Kurunegala WASPA Learning Alliance Meeting

Developing Participatory Action Plans for Wastewater Management for Agriculture

3rd April 2007

The purpose of this meeting of the Wastewater Agriculture and Sanitation for Poverty Alleviation (WASPA) Learning Alliance was to develop strategies to address the issues arising in Kurunegala in relation to waste management and the use of wastewater in agriculture.

The workshop was convened by the COSI Foundation and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) under the EU Asia Pro Eco Fund. It was attended by various stakeholders from Rajshahi including government officials, industry representatives, farmers, NGOs and health professionals.

The workshop opened with a brief overview of the WASPA Asia project and a description of the work that had been done to date, including the findings of the research. The WASPA team used a map to engage the participants in a virtual transect walk and identify the waste management issues and present the water quality results.

The results of the assessments conducted by the project were shared in a number of reports, with a further set of reports to follow. These reports will also be posted to the project website: www.iwmi.org/waspa.

The project area was divided into three sections:

- Before Wilgoda community (the main area of the city)
- Wilgoda community and anicut
- Wilgoda anicut up to Asseduma (agricultural area)

The issues arising in each of these three areas were discussed and a statement of the overall problems was agreed on by the workshop participants. An issue that arose as part of the discussion was of clinical waste. In response representatives from Kurunegala Teaching Hospital provided an overview of the hospital's waste management strategy. The issue of waste from other clinics also needs to be addressed.

After the review of project findings, the participants were divided into three groups and each group was given one of the above areas to work on. They were asked to develop long term visions for those areas. These visions could encompass things that could be achieved under the

WASPA project but also aspects that were beyond the scope of the project but which would be their ideal vision.

Once the vision was agreed by the group they were asked to consider what strategies could be used to achieve them. Towards the end of the afternoon the three groups were asked to come back together and to report to the rest of the Learning Alliance on their visions and strategies.

After the workshop the project team formalized the visions and strategies, and put them into a consistent framework, without loosing the essence of the stakeholders' vision and needs.

Visions and Strategies for the Different Clusters in Kurunegala

Note that these are the visions for the entire project area, but its implementation will to some extent fall outside the scope and possibilities of the project. The strategies are therefore broader than what the project can accommodate. These visions and strategies serve the stakeholders also to plan activities with other actors and funding agencies.

The table below provides the vision and various strategies to reach the vision. Key assumptions are given, which are crucial for achieving the vision or not. Initial activities and responsibilities are given for taking these forward within the WASPA Asia project.

Vision	Key assumption	Strategy
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.	Reaching this vision depends to a large extent on whether the Greater Kurunegala Sewerage Project happens, and in what manner.	1.1 As a platform, engage with the Greater Kurunegala Sewerage Project, 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
		1.2 Work with larger polluting units (such as service stations, hospital, etc) to reduce waste (solid and liquid), and to introduce facilities to treat wastewater
		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, through: - providing more clarity on procedures and institutional responsibilities - strengthening staff capacity - reviewing existing procedures and regulations for permit issuing - strengthening inter-institutional coordination mechanism - strengthening enforcement mechanisms

Vision	Key assumption	Strategy
		1.4 Awareness raising among the general public on waste issues and its management, and promoting the involvement of citizens through effective CBOs
		1.5 Strengthening the Municipal household solid waste programme, together with other initiatives in the Municipal area
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.	A key assumption for this is that the Wilgoda Pura community remains at the same location as where it is now. In case it gets moved within the indicated time frame, at the new location similar services need to be provided.	2.1 Water supply and sanitation infrastructure development and management plan for Wilgoda Pura
		2.2 Health and hygiene education
		2.3 Strengthening capacity of the community organization and households on use and maintenance of facilities
		2.4 Reduce flooding risks in Wilgoda Pura
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	Being the vision for the most downstream part, the main assumption is that vision 1 and 2 materialize. If not, this vision cannot be achieved.	3.1 Maintaining the irrigation canal (between the anicut and the fields) according to proper standards
		3.2 Preventing solid waste from entering into the canal, and if any solid waste gets into canal, bring in a mechanism to remove the waste and sustainable management of the waste (e.g. garbage trap)
		3.3 Educate farming community on sanitation issues, particularly around wastewater implications
		3.4 Providing recommendations for fertilizer and other chemical applications, according to irrigation water quality, based on research and testing together with relevant authorities and officials
		3.5 Strengthening farmer's organizations, including the tenant farmers and wage laborers