

Recommendations for water conservation in Chittoor

The Jal Shakti Abhiyan team assigned to the district of Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh to study and initiate water conservation measures has come out with a detailed list of recommendations to ensure that water conservation projects are on track; in a move that will increase water use efficiency of the district.

The team comprised: Central Nodal Officer - Mr. G S G Ayyangar, Senior Deputy Director General, Indian Council of Medical Research, Department of Health Research; Block Nodal Officer – Mr. Giridhar Gopalkrishna Pai, Director, Ministry of Law and Justice; and Technical Officer (TO) - Mr. Rajeev Kumar Tripathy, Scientist-B from Central Ground Water Board, South Eastern Region (SER), Bhubaneswar.

They observed various best practices for rainwater harvesting and water conservation in the three blocks (Puthalputtu, Pedapanjani, Ramakuppam) of Chittoor that they visited during their fourth visit to the district between 11th and 15th November, 2019.

On the whole, the progress of JSA interventions in the three assigned blocks under JSA campaign was good, given that work had been completed under four interventions with the balance one intervention scheduled to be completed soon. The TO noted that the District has constructed a number of rain water harvesting structures including roof-top in government buildings. Further, a large number of borewells/tubewells had been recharged as also the farm ponds, boundary trenches, fish ponds and internal trenches owing to the recent monsoons.

Given that several rallies, Gram Sabhas and Krishi Vigyan Kendra, (KVK) melas were organized involving school children, farmers and the general public, much awareness had been created about Jal Shakti Abhiyan among all stake holders of the district.

“Once all the work is completed, monitoring is required; and an impact assessment study is needed to measure outcome parameters,” Mr. Tripathy said.

Here are some of the recommendations:

- Existing dug wells and other traditional structures should be renovated and revived
- Water audit should be conducted in all villages
- Ground water quality should be monitored during pre-monsoons
- Ground water monitoring should be done periodically in and around the area of interventions
- Urban bodies should have a rain water harvesting cell, which should monitor the functioning of the RWH structures on a yearly basis

- An action plan could be prepared for IEC and other activities by involving school and college students and NGOs with public participation
- Special focus should be given to villages where drinking water is supplied through tankers by sanctioning more roof water harvesting structures, farm ponds, while dried-up bore wells and soak pit should be recharged
- Alternate cropping pattern should be practiced based on water use efficiency
- Modern agriculture techniques such as SRI (System of Rice Intensification) paddy cultivation need to be introduced. A plan should be made to cover 100% drip irrigation for sugarcane and SRI paddy.

Progress under JSA interventions in phase II (October 1 to 30th November)

Water conservation and Rainwater Harvesting

Pedapanjani (2) Puthalputtu (2) Ramakuppam (15)

Reuse and recharge structures

Puthalputtu (1) Ramakuppam (22)

Watershed Development/Water Conservation

Ramakuppam (4)

Intensive Afforestation

Pedapanjani (4) Puthalputtu (14) Ramakuppam (14)