
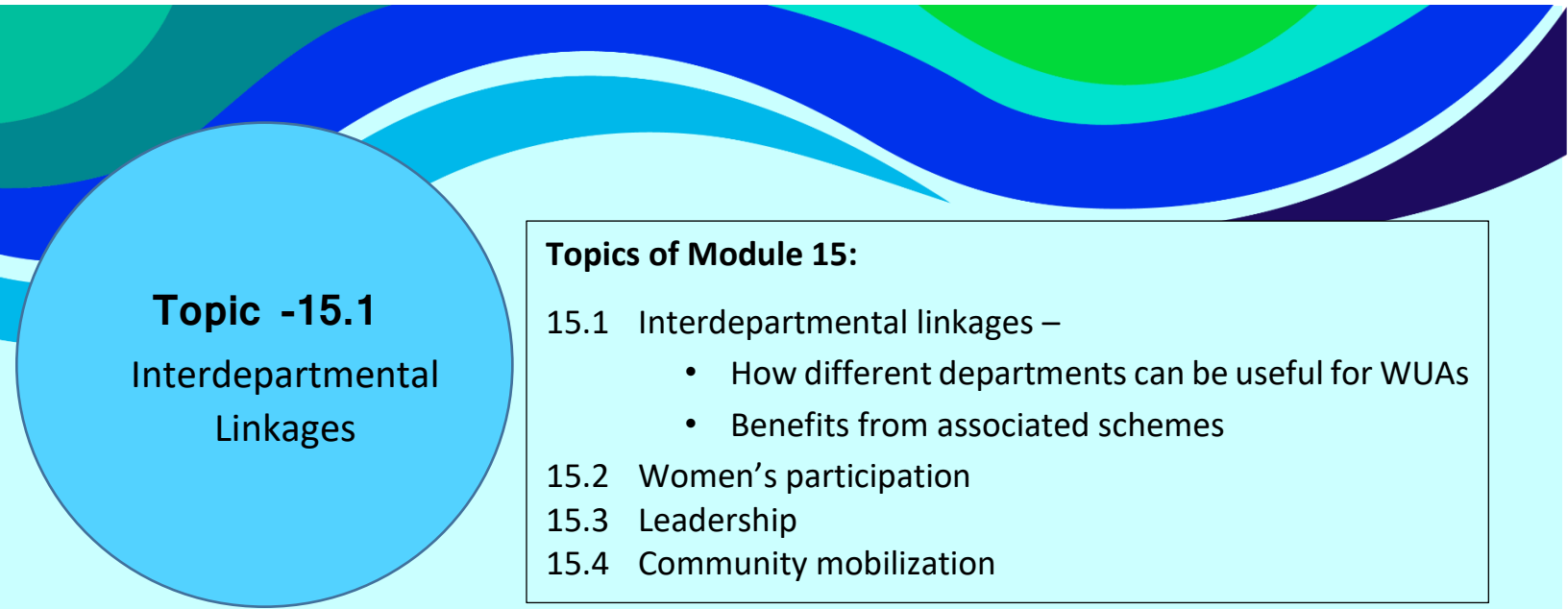


Certificate Course on Participatory Irrigation Management (CCPIM)

Module 15- Strengthening of Water User Associations

Topic 15.1- Interdepartmental linkages



Topic -15.1 Interdepartmental Linkages

Topics of Module 15:

- 15.1 Interdepartmental linkages –
 - How different departments can be useful for WUAs
 - Benefits from associated schemes
- 15.2 Women's participation
- 15.3 Leadership
- 15.4 Community mobilization

1. Background

The Water Users Associations (WUAs) are the backbone of Irrigation Management Transfer (IMT), or in other words, the success of WUAs mark the effectiveness of an IMT programme. Across the country, the WUAs are formed through state-specific Acts or Amendments to the existing Acts and in some cases through Government Notifications as well. Within the country, the WUAs are at different levels of evolution. At very few places they are successful; on the other hand, at majority of places, the establishment of WUA is more like a work-in-progress.

Besides usual Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of canal system in its jurisdiction, any of the WUAs are also engaged in irrigation charges collection.

Some of the 'very progressive' WUAs are also engaged in several other activities and that makes them different from many other WUAs in the country.

The objective of this Module is three-fold:

- a. to discuss various aspects that can aid strengthening of the WUAs – awareness and information.
- b. to encourage the farmers towards a sustainable and active model of WUA – capacitate
- c. to share some real-life case studies to make the WUAs believe that, 'YES this is possible' – self-belief.

The Module is divided into four parts, that is:

- i. interdepartmental linkages –
 - how different departments can be useful for WUAs
 - benefits from associated schemes
- ii. women's participation
- iii. leadership
- iv. community mobilization

Here we will discuss first part, that is, Interdepartmental Linkages

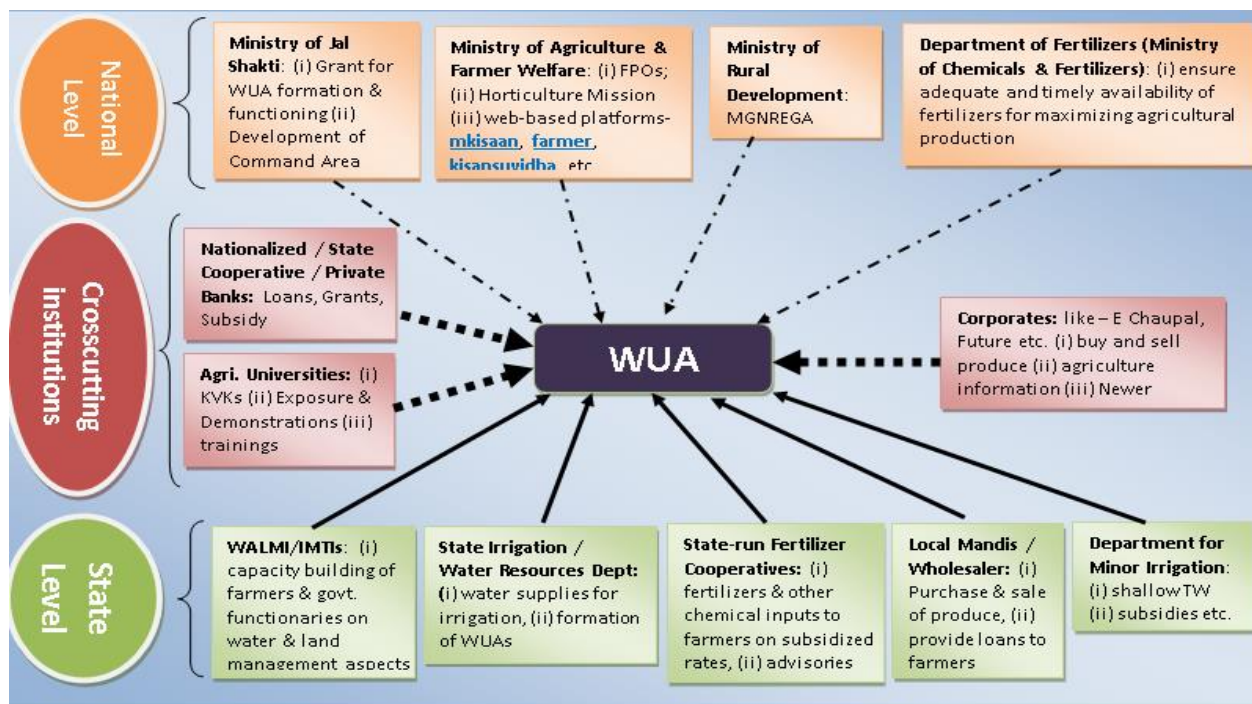
2. Interdepartmental linkages –

It is hoped that, this sub-section will help the farmers and WUAs at large to understand the role of various departments, ministries, organizations and institutions in the irrigation and agriculture affairs in the country. It also delves into ongoing projects, programmes, activities and schemes (by these departments, ministries, organizations and institutions) that can be beneficial to WUAs and how the WUAs can take benefits from the same.

Various ministries, departments, agencies, organizations that contribute to farmer's welfare are categorized into four heads, viz, basic support, financial support, capacity building and allied beneficial activities, as shown in the following figure:

BASIC SUPPORT (Ag. & Irrigation)	FINANCIAL SUPPORT	CAPACITY BUILDING	ALLIED BENEFICIAL ACTIVITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Agriculture •Irrigation & Water Resources (including CAD&WM) •Mandis •Groundwater 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Banks (Nationalized / Cooperative / Private) •NABARD •Financial Institutions (bilateral / multilateral donors) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Water And Land Management Institutes / Irrigation Water Management Institutes (similar institutes) •Agricultural Universities •Krishi Vigyaan Kendras 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Chemicals and Fertilizers: Government owned fertilizer / pesticide production & procurement agencies (like – IFFCO, KRIBHCO, State Agro Co-op.) •Rural Development – MNREGA •Private Corporates

These entities are also categorized into three types, i.e. National Level, State Level and Cross-Cutting ones for a clearer understanding in terms of their geographical scope. This categorization is illustrated in next figure.



3. Some of the key departments that can be useful for WUAs

I. Ministry of Jal Shakti:

the Ministry of Jal Shakti (earlier name – Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation) is country's water resources institution

with a vision for optimal sustainable development, maintenance of quality and efficient use of water resources to match with the growing demands on this precious natural resource of the country. Whilst there are several schemes and programmes of the Ministry, however some of the key programmes and schemes that has bearing onto the WUAs and their functioning. This include –

a) Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM):

The main objective of CAD&WM Programme is to enhance utilization of irrigation potential created and improve agriculture productivity and production on a sustainable basis through integrated and coordinated approach involving multidisciplinary team. The components of CAD&WM are being implemented for completion of various works of 99 prioritized projects are:

Structural Intervention (physical activities): this include (i) all activities that are related to construction, maintenance, and rehabilitation of structures/canals etc. within a WUA. The assistance from CAD&WM in this regard include the OFD works which comprise of construction of field channels, land leveling, and realignment of field boundaries. Construction of a requisite infrastructure for micro-irrigation, in lieu of above typical works, is also part of the OFD works. The core component of the programme is construction of field channels from the outlet to each and every field of the irrigation command (ii) Construction of field channels, intermediate & link drains (iii) Correction of system deficiencies and the reclamation of waterlogged areas.

Non-Structural Intervention (capacity building and other activities – assistance): this include various activities directed at strengthening of Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) including:

- One-time Functional Grant to the registered Water Users' Associations (WUAs);
- One time Infrastructure Grant to the registered WUAs;
- Trainings, demonstration, and adaptive trials with respect to water use efficiency, increased productivity, and sustainable irrigation in participatory environment.

To promote irrigation Water Use Efficiency in irrigation, at least 10% of the Culturable Command Area (CCA) of each project under the Programme during XII Plan is planned to be covered with micro irrigation in lieu of field channels for development of infrastructure to facilitate installation of sprinkler/drip irrigation systems. The cost for on-farm micro irrigation (sprinkler/drip) systems

is to be borne by the farmers with support from the extant programme in Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

b) Atal Bhujal Yojana:

The scheme is aimed at facilitating sustainable ground water management in the country. The scheme lays emphasis on community participation and demand side interventions for sustainable ground water management in identified water stressed areas in seven States of the country. The scheme also envisages improved source sustainability for Jal Jeevan Mission, positive contribution to the Government's goal of 'doubling farmers income' and inculcating behavioral changes in the community to facilitate optimal water use.

The scheme calls for active participation of the communities (such as of Water User Associations) in various activities, including – monitoring and disseminating groundwater data, water budgeting, preparation and implementation of Gram-Panchayat wise water security plans and IEC activities related to groundwater management.

Under the scheme, Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) have been identified on the basis of which the incentive amount will be disbursed. The five DLIs considered are:

- (i) Public disclosure of groundwater data/ information and reports (10% of incentive fund),
- (ii) Preparation of Community-led Water Security Plans (15% of incentive fund)
- (iii) Public financing of interventions through convergence of on-going schemes (20% of incentive fund)
- (iv) Adoption of practices for efficient water use (40% of incentive fund)
- (v) Improvement in the rate of decline of groundwater levels (15% of incentive fund).

The incentive funds will be fungible and better performing States / areas will be eligible for additional funds. The scheme is being taken up in 8353 water stressed Gram Panchayats of Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The details of area identified for implementation of the scheme are as below.

Details of area and tentative financial allocations are given below:

Sl. No.	State	Districts	Blocks	GPs
1	Gujarat	6	24	1,816
2	Haryana	13	36	1,895
3	Karnataka	14	41	1,199
4	Madhya Pradesh	5	9	678
5	Maharashtra	13	35	1,339
6	Rajasthan	17	22	876
7	Uttar Pradesh	10	26	550
	TOTAL	78	193	8,353

II. Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare carry out various schemes for farming sector.

a) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)

One of the prominent amongst them is Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY). Launched in 2015, this scheme envisions '*Har khet to pani*' by improving irrigation water use efficiency adopting 'more crop per drop'. The scheme is aimed to

- i. Convergence of investments in irrigation
- ii. Expand cultivable area under irrigation (*Har Khet ko pani*)
- iii. Improve on-farm water use efficiency (*Jal Sinchan*)
- iv. Sustainable water conservation practices (*Jal Sanchay*)
- v. Source augmentation, arresting runoff, soil & moisture conservation
- vi. Precision-irrigation and water saving technologies (More crop per drop)
- vii. Extension activities on water harvesting/management, crop alignment etc.
- viii. Greater private investments in irrigation

b) Farmer Producer Organization (FPOs)

In order to streamline the consolidation of land as well as integration of smallholders into agricultural value chain, the FPOs are formed. The concept behind Farmer Producer Organizations is that farmers, who are the producers of agricultural products, can form groups. To facilitate this process, the Small Farmers' Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC) was mandated by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, to support the State

Governments in the formation of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). Over 5,600 FPOs exist as on date and the aim is to take this number to over 10,000.

FPOs/FPCs can be registered on e-NAM Portal via website (www.enam.gov.in) or mobile app or providing following details at nearest eNAM mandi:

- Name of FPOs/ FPCs
- Name, address, email Id and contact no. of authorized person (MD/CEO /Manager)
- Bank account Details

There are several success stories in regard to active FPOs, some of them are discussed in brief under this sub-section.

i) *Raitha Mitra Producers Company (Karnataka)*

Founded in 2015, Raitha Mitra (Karnataka) has 526 farmer-shareholders. It is managed by TV Gopinath, the organization connects 1,500 farmers via its 6 branches. It supplies vegetables to Kerala government at lowest prices. Soon, it will have its retail brand. They have partnered with retail brands such as SaiYum Foods (Delhi), the Sikkim government's retail brand Sikkim Supreme, and a startup called sCoolMeal.

ii) *Ram Rahim Producer's Company (Madhya Pradesh)*

In 2012 – 1,500 women from 162 SHGs formed it to ensure that farmers could sell their produce in the marketplace at prices and terms set by them. Raghunathan, in 2014 began heading operations. In 2014, the FPO became 1st producer company to be granted an equity grant by Government of India

iii) *Smrudhi Mahila Crop Producers Company (Rajasthan)*

Owned by around 2,200 women farmers in Rajasthan, is one of few female farmer-owned FPOs in the country, which is helping farmers earn & creating awareness among farmers. Ms. Savitri Gaur (a farmer herself) runs it. The company raised Rs 22 lakh via contributions to purchase processing machines and farming-related materials

iv) *Sri Sant Savta Shetkari Company (Maharashtra)*

In 2013, in a tail-end village (Ozar) of Wagad Irrigation Scheme (Nashik, Maharashtra). The key objective of the company is to sell fresh vegetables. To deal with excess vegetables produce, the FPO came out with idea of dehydrated vegetables and the company is also doing good business from that

v) Kamareddy Progressive Farmers Producer Company Ltd (Telangana)

This FPO is having over 2,200 farmer-shareholders spread across 43 villages, however they aim to increase that number to 10,000 by 2025. The farmer members in cooperation with various Village Associations have managed to raise around Rs 1.65 crore. Now farmers are able to produce more than two crops in a year, as the FPO also extend the services through sprinkler units, fertilizers, and seeds.

c) Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH):

The National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing various schemes under Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) in all states and UTs of the country. For availing benefits and assistance under NHB scheme, the farmers/WUAs should contact the Regional Office of NHB or NHB Headquarter. The Operational Guidelines, cost norms of different interventions being promoted by the NHB, contact details are available at NHB website.

This initiative is aimed at growth of the horticulture sector covering fruits, vegetables, root & tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, bamboo.

The key components of the mission include –

- Nursery and Quality Planting material
- Area expansion
- Protected Cultivation: poly-house, green-house, shade-nets, for growing off-season high value vegetables and flowers
- Water Harvesting Structure -Farm ponds: Individual and community
- Horticulture Mechanization
- Post-Harvest Infrastructure (Cleaning/Sorting/Grading/Packing units, Cold Chain, Primary Processing)
- Capacity Building of farmers
- Beekeeping

The Ministry has come out with following websites or applications to facilitate and disseminate agriculture related information, through web-based platforms:

- www.farmer.gov.in information– seeds variety, Godowns, Pests and plant diseases, Best Agricultural Practices, Watershed, Mandi details
- www.mkisan.gov.in advisories on various crop related matters to the farmers through SMSs. In mkisan, 5 crores farmers registered

- www.kisansuvidha.com information on the critical parameters viz., Weather, Market Prices, Plant Protection, Agro-advisory, Extreme Weather Alerts, Input Dealers, Soil Health Card, Cold Storage & Godowns, Soil Testing Labs

(i) **Benefits from associated schemes**

There are several other schemes by various central government departments, which are aimed to benefit the farmers at large and WUAs in specific. Some of the notable such schemes are discussed here.

d) National Food Security Mission

National Food Security Mission (NFSM) was launched in 2007-08 to increase the production of rice, wheat and pulses through

- i. area expansion and productivity enhancement
- ii. restoring soil fertility and productivity
- iii. creating employment opportunities
- iv. enhancing farm level economy

Later on, in 2013, the Government of India enacted that National Food Security Act, 2013 with an intended coverage of upto 75% of rural population and upto 50% of urban population for receiving highly subsidized food-grains under Targeted Public Distribution System.

The interventions covered under NFSM include cluster demonstrations on improved package of practices, demonstrations on cropping system, Seed distribution of high yielding varieties, farm machineries / resources conservation machineries / tools, efficient water application tools, plant protection measures, nutrient management / soil ameliorants, cropping system based trainings to the farmers etc. The key elements of the scheme that has direct bearing on WUAs include –

- Technology demonstration, progressive crop farms demonstration, INM
- WUAs to approve the selection of beneficiary (those who get agricultural tools and equipment) farmers and accordingly DAO to distribute the same
- DC members to be nominated in district level Governing Board

a) ATMA (Agricultural Technology Management Agency)

Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Scheme was launched during 2005-06. It aims at making extension system farmer ATMA has active participation of farmers, WUAs, NGOs, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), Panchayati Raj Institutions and other stakeholders operating at district level and below.

Allocation of resources for activities related to extension is linked to number of farm households and Blocks. At present, the Scheme is under implementation in 614 districts in 28 States and 3 UTs in the country. Some of the key features of the scheme include –

- Support for specialists and functionaries at State, District and Block Level
- Innovative support through a ‘Farmer Friend’ at Village Level @ 1 Farmer Friend per two villages
- Farmers Advisory Committees at State, District and Block levels
- Farm Schools in the field of outstanding farmers being promoted at Block/Gram Panchayat level by integrating Progressive farmers into Agricultural Extension System (3-5 Farm Schools/ block).
- Farmer-to-farmer extension support at the village level to be promoted through Farmers’ Group.
- Farmers’ Awards instituted at Block, District and State levels.
- Community Radio Stations (CRS) set up by KVKs/SAUs are being promoted under the Programme.
- WUA members to be nominated to and similarly DC members to be nominated to District-level Farmer Advisor Committees

III. Other farmer friendly initiatives:

a. Kisan Rail

In the Union Budget 2020-2021, the Minister of Finance had made an announcement ‘to build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables, inclusive of milk, meat, and fish’. It was also stated that the Indian Railways will set up a Kisan Rail. But this will be the first ever multi commodity trains and will carry fruits like Pomegranate, Banana, Grapes etc and vegetables like Capsicum, Cauliflower, Drumsticks, Cabbage, Onion, Chilies etc. Aggressive marketing is being done with local farmers, loaders, APMC and individuals.

On 7th August 2020, the first Kisan Rail was flagged off between Devlali in Maharashtra and Danapur in Bihar. This Indian Railways initiative is mainly meant for movement and transportation of vegetables, fruits, perishable items. Loading & unloading of perishable commodities will be permitted at all identified stoppages. As on date over 100 Kisan Trains are operating. The WUAs engaged much in horticulture items can take benefit of this option.

b. NABARD

With a vision to ensure rural prosperity across the nation, NABARD as a Development Bank of the country was established in 1981. In addition to funding the rural developmental activities, the NABARD also helps WUAs by –

- Promoting development of WUAs under irrigation commands
- Making WUAs financially viable and operational through encouraging development of producers' organization out of these WUA

Apart from all that, there are state level training institutes like – Water and land Management Institute, Irrigation Management and Training Institute, State Institute for Rural Development. Then there are agricultural universities spread across the country and Krishi Vigyaan Kendras – they are all for supporting the farmer and the WUAs can take benefit from them in terms of strengthening their technical and managerial capacity.

c. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) is Government of India scheme to provide 100 days guaranteed employment in a year in developmental, rural roads and watershed activities. The idea include strengthening natural resources management through works that address cause of poverty like – draughts, deforestation, soil erosion.

Whilst this remain one of the favorite schemes of Gram Panchayats, off lately many WUAs are also taking advantage of this scheme and are engaged in irrigation canal desilting and maintenance. Many WUAs are leveraging canal maintenance works through MGNREGS.

There are numerous examples of WUAs, who have taken benefit from various governmental departments or schemes and improved the state of their WUAs. Some of the examples are discussed here.

(i) Tarapur Minor Water Users Association

Tarapur Minor WUA is part of Sharda Sahayak irrigation system in Amethi in Uttar Pradesh. An active WUA President Mr. Haji, who is a phenomenal leader. He has

- ensured irrigation water management within his WUA is consensus based and as per farmer's requirements
- Secured about Rs. 30 lakh through UP Command Area Development Programme for field channels construction within his WUA
- ensured that his WUA conducts Social Audits
- demonstrated and adopted lesser water consuming irrigation practices, recently he has adopted SRI on his paddy farms

(ii) Khanpur Minor Water Users Association

The Khanpur Minor WUA from Bijnor district of Uttar Pradesh, the active and vigilant farmers with the help of their Gram-Pradhans secured resources from MNREGS for canal cleaning and desilting.

The farmers of Khanpur Minor command also secured MNREGA resources for cleaning of the rivulet (Karula river), which is flowing in close vicinity of the Khanpur Minor. This river plays critical role in dry season to improve the groundwater status in and around the command of Khanpur Minor.

(iii) Bhori Minor Water Users Association

Bhori Minor is one of the 26 WUAs under Harsi Dam Command Area around Dabra in Gwalior district of Madhya Pradesh. An active WUA President Mr. Jasbir Singh ensured that, the field channels under the jurisdiction of his WUA are constructed through CAD&WM programme.