

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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- **What is the significance of APCBTMP?**

Andhra Pradesh Community Based Tank Management Project (APCBTMP) is an initiative to strengthen the reform in irrigation sector and the pioneering initiatives of Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) in Andhra Pradesh. The project is designed on the principles of APFMIS Act and adheres to the rules and guidelines prescribed in the Act. The project aims at strengthening the capacity and empowerment of Water Users Associations by rehabilitation of the physical structure of the tank system and improving their livelihood option. The outcome of the project Implementation in 3000 MI tanks will strengthen the State Governments policy on irrigation reform. The guidelines put forwarded by the National Framework on Renovation of Water Bodies by Government of India is also amalgamated in the project design.

- **What are the key principles underlying the design of the project?**

The key principles underlying project design are:

- A decentralised setting where main tank beneficiaries play an active role in planning, implementing and sustaining project interventions
- The tank system rehabilitation works meets technical quality and safety standards, and pays adequate attention to social, environmental and fiduciary considerations
- To improve agricultural productivity and farmers income, access to improved agricultural technologies and practices, and facilitation of market linkages for agricultural producers, are as important as improving access to water.

- **What is the objective and components of the project?**

The project development objective is - Selected tank based producers improve agricultural productivity and water user associations manage tank system effectively.

The four components of the project are:

1. *Strengthening community based institutions to assume responsibility for tank system improvement and management* primarily focusing on development and strengthening of local institutions and addressing needs of traditionally vulnerable stakeholders.

2. *Tank systems improvement* which includes physical investments in tank systems to address the deficiencies of various physical components.

3. *Agricultural livelihoods support services* which includes promotion of farmer interest groups, agricultural research and extension, support through public agencies and private service providers as appropriate and facilitation of credit and market linkages for agricultural producers / growers (including fisheries and livestock products).

4. *Project Management* – activities under this component would help ensure effective project management at the state and district levels, information and logistic support, communications, project related consultancies and concurrent monitoring and evaluation.

- **What is the institutional implementation arrangement of the project?**

The project has a three tier implementation arrangement. At the state level the project is reviewed by the Project Steering Committee (PSC) headed by Chief Secretary of the state. A Multi disciplinary Project Management Unit (PMU) headed by State Project Director (SPD) is the implementing institution at the state level. Similarly the project is reviewed by the District Level Implementation Committee headed by District Collector and is implemented by a multidisciplinary District Project Unit (DPU) headed by District Project Director (DPD) at the district level. At the tank level, the project is implemented by the Water Users Association (WUA) and facilitated by the Support Organisations.

- **Who are the stakeholders of the project?**

The command area farmers (WUA members) and fisherfolks are the direct stakeholders of the project. Besides the direct stakeholders, washermen, livestock rearers and groundwater users are the indirect stakeholders. All the stakeholders who are directly or indirectly dependant on the tank will be part of the indirect stakeholders which vary from tank to tank and is identified during the planning phase by the way of social mapping.

- **What are WUA roles and responsibilities?**

According to the APFMIS act, the major roles and responsibilities of the WUA are as follows:

1. Mobilize community contribution for the project
2. prepare and implementation of Tank Improvement and Management Plan to carry out restoration and revival of the tank system
3. assist in collection of water charges and undertake management and O&M works of the tank system
4. distribute water among all the tank users equitably create an awareness on economic use of water and promote efficient water use technologies & practices among the tank users
5. collectively prepare water use and agricultural plans for each irrigation season
6. arbitrate and resolve any disputes over distribution of water among the tank users
7. prevent future encroachment and protect tank system
8. maintain execution of works and supervise the quality
9. open and operate two bank accounts in any Nationalized Bank
  - i. O&M Account: for depositing water charges collected, O&M funds, 5 % contribution towards share of the WUA in rehabilitation of the tank. This account will be operated jointly by WUA President and Vice President, on behalf of the WUA Managing Committee
  - ii. Works Account: for the purpose of rehabilitation works taken up by the WUA under the project. This account is to be operated jointly by WUA President (on behalf of the WUA Managing Committee) and the project technical staff (DPU staff co-opted into the works sub-committee)
10. maintain regular ledgers and accounts of the WUA as required under the project
11. perform any other functions to accomplish the objectives of the project as and when required under the project

- **What are the responsibilities of WUA sub-committees?**

There are four sub-committees in a WUA. The responsibilities of each sub-committee are provided below:

#### Works sub-committee

- For system operation and for direct supervision of works sub committee will be formed by the members
- Recommend estimates of works for administrative approval
- Works quality supervision
- Check measurement and recording for works done
- Recommending for bill payment of works done
- Prioritisation of works

#### Finance sub-committee

- Mobilisation of financial resources
- Preparation of financial budget and acceptance in general body meeting
- Assisting in water tax collection
- Recommending to managing committee on finance investment
- To maintain records relating to financial matters
- To prepare annual accounts

#### Water management sub-committee

- decisions on water distribution
- Patrolling the irrigation system and water regulation arrangements
- Regular monitoring on irrigation and drainage systems
- Working on proper water usage
- Recording the water release quantity
- Informing to management committee about violation of water usage rules
- Assisting in water release schedule preparation
- Maintain the records of water users

#### Monitoring and training sub-committee

- Identifying the training needs of water users and organising the trainings
- Educating the saving in water usage
- Monitoring the following issues
  - Irrigated area
  - Produce
  - Conflict resolution
  - Resource development

#### • **What is the tank selection process?**

The tank selection criteria comprises of a three stage screening process. In the first stage the districts are prioritised on the basis of predominance of tank irrigation. In the second stage the mandals from the prioritized districts are selected for the project on the basis of proportion of tank irrigation. Using this criteria, 369 mandals have been selected having proportion of tank irrigation varying between 75% to 35%. Lastly the positive hydrology is the selection criteria for individual tanks. APSRAC has already developed a protocol on the basis of sample tanks to estimate the positivity of hydrological characteristic considering the rainfall, run-off and catchment and soil particulars. Community willingness to rehabilitate and restore the tank and status of the tanks are also part of the selection criteria of individual tanks.

#### • **What is community willingness and community contribution?**

The project envisages mobilization of community contribution for the project from the tank users at the rate of 10 percent of the total civil works. The 10 percent community contribution comprises of 5 percent upfront payment in cash and 5 percent in kind. The 5 percent contribution in cash will be deposited in the WUA O&M account for future O&M activities by the WUA. The WUAs can contribute through labour or in kind in the civil work part of the rehabilitation for the remaining 5 percent of contribution.

- **What are the institutional strengthening interventions and how it is implemented?**

The objective of institutional strengthening of community based institutions is to assume responsibility for tank system improvement and management. This includes development of human resources, formation and / or strengthening of local institutions for tank improvement and management and development of mechanisms whereby the needs of traditionally vulnerable stakeholders can be addressed

To achieve the above objectives the following interventions are proposed under this component:

- Awareness Generation on Project
- Identification of all tank stakeholders
- Assessment of Environment for Participatory Planning
- Signing of MoU between WUA and the project
- Data collection for preparing TIMP – PRA / Technical Surveys
- Preparation of work designs and cost estimates
- Preparation of TIMP document
- Consultation and endorsement of TIMP by WUA General Body
- Implementation of TIMP
- Maintenance of records & book keeping
- Capacity building & training

The interventions in this component are implemented by the Support Organisation in association with project and WUA.

- **What are the tank physical rehabilitation interventions and how it is implemented?**

The objective of Improvement of Minor Irrigation tanks component are to improve the physical condition and operational performance of selected tank systems through a range of interventions identified and executed in partnership with the respective tank users, secure the safety of the tank structures, and improve on-farm water management and water use efficiency.

To achieve the above objectives

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