

## **BEST PRACTICES - PANI PANCHAYATS IN ODISHA**

In order to bring equity in water distribution in the command areas of the irrigation projects, improve crop productivity through collective effort and create a sense of ownership among the farmers for the irrigation infrastructure, Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) is being emphasized and Water Users Association (WUAs) are being formed in all categories of irrigation commands. In this regard, Pani Panchayat (PP) Act, 2002 and Rule-2003 have been enacted to provide statutory backing to the WUAs with necessary amendments in 2006, 2008 and 2014 for better implementation and higher participation. Reservation for 33% women at chak level election has been provisioned in the PP Act to bring women to the main stream.

As on 31.05.2018, altogether 30,033 nos. of PPs have been programmed and out of which 28,105 nos. of PPs have been formed by conducting election. An example of the best practice, in Sunei Medium Irrigation Project, Mayurbhanj District, in Khariff season previous to Rabi-2016, the Project Committee of PPs decided to supply water to tail end first. Due to rotational irrigation practice followed by all PPs of the project, enough water was saved and in a drought like situation in 2015-16 Kharif, achievement was 2500 Ha which was 36% more than achievement of the previous year 2014-15. Further, due to conscious decision of the Project Committee and PPs, there was no paddy cultivation during Rabi. Only cash crops like pulses, oilseeds and vegetables were grown in it.

Through ADB assistance, 251 nos. of PPs have been undertaken for strengthening activities in 6 Medium and 5 Major Irrigation Projects which involves strengthening of O&M, CAD, Agriculture livelihood and skill development support activities. In order to ensure women participation addressing to gender issues, Department of Water Resources, Govt. of Odisha has constituted a Gender Budget Cell keeping in view to plan and prepare the policy & modalities for the state.

In this connection, orientation cum onsite interactive training programmes of PPs have been conducted in ADB sub-projects with the help of WALMI, Odisha in which, agriculture and horticulture officers along with the officers of CAD-PIM Directorate have participated to educate the PP members on different field activities.

In the month of June 2018, the team has conducted such onsite interactive training programme of PP members of High Level Canal, Range-I sub project at Kaema of Jajpur District, of Kanjhari Medium Irrigation Project at Jhumpura of Keonjhar District and of Kansbahal Medium Irrigation Project at the Dam site in Sundargarh district which have been completed successfully.



Interactive Training at Kaema



Interactive Training at Kanjhari Irrigation Project



**Rehabilitation of Canal by Pani Panchayats**



**Canal Cleaning by Pani Panchayats**



**All Women Pani Panchayat – Aunli Medium Scheme**