

Crossing Boundaries: Regional Capacity Building On IWRM And Gender & Water In South Asia

Description:

The Crossing Boundaries (CB) project aims to contribute to the paradigm shift in water resources management in South Asia, summarised in the concept of IWRM (Integrated Water Resources Management), by means of a partnership-based programme for capacity building of water professionals on IWRM and gender & water through higher education, innovation and social learning focussed research ('research with an impact'), knowledge base development and networking.

SaciWATERS, the South Asian Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies, based in Hyderabad, India and the Irrigation and Water Engineering group at Wageningen University, are implementing the project with five South Asian Partner Institutions (PIs).

The activities of the project take place at two levels, the national and the South Asian. The university partner institutions implement the national level activities. The regional South Asia level activities are coordinated and implemented by SaciWATERS. For implementation of the project the CB Project Office was established in Hyderabad, India, in the SaciWATERS office. Wageningen University provides support and backstopping activities at both the South Asian and national levels, and selected substantive inputs. Wageningen University is the budget holder of the project and the DGIS contract partner.



Objective and activities:

Project Goal (general objective)

Strengthen integrated and gender-sensitive water resources management policy and practice in South Asia by means of a regional, collaborative, partnership-based capacity building programme for active water professionals through higher education, innovation-focussed research & knowledge base development, and networking.

Project purposes (specific objectives)

- Educate a critical mass of South Asian water professionals trained in interdisciplinary analysis and design of intervention strategies for integrated and gender-sensitive water resources management and contribute to a more balanced gender composition of the community of South Asian water professionals (*human resources capacity development & gender balance objective*).
- Conduct innovation and social learning focussed research in concrete development intervention settings, in partnership with water resource users and other stakeholders, as the core element of the capacity building (*research and innovation for development objective*)
- Develop a knowledge base for capacity building on IWRM and gender and water issues, and provide a platform for exchange, discussion and collaboration at the South Asia level through networking, publications and workshops/conferences (*knowledge base and outreach objective*).

Project activities

Specific objective 1: Human resources capacity development on IWRM and gender & water in South Asia

- Provide 160 fellowships to active water professionals (135 female; 25 male) for obtaining a degree in an integrated water resources Masters programme, and provide short-term courses on IWRM for about 435 participants.
- Introduce or strengthen three course modules in partners' institutions programme on a) IWRM, b) gender and water in South Asia, c) interdisciplinary field research methodology.
- Conduct 10 two-week staff training programmes for staff of partner institutions.
- Facilitate exchange of staff and students among partner institutions.
- Hold 15 (3 per year in three locations) 5-day sub-regional workshops for women Masters and Diploma candidates.

Specific objective 2: Innovation and social learning oriented research

- Conduct one 6-7 week staff training on field research methodology.
- Conduct innovation and social learning focussed research in concrete development projects.
- Hold yearly research workshops for 20 South Asian researchers working on IWRM topics, and stimulate joint and comparative publication.
- Hold two international conferences on water resources policy in South Asia for researchers/educationists, policy actors and practitioners.

Specific objective 3: Knowledge base development and outreach

- Produce a series of ten readers on water resources management issues in South Asia.
- Strengthen library and Internet resources of South Asian partner organisations.
- Strengthen Women and Water Professionals networks in the South Asia region and establish linkages with other gender & water networks.

- Collaborate and exchange with other IWRM research, education and networking programmes

Duration: 2005-2010

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Partners:

WUR - Irrigation and Water Engineering Group (Ir. Gerrit van Vuren, Coordinator)
SaciWaters, Hyderabad, India
Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), Dhaka, Bangladesh, in
collaboration with Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), Bangladesh
University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka, Bangladesh

Centre for Water Resources (CWR), Anna University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka

Nepal Engineering College (NEC), Katmandu, Nepal

Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, India

For further information

Please see the project web site <http://www.saciwaters.org/cbhome.asp>

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