

Policy Dialogue Workshop on Flood Index Insurance and Drought Management for Agricultural Development in Bihar

(Patna, 7th June, 2017)

One day Policy Dialogue Workshop on Flood Index Insurance and Drought Management for Agricultural Development in Bihar was organized by International Institute of Water Management (IWMI), New Delhi and ICAR-Research Complex for Eastern Region (RCER), Patna at ICAR-RCER on 7th June, 2017. The purpose of workshop was to present the results of Index Based Flood Insurance (IBFI) product development and evaluation in Bihar, discuss strategies for implementation in 2017 monsoon season and develop and recommend protocol for drought monitoring and mitigation with inbuilt contingency measures including capacity development.



Professor Chandrashekhar, Hon'ble Minister for Disaster Management, Government of Bihar, graced the

workshop as chief guest. Shri Chandrasekhar emphasized that Bihar is facing consequences of climate change due to global warming. Occurrence of flood is very common inspite of less rainfall in Bihar. Basins of many rivers such as Kosi, Bagmati, Balan, etc are acting as canal and flooded during rainy season but upper catchment areas are drought prone. It is very difficult to assess losses caused by flood and drought. In this scenario, satellite based technology flood index insurance will be very



useful for assessing damage and helping sufferer poor. He urged that all stakeholders should join hands and work together for this noble cause.

Sri Alok Kumar Mehta, Hon'ble Minister for Co-operative, Government of Bihar also graced the occasion as guest of honour and mentioned that when Nepal experiences heavy rainfall, northern Bihar faces consequences of flood. He stressed that preventive measures to flood and drought are more important than crisis management. Satellite observation system assesses damage more precisely and satellite based flood index insurance will be useful technology for flood affected people. Many private companies are willing to work in the areas of flood and drought management. Government should enable them to work for it. Several isolated efforts are being undertaken for disaster management, there is need of integrated efforts and convergence of similar programmes.

Sri Anil Sinha, Senior advisor and mentor, hazard risk management and climate change adaptation briefed about flood and drought scenario in Bihar. He narrated that pilot project on flood index insurance is being implemented in India and Bangladesh. In India, Muzaffarpur district of Bihar has been selected for this purpose.

Earlier, **Dr. Alok Sikka**, International Water Management Institute, New Delhi welcomed all dignitaries and briefed about the workshop. **Dr. Giriraj Amarnath**, International Water Management Institute,



Colombo presented project overview, results and IBFI product and implementation plan for 2017. Panel discussions on “policy dialogue on flood risk financing, guideline and implementation in scaling up flood insurance” and “drought monitoring, assessment and forecasting in India and explore broader application in drought preparedness and mitigation measures” were also held. Drought monitoring and management for agricultural development were also discussed.

Research report on “Mapping multiple climate-related hazards in South Asia” was released by the dignitaries on this occasion. About 50 dignitaries from International Water Management Institute, New Delhi, ICAR-RCER, Patna, ICAR-Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad, ICAR-IWMI, Bhubaneswar, ICAR- IARI, New Delhi, representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions, NGOs, Agriculture Insurance Companies, State officials from Department of Agriculture and Disaster Management deptt etc. participated in the workshop.

Dr. B.P. Bhatt, Director, ICAR-RCER, Patna told that ICAR-RCER, Patna and NRC on Integrated Farming System, Motihari will work jointly on post flood management in Bihar. He stressed the need of formation of consortium of CGIAR, ICAR, SAUs and government Of Bihar for integrated effort on disaster management. He proposed vote of thanks for the inaugural session participants.

(Source, ICAR RCER, Patna)