

In the Name of God

Integrated River Basin Management – Towards Sustainable Land/Water Development Proceedings of the Workshop at the Human Resources Development Centre- CAPIC, Mahmud Abad, Iran 11-13 June 2006

Text of Keynote Speech

Hon. Zargar, Deputy Minister of MOE – Water Affairs

Theme of the speech: Alborz Integrated Land and Water Management Project

Goal: Introduction the main objectives of the Project, Implementation Plan, the Outcomes of the project in the Water Resources Management Sector, Means of participation of water users

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcoming all the invitees and foreign guests, including the World Bank Mission and respected consultants, most effort will be made to shorten the speech, as the time is limited, and I will just go through the topics and the goals of the water sector.

Goals/Objectives :

- Development and rehabilitation of the irrigation networks on 54000 hectares
- Development and improvement of the structures for sustainable utilization and proper maintenance
- Establishment of legal entities for water
- Participatory management of transport, allocation and distribution of water
- Improvement of participatory management capacities/abilities of the water users
- Protection of the water resource
- Definition of modern public participation mechanism as “Basin Water and Soil Committee and Fund”
- Monitoring the quality of surface and ground water resources
- Development and implementation of training/education programs of the water users can be considered as the main and most important objectives of the water component of the Project

Implementation Program:

Achieving the pre-defined goals of the Project through establishment/construction of the infra-structures such as:

- Storage dam on Babolroud with a capacity exceeding 16 million cubic meters per year

- Irrigation and drainage networks (under construction), including Ganjafrouz and Raiskola diversion dams, and Ghaemshahr and Halidasht pumping stations with a collection of 119 kilometers of main, primary and secondary canal
- 100 kilometers of drainage
- More than 200 kilometers of tertiary and other smaller canals
- A collection of traditional irrigation ditches

Outcomes:

Through implementation of the components, the outcomes of the Project will include:

- Long term guarantee of the supply of water for 54000 hectares of agricultural land in the vicinities of boundaries of Babol, Ghaemshahr, Kiakola, Bahnamir, Jouibar, Babolsar and Amirkola cities, and also 220 upstream villages within the Project area
- Create 16300 direct and permanent jobs in addition to many sidework and seasonal
- Guaranteed supply of water for more than 2500 hectares of multi-purpose Ab-bandans (levees) for such activities as agriculture, aquaculture, water fowl production, nature's share of water, migratory waterfowl habitats and feeding groundwater resources,
- Long term supply of the drinking water of cities (in case of necessity)
- Protection and qualitative monitoring of the river environment
- Protection of river aquatic life through assuring of continuous flow...and finally achieving the strategic goals in the soil and water sector that include:
 1. Improved management of the natural resources and environment
 2. Rapid economic growth of the area
 3. Facilitate distribution/allocation of the benefits among the needy and other components of the local societies, including farmers

I again thank all the respected guests and participants, and wish you a fruitful workshop full of memorable experiences

**Delivered by Behnam Abbaspour
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