

# Minutes of the WASPA Asia Kurunegala Core Group Meeting



**Kurunegala Municipal Council, Kurunegala, Sri Lanka  
12.11.2007**

**2.00 pm - 4.45 pm**

**WASPA Asia Workshop Report 6**

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### **1 Aim and objectives of the meeting**

- To discuss the Participatory Action Plans (PAPs), to agree their content and to initiate talks about how they will be implemented.
- To discuss and determine the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the establishment of a Core Group (CG) as part of the Learning Alliance (LA).

Core Group meeting was chaired by commissioner of local government Mr. Jayantha Wijeratne

### **2 List of Core Group Representatives**

- Municipal Council Kurunegala
- DS Kurunegala
- DS Maspotha
- PS Kurunegala
- Department of Irrigation
- CBOs Wilgoda
- Farmers Organization Aswedduma
- Agrarian Services Department (absent)
- NGO (Practical Action)
- Wayamba Environmental Authority (Proposed by CG)
- Traders Organization (Proposed by CG)

### 3 Identifying the Terms of Reference of the Core Group of WASPA

- Progress monitoring in implementing PAP: Physical Progress and Financial Progress
- Ensuring the accordance of legal and policy aspects in implementing PAP
- Coordinating with partners in implementing PAP at national, provincial and divisional level.
- CG will represent all of above platforms and coordinating horizontally and vertically among the platforms.
- Suggested that Core Group meeting will held once a month and Advisory Committee will gather once a three months. LA will meet once a six months
- CG will update the progress of the project to Advisory Committee (AC) continuously
- CG will active as responsible committee to Learning Alliance (LA)
- CG will active as mediator for resolve conflict or doubts which might happen among the partners
- Deputy Municipal Commissioner will active as a leader and he will be chair of the future WASPA meetings

*Commissioner of local government Mr. Jayantha Wijeratne pointed out the essentialness of the leadership for CG. CG elected Deputy Municipal. Commissioner Mr. H.M. Buwaneka as the leader of CG of WASPA.*

*Mr. H.M.Buwaneka had been participated previous WASPA meetings and he has got good understanding about WASPA project. According to CG discussion COSI will update him.*

*Commissioner of local government Mr. Jayantha Wijeratne pointed out that according to above reasons CG is very important and responsible group for the WASPA project.*

### 4 Participatory Action Plan Presentation

#### ***Vision 1:***

*To have drainage facilities to collect, separately rainwater and liquid waste, which are free of solid waste, as well as their proper treatment and disposal, and the capacity to manage these through knowledge, awareness and regulations, within 5 years, in large part of the city.*

**Strategy 1.1:** As a platform, engage with the Greater Kurunegala Sewerage Treatment Project (GKSTP), which is the plan to develop the main drains, by being part of the discussions, providing information coming out of the assessment, and providing advice on management issues

Activities:

- Linking awareness raising campaign of wastewater.

- Providing information coming out of the assessment, and providing assistance of management issues.

**Strategy 1.2:** Work with larger polluting units (such as service stations, hospitals and hotels) to reduce waste (Solid and liquid) and to introduce facilities to treat wastewater.

Activities:

- Preparation for the awareness sessions for commercial units.
- Produce an information booklet with treatment options for the different industries.
- Stakeholders' workshops with the industries, consultants, experts and institutions with the aim of addressing the pollution, launching the handbook and building a clear understanding on the willingness to participate of the individual industrialists.
- Finding students to engage on discharging effluent quality parameters, detergents and other synthetic products that end up in the wastewaters.
- Assessing the degree of environmental friendliness at the end of the year and evaluating the participation through the entire project period and select the best Green Service Station and best graded hotels, and awarding ceremony.

**Strategy 1.3:** Strengthening the procedures and regulatory system for waste control in all phases of projects and constructions, as well as for existing premises at municipal level.

Activities:

- Formation of co-group and define the implementation mechanism under the advisory committee related to the LA.
- Development of Monitoring Plan for implementation of policies and regulation under the strategy by relevant Authorities (MC, WEA, and CEA).
- Development of a training pool representing the objectives of the key institutions in Kurunegala.

**Strategy 1.4:** Awareness raising among the general public on waste issues and its management, and promoting the involvement of citizens through effective CBOs

Activities:

- Meeting with Practical Action, and SEPA and MC, clarify the activities of the IUDP and MC programs and discuss on the contribution from WASPA in order to confirm the major activities to be involved.
- Preparation of a model waste free area in the town and public awareness campaign with the support of MC. (Suitable place is the bus stand)
- Coordinate the activities with CBOs (bus owners' society / traders' society etc...) and school students. A meeting to discuss with societies is required.
- Fixing sign boards at critical waste dumping places along the canal

### **Vision 2:**

*To have adequate access to and use of proper sanitation, water supply and solid waste collection services for all households in Wilgoda Pura, as well as capacity (knowledge and attitude) on hygienic practices and maintenance of facilities, in coordination between the community and the Municipal Council, within 2 years.*

#### **Water supply Activities:**

- Community awareness orientation on WATSAN construction, maintenance.
- Formation of village action committee (VAC), woman and children groups.
- Workshops for development of organizational capacity and skills, construction management and operation and maintenance.
- Development of financial capacities to run the organization for sustainable O&M and other development works.
- Construction management.
- Procurement, arrangements of storage facilities, labour management, construction monitoring activities and consolidation activity.

#### **Sanitation Activities:**

- Improvement of water supply facility.
- Construction of common tap.
- Upgrade the tube well.
- Shallow well with 'rope pump'.

#### **Hygiene and Environmental Sanitation Activities:**

- Improvement of sanitation facilities.
- Upgrading of communal latrine units (14) and improve 2 water points near latrine units.
- Establish a street lamp near latrine units.
- Educational and practical activities.

### **Vision 3:**

*To have optimized yield and improved health for the farmers who irrigate from the Wilgoda anicut by access to irrigation water and infrastructure within the standards, and access to knowledge on how to use pesticide and fertilizer in conjunction with low quality irrigation water.*

Strategy 3.1: Maintaining the irrigation canal (between the anicut and the fields) according to proper standards and ensuring solid waste is not disposed into it

#### **Activities:**

- Solid waste management programme for the residents along the irrigation canal
- Display notice boards along the canal.

Strategy 3.2: Educate farming community on sanitation issues, particularly around wastewater implications.

Activities:

- Awareness programme to educate farmers on health risks and preventive ways
- Prepare cutouts and leaflets to show the preventive measures when using wastewater for irrigation. (cartoons and slogans)

Strategy 3.3: Providing recommendations for fertilizer and other chemical applications, according to irrigation water quality, based on research and testing together with relevant authorities and officials.

Activity:

- Trainings and workshops to raise awareness on fertilizer and pesticide usage, preventive measures for salinity development.

Strategy 3.4: Strengthening farmer's organizations, including the tenant farmers and wage laborers.

Activities:

- Capacity building trainings and workshops, organizational development; and mobilization of technical knowledge.
- Create an information center.
- Develop a proper information dissemination mechanism from officials and FO

## **5 Discussion of the PAPs**

In Vision 1, the CG was concerned about the following:

- The activities (polluting) of people who live alongside the anicut are creating problems down stream in the paddy fields. Therefore the irrigation canal it should be maintained separately, but this is not possible without a proper boundary map. Therefore an action plan should be initiated to mark the boundaries of irrigation canal. To do this further discussions with the Irrigation Director and Divisional Secretary of Maspotha are essential.
- It is essential that a representative from WEA is in the CG. Therefore actions should be taken to discuss with this matter WEA.
- A representative should participate from Traders Organization (TO) for CG meetings.
- A suggestion came a study should be conducted on the feasibility of constructing a special treatment system for a group of hotels or canteens.

- Commissioner of Municipal Council made a request about Sundarapola which is the place of solid wastes disposal. Residences of this area suffer from this improper disposal activity. Therefore necessary action should be taken to resolve this problem. However Practical Action (a representative was present at the CG meeting) is handling this problem under the Integrated Urban Development Project and WASPA project focus on wastewater in Boo Ela and Waan Ela.
- Dr. Gayani Dasanayake made a request to take action to improve attitudes to health as well as behavioral changes of Wilgoda community, in the PAP of water and sanitation improvement of Wilgoda community.
- MC Engineer Mr. Disanayake explained about establishing a light post near to the toilet complex as PAP presentation of improving toilets of Wilgoda community. He added that MC have been taken actions to establish a light post but CEB facing some technical problem regarding this matter. Therefore it should be discussed with CEB further.
- CG suggested that if the activities of Practical Action and WASPA should be fully discussed then it will be possible to make a proper decision and implement the activities further.

CG decided the next CG meeting will be held in next month and the date, time and place will inform among members later.

## Participants

1. Jayantha Wijeratne, CLG Provincial Council Office, 037 2228039
2. A. Samarakoon, COM, MC, Commissioner MC, 037 2222274
3. S.M.B Dissanayake, Municipal Engineer, Municipal Engineer, MC 037 2228546
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10. M.C.T.B. Palipana, Reg.Director Office, Dept.of Irrigation,037 2222180
11. B. Gamini. Chandrasiri, Program officer, Practical Action (NGO) 602977150
12. R. Balakrishnan, CBO Representative, CBO Wilgoda
13. V. Seethalam, CBO Representative, CBO Wilgoda
14. L.M. Gunsekara, FO officer, FO Aswedduma
15. Dr. Sarath Abewardana, IWMI
16. Alexandra Clemett, Researcher,IWMI,
17. Palitha Jayaweera, Director, COSI
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