

संयुक्त सचिव
भारत सरकार
कृषि मंत्रालय
(कृषि एवं सहकारिता विभाग)
कृषि भवन, नई दिल्ली-110114



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Importance of Watershed in Natural Resource Management is well recognized and is evident from scale of investments in this sector. Watershed concept was introduced way back in III Five Year Plan for increasing productivity of degraded areas through management of soil, water and forest resources in its natural context based on ridge to valley approach. During last three decades there has been a sea change in implementation strategies with peoples' participation in production system, livelihood support activities etc. which now have been embedded for integrated and holistic development.

Success of a project depends on systematic planning and design followed by dedicated process of execution. Upgraded Watershed Atlas of India prepared in 1:1 million scale will provide a platform for the planners in designing location specific development plans for various agricultural and rural development programmes in the country. Delineation and codification of watersheds would demarcate each hydrological unit with a unique identification code to synergize development programmes for integrating natural resource management, agricultural production, rural infrastructure & livelihoods etc. It will help in preventing overlapping of developmental activities executed by multifarious agencies by using a common national code through a web-based transparent monitoring system.

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I earnestly hope that Watershed Atlas would enable us in formulating and designing agricultural and rural development strategies on watershed approach to ensure food and livelihood security in the country.



(E. K. Majhi)
Joint Secretary (NRM)
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