



NATIONAL CONSULTATION

ON

DROUGHT MITIGATION PLANNING

VENUE: NASC COMPLEX, NEW DELHI

FEBRUARY 22, 2023



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Background

More than 50 percent of the net sown area is rainfed, broadly spread across arid, semi-arid, and sub-humid regions of the country, and is highly dependent on rainfall for both crop production and allied activities. Notwithstanding that the country receives 4000 BCM of water per annum through rainfall, it has been facing severe water crises over the recent years due to erratic or uneven distribution of rainfall, exacerbated by the impact of climate change. The crisis is also an outcome of unscientific practices of agriculture, non-judicious use of groundwater, poor soil, and moisture conservation practices, etc. Drought causes a deleterious impact on productivity and income. The frequent occurrence of droughts disincentivizes the farmers from making necessary investments in asset creation, technology, etc. As a result, a vicious cycle of poor management of agriculture and loss of gross output & income is created in rainfed areas.

Drought leads to widespread crop failure, reduced agricultural production; un-replenished groundwater resources, shortage of drinking water, reduced fodder availability, higher livestock mortality rates, and damage to wildlife as well as the effect on large migration in the search of alternative livelihoods and increased social conflict. Drought affects the overall economy of a country at the macro (national) and micro (village and household) levels. Hence there is need for comprehensive drought mitigation plans for vulnerable areas are crucial.

Upon realizing the urgency to take appropriate measures to develop a framework for drought mitigation National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) collaborated for taking forward the XVth Finance Commission's recommendations and initiating to develop district-level drought mitigation plans, by utilizing the allocated amount of Rs. 100 crore each for the twelve most drought-prone states over five years. These states are Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Uttar Pradesh.

While both the Union and State Governments have set up different schemes to mitigate the impact of drought. States need to develop long-term drought mitigation plans to address the challenges posed by successive droughts. These plans need to include area-specific farming systems, improved surfaces, and ground water management, sustainable use of natural resources, alternative livelihood opportunities, strengthening institutional arrangements, reliable and location-specific forecasting systems for better preparedness, etc. Each drought-affected district needs to develop a plan to bring about a convergence of these interventions and monitor them on a long-term basis.

Major interventions need to take advantage of 3-4 major schemes run by union and state governments relevant to drought management. This needs detailed discussion on bridging the gap in the present drought management initiatives, which may include real-time data sharing at the district and block levels, focusing on both prevention and contingent measures, improving the forecasting and advisory system, and setting up a mechanism for continuous monitoring of drought, engaging priority states, concerned ministries/ department and scientific institutions.

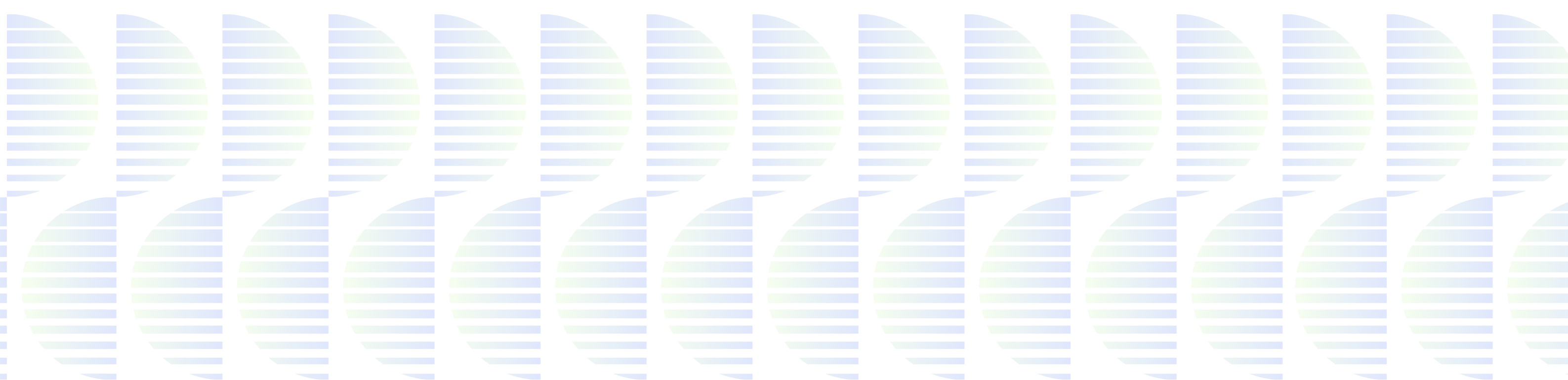
In this context, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA), Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India intends to carry out One-Day national consultation. This consultation will include experts and key resources persons from various ministries/departments, scientists and academics, NGOs, and others working in drought-vulnerable areas, to bring some new perspectives to the set of interventions for drought mitigation planning more effectively with an appropriate mix of information, technology, institutions, and infrastructure.

Objectives:

- Sharing of XV Finance Commission recommendation
- Drought mitigation planning and strategy.
- Experience sharing for convergence with key schemes run by the union and state governments to mitigate the successive droughts
- A framework/guideline for a drought mitigation program
- Long-term drought planning and setting up a mechanism at the local level intervention

Expected Outcomes:

This consultation will be helpful in preparing a national drought mitigation plan/guidelines to support state and district-level long-term mitigates the successive drought in the country, finding out the appropriate measures for mitigation of drought to be taken by the concerned ministries/department and others at the Central and state/district level, preparation of a strategy for effective and efficient drought management in the country. It will also help for different levels, based on best practices, lessons learned, and experiences.



**National Consultation on
Long term Drought Mitigation Planning**

Tentative Schedule

qTime	Program	Speakers
09.00-09.30	Registration	
09.30-10.30	Inaugural session – Welcome, Introduction and objective	
09.30-09.35	Welcome & scope of the workshop	Shri Kunal Satyarthi, Joint Secretary, NDMA
09.35 - 09.45	Opening Remarks	Dr Krishna S. Vatsa, Member, NDMA
9.45 - 09. 55	Special address	Dr. Himanshu Pathak , DG-ICAR
09.55 - 10. 05	Special address	Shri Kamal Kishore Member Secretary NDMA
10.05-10.15	Key note address	Dr Ashok Dalwai, CEO-NRAA
10.15-10.25	Inaugural address	Shri Manoj Ahuja Secretary MoAg&FW
10.25-10.30	Vote of Thanks	Ms. S. Rukmani, Joint Secretary, DM, MoAg&FW
10.30-11.00	Tea break	
11.00-12.00	Technical session 1: Status, prospects and future trends in drought forecasting (Chair by Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO-NRAA)	
11.00-11.15	Predictive models and extended range forecasting system for drought management	Dr. U. C. Mohanty (IIT Bhubneshwar)
11.15-11.30	Harmonizing weather database and future advanced technological trends	Dr. K. K. Singh (IMD)
11.30-11.45	User-friendly DS Systems for drought preparedness	Dr. A. Sikka (IWMI)
11.45- 12.00	Enhancing the reach and usefulness of Kisan advisory efforts of Government	Sh. Samuel Praveen Kumar JS (Ext.)
12.00 – 12.15	Open discussions	
	Technical session 2: Drought Mitigation Planning & Management – Proactive & Concurrent strategies (Chair by Dr. B. Venkateshwaralu)	
12.15- 12.25	Dry-land horticulture & agro-forestry for drought insulation	Dr. A. Arunachalam, Director CAFRI
12.25 - 12.35	Climate resilient dry-land crop production & Water management	Dr. V K Singh Director, CRIDA
12.35 - 12.45	Coping mechanism & management of Livestock during droughts	JS DAHD
12.45 - 12.55	IFS for resilience of Rainfed agriculture & livelihood security	Dr. N. Ravisankar, IIFSR-Modipuram
12.55 - 1.10	Lunch break	
	Technical session 3: Operational Convergence and Institutional Building (Chair by Joint Secretary DoLR/DoRD)	
2.00 - 2.10	Scope and opportunities of Rural Development Programme in drought mitigation	JS MoRD
2.10- 2.20	Watershed development - Tool for long term drought mitigation	JS DoLR
2.20 - 2.30	Gaps in Drought management system and there solution	JS DM Division

2.30 - 2.40	Framework of Convergence of programme and institution for drought management	Representative NDMA
2.40 - 3.20	Existing policy & institutional framework and scope of improvement followed by views & inputs from participating states	Presentation by 2 leading states (Karnataka & Odisha) 10 min. each 20 min
3.20 - 3.30	Open discussions	
	Technical session 4: Participatory Management & Role of Panchayati Raj Institutions (Chair by Joint Secretary DM, DA&FW)	
3.30- 3.40	Participatory Natural Resource Governence for minimising drought vulnerability	Dr. B. Venkateshwralu
3.40 - 3.50	Water stewardship & Demand management of water resources	Shri Prakash Keskar/ Dr. Marcella D'Souza WoTR
3.50 - 4.00	Role & responsibilities of PRI in planning & management of drought	JS (PR)
4.00 - 4.10	Open discussion	
	Tea break	
	Technical Session 5 : Way forward, Emerging issues and Valedictory Session (Chair by Dr Krishna S. Vatsa,, Member, NDMA)	
4.40 - 4.50	Emerging Issues and way forward	Shri Kunal Satyarthi, Joint Secretary. NDMA
4.50- 5.00	Concluding Remarks and Key recommendations	Dr Ashok Dalwai, CEO-NRAA
5.00 - 5.10	Valedictory address	Secretary MoPR/MoRD