

By E.Mail/Post

**Government of Orissa
ORISSA WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT MISSION
BHUBANESWAR**

**No.616 _____/WM, Date:27.02.2004
WM (M)47/03**

To

All Collectors-cum-Mission Leaders (Watersheds)
(Except Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Bhadrak & Puri).

Sub: Suggested criteria for selection of watersheds / villages for planning of Watershed Development Projects.

Sir/Madam,

I am directed to say that the revised guidelines of Government of India, 2001 in paragraph-15 have prescribed criteria for selection of micro-watersheds. The criteria includes physical aspects like preponderance of common lands, degraded lands, contiguous patch etc. and social aspects like large population of SC & ST, acute shortage of drinking water, assured people's participation and actual wages versus minimum wages etc. Though guidelines have prescribed a host of criteria, the same are not taken into consideration while selecting watersheds in many of the districts. Currently the districts are only following the ORSAC criteria. To select the watersheds, ORSAC utilizes satellite imageries to delineate and priorities into 3 categories on the basis of percentage of degraded and waste lands , dominant distribution of first, second and third order streams in micro watersheds. The ORSAC criteria do not take into account the social aspects and other physical parameters as mentioned above. Many often, in the districts it is seen that right kind of watersheds have not been selected as a result of which somewhere low priority watersheds have been taken up even though high priority watersheds are available.

In the meanwhile, Watershed Mission has developed a set of criteria containing the criteria of ORSAC, Government of India guidelines and suggestions made by various personalities and consultants connected with watershed development, after all, keeping in view the project objectives.

Most of these criteria are based on information which can be easily available and quantitative in nature. Certain criteria involving all subjectivity have not been considered as the same may give decision to the authority for manipulation. However, some certain subjective criteria may be used to prioritize the watersheds. Therefore, it is suggested that you may consider a 3-state selection process for prioritizing the watersheds.

STAGE-I

On the basis of the quantitative information available from primary / secondary sources, the district administration should prioritize at least 150% of the number of watersheds to be taken up in a year. These watersheds may be selected on the basis of the weightage of individual parameters as shown at **Annexure-I.**

STAGE-II

Once the watersheds have been identified, the district administration may conduct a quick assessment i.e., study of all the watersheds particularly in respect of unity of the villages, ability of the community to participate, absorption capacity of them and availability of traditional institutions like Pani Panchayat, Vana Surakhshya Samiti, Village Development Committee, CBOs etc. During this phase of quick assessment, those villages where there is lack of unity and lack participation should be deleted and priority should be given to those villages where existing institutions are strong and such institutions have been responsible in the past to mobilize and create community organization through participatory process. ***It is expected that during this stage, 125% of the watersheds allotted to a district in a year to be selected. In other words, 25% out of 150% will be deleted.***

STAGE-III

The watersheds those short listed at the end of **Stage-II** may be put on probation for a period of 6 months during which the PIA assigned to such watersheds will initiate community institution building measures and start low cost / least cost entry point activities. The PIA will rather emphasize more on non-investment oriented measures like improving the functioning of the local schools, improving upon basis health and sanitation, cleaning of the tube well surroundings, construction of at least one work of about Rs.50, 000/- worth through people's contribution in shape of labour / cash etc. Those villages where such participation is poor or lacking may be dropped at the end of 6 months probation period. The desired number of watersheds from these needs will be selected at the end of this phase. Those dropped in this phase may be asked to continue with their effort so that they will be eligible to get the watershed projects in subsequent years.

The watersheds so selected after **Stage-I**, the DWAC will look into the subjective selection criteria for prioritizing and sort listing them. Those finally sort listed at the end of **Stage-II** may be selected for probation for six months before final selection for full fledged implementation.

Yours faithfully,
Sd/-
Assistant Director

Memo No. **617** / WM., Date: **27.02.04**

Copy forwarded to the Director, Soil Conservation / Project Director, Watersheds, Bolangir and Nuapada/All Soil Conservation Officers for kind information and necessary action.

Sd/-
Assistant Director

**Suggested Objective Criteria
for Selection of Watersheds/Villages for Watershed Development Projects**

Sl. No.	Parameters	Source	Range	Marks	Weight
1.	i) % of wasteland and degraded land ii) Drainage density	ORSAC	Priority - I Priority - II Priority - III	20 12 8	20
2.	Frequency of drought in the village/watershed (review data for last 20 years).	Block	< 5 times 5 - 10 times > 10 times	3 6 10	10
3.	Irrigated area	Revenue/ Line Departments	< 15% 15% - 30% > 30%	10 6 3	10
4.	Contiguity of treated/proposed watersheds	ORSAC/ Soil Conservation	No Yes	10 0	10
5.	% of SC/ST population	Census/ Village Statistics	< 30% 30% - 50% > 50%	3 6 10	10
6.	No. of small and marginal farmers	Agriculture Department/ Village Statistics	< 25% > 25 - <50% > 50%	2 5 8	8
7.	% of Landless HHs	Census/ Village Statistics	< 30% 30 - 50% > 50%	3 6 10	10
8.	IMR (Per thousand live births)	ICDS/ PHC	< 40% 40 - 60% > 60%	2 4 7	7
9.	Problem of Drinking Water	RWSS/ ORSAC	Low High Acute Shortage	1 3 5	5
10.	Availability of common land	Tahasil	< 100 Ha 100 - 250 Ha > 250 Ha	3 6 10	10

Note:

Preference may be given to the villages:

- Where community has already been organized (into thrift & credit groups, JFM, Pani Panchayat etc. with special preference to women groups) and primary schools and health centers are absent.