

Training Report

Beginning

International training and research course on “Groundwater Governance in Asia: Theory and Practice”, is started on October 9, 2006 in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. Junior Research fellows and Media fellows from China, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal and India are participating in this training.

The main objective of the training is to enhance the capacity of existing institutions which is involved in groundwater research and management in the basin state, to undertake more integrated, multi-disciplinary and sustainable approach to groundwater governance. Participants are representing their different disciplines like; Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Soil Science, Agriculture, Sociology, Economics, IT and Media as a heterogeneous group. Courses are designed and topics are mostly related to Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Agriculture and Sociology. But for Information Technology like Remote Sensing, Socio-economy and Media are also being mentioned inside the course. For the Practical skill enhancement, game and field visits are also included. All participants are experts in their own field and mostly they are working and involved to groundwater. Participants from different field and very creative minds make all together a very potential group.

1st week in Roorkee

First day 9th October, 2006 International training on “Groundwater Governance Theory and Practice” was inaugurated in Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. IIT is an oldest Technical Institute in Asia. Prof. SK Jain was taken a first class on the topics of Hydrology. He told “It is very difficult to give a lecture on Hydrology in this training, because all of you are not from Hydrology background. So it is big challenge for me.”

The courses of first week are more technical and especially based on Groundwater, Geophysics and Hydrology. We learnt about Aquifer, Water table, GW lifting devices, Layers of soil, Importance of water for Agronomy, GW modeling, Use of Software as a technology. There were two classes on the Social aspect of water resources and importance of kinship.

Facilitators were very well known and experienced as Indian Academicians and lectures were interesting. But somewhere we feel lack of connection between subjects and till long time we were in confusion. Some questions were also raised, why this subject is included? But gradually confusions are going to be clear. As a media fellow I was expecting from this training for development of idea on issue finding, problem identification, exploration of subject matter, searching the solution, giving way out, action of concerned unit or people, visualization of the issue, précising the message, sustainable effect, presentation technique on electronic media for the rural people and print media also and choice of media etc. Over all first week was interesting and educative for all participants.

2nd and 3rd Week in Deharadoon

In Roorkee there was little bit hot so every body became happy to be in Deharadoon. There is cooler than Roorkee and participants are feeling more comfortable here. Deharadoon is really beautiful place; laying on the lap of Nature. In the conservation of soil and water Deharadoon has very good examples. Our 2nd week training was conducted in Central Soil & Water Conservation Research & Training Institute (CSWCRTI). This institute is working for control, inform and educate about various types of land degradation problems, soil erosion and irrigation.

In the 2nd week we enjoyed the courses about Groundwater, Water harvesting technique, Soil-water process, Water contamination, Water remediation and purification etc. We got lots of fun and knowledge by first day visiting to the museum of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). Orientation about the museum, history of oil finding, role of groundwater for oil and power point presentation about technology of oil finding & ground water was mind blowing. We also observed a documentary about the people facing the problem for water contamination due to spray of pesticides. That was also heart touching and informative.

Field visit to Masorei and other sites was also interesting and more knowledgeable for the participants. There was one memorable moment happened. The game **Naranpur Express** was marvelous and technically well planned. Through the game we learnt how to manage the resource and how to make a well future plan. Game was much more interesting and brain storming. Participants enjoyed a lot. I was feeling there, every body was worrying about surviving their own family and try to make a plan and manage their resources in correct way to gain more. It was really heart touching, but unfortunately I had no any movie camera at that time to catch such the sensitive moment.

In the beginning of 3rd week we visited to the museum of CSWCRTI and the pilot project area. Area was 35 km far from Deharadoon. There we observed the very good example of water harvesting system, which is under control of local people. That was a good example of water governance. Through the mobilization of community distribution of water is very well planned in that area. People are using surface water for their cultivation and getting more agricultural product and that is enough for surviving well. We got an opportunity to observe in the farm of CSWCRTI, which is adopted and managed technically in well manner.

At present the classes of 3rd week are going on in Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Deharadoon. Introductory class of Remote Sensing was very interesting and there was many things new for learn.

Comments

All participants are well educated and experts in their own subjects. But in my observation each participants are thinking and arguing their own way. According to

participants subjects are not connecting with each other. So interaction among the participants could not be seen properly.

This is an opportunity to make friendship with different nationalities and know about each other culture, this part of training is really good. We can say this is a good kinship with land and water. All participants are staying and taking training together in very harmonious environment. All are talking about the groundwater with each other but every body expressed their feedback that, the lectures are one way, not interacting, monotonous and more technical, because the participants are from different backgrounds. And programs are not in pre-planned in the well manner. Most of the participants were comment, the holidays were unnecessary for the training. Some participants from Pakistan and Bangladesh were facing the problem of visa, but now they are in the training.

We spend our some days in Deharadoon in holiday period. One day we visited to Rishikesh, the holy place of India. It was nice and much more enjoyable. Rishikesh is situated on the Ganga river bank and really marvelous place.

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