



## Research Article

# MID-EVALUATION OF THE WATERSHED PROGRAMME (IWDP- III) IN SALEM DISTRICT

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**Abstract:** Indian agriculture is predominantly a rainfed agriculture out of 143 million hectares of total cultivated area in the country, 101 million ha (i.e., nearly 70 per cent) area are rainfed and about 42% of dry land areas contribute for total food grain production. Variation in amount and distribution of rainfall influence the crop production as well as socio-economic conditions of farmers. To balance the adverse condition and to help the farmers, importance has been given to Watershed management programme for natural resources conservation. Mid- term evaluation of IWDP- III batch watersheds were conducted in all the ten watershed villages spread over in Valapady block of Salem district in two phases; (i) Information were gathered from Project Implementing Agency (PIA) and discussion was made with members of the Watershed Committee and Watershed Development Team (WDT) (ii) Field study was done and interaction was made with the beneficiaries of the area where IWDP- III watershed programme was implemented. And also using simple random sampling technique, 100 beneficiaries were selected to study the community participation in implementing the watershed activities. The data were collected with well-structured interview schedule. Percentage analysis was used for data analysis. On the whole it was observed that 85% of the community participation was at full level in planning the work. Majority (82.4%) of the village community showed their full participation in decision making activities. Eighty per cent of the village community showed full participation in site selection process. And regarding execution of work 76.4% of the community showed full participation. It shows that the community people were well aware of the importance of the watershed programme and they were involved in the implementation of the programme at all stages of the programme. They were also aware that if the watershed programme is implemented in their village it will recharge the ground water level which in turn will improve their livelihood so majority of the community people participated in implementing the watershed activities.

**Keywords:** Watershed Programme, Village Community

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## Introduction

Indian agriculture is predominantly a rainfed agriculture out of 143 million hectares of total cultivated area in the country, 101 million ha (i.e., nearly 70 per cent) area are rainfed and about 42% of dry land areas contribute for total food grain production. Variation in amount and distribution of rainfall influence the crop production as well as socio-economic conditions of farmers. To balance the adverse condition and to help the farmers, importance has been given to Watershed management programme for natural resources conservation. The importance and concern of this approach is evident by the wide variety of state/national/international programmes and institutions involved in management of watersheds [1]. The aim has been to ensure the availability of drinking water, fuel wood and fodder and raise income and employment for farmers and landless labourers through improvement in agricultural production and productivity [2].

## Materials and Methods

Mid- term evaluation of IWDP- III batch watersheds were conducted in all the ten watershed villages spread over in Valapady block of Salem district in two phases; (i) Information were gathered from Project Implementing Agency (PIA) and discussion was made with members of the Watershed Committee and Watershed Development Team (WDT) (ii) Field study was done and interaction was made with the beneficiaries of the area where IWDP- III watershed programme was implemented. And also using simple random sampling technique, 100 beneficiaries were selected to study the community participation in implementing the watershed activities. The data were collected with well-structured interview schedule. Percentage analysis was used for data analysis.

## Result

For the successful implementation of any programme, the participation of the village community is essential. From planning to implementation of the programme the community people support and active involvement is necessary for its successful completion. Participation of community in planning, decision making and site selection are presented in the following tables.

Table-1 Participation of Village Community in Planning

S N	Name of the Watersheds	Participation in percentage			Total
		Full Participation	Moderate Participation	No participation	
1	C.P. Valasu	88.1	11.9	-	100
2	C.N. Palayam	84.5	15.5	-	100
3	Athanoorpatti	83.7	16.3	-	100
4	Thukiyampalayam	86.2	13.8	-	100
5	Kurichi	84.7	15.3	-	100
6	Puzuthikuttai	87.1	12.9	-	100
7	Muthampatti	82.3	17.7	-	100
8	Kattuveppilaipatti	86.5	13.5	-	100
9	Kolathukombai	84.8	15.2	-	100
10	Nirmulikuttai	85.7	14.3	-	100
	Total	85.36	14.64	-	100

[Table-1] Interprets that with regard to very good participation by the village community in the planning the work, maximum participation (88.1%) was found in C.P. Valasu and next to that 87.1% in Puzuthikuttai, 86.2% in Thukiyampalayam, 86.5% in Kattuveppilaipatti, 85.7 % Nirmulikuttai, 84% in Kolathukombai, Kurichi

and C.N. Palayam and 83.7% in Athanoorpatti and 82.3% in Muthampatti. Regarding moderate participation 17.7% in Muthampatti is the maximum and the 11.9% in C.P. Valasu is the lowest. It shows that the people are well aware of the watershed activities and its impact in the village. So, it represents that maximum of the village people are more interested in implementing the watershed programme in their village so as to increase their groundwater level which in turn will improve their production and productivity.

Table-2 Participation of Village Community in Decision Making

S N	Name of the Watersheds	Participation in percentage			Total
		Full Participation	Moderate Participation	No participation	
1	C.P. Valasu	85.6	14.4	-	100
2	C.N. Palayam	83.2	16.8	-	100
3	Athanoorpatti	81.6	18.4	-	100
4	Thukiyampalayam	75.2	24.8	-	100
5	Kurichi	83.4	16.6	-	100
6	Puzuthikuttai	84.8	15.2	-	100
7	Muthampatti	80.7	19.3	-	100
8	Kattuveppilaipatti	83.4	16.6	-	100
9	Kolathukombai	84.6	15.4	-	100
10	Nirmulikuttai	81.8	18.2	-	100
	Average	82.4	18.0	-	100

Decision making plays an important role in implementing any work. It is noted from [Table-2] that 85.6% of the village community in C.P. Valasu shows full participation with regard to decision making in planning, site selection, execution of the watershed activities. More than 80% full participation was found in Puzuthikuttai, Kolathukombai, Kattuveppilaipatti, Kurichi, C.N. Palayam, Nirmulikuttai, Athanoorpatti, Muthampatti, and 75.2% in Thukiyampalayam. With respect to moderate participation 24.8% is found in Thukiyampalayam, nearly 20% in Muthampatti, Athanoorpatti, Nirmulikuttai, more than 15% in C.N. Palayam, Kurichi, Kattuveppilaipatti, Kolathukombai, Puzuthikuttai, C.P. Valasu. So, this shows that almost all the village people showed their full participation in decision making process viz., site selection, place to construct watershed, duration to be completed, employment opportunities, etc., which helped the PIA to implement the work at the proposed time.

Table-3 Participation of Village Community in Site Selection

SN	Name of the Watersheds	Participation in percentage			Total
		High Participation	Moderate Participation	Low participation	
1	C.P. Valasu	85.2	14.8	-	100
2	C.N. Palayam	81.5	18.5	-	100
3	Athanoorpatti	80.6	19.4	-	100
4	Thukiyampalayam	65.3	25.2	9.5	100
5	Kurichi	78.6	21.4	-	100
6	Puzuthikuttai	82.1	17.9	-	100
7	Muthampatti	79.6	20.4	-	100
8	Kattuveppilaipatti	81.6	18.4	-	100
9	Kolathukombai	82.1	17.9	-	100
10	Nirmulikuttai	80.6	19.4	-	100
	Average	80.0	19.3	1.5	100

[Table-3] represents that with regard to Site selection full participation of the community people was observed in C.P. Valasu (85.2%) followed by 82.1% in Puzuthikuttai and Kolathukombai. 81.5 % was observed in Kattuveppilaipatti, C.N. Palayam. Nearly 80% is noted in Athanoorpatti, Nirmulikuttai, Muthampatti, Kurichi. In Thukiyampalayam 65.3% of the people showed full participation in site selection to construct the watershed structures. With respect to moderate participation 25.2% is observed in Thukiyampalayam and in other watershed areas it is almost 20% of the people participated moderately in site selection process. Regarding low participation 9.5% was observed in Thukiyampalayam. Site selection is an important activity in implementing the watershed programme where the participation of the community is important. The overall result shows that an average of 80% of the people showed full participation. Due to the high participation by the community, the exact place was selected for raising the watershed structures.

Table-4 Participation of Village Community in Execution of work

S N	Name of the Watersheds	Participation in percentage			Total
		High Participation	Moderate Participation	Low participation	
1	C.P. Valasu	85	15	-	100
2	C.N. Palayam	80	20	-	100
3	Athanoorpatti	80	20	-	100
4	Thukiyampalayam	55	20	25	100
5	Kurichi	75	25	-	100
6	Puzuthikuttai	79	21	-	100
7	Muthampatti	75	25	-	100
8	Kattuveppilaipatti	78	22	-	100
9	Kolathukombai	80	20	-	100
10	Nirmulikuttai	77	23	-	100
	Average	76.4	21.1	2.5	100

From [Table-4] it is inferred that, 85% of the community people in C.P. Valasu showed full participation with regard to execution of the work. Followed by 80% of the people in C.N. Palayam showed full participation. More than 75% of the community in Athanoorpatti, Kolathukombai, Puzuthikutta, Kattuveppilaipatti, Nirmulikuttai, Kurichi, Muthampatti showed full participation. In Thukiyampalayam 55% of the people showed full participation in execution of the work. 25% of the community in Muthampatti and Kurichi showed moderate participation. In other watersheds that are in Nirmulikuttai, C.P. Valasu, C.N. Palayam, Athanoorpatti, Thukiyampalayam, Puzuthikuttai, Kattuveppilaipatti, Kolathukombai 20% of the community showed moderate participation with regard to execution of work. In C.P. Valasu 15% of the community showed moderate participation. Only in Thukiyampalayam 25% of the people showed low participation. Due to majority of the peoples' participation, execution of work was done in the stipulated time. From the field study, it was observed that soil and moisture conservation work like field bunding, renovation of supply channel/ village tank, construction of check dam, formation of sunken pond, formation of percolation pond, deepening of percolation pond, augmentation of drinking water source were construction in all the watersheds. Under afforestation and pasture development agro forestry plantation, jatropa plantation and fodder crop demonstration were also done to increase the income of the village community. From the discussion made with the beneficiaries, it was observed that the people are well aware of the watershed project and they had the opinion that if the watershed programme is implemented in their area, the ground water level will be increased so that they could raise the crop throughout the year. They were also created awareness on raising horticultural and agro forestry plantation which will pave way for additional income to them.

## Discussion

Like all other development programmes, watershed development also to be carried on the participatory approach. In fact, watershed development programme is an integrated and comprehensive plan of action for the rural areas, peoples' participation at all levels of its implementation is very important [3]. On the whole it was observed that 85% of the community participation was at full level in planning the work. Majority (82.4%) of the village community showed their full participation in decision making activities. Eighty per cent of the village community showed full participation in site selection process. And regarding execution of work 76.4% of the community showed full participation. It shows that the community people were well aware of the importance of the watershed programme and they were involved in the implementation of the programme at all stages of the programme. They were also aware that if the watershed programme is implemented in their village it will recharge the ground water level which in turn will improve their livelihood so majority of the community people participated in implementing the watershed activities.

## Conclusion

For the successful implementation of any programme for the upliftment of the community, people's participation is very important. During the implementation of the Integrated Watershed Development Programme at Valapady block of Salem district, majority of the people showed their full participation which made the programme very successful.

**Application of research:** The overall study shows that the village community of all the ten watersheds showed their participation in all the stages of implementation of the programme i.e., planning, decision making, site selection and execution of the work. Their involvement in raising the watershed structures good which in turn the ground water level will be increased which will benefit the farming community

**Research Category:** Watershed Programme

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