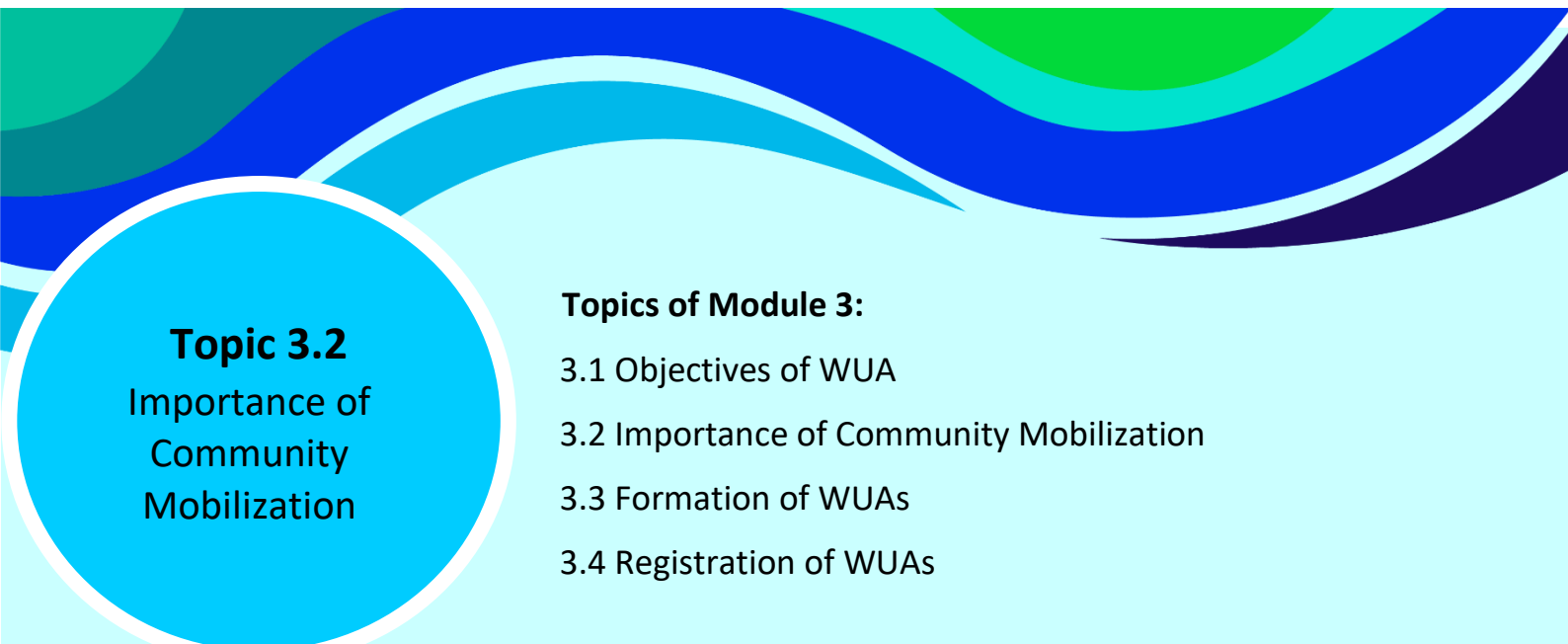


# Certificate Course on Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM)

## Module 3- Constitution of Water User Associations (WUAs)

### Topic 3.2 – Importance of Community Mobilization



#### **Topic 3.2** Importance of Community Mobilization

#### **Topics of Module 3:**

- 3.1 Objectives of WUA
- 3.2 Importance of Community Mobilization
- 3.3 Formation of WUAs
- 3.4 Registration of WUAs

#### **1. Importance of Community Mobilization for Formation of WUAs:**

Community mobilization is a process of creating awareness among farmers and mobilizing them to do a specific task. In command area of given irrigation project community mobilization process can be applied for organizing farmers to form WUAs, to take part in the election process of their managing committee and to manage irrigation system and perform water management activities to derive expected benefits from agriculture. In the process, WUAs are expected to demonstrate possibilities of

economical, judicious, and equitable distribution of water in adequate quantity and time among its members for growing high value crops and increase agriculture production. The community mobilization process should be designed keeping in view the following conditions:

- In areas where farmers are socially aware and economically better and receiving adequate quantity of water in time, their tendency towards active participation is low. Here WRD require more efforts to mobilize them due to passive conditions.
- In areas where farmers are progressive, socially aware and economically better and are not receiving water in adequate quantity and time resulting in loss of crops or low yield, there farmer's participation is active and sustained. Here WRD require little efforts to mobilize community to make them active.
- In the areas where farmers are socially and economically aware, water availability is good, farmers are desirous to own water to grow crops of their choices; their participation develops quickly and remains sustained. Here WRD require almost no efforts as farmers are receptive and aware of their desires.

Formation of farmer's organization for irrigation management is possible in all the three conditions explained above. Identification and selection of area become imperative in this regard.

***Remember: Community mobilization is a process of creating awareness among farmers and mobilizing them to form WUAs.***

## **2. Advantages of community mobilization (specific to PIM):**

1. It creates greater awareness about the PIM and greater acceptance of the PIM program among the farmers.
2. The greater participation base allows formation of effective and sustainable WUAs.
3. The election of the managing committee is fair, transparent and the right leadership is promoted.
4. It promotes collective effort for sustainable development.

The community mobilization for PIM can be best undertaken by the voluntary organizations, NGOs and Institutions working in this field.

However, it can also be undertaken by the WRD field staff. In Uttar Pradesh, the process of mobilization by WRD staff and NGOs has been fairly standardized through standard operating procedures and associated literature.