

Follow-up meeting on mapping of coastal water bodies

Date : 30th September 2006
Time : 3:15 pm to 6:00 p.m.
Venue : 313, Collectorate, Nagapattinam

Another follow-up meeting was organised by NCRC to take stock of works initiated by NGOs and provide technical assistance to NGOs towards mapping of water bodies in the district. Present for the meeting were Mr. Baskaran, PWD, Dr. Shivanappan, Mr. Chnadra Mohan and representatives from Venture, CEE, CCD and TOFAM. At the onset of the meeting, the NGOs shared their experience in collective the maps.

Difficulties in getting maps

The NGOs expressed the following in collecting the maps of water bodies:

- Venture expressed that they had a problem in collecting the Taluk level maps from Vedarnayam. They were asked to meet the Thasildar there
- CEE was asked to meet a PWD personal from Ozhugaimangalam to collect maps of Tharangambadi Taluk.
- However, CCD informed that they had already collected maps for Sirkali Taluk.
- Generally, maps of 'A' channels were reported to be available; whereas the 'B' and 'C' channels had to be made through field visits
- The Agriculture Engineering personal assured Venture to get the maps
- CEE suggested to NCRC to obtain permission to collect maps from Karaikkal authorities. However, it was decided to concentrate on Karaikkal after completing works in Nagapattinam district
- CCD showcased a map prepared by them in Cauvery tail end. Upon seeing it, Dr. Shivanappan asked the NGOs to draw the details acquired in the field work on the main map obtained from the district

Three types of works by NGOs

The NGOs have taken up the following three types of works:

1. Taluk level maps involving irrigation/drainage channels, maps of wells, tanks, ponds and Uranis and maps of farm ponds
2. Overall reconaissance
3. Data collection using formats

The NGOs were asked if they needed any support from PWD to accomplish their given task as as to pose them to Mr. Baskaran. The NGOs asked for maps of irrigation/drainage channels and whom to approach for the same. Mr. Baskaran gave the following information:

- He asked the NGOs to inform the STOs in advance and get their help. He also told that the contact numbers of STOs have been given to NCRC which would be

passed on to the NGOs at the end of the meeting

- He gave the following demarcation in getting the maps:

Area	Contact person
Nagore to Kaduvelankadai bridge	Mr. Ganeshan & Mr. Pandiyan (STOs)
Kaduvelankadai to Kameswaram	STO of the area
Thiruthuraipoondi	Mr. Shankar (STO)
Tharangambadi	STO of Tharangambadi

- He told that Mr. Shankar of Thiruthuraipoondi (Vennar area) has got detailed reports
- He also asked the NGOs to look into whatever is in bad conditions and reiterated that the rest might be available at the PWD
- He also asked to involve Lascar if possible
- It was also suggested to get the length, breadth and depth of 'A' and 'B' channels from PWD; whereas the 'C' channels would be obtained using the pro diagramme given to the NGOs
- Mr. Baskaran stressed the need for planning in completing the works
- He also proposed to hold a meeting involving PWD on 9th or 10th October

Followed by Mr. Baskaran, the NGOs engaged in reviewing their works done till then in their respective Taluks. The outcome:

Vedaranyam

- Venture had marked in three Tail End Regulators (TER) for a distance of more than 10 kms each
- It was asked to look into bund encroachment in the area
- Farm ponds are used for fish culture

Nagapattinam

- Tofam informed that irrigation channels of three Panchayats have studied
- TER at Vadugacherry also had been studied
- The NGO also visited PWD and got the information from them
- Around 40 farm ponds have been visited in Nagapattinam municipality
- PWD had asked the NGO to make a visit on the following Tuesday for more information
- The NGO had also visited the Taluk office
- Mr. Chandra Mohan informed that the secondary data collected at this stage is vital for the study

Tharangambadi

- CEE informed that there were four 'A' channels and 18 'B' channels in the taluk
- It expressed inability in collective the Taluk level map
- Nandalar river in Veera solanar area had been visited and measured
- They also reported encroachment in the river

- A flow chart had been drawn on Rajendra channel
- Mr. Chandra Mohan asked them to identify the number of shutters, collect map of the rivers and mark the deviations of the river on the Taluk map

Sirkali

- CCD informed that Taluk maps of Sirkali and Mayiladuthurai have been collected
- The said there were 8 'A' channels in the Taluk
- TER at Cauvery rivers have been identified and all the channels (A,B & C) have been visited

Inputs by Dr. Shivanappan

- Dr. Shivanappan asked the NGOs to collect the maps of all the channels
- He asked to visit the entire area under the coverage area and identify the TERs and rivers in the area. He also asked them to identify the number of channels (A, B & C) and mark the approximate value of length, width and depth on the taluk level maps
- He also asked if NGOs had identified the study area in their respective Taluks. He also asked them to confirm the study area by marking the TERs

Each NGO explained their visit of marking the TER visit with the help of the map.

Discussion on formats

- Mr. Chandra Mohan explained the complicated terminologies in the format. He explained the terms like existing, abandoned, siltation and encroachment. He also gave tips on measuring the capacity of tanks using the local farmers.
- He also told to take up a single river and study the entire details involved with it. He also asked to identify the taluk map and take down visits between the TERs and study the details
- Drawing a map on the board. Dr. Shivanappan explained about rivers, TER, types of channels and how to distinguish them
- Mr. Chandra Mohan asked if they could cover other water bodies in the respective Taluks and asked for an approximate number
- He also distributed the new format to all the NGOs and asked them to get doubts clarified in the next meeting

It was decided to hold the next meeting at 2.30 pm on 3rd November 2006. Mr. Chandra Mohan proposed the vote of thanks and the meeting came to an end.