Irrigation Reforms in Andhra Pradesh

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Andhra Pradesh

- **Area**: 0.275 m. Km²
- **Population (2001)**: 75.7 millions
- **Density of population**: 275 / Km²
- **Rural Population**: 72.92% (Agril)
- **Urban population**: 27.08%
- **GSDP growth rate**: 6.75% / 5.20%
- **Per Capita Income Growth**: 5.70% / 3.60%
- **Average landholding (IA)**: 0.88ha
- **Total irrigated area**: 4.84m.ha
- **Ground water**: 2.1 m.ha pvt.
Andhra Pradesh – Vision

- Simple, Moral, Accountable, Responsive, Transparent (SMART) Govt.
- Committed to eradicate within a time frame
  - poverty
  - illiteracy
  - inequality
- Process of economic liberalization
- Reforms through Stake holders participation in natural resources management
- Articulated the Vision 2020 - identified 14 growth engines
Irrigation Reforms - Highlights

- **APFMIS ACT**
  - The first Legislation of its kind in India.
  - A unique legislation for farmers
  - Seeks to bring about Irrigation Management Transfer.
  - Brings greater accountability in the irrigation department.
    - Competent Authority
  - WUA’s - Administrative, functional, financial Autonomy
    - Hydraulic basis, 5 years tenure, recall, elections, detailed rules
  - Conflict resolution
  - Resources of the FO

![Diagram showing PC, DC, and WUA relationships](image)
Activities of WUAs

- Walk-through Surveys for diagnosis of irrigation systems
- General Body meetings & MC meetings
- Cropping pattern
- Water Management & water budgeting
- Resolving disputes among farmers
- Joint Azmoish for water tax collection
- O & M works with collective participation
- Maintenance of Accounts
- Financial & Social Auditing
- Training & motivation
Achievements in PIM

- Bridging gap ayacut \((10.076 \text{ lakh ha})\)
- Timely supply of water-early transplantation
- Increase in yield \((10\%)\)
- Works execution at estimated cost by WUAs eliminating contractors - reduction in cost by 20%
- Resolution of disputes
- Improved drainage & execution of minor drains
- Capacity building
- Administrative reforms
  - Merging irrigation and drainage wings
  - Merging construction, O&M and CADA wings
  - Rationalize staff distribution
  - Closure of mechanical units
  - Direct Contracting procedures
Evaluation Parameters

- No. of General Body Meetings held
- Maintenance of Records
- Conduct of Joint Azmoish
- Increase in Irrigated Area
- Water Utilisation
- Development Works
- Water Tax Demand-Collection.
- Development Expenditure
- Auditing of accounts and General Body approval
- Training Programmes
Status of General Body Meetings conducted by WUAs

State Wide = 1669
Major = 1332
Medium = 337

Major Projects
- 1019 (76.5%)
- 231 (17%)
- 84 (6.5%)

Medium Projects
- 233 (69.1%)
- 97 (28.3%)
- 9 (2.6%)

State Wide
- 328 (20%)
- 93 (5%)
- 1252 (75%)
Maintenance of Registers

State Wide = 1669
Major = 1332
Medium = 337
Joint Azmoish conducted with Revenue Dept.

Major Projects
- 289 (22%)
- 1045 (78%)

Medium Projects
- 138 (40%)
- 201 (60%)

State Wide
- 490 (29%)
- 1183 (71%)

State Wide = 1669
- Major = 1332
- Medium = 337
WUAs reported increase or consistency in Ayacut

**State Wide**
- Yes: 688 (41%)
- No: 981 (59%)

**Major Projects**
- Yes: 540 (40%)
- No: 792 (60%)

**Medium Projects**
- Yes: 148 (44%)
- No: 189 (56%)

State Wide = 1669
Major = 1332
Medium = 337
Development works completed

State Wide = 1669
Major = 1332
Medium = 337
Amendments to the APFMIS Act

- WUA's to be made a continuous body with 1/3 members retiring every two years
- Extending WUAs to all areas including new constructions

- Minimize monopoly by the Presidents of WUAs
  - Tenure two years from the date of election
  - Indirect election to the President from amongst TC members
  - Increasing the number of TC members to 6 in Minor and 12 in Major

- Greater clarity in areas hitherto ambiguous
  - Recall powers vested with the competent authority
  - Arising vacancies to be filled up locally from amongst the members
  - Greater clarity of roles for the ID at different levels.

- Simplification of procedures
  - Elections
  - Filling up of vacancies localized
  - subcommittees
Structural Changes in WUAs

WUA Setup Existing

- Chairman
- President
- MC of WUA
- Farmers (Land holders)
- TC1 to TC14

New WUA Setup

- President
- MC of PC
- Vice President
- Farmers (Land holders)
- TC1 to TC14

WUA Setup Details:

- Max 8+1 Min 4
- GB of PC
- MC of WUA
- Farmers (Land holders)
- TC1 to TC14
Emerging issues

- Policy and Management
  - Changing practices (incentives)
  - Changing Technology
  - Economic Development
  - Scale Issues (individual, community, region, state, national, international)
  - Regulations (Water-quality standards, waste treatment and disposal, water abstraction, water use)
Future phase of reforms

- Holistic view towards water.
- Stakeholders driven planning.
- Greater sensitivity to Environment/Gender/Equity.
- River basin approach for Interventions.
- Promoting Greater Water use efficiency & Conservation of water – jala Jagruthi
- Diversification of Agriculture driven by market prices.
Lessons Learnt
Important Signposts of AP Reform

- June 96 - White Paper
- June 96 - March 97 Public Consultations
- April 97 - Tripling of Water charges
- July 1997 - APFMIS Act
- July 97 - elections to WUAs
- October 97 - training to WUAs
- April - June 98 O&M works by WUAs
- May 98 Irrigation Sector Policy
- April 99 - June 99 O&M works by WUAs
- April 99 World Bank/ APERP Project - WUA linkage
- Dec 99- V International seminar on PIM
- 1999 - Vision 2020
- 1999 - Cabinet subcommittee to review functioning of WUAs
- 2000 - WUA sadassus for obtaining feed back and remediation
- 2002 - Changes in Act and Procedures.
- 2003 - next round of elections
- 2003 - Piloting water service agencies & river basin organizations
Lessons Learnt

- AP reforms break new ground in India
  - Several states in India have tried to structure similar initiatives on the lines of AP
  - Rajasthan, UP, Goa, Tamilnadu, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan etc.
  - AP has become a role model for Indian States

- Myth of increasing water charges overcome – especially when linked to meaningful outcomes
- A legal framework gives appropriate direction
- Political will – a dynamic Chief Minister
- Continuous dialogue with WUAs, Government, Bank
- Role of the media
- ID could be an agent of change
- Reform is certainly not an easy Process!