



PMAC Meeting of the NAIP Project on Decision Support System... held on 12 March 2010 at CSSRI, Karnal

A meeting of Project Monitoring and Advisory Committee (PMAC) of the World Bank funded NAIP sub-project on “*Decision Support System for Enhancing Productivity in Irrigated Saline Environment using Remote Sensing, Modelling and GIS*’ was held at CSSRI, Karnal on 12 March 2010 to review the progress made during 2009-10. Hon. Dr. S.L. Mehta, former VC and Chairman (PMAC) presided over the meeting. Dr N.T. Yaduraju, National Coordinator (Component-1), Dr. Ram Ajore, Director, CSSRI; Dr. S.K. Kamra, Head, DIDE participated along with project partners and staff including Dr. D.S. Bundela, CPI, CSSRI; Dr. A. Sarangi, CCPI and Dr. B.S. Kalra, Co-PI, WTC New Delhi; Dr M.K. Goel, Co-PI, NIH Roorkee; Dr. S.K. Gupta, PC & Co-PI, CSSRI; Dr. Madhurama Sethi; Co-PI, CSSRI, Dr. R.L. Meena Co-PI, CSSRI; Dr. R.S. Tripathi, Co-PI, CSSRI; Dr. R.S Pandey, Dr. Pragati Maity and Dr. Satyendra Kumar, Scientists, CSSRI and 6 Project.



Dr. DS Bundela, CPI of the project consortium (DSS) welcomed the Chairman (PMAC), National Coordinator (Component-1), and the participants. Dr. Ram Ajore, Director, CSSRI highlighted the utility of the project and presented the technologies developed by the institute for reclamation of salt-affected soils and poor quality waters, which should be integrated into DSS (decision support system) under the project. Dr. Yaduraju, NC (Component-1) gave a brief introductory background of the project. Dr. Bundela presented overall progress of the project and detailed progress of the lead Centre followed by detailed presentation of progress made at WTC-IARI, New Delhi and NIH, Roorkee by Dr A. Sarangi and Dr MK Goel, respectively.

Dr. Mehta, in his opening remarks, appreciated the progress made in the project during the first six months and highlighted the urgency of regular interaction with project partners for effective coordination and also underlined need for launching major efforts for timely procurement and implementation of project activities. He also advised to look for option for project sustainability in future. The Chairman also appreciated establishment of geoinformatics lab at CSSRI and WTC. Dr. R.L. Meena, Co-PI, coordinated the stage management. Dr. S.K. Kamra, Head, Division of Irrigation and Drainage Engineering, CSSRI, presented the vote of thanks.

The overall progress of the project is as follows:

- Recruited five and two project staff at CSSRI and WTC, respectively. Recruitment at NIH will be completed by March.
- Procurement of equipment at CSSRI and WTC in full swing and be completed by March and NIH to complete by March 2010 due to late release of fund.
- Established Geoinformatics Lab at Karnal and New Delhi under the project.
- Created a geodatabase of the Western Yamuna Canal command by digitisation of base maps in ArcGIS.
- Created water user associations at water course level for Karnal and Panipat districts
- Tested empirical models for predicting crop yield under different salinity and sodicity.
- Collected primary data pertaining to SWAP and AQUACROP model by WTC and GIS based model for water resource allocation in canal command by NIH periodically to calibrate and validate the model for generation of database for proposed DSS
- Developed DSS framework using Visual Basic.Net platform for integrating ESRI's ArcObjects.
- Updated the project website.



In his inaugural address, the Chief Guest, Hon'ble Dr. Mruthyunjaya, National Director (NAIP), Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, underlined the need of making science relevant to the welfare of society particularly poor people under NAIP. He emphasized to persuade socio-economic and multi-disciplinary sense of science while implementing NAIP projects for achieving profitability and livelihood security. The Chief Guest informed that the efforts have been made to go beyond science in agriculture i.e. commerce to agriculture for increasing profitability under the Component-2 and 3 of NAIP. Basic and strategic research is being carried out under the Component-4 of NAIP. He stressed upon the real challenges associated with implementation phase of the project and urged CPI and CCPIs to put consistent efforts for timely implementation for benefit of stakeholders.

The Guest of Honour, Dr. N.T. Yaduraju, National Coordinator (NAIP Component-1), ICAR, New Delhi informed that 24 such projects under the Component-1 of NAIP were sanctioned and highlighted some of important projects: E-learning, CeRA (Consortium for e-Resources in Agriculture), Krishi Prabha ((Indian Agricultural Dissertations Repository), Learning and Capacity Building of NARS system, Knowledge Management, Online Purchase and Financial Management System. He also emphasized the emerging importance of information, communication and dissemination system (ICDS)-a thrust area in the Component-1 under which this project has been funded with the budget estimate of Rs 306 lakhs for three years. The project is conceptually good and technically sound and he urged upon consortium members to implement it timely. Dr. Ram Ajore, Acting Director, CSSRI, presided over the inaugural workshop and presented the technologies developed by the institute for reclamation of salt-affected soils and poor quality waters. These technologies will be integrated into DSS (decision support system) to be developed under the NAIP project.

Dr. D.S. Bundela, consortium principal investigator (CPI) presented the project background, objectives and expected deliverables in brief. The project is aimed to develop a GIS based decision support system (DSS) for the Western Yamuna Canal (WYC) command in Haryana by integrating bio-physical resources and socio-economic data of the command to delineate areas of low productivity and to generate realistic best management practices (BMPs) for enhancing productivity in various scenarios of canal water distribution at head, mid and tail reaches including saline environment- deficit canal water supply, poor soil and water quality and waterlogging conditions. The state-of-the-art-technology including remote sensing, GPS based field survey, PRA (participatory rural appraisal), GIS, modelling and advanced computer programming will be employed for generation of command database and development of DSS. The computer program on DSS would be transferred effectively to various stakeholders through need-based trainings, field demonstrations and interactive workshops. Fifty two delegates including project partners and associates from Water Technology Centre-IARI, New Delhi; and National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, senior officers from the Haryana state line departments (CADA, Soil Testing, Department of Agriculture), scientist(s) from Directorate of Wheat Research, Karnal, canal water users' associations and farmers from the project study area participated in the workshop. The project is in consortium mode for utilising expertise of three participating institutions (CSSRI, WTC and NIH) with unique in-built features of problem modelling and stakeholder servicing to infuse confidence in farmers for growing more food under irrigated saline environment.