

Planning meet of 'Mapping of Water Bodies'

Minutes

Date: 1st September 2006

Time: 1500 Hrs

Venue: Roof Hall, NCRC.

Organised By: Agriculture Sector, NCRC

This was a planning meeting on mapping of Coastal Water bodies in Nagapattinam. The meeting was mainly to discuss about the importance to study the coastal water bodies of Nagapattinam. The group of participants broadly consisted of Government officials (PWD & Agricultural Engineering), NGOs implementing programmes in Agriculture and Senior Consultant on Water Resources, etc.

Agenda:

1. Welcome Address – Mr.ChandraMohan
2. Brief Introduction
3. Discussion
4. Detailed description about the Study - Dr.Sivanappan
5. Suggestions
6. Study Structure
7. NGO's participation consent for partnership in the Study
8. Plan of follow up meetings

1. Welcome Address

Mr. Chandra Mohan formally welcomed the participants and the gathering.

2. Brief Introduction

- ♣ Agriculture was not given the right attention initially in the post Tsunami phase.
- ♣ Re-emphasising the fact that 'Nagapattinam' was vulnerable to disaster and not that Tsunami was the first disaster to Nagapattinam.
- ♣ Drainage system plays a very important role during the time of floods and tsunami, as proper draining helps in floods.

- ♣ There are 23 NGOs who took part in agriculture related activities in the 1st year in Nagapattinam.
- ♣ The main issues relating to agriculture are soil salinity, soil fertility & crop productivity.
- ♣ The definition of affected are only those who have lost a house or were there is a death in family thus agriculture and people in agriculture field got very less attention in the initial relief phase.
- ♣ An urge to take care of the drainage system near the shore.
- ♣ As NGOs are for short term, it is important that the main agricultural stake holders are the farmers and the Government.
- ♣ The main purpose of the planning meeting is to discuss how to go about 'the Study of mapping water bodies'.

3. Discussion

The discussion was mainly chaired by the agriculture sector head Mr. Chandra Mohan; he started the discussion probing how far the waves have come into the shore so as to know how much land should be included for the study.

a. Criteria for the study

It was discussed whether it is logical to take the study area from that of the main road to shore line in Nagapattinam. It was said that length cannot be taken as criteria for the study as in Kollidam alone it extends till 15kms. At Tharangambadi, it may only be just 2 Kms. It was decided that the sample for the study can be upto 15- 20 Kms from the coast line.

b. Tracing out the encroached drainages

There are totally 350 drains in Nagapattinam and out of which there are many drainages which are encroached and out of which 63 are minor drainage and which NGO can take over and work on deepening and widening. They are all approximately 3 mts width and thus will cost more than Rs. 32 Lakhs.

c. Study on widening and deepening

To study the widening and deepening which have been carried out so far and also the drainages which require to be widened and deepened. This will help to evolve a model for the widening and the deepening practices.

d. Collect from Tharangambadi / Mayiladuthurai

To collect few maps from Tharangambadi and Mayiladuthurai divisions. Rivers like Nandallar, Arasallar, Amannar, comes under Executive Engineer, Mayiladuthurai so he should be contacted.

e. Velankanni Model

To take the Velankanni as a model where in an Australian based NGO has worked on their drainage system.

f. Fisheries Department Role

Few drainage channels nearby the coast comes under the Fisheries Department. Thus some preliminary discussions also are to be made with the Fisheries Department.

g. Back waters and Low lying areas

Study to also include the river back waters and low lying areas, as they are more vulnerable so even low lying areas to be studied, ex. Thalaignayaru. Every time there is high tide approximately 500 mts of land get affected which makes agriculture difficult.

h. Dhan Foundation's experiment

Dhan Foundation is working on Azhivalunthan - mangrove forest area and have initiated a project to build a shutter with people's participation. This shutter will be opened during the times of flood.

i. Study of Ground water and also artificial recharge structures

To study how ground water – recharge can be done and successful practices to be recorded. Artificial recharge structures like ponds, sunken ponds and tanks that are done by Agriculture Engineer Departments has to be studied.

4. Detailed description about the Study - Dr.Sivanappan

Dr.Sivanappan discussed the topics that he is planning to include in the study which are as follows.

- i. Identification of water bodies, ponds, tanks, irrigation channels that are existing and that which are encroached.
- ii. Rehabilitation and rectification of irrigation channels.
- iii. Prevention of water logging and drainage problems, flooding system and prevention of water logging.
- iv. Recharging ground water using flood water.

- v. Sea Water intrusion.
- vi. Increase in the irrigation, cultivation and intensive irrigations.
- vii. Skimming Well Irrigation
- viii. Crop and cropping pattern changes.
- ix. Method of increasing the productivity.
- x. Income generation for farmers.
- xi. Water depth and water quality.
- xii. Construction of farm ponds.
- xiii. Activities like vermi compost, like wise.
- xiv. Rural and agriculture marketing.
- xv. Changing of farmers' attitude.

5. Suggestions

The following were suggestions given for the proposed study by the participants.

- Making survey, investigation is required through the assistance of the PW Department.
- The study to cover all the water bodies.
- To start the study and complete it before the monsoon as during the rain it would be difficult to study.
- To study the rain fall, seasonality.
- To have a critical analysis on dry land.
- Sowing methodology to be studied.
- Ground water availabilities.
- Crop growth, growth quality, varieties grown, normal yield.
- Wealth analysis and details of small and marginal farmers.
- Present status of drainages.
- Skimming wells should have at least a depth of 15 feet.
- Shrimp farms impact on agriculture.
- Status of sand dunes and bunds.
- To know the areas encroached.
- Maintenance and continuity of the existing canals.
- FMP Sketch is mandatory for the study and is very important.
- Land fertility has undergone lot of changes in the post Tsunami phase to carefully study on it.
- To get all the details on existing farm ponds, tanks, lakes from village and municipal levels inclusive of temple tanks.

- Necessity of formation of new channels and ponds for better draining to be studied.
- To include Karaikal also in the study and leave the implementation to their government.
- PEDDA, TOfarm, Dhan, CCD have taken up their own de-silting the channels like wise to identify the channels that require to be desilted.
- Farmers' participation to be brought in to study the traditional / conventional practices of management.

6. Study Structure

It was informed that the study will be headed by Dr.Sivanappan at district level and by NGOs at the taluk levels. The Government, both at district as well at taluk levels shall support the whole process in the meetings, joint field visits as well as by providing the necessary secondary information.

Preparation of report will be assisted by Dr.Sivanappan and for the data collection assistance and cooperation of NGO's, Farmers, PW Department, Agricultural Engineers, Agri. Department, Horticultural department, Fisheries department and other experts.

7. NGO's participation consent for partnership in the Study

It was informed that NGOs can depute field staff for the study and NCRC can provide the minimum support salary for the purpose of the study. The NGOs who were willing to participate in the Study for data collection are as follows

- CEE
- Kudumbam
- Venture
- CCD
- Dhan (will confirm in 2 days time)

8. Plan of follow up meetings

NCRC requested the PW Department & the Agricultural Engineering department to provide the maps and available information as soon as possible. The follow up meeting has to be communicated in a week.
