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FOREWORD

Watershed is an uniquely identifiable geo-hydrological unit that drains to a common outlet. Because of this characteristic, watershed is an ideal framework for sustainable harnessing of water, soil and natural resources within its natural eco-system.

Delineation and codification of watershed is a process that assigns each hydrologic unit with unique 'National Code'. This provides a suitable platform to avoid duplication of interventions and synergize all developmental programmes related to natural resources management, agriculture, rural livelihoods etc. implemented by various line departments and ministries.

This upgraded Watershed Atlas of India is prepared on a Geographic Information System (GIS) based digital format in a 1:1 million scale. This will provide an appropriate platform for inculcating and evolving better scientific approach while formulating and implementing various agriculture and rural development programmes in the country.

I would like to congratulate Soil and Land Use Survey of India (SLUSI) and officials in Department of Agriculture and Cooperation involved in preparation of this scientific document. I sincerely hope that this Atlas will be used extensively as a reference document by policy makers, administrators and scientific communities.

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(Prabeer Kumar Basu)