CHAPTER - IV

STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS OF DPAP IN INDIA
4.1 Origin of DPAP

In order to raise the purchasing power of the rural poor, especially in periods of drought the Government of India introduced several special programmes during the Fourth Five Year Plan. The Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) is one of the programmes. The origin of the DPAP can be traced to the Rural Works Programme (RWP) implemented during the Third Five-Year Plan. Unfortunately, RWP programme had failed to mitigate the drought severity. Hence, several organisations and research institutions have brought out the reasons for failure. It was realised that a mere RWP with the dominant object of employment generation would not help to mitigate the drought conditions of the area covered. Hence, the programme was sought to be reoriented to fit into an area development approach. In recognition of this orientation, the programme was redesigned as "Drought Prone Areas Programme" in chronically drought-affected areas at the time of mid-term appraisal of the Fourth Five-Years Plan. It was decided to change the classification of the programme from non-plan to Central plan-scheme (DPAP, AERC, 1975).

The Indian meteorological department suggested the criteria for identifying situation of drought with different intensities in terms of deficiency of rainfall. The department identified any area as drought stricken when the deficiency of rainfall is less than 25% of the normal. A situation of moderate drought is one where the deficiency of rainfall is from 25% to 50%. If the deficiency of rainfall is more than 75% in any area it is a situation of severe drought. In the view of the meteorological department occurrence of rainfall deficiency of 25% and above in any area during 20 years out of 100 years it would be treated as chronic drought area (Govt of Karnataka, 1975).
Drought Prone Areas Programme is the earliest area development programme launched by the Central Government in 1973-74 to tackle the special problems faced by those fragile areas, which are constantly affected by severe drought conditions. These areas are characterized by large human and cattle populations which are continuously putting heavy pressure on the already fragile natural resources base for food, fodder and fuel. The major problems are continuous depletion of vegetative cover, increase in soil erosion and fall in ground water levels due to continuous exploitation without any effort to recharge underground aquifers (http://do.ni/dp).

DPAP has been operating in arid and semi-arid areas of the Country. Drought proneness creates uncertainty about the precipitation pattern. It has adversely affected on vital farm decisions and productivity. The programme aims at restoration of ecological balance. Further, it measures to attain drought proofing through harmonious development of land, water and other natural resources. From the inception of the programme, most of the expenditure has been incurred on land, water, livestock, forest and pasture development. The programme has been intending to develop and conserve the natural resources, which help in restoring proper ecological balance in programme implemented areas. The sectoral activities are also taken up under the programme with micro-watershed farming, as a spatial unit of planning (Report, MORD, 2000).

Though the programme had a positive impact in terms of creating durable public assets, its overall impact in effectively containing the adverse effects of drought was found to be not very encouraging. In addition, many of the states had also been demanding inclusion of additional areas under the programme. With a view to identifying the infirmities in the programme a High Level Technical Committee was formed under the chairmanship of Prof. C.H. Hanumantha Rao. It was responsible to consider the case for inclusion of additional areas under the programme. The Committee critically reviews the contents, methodology and implementation processes of all area development...
programmes and suggests suitable measures for improvement. The Committee in its Report submitted in April 1994 had attributed the unsatisfactory performance of the programmes to the following major factors:

- Implementation of programme activities over vast areas in a sectoral and dispersed manner

- Inadequate allocations to the programme and programme expenditures thinly spread over large problem areas

- Programme implemented through government agencies with least or no participation of the local people.

- To take up of vast array of activities, which were neither properly integrated nor necessarily related to the objectives of the programme.

Based on the recommendations of the Hanumantha Rao Committee, comprehensive Guidelines for Watershed Development, commonly applicable to Drought Prone Areas Programme, Desert Development Programme, Integrated Wastelands Development Programme etc., were issued in October 1994 and were made applicable with effect from 1.4.1995. Subsequently, based on the feedback received from programme states, the Guidelines were revised in September 2001 with regard to Project Implementation Agencies and some others issues.

4.2 Salient Features

- The thrust of the programme is capacity building and empowerment of village community. It ensures the participation of Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs) and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in the programme implementation at grassroots level. The funds as well as decision-making powers are transferred to the local people.
The programme intends to restore ecological balance. For this purpose several measures have been taken under the programme, such as, harnessing, conserving and developing natural resources. It helps in improving land quality, water, vegetative cover and raising land productivity (http://do.ni/dp).

4.3 Objectives

The basic objective of the programme is to minimize the adverse effects of drought by improving the livestock activities, the production of crops and productivity of land, water and human resources. The programme aims at promoting overall economic development and improving the socio-economic condition of the resource poor (DPAP, AERC, 1980). The objectives of the programme are being addressed in general by taking up development works through watershed approach for land development, water resource development and afforestation/pasture development. Another main thrust of the programme will be to restore proper ecological balance in the drought-hit areas. Some of the important elements, which may constitute the strategy for such ecologically integrated development are listed below:

- Restoration of ecological balance.
- Development and management of irrigation resources.
- Soil and moisture conservation and afforestation.
- Re-structuring of cropping pattern and pasture development.
- Changes in agronomic practices.
- Livestock development.
- Provision of drinking water supply.
- Development of rural communications.
• Development of small and marginal farmers; and agricultural labourers.

Watershed approach is the tool for implementing the above stated aspects. The Common Guidelines for Watershed Development provide for a uniform strategy in the implementation of all area development programmes. The main features of this strategy are:

• Area development programmes to be implemented exclusively on watershed basis.

• Programme activities to be confined to the identified watershed of about 500 hectares and to be executed on a project basis spanning a period of four to five years.

• Watershed project to cover a village, as far as possible.

• Direct participation of the people in planning and development of watershed areas and maintenance of assets in the post project period.

• Panchayat Raj Institutions have the right to monitor and review the programme at district, block and village levels. They can also function as Project Implementation Agencies if they so desire.

• Voluntary agencies to be given effective role in the implementation of the programme particularly in motivating people, community organization and training.

4.4 Target Area

The target of the programme is fragile areas. Fragile areas are those areas which are constantly affected by severe drought conditions where human and cattle populations are continuously putting heavy pressure on already fragile natural resources. Similarly heavy biotic pressure, continuous depletion
of vegetative cover, scanty rainfall areas come under the category. Wherever soil erosion is increasing and ground water level is quickly receding; such areas would also be covered under the programme.

4.5 Funding Pattern

DPAP is a centrally sponsored scheme. The allocations of funds were based on the geographical area of the block up to 1994-95. From 1995-96 it was based on the watershed projects identified in the block. Until March 1999 the funding responsibility was being shared on 50:50 basis by the Centre and the State Governments. With effect from 1st April 1999, the allocation was shared on 75:25 basis between the Centre and state governments in respect of new projects sanctioned. In respect of on going projects that were sanctioned up to April 1999, the old funding pattern continues. Until 1994-95 funds were released to state governments and they had to release funds within a week to the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) or Zilla Panchayats (ZPs). Since 1995-96 the Rural Development Ministry released the funds directly to the DRDAs/ZPs. They sanctioned projects and released funds to Watershed Committees (WCs) and Project Implementation Agencies (PIAs). Until March 2000 following cost norms were adopted under DPAP for various eco-systems depending on the severity of the problem of the watershed area.

Table-4.1: Allocations of Funds under DPAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Eco-System Type</th>
<th>Per Hectare Average Cost (Rs)</th>
<th>Watershed Project Cost (Rs in lakh)</th>
<th>Watershed Area (in Hectares)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Semi-Arid Region</td>
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<td>20.00</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Sub-Humid Region</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>15.00</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dry Sub-Humid Hilly Region</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>20.00</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KBK districts of Orissa</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>25.00</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Annual Report, 2001-02, Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India.

However with effect from 1.4.2000, uniform cost norms Rs.6000 per hectare have been introduced. These norms are applicable to projects
sanctioned during and after 2000-2001. In respect of earlier projects sanctioned up to 1999-2000 the pre-revised cost norms will be applicable.

4.6 Criteria Adopted for Drought Identification

The Irrigation Commission, 1972 has identified 67 drought prone districts comprising of 326 taluks located in 8 states having an area of 49.73 million hectares. Subsequently, the National Commission on Agriculture, 1976 identified a few more drought prone areas with slightly different criteria. The erstwhile Drought Area Study and Investigation Organisation of Central Water Commission (CWC) set-up in 1978 and started work in 99 districts after considering the list of districts identified by the Irrigation Commission and also by the National Commission on Agriculture (NCA). They adopted the criteria i.e. drought is a situation occurring in an area:

- When 20 per cent of the rainfall period is examined in a year, the annual rainfall is less than 75 per cent of the normal rainfall.

- Less than 30 per cent of the cultivated area is irrigated (http://wr.ni.in/dev/dr)

- Satellite Photographs.

In recent days, instead of solely depending on the annual rainfall, it has been decided to take into consideration in putting satellites in geostationary orbits. National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) obtains photographs through remote sensing. Aerial photography techniques are also put to use. Thus it is able to get maximum resolution photos of any area. The details of soil, crops, groundwater, forestry etc., are accurately observed. Wherever above stated factors chronically occurs that area would be considered as drought prone area (Reddy, 1995).
4.7 Principles of DPAP

- Utilise the land according to its capability.
- In-situ conservation of rainwater.
- Safe diversion of excess water to storage point and recycle the same for supplemental irrigation.
- Increase the cropping intensity through inter-cropping and sequence cropping.
- Safe utilisation of marginal lands through alternate land use systems based on land capability.
- Stabilise the income and cut down the risks during aberrant weather situation by adopting appropriate alternate land use systems.
- Improve the infrastructure facilities for storage, transport and marketing of agricultural produce.
- Set up of small-scale agro-based industries in rural areas (http://wr.ni.in/dev/dr).

4.8 Current Policy of DPAP

The approaches followed to minimise effect of drought are:

- Larger thrust for watershed development under DPAP.
- Dry-land farming and water resource development.
- Instead of capital intensive engineering work for soil and moisture conservation encourage simple and low cost structures, which can be completed in a short time with the help of local skills.
- Dovetail crop production activities into the watershed project along with soil conservation activities.
• Take up large scale dryland farming demonstrations.
• Limiting irrational and over exploitation of groundwater resources.
• Undertake research on the efficacy and economics of sprinkler and drip-irrigation systems.
• Construction of suitable water harvesting structures for the purpose of conservation of underground aquifers.
• Renovation and restoration of old tanks/farm ponds in the villages.
• Afforestation and Pasture Development.
• Animal Husbandry and Fodder Development.
• People's participation in drought proofing (http://wr.ni.in/dev/dr).

4.9 Watershed Development under DPAP

Since 1982 DPAP has been implementing through watershed. Watershed is a hydrological unit comprised of all land and water within the confined drainage area. It is an area, which collects the rainwater falling on it, and allows the water to flow in a single outlet at the end (SCSA, 1982). It is also defined as a physical unit inhabited by people and its resources are used for people's productive activities, which are often degraded or protected by them. It is a comprehensive term, which means the rational utilisation of land, water, forest, and range land resources of a watershed for optimum production with minimum hazard to these resources (Paudel, 1998).

Watershed Development Projects (WDPs) have been taken up under different programmes launched by the Government of India. The DPAP and Desert Development Programme (DDP) adopted the watershed approach in 1987. The National Wasteland Development Board took up the Integrated Wasteland Development Projects (IWDPs) scheme in 1989. It also aimed to develop wastelands on the watershed basis. Another major programme like
National Watershed Development Programme in Rain-fed Areas (NWDPRA) was also implemented on the watershed basis under the Ministry of Agriculture.

So far, these programmes have laid down their own separate guidelines, norms, funding patterns and technical components based on their respective and specific aims. While DDP focussed on reforestation to arrest the growth of hot and cold deserts. The DPAP concentrated on non-arable lands and drainage lines for in-situ soil and moisture conservation, land alternate uses, horticulture, agro-forestry, pasture and livestock development. The IWDP intends to develop silvi-pasture, soil and moisture conservation on wastelands, which have been controlled or owned by government or community or private. The NWDPRA combines the features of all these three programmes. Further it intends to improve arable lands through better crop management technologies.

Presently the Ministry of Rural Development has taken decision that 50 per cent of funds under the Intensified Jowhar Rozgar Yojana (IJRY) and 50 per cent of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) are given for Watershed Development Projects in DPAP/DDP districts. Therefore, it has been decided that the four programmes like, DPAP, DDP, IWDP, NWDPRA will take up watershed development on mutually exclusive basis at the village level. Thus, village/watershed would either be covered under DPAP or DDP or IWDP or NWDPRA for taking up all the activities envisaged in the WDP. The implementation of the projects would be governed by common guidelines for all WDPs. All the four programmes mentioned above have been implemented under Ministry of Rural Development.

Since 1987 DPAP has been implementing through the watershed approach. Hence, Watershed Development Programme (WDP) has been adopted as a tool for development in order to conserve soil and moisture. Further, applicable technology for conservation and increased production has to
be explored locally (Jenson et al., 1995). It intends to put the land to use according to its capabilities to improve the overall productivity. Today watershed management is becoming a blueprint for development in most of the countries. The major aim of the project is to increase and stabilise production of crops, forage, fruits, fuel and timber in rain-fed areas. Watershed management basically is a location-specific programme, both in terms of agro-ecological conditions and socio-cultural situations (Thapa, 1996). Hence, the WDP introduced suitable treatment for different agro-economic conditions and socio-cultural situations like, the improved soil and moisture conservation measure, afforestation, agro-forests, horticulture, better crops and land management practices and livestock development.

4.10 Method of Selection of Watersheds under DPAP

A watershed is a geo-hydrological unit or an area that drain at a common point. In each watershed area shall be identified approximately 500 hectares and selected by the WDT in consultation with the Panchayat Village Community. Size of the watershed has been fixed by keeping average norm views that, the calculation of the workload and expenses of a PIA. However, the size of the watershed can be increased or decreased slightly as convenient of the project boundary. The following criteria may be used in the selection of the watershed.

- The area which has a large population of SCs/STs dependent on it.
- The region which has a preponderance of wastelands.
- The area which has a preponderance of common lands.
- The regions where actual wages are significantly lower than minimum wages.
- The land which is contiguous to another watershed whether which has been developed or selected for development.
The area that had not been previously taken up for comprehensive development or treatment works under any of the programmes like DPAP/DDP/IWDP/NWDGRA.

Normally watershed area is covered within a village Panchayat boundary but there may be chance to cover some area in neighbouring village or Panchayat boundary (http://do.ni.in/fguid).

4.11 Programme Components

The DPAP-watershed programme is categorised into two major components viz. I) Development Component and II) Management Component.

4.11.1 Development Component: This is executed through the Watershed Association (WA). For this purpose funds are directly released to the Watershed Committee (WC).

This component consists of two sub-components, namely, a) natural resource management and b) production system management. The natural resource management sub-component includes management of private land, common land and rainwater. These managements have practised on the basis of scientific ride-to-valley approach. Whereas production system management sub-component comprises farm production system, it is practised for land owning families and household livelihood support system for landless families.

4.11.2 Management Component: It is undertaken by the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) for which funds will be released to PIA.

This component consists of three sub-components i.e. a) administration b) community organisation and c) training. The administration sub-component deals with administrative set up of watershed. The community organisation sub-component undertakes organisation of new institutional set up at the village level. Further, it performs preparation of project, development, adaptive research etc. Training sub-component provides orientation and training to
improve the knowledge and upgrade technical or management and community organisation skill to those who are involved the watershed project activities (Guideline, MORD, 2000).

4.12 Institutional Arrangement

Watershed Development Programmes (WDPs) have been effectively implemented from 1995-96 onwards. They are likely to cover very large number of villages in the drought/desert prone districts in the Country. Under the participatory approach the watershed community implements the WDPs. The funds for development activities are released directly to the community for execution of works. Similarly, preparation of the watershed plan and the annual action plan is undertaken with active participation of community members. For this purpose, following three organisations have been established.

4.12.1 Community Based Organisation (CBO)

It performs at watershed level. This organisation consisted Watershed Association (WA), User Groups (UGs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and Watershed Committee (WC). Watershed is normally conterminous within the boundary of the Village Panchayat; the Grama Sabha of the Panchayat concerned will be designated as the WA. Suppose, a watershed covers more than one Village Panchayats area, the members of that area will also be organised into a WA. The WA will formulate the UGs, SHGs and nominate members of these two groups to the WC by a rotation system. Further, it controls and supervises the UGs, SHGs and WC. The WA shall be registered under the Societies Act and elect its own president from among its members. To assist the president, Watershed Secretary will be appointed for full-time pay basis. But UG and SHG would remain as informal groups.
4.12.2 Project Implementation Agency (PIA)

The ZP/DRDA shall have the authority to choose the suitable PIAs. PIAs may be chosen from the Government Department or Body Corporate registered under any of the legislation such as Society Act, Co-operative Society Act, Companies Act or any special status. The PIAs will hire the Watershed Development Team (WDT) from the various disciplines or those who have practical field experience in the area. Each PIA shall carry out its duties through a multi-disciplinary team designated as the WDT. Each WDT has to handle about 10 - 12 WDPs. The WDT members shall be kept at one of the watershed villages. They may also be encouraged to stay in other villages that are included the project area in order to provide opportunities for working closely with the watershed community.

4.12.3 Autonomous Support Organisation (ASO)

It would be established on a pilot survey basis, where several Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), PIAs engaged in project work. These ASOs may be created in each district or for a cluster of districts of even at state level depending upon the numbers of PIAs. Each ASO would serve about ten PIAs (http://do.ni.in/fguide).

4.13 Project Management

To review and guide the programme at different levels, management committees are envisaged. There are four types of management committees working under the project. Such as a) National Watershed Committee b) State Watershed Committee c) District Watershed Committee and d) Watershed Association/Committee.

4.13.1 National Watershed Committee:

Secretary of Agriculture and Commerce and Secretary of Rural Development on rotation shall jointly chair this Committee. It also has
members from various organisations including Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Departments of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment, and experts in the field. This Committee will meet once in a year for reviewing the progress and provide policy direction to the programme.

4.13.2 State Watershed Committee:

Chief Secretary or Agriculture Production Commission shall chair this Committee. The member of the Committee will be drawn from concerned department of the State Government. It includes members of the Rural Development, Panchayat Raj departments and representative from State Agricultural Universities or Indian Council of Agricultural Research institution in the State. The representatives of selected ASOs, NGOs and presidents of selected WAs also include in the Committee. This Committee will meet once in six months to issue policy directives, review the progress and resolve management issues.

4.13.3 District Watershed Committee:

District Collector or Chairman of Zilla Panchayat will chair this committee. It will meet frequently depending upon the need. Its members would be drawn from concerned district departments, Krushi Vijnana Kendra, Autonomous Support Organisation in the district. Further it includes selected PIAs from government organisations, NGOs, people’s organisations and chairman of selected WAs etc. The Committee would review the progress of the watershed project and assists in resolving management and administration problems. It guides in implementation and identify policy issues, if any, for reference to State and National Committees.
4.13.4 Watershed Association/ Committee:

Watershed Association will be the general body. It comprises all the members of the Watershed Community, who agree to participate in the WDP. The WC shall act as an executive body of the WA. It carries out the activities of the watershed plan through paid employees. The WA will be the final decision making body. It will meet in respective watershed villages on monthly basis to plan and review the activities during the project implementation phase (Guideline MORD, 2002).

4.14 Various Activities of the Programme

Watershed Development Projects are being practised through several methods such as I) Land Treatment, II) Production Activities, and III) Employment Generation Activities.

4.14.1 Land Treatment: Under the Land Treatment the following activities are undertaken.

a) Afforestation:

The non-arable lands, which are highly eroded in the upper reaches, waste and barren lands with identified catchment areas are included under afforestation. Under this method the programme intends to plant different tree-species of local choice and preference. Important species like fodder, fuel, fruit, fibre, green manure etc., are planted. The community lands like revenue, school gardens, graveyards, grazing lands, playgrounds will be developed. They are brought under social forestry programme by planting suitable shade, fruit, ornamental and fuel wood tree-species.

b) Soil and Moisture Conservation Measures:

Realising the importance of in-situ conservation of soil and moisture for better productivity, various conservation measures have been adopted. They
are, graded bunds, smoothening of land, land levelling, graded border stripes, strengthening of existing bunds, boulder checks, diversion channels and structures like check dam, vented check dam and nala bunds. The ravine reclamation structures will be constructed. Vegetative measures are also to be introduced. Farm ponds are constructed wherever feasible in order to harvest rainwater. They are used for multipurpose activities like pot-irrigation, horticultural plants, fish rearing and other community uses. These soil and moisture conservation measures are directed towards recharge of under-ground water. It improves the use and management of land water resources. Hence, agricultural production can be increased, stabilised and also soil erosion can be arrested.

c) Pasture Development:

This method refers to growing natural and nutritious grass (fodder) in the waste, non-cultivable and common property lands. It provides adequate nutritious feed to livestock of the region and improves their yield and production. To put the land to its best use silvi-pastoral, silvi-horti etc., are followed (http://202/go/dr/sc/wa).

4.14.2 Production Activities: Under these activities various works are implemented. They are:

a) Introduction of suitable crops: Under this activity various measures are undertaken to improve productivity of land, total production and maintain soil fertility i.e. introduction of improved crop varieties, mixed cropping, inter-cropping, contour cultivation and crop management practices.

b) Agro-Horticulture: Under the agro-horticultural system a combination of orchard horticulture is practiced by farmers, which have greater capacity to withstand seasonal drought and fetch substantial income to the farmers. Orchard crops like mango, sapota, pomegranate, papaya,
banana, guava, coconut have being planted, depending on agro-climatic region and suitability of the species. In addition to fruit crops species like pepper etc. can also be introduced.

c) **Sericulture:** Under this scheme encourage the farmers to involve in mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing by proving required facilities.

d) **Livestock Development:** Under this system providing financial assistance to the farmers to encourage animal husbandry, fish and sheep rearing activities. To provide adequate fodder to livestock several nutritious grass and pastures have been developed under the programme. Many dairy centres have also been opened up in some villages to provide milk-marketing facility to the farmers. It helps the farmers to generate additional employment and income in the drought season.

### 4.14.3 Employment Generation Activities

- Creating more employment through land based and productive activities.
- Raising backyard nurseries.
- Cottage industries based on bamboo, woodcraft, cane craft etc.
- Wage earning through community assets creation such as community buildings, village roads etc (Jaiswal, NIRD, 1997).

### 4.15 Coverage of the Programme

The DPAP was in operation in 627 blocks of 96 districts in 13 states during 1994-95. On the recommendations of the Hanumantha Rao Committee, 384 new blocks were brought with the purview of this programme and out of that 64 blocks were transferred from DPAP to DDP. Consequently, coverage of the programme was extended to 947 blocks of 164 districts in 13 states, with
the reorganisation of states, districts and blocks. Presently the programme is under implementation in 971 blocks of 183 districts in 16 states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The states where DPAP is under implementation along with the number of blocks and area are indicated in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.</th>
<th>No. States</th>
<th>No. of Districts</th>
<th>No. of Blocks</th>
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4.16 Physical Performance

Under DPAP, 18803 watershed development projects covering an area of 94.01 lakh hectares with a total cost of about Rs.4804.20 crore were sanctioned up to 31.3.2004. As on 31.12.2004, out of these, the entire central share of about 4803 projects has been released and thus these projects are
deemed to have been completed. During 2004-2005, 2550 new projects have been sanctioned and these are to be implemented under the HARIYALI GUIDELINES. These projects shall cover an area of 12.75 lakh hectare, and the total cost for these projects is Rs.765.00 crore involving Central share of Rs.573.75 crore.

In this way the programme aims to create additional employment, income and improve the productivity by soil and water conservation, changing cropping pattern and intensity. It also tries to restore the ecological balance through the developing social forestry, agro-forestry, and pastures and community land development in drought-hit areas. Ultimately the programme acts as a drought proofing in the drought prone areas through undertaking various drought registrant activities.