

# **Online National Conference on promoting PIM through Farmers Organizations held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2020**

## **Key Recommendations**

The one-day ‘Online National Conference on Promoting PIM through Farmers’ Organizations’ sponsored by the Ministry of Jal Shakti was organized by IndiaNPIM on 4th November 2020. The Conference was inaugurated by the Hon’ble Minister, Jal Shakti. The first session titled “Journey of PIM in India” was chaired by Shri U.P. Singh, Secretary (DoWR, RD&GR); second session titled “Issues and Challenges in PIM implementation” was chaired by Dr. Ashok Dalwai, CEO, National Rainfed Area Authority; and the third session on “Emerging issues and way forward for PIM” was chaired by Shri S.K. Haldar, Member, CWC. There was also a Panel discussion on “Role of Central & State Governments in Strengthening the Institution of PIM” moderated by Dr B.R.K. Pillai, Commissioner, CADWM. The key recommendations emerging from the deliberations held in the Conference, on aspects of Policy and legal measures, enabling environment, institutional capacity building, and financial support, are as below:

### **1. Policy and legal**

- 1.1 PIM Acts of different states may be reviewed and amended for overcoming their varied shortcomings.
- 1.2 The WUAs should be given irrigation water based on volumetric measurements for which state-of-the-art devices should be installed and handed over to the WUAs for ensuring their safety and protection.
- 1.3 The WUAs should be treated at par with Farmer Producing Companies (FPCs), thereby expanding their scope from mere water distribution to increased production and to connect the production with the markets for fetching of good price.
- 1.4 Efforts for strengthening of WUAs should be well focused, eliminating the need of Incentivization of unconnected activities. Handing over of the CADWM assets should happen only after ensuring the capability of WUA as well as good conditions of the assets.

### **2. Enabling Environment**

- 2.1 There is a need for paradigm shift in PIM Planning and implementation to Participatory Water, Land and Agriculture Enterprise Management (PWLAEM). Awareness for the same may be created through strengthening of WALMIs and increasing their penetration across the states.

- 2.2 With efforts for strengthening of the PIM institutions, efforts should also be made to change the approach of water supply agencies through customized 'attitudinal and behavioral change' workshops.
- 2.3 Some of the State PIM Acts have included agriculture and water productivity in the list of objectives of WUAs but the mechanism for attainment of these objectives needs to be enumerated in the Rules.
- 2.4 Seminars and Conferences on PIM should be regularly conducted in states with broad based participation of farmers, WUAs, Institutions, NGOs, technology providers and academia.

### **3. Institutional Capacity Building**

- 3.1 Efforts should be made in the direction of providing technology leverage to WUAs, providing access to Water Resources Information System, remote sensing applications, and system specific technology interventions.
- 3.2 WUAs should be enrolled in shouldering responsibility for local water security issues affecting ground water availability / extraction, rainwater harvesting, upkeep of the health of ponds/wetlands/rivulets/rivers etc.
- 3.3 A system of benchmarking and ranking of WUAs needs to be established in order to create competitive spirit and to facilitate cross-learning towards continual improvement.
- 3.4 Apt mechanisms should be developed to ensure good linkages between Panchayati Raj Institutions, Line Departments, and WUAs.

### **4. Financial Support**

- 4.1 A new scheme should be formulated to provide one-time functional grant and infrastructure grant to earlier registered WUAs on the pattern of ongoing CADWM scheme.
- 4.2 For the rehabilitation and renovation of irrigation systems which have been transferred to Water Users Association, a new scheme with scope to cover ERM works may be formulated.
- 4.3 For full financial empowerment of WUAs, WUAs should be given freedom to frame irrigation service charges. The WUAs should retain a certain portion of irrigation charges collected by them, instead of depositing all collected revenue in the State Treasury and subsequently getting a refund from Government.