all.
- All participants benefit on the basis of equality.
- People's knowledge, skills and resources are properly utilized.
- Common difficulties are overcome.
- Everyone gets satisfaction, good social environment is created.

2. What is Participatory Irrigation Management?

Participatory irrigation management means involvement of farmers and the department in all aspects of irrigation management including financial, administrative, and technical and at each level of the canal irrigation system.

Each level means all canals like chuk, minor, distributary, branch and main canal etc. In the language of farmers, participatory irrigation management is the irrigation system operated by the farmers, for the farmers, in which the irrigation department is committed to provide guidance and necessary support.



Financial, administrative and technical participation means planning and construction of irrigation systems, operation repair and maintenance, water management,

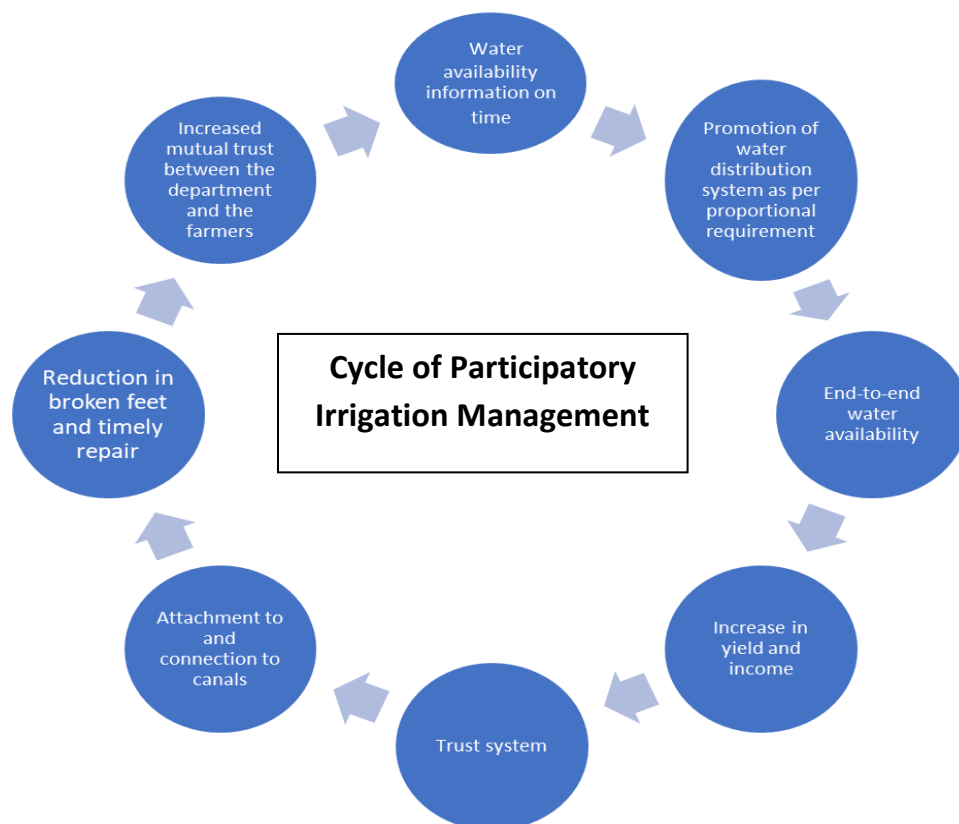
distribution, promoting the economical use of water, raising financial resources, keeping accounts and settlement disputes. Participation means the decision taken by the irrigation department and the farmers in consultation with each other and working jointly on it.

Under its prescribed responsibilities, the government has a clear understanding in participatory irrigation management that farmers are inextricably connected to agriculture and water, and canals are the lifeline of farmers, that proper care of canal irrigation system and sustainable irrigation system is possible only, when the farmers are given a leading role in the planning, operation and monitoring of irrigation.

In order to solve the problems, it is very important for the farmers to work together with the irrigation department in an organized manner. Collective activism can provide a suitable solution to many common problems. This joint management of farmers and irrigation department in irrigation is known as "participatory irrigation management".

The rationale of participatory irrigation management -

The major means of justifying the irrigation system is participatory irrigation system, the cycle of which is shown in the figure below:



For example, if the farmers have the right information about the availability of water in the canal and its distribution is decided according to the local requirement, then can

be available at the right time for irrigation. This will increase the yield of farmers and their income. In return, they will gain confidence in this system and their connection to the canals will increase. Naturally, there will be a reduction in the breakdown of the canals, which will reduce the maintenance expenditure of irrigation systems and farmers will be able to get rid of the uncertainty of irrigation. There is no doubt that farmers will have to participate at the organizational level to achieve these objectives of participatory irrigation management. These organizations will be called the Water Users' Committee. They will be formed through direct and indirect elections at different levels in the command area.