

News from the

CROSSING BOUNDARIES PROJECT

November-December 2010

Training of Trainers on IFRM, 6th to 15th December

Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh: SaciWATERS in partnership with BUET held a Training of Trainers (ToT) on Interdisciplinary Field Research Methodology (IFRM) from 6th to 15th of December. The programme was meant for the staff of the PIs, and about 13 nominated members took part. Coordinated by Dr. N. C. Narayanan who also doubled up as an external resource person, SaciWATERS was represented at the ToT by Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich and Dr. Anjal Prakash.

The staff training included 6 and half days of class room sessions, a day and a half of field activities and one day for developing a manual on IFRM for other teachers to use in coursework. The classroom sessions were interactive. A compilation of resource materials in a CD were provided to the participants, which included session plans, reference and other training materials on each theme.

Resource Persons:

- Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich
- Dr. N. C. Narayanan
- Dr. Salehin
- Dr. D. Parthasarathy
- Dr. Sujith Kr. Bala
- Dr. Shahjahan Mondol
- Dr. Hamidul Huq
- Dr. Soorya Venela
- Dr. Pathmaraja

The field trip to the rubber dam area and the villages in the vicinity of the dam command area was an attempt to understand the perception of different stakeholders. Meetings were held with villagers, local parishad members, irrigators and fishermen to understand the perspective in a larger context.

The preparation of the manual was the biggest take away from the training. Working in groups, and assimilating the concepts emphasised on each day, groups of three worked on one aspect of the manual each. By the end of the programme, through presentations to the whole group at large, the manual and its contents were finalised.



About 13 nominated members from the four Partner institutions took part.

Objectives of the ToT were:

- a) To capacitate participants to develop and teach courses in IFRM
- b) To train water professionals in integrated field research



A compilation of resource material including session plans and training materials were provided to all participants



Dr. Jayati Chourey represented SaciWATERS in the network managers meeting

From Dr. Jayati's diary:

During my meeting with the Cap-Net Team (Dr. Paul Taylor, Director and Mr. Kees Leendertse- Coordinator, South Asian Programmes) they were very impressed with our progress. They found the concept notes very interesting and relevant. As a process, they would review the detailed proposals prior to any commitments on funding. These detailed proposals would be submitted one after the other, based on the activity calendar/work plan (at least 2-3 months prior to the proposed commencement of the project). The support would also depend on availability of funding resources with Cap-Net during that particular time.

Major Take-away:

- Identified topics for future collaboration, viz, Climate change, Gender, Water Integrity and Accountability.
- Criteria for network and activity support developed.
- Cap-Net Pakistan expressed an interest in collaborating to help revive the Women Water Network in India.
- Cap-Net Bangladesh showed interest in collaborating for an action research activity on climate change in the Sunderbans.

Cap-Net's Network Managers' Meeting, 6th to 9th December

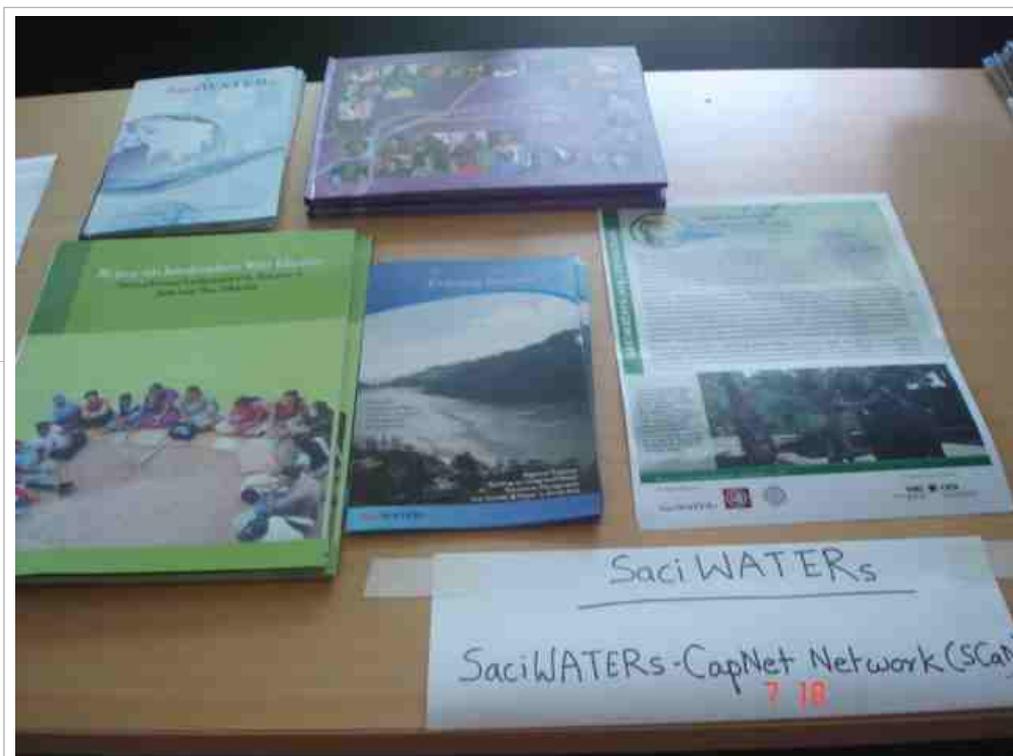
Buenos Aires, Argentina: The Cap-Net Network Annual Managers' meeting was held here from 6th to 9th of December. Hosted by LA-WETnet, representatives from 19 capacity building networks from around the globe attended the meeting.

The main agenda of the meeting included peer review of the outputs made during the last year, drawing future work plans, identifying areas of collaboration, developing strategic actions for the new phase of the programme; recommending options for Cap-Net institutional arrangements in the future and formation of new Thematic Action Groups (TAG).

Senior Fellow Dr. Jayati Chourey represented SaciWATERS in the first time that it has participated in the network manager's meeting. The forum was a great opportunity for the organisation to interact with network representatives and was also a platform to share experiences of SaciWATERS' activities, and disseminate its research findings from its various past experiences.

Many of SaciWATERS' tangible project material received tremendous response. Numerous requests were made for the IWRM reader and the book on Women Water Professionals. Dr. Jayati also got the opportunity to discuss about future collaborations with managers of other South Asian Networks.

Apart from the formation of four new TAGs, Dr. Jayati has also joined the Gender and Fund Raising action group, keeping in mind SaciWATERS' interests, and has offered to join the Ecosystem Group.



Material from the CB project on display at the meet. The book on WWP had many takers.

Dissemination Workshop, 21st December

Colombo, Sri Lanka: The fourth and final dissemination workshop in the CB outreach series was held here on the 21st of December at Hotel Taj Samudra. The objectives of the workshop were manifold, including disseminating project achievements to stakeholders and the community at large, exploring partnerships with South Asian participants and pitching IWRM graduates and their research efforts to potential employers and most importantly, highlighting the importance of interdisciplinarity in education, research and practice in the water sector. The workshop was attended by over 100 water professionals from 20 institutions in Sri Lanka. SaciWATERS was represented by its President, Dr. Janakrajan and Project Director, Dr. Chanda Gurung Goodrich.

The inaugural session was chaired by Prof. E.R.N Gunawardena, PGIA and Task Manager, CB Project. The Chief Guest of the session was Mr. S. B. Dissanayake, Minister of Higher Education. After presentations on SaciWATERS and the CB Project from Dr. Janakrajan and Dr. Chanda respectively, Prof. A.L.T Perera, Director, PGIA and Prof. S.B.S. Abayakoon, Vice Chancellor, University of Peradeniya, gave short speeches about how the institute and the university have benefited from the CB Project.

In the second session, research findings from the CB project so far were presented. Chaired by Prof. K.G.A. Goonasekera, Vice Chancellor, University of Vocational Technology, Colombo, this session had seven presentations. An important announcement in the session was from Mr. M. A. M. S. L. Attanayake, Deputy General Manager, National Water Supply and Drainage Board (NWS & DB), Kandy who said that the Chairman of the NWS & DB had agreed to officially disseminate the research findings from the CB project.

The panel discussion in the third session was on the topic, "Research needs in water sector: Reflections". Moderated by Prof. R.P. De Silva from PGIA, the panellists were Mr. Attanayake, Deputy General Manager NWS&DB representing the Government, Ms. Kusum Athukorala, representing civil society and Dr. Herath Mantritolake, IWMI. The interesting panel discussion brought out the consensus for greater need of collaboration among government, academicians, civil society and media.

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Disseminate the achievements and the demonstrable results/effects of the CB Project, at country- and South Asia level, to a larger community of stakeholders in the participating countries,
- Highlight the importance of and to popularize IWRM in education, research and in practice at national and South Asia level,
- Make the IWRM graduates and their research outputs more visible and acceptable to the potential employers in the country, and
- Explore new partnerships with interested institutions across South Asia.

PGIA has graciously extended wholehearted support for future collaborations and activities.

Presentations were made by:

Prof. E.R.N.Gunawardena on Interdisciplinary Research Program in IWRM at PGIA

Ms. I.I.P. Gunawardena on Environmental, Socioeconomic and institutional perspectives for appropriate sanitation technologies

Mr. S. Thrikawala on Sustainable urban sanitation through Sewerage Treatment Plant

R. M.T.M. Mahees on Solid waste generation, management and water pollution

Mr. Thusitha Amarasekera on Effect of inappropriate land management on river water quality

Dr. M.I.M Mowjood on Constructed wetlands for wastewater management

Mr. M.A.M.S.L. Attanayake on Dissemination of research outputs in water sector

Editorial:

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