

Dissemination of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) Policy 2004

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1. Outline of Tenth Plan

1) Objective

To increase /improve access to sustainable basic drinking water supply services in rural areas.

2) Strategies

To scale up the demand driven and participatory approach to rural water supply and sanitation schemes.

This approach involves NGOs, Community Based Organisations (CBOs), and local private sector to assist communities to plan, design, implement, operate and maintain their own schemes.

3) Activities

To revise the 1998 rural sub sector policy to include clear roles and responsibilities of sector actors by 2003.

2. Formulation of New RWSS Policy

As per the Tenth Plan, the National Water Supply Sub- Sector Policy was revised and the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation National Policy, Strategy and Sectoral Strategic Action Plan (**RWSSPSAP**) **2004** has already been approved by the Cabinet on January 12, 2004. The Policy is already published in Nepali as well as English version.

Due to the following main reasons, the Policy has been revised.

- 1) Private sector involvement;
- 2) Participation of gender issues;
- 3) County goal regarding to Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (RWSS) is aligned with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);
- 4) Technological options by user's group;
- 5) Well- defined roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders;
- 6) 20 percent participation is compulsory for community and out of which 1 percent in cash;
- 7) Priority is given to disadvantaged group and only 10 percent participation is compulsory for them.

3. Dissemination of the New RWSS Policy

After the publication of the Policy, it was scheduled to disseminate the Policy among stakeholders in five-development regions within the end of September. Accordingly, the first workshop was organised in Biratnagar on April 2, 2004. The workshop for Central Region in Kathmandu will be organised within July. The Schedule for the dissemination is given in Annex-1.

1) Formation of Sector Stakeholders Group (SSG)

The Sectoral Stakeholder Group (SSG) has been formed from the decision of the His Majesty's Government (Departmental Ministry level) to formulate the sectoral policy and co-ordinate the sectoral activities. The Group consists of the Chairman and Member Secretary from Ministry of Physical Planning and Works. The other members are from the Ministry of Local Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, District Development Committee (DDC), Village development Committee (VDC), multilateral and bilateral donors, Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board, Non Government Organizations (national and international), and private sector organizations active in rural water supply and sanitation.

2) Eastern Regional Workshop

The first workshop at Biratnagar was being carried out to disseminate **RWSSPSAP 2004** among the stakeholders in the Eastern Region so that every people will be aware of this Policy. It is hoped that the Policy will be well maintained to keep the sustainable water supply facilities at the grass root level to have safety water for the all people of the region.

Mr. H. ISHIHARA, the JICA Expert, delivered the welcome address in the workshop. Mr. Hari Ram Koirala, the Joint Secretary, conducted the power point presentation of the Policy. A group discussion was conducted during the workshop and the Joint Secretary answered the queries raised by the participants during the workshop.

A total of 77 participants were present in the workshop from 16 districts within this region. The Chairman and Local Development Officers from District Development Committees, Divisional/ Sub- divisional engineers from District Water Supply and Sanitation Offices, Representatives from NGOs and Water users' and Sanitation Committee were present in the workshop.

3) Central Regional Workshop

The total stakeholders who will participate the workshop are expected to be 87 from the 19 districts in this region. The workshop will be organised in Kathmandu with in July.

4) Western Regional Workshop

The total stakeholders who will participate the workshop are expected to be 78 from the 16 districts in this region. The workshop will be organised at Pokhara with in August.

5) Mid-Western and Far Western Regional Workshop

The total stakeholders who will participate the workshop are expected to be 132 from the 15 districts in Mid Western and 9 Districts in Far Development Region. The workshop will be organised at Nepalgunj with in September.