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# State Level Stakeholder Consultation on Participatory Groundwater Governance in Rajasthan, India

## Learnings from Atal Bhujal Yojana and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS)

Himadri Banerjee, Pankaj Papnoi, Jasminder Kaur, Garima Taneja, Suchiradipta Bhattacharjee, Archisman Mitra

### Background

International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is an international, research-for-development organization, with a global network of scientists operating in more than 55 countries including India. IWMI has recently undertaken a study on Political and Institutional Landscape Analysis through the lens of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and *Atal Bhujal Yojana* (ABY). The study has been conducted in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. In Rajasthan, IWMI is partnering with the Centre for Microfinance (CmF) and the People's Education and Development Organization (PEDO) for addressing the capacity-building needs as identified through this study.

This study takes a qualitative approach to understand the governance and implementation of the two schemes, both of which have a focus on better convergence of resources and a bottom-up approach in governance and natural resource management, especially groundwater. The objective of our study was to develop better insights into the policy processes in India and identify interventions or innovations required to make them more inclusive and effective. Two major learnings from the study were the necessity of developing the soft skills of leadership and community mobilization within the community for scaling Participatory Groundwater Management (PGWM) and integrating scientific tools for facilitating bottom-up decision-making.



*Group photograph of participants of the workshop at Hotel Royal Orchid, Jaipur on 21 May 2024.*

## **Purpose of the workshop**

The purpose is to facilitate deliberations on strengthening the bottom-up approach in policy governance and natural resource management in India.

The workshop began with the introduction of all participants followed by welcome remarks by Mr. Archisman Mitra, Researcher, IWMI. Mr. Mitra welcomed all guests, participants in the workshop and briefed them about the IWMI and its, vision of a water-secure world. IWMI targets water and land management challenges faced by poor communities in developing countries, and through this contributes towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of reducing poverty and hunger and maintaining a sustainable environment in association with the government, NGOs and other technical agencies. Mr Mitra also explained that in this study, a qualitative approach has been taken to understand the governance and implementation of the MGNREGA and Atal Bhujal Yojana schemes..

Ms. Malika Srivastava, Executive Director, Centre for Microfinance (CmF) also welcomed all guests and participants and presented a brief introduction about the work of CmF in Rajasthan. CmF is a not-for-profit organization set up jointly by development practitioners, Tata Trusts, academicians and key stakeholders from government and banks in the year 2007. It was conceptualized as a resource organization to catalyze the growth of the community-based microfinance and rural livelihoods in Rajasthan. Training and capacity building of community institutions, government and non-government agencies, research and knowledge dissemination and direct implementation have been the key functions of CmF to achieve its mission. Over time, based on the emerging needs of the communities and the macro-level changes –such as rollout of flagship programs of central and state government, CmF has continued to adapt its role and programmatic coverage. Beginning 2015, CmF expanded its domain from microfinance and livelihoods to education, nutrition, water and sanitation and skilling domains as well. Beside this, Ms. Malika also emphasized the critical importance of working on water-related issues, highlighting the urgency and significance of the topic and also how CmF has been working on the issue in collaboration with partners.

Mr. Devi Lal Vyas, Executive Director, PEDO welcomed all the guests and participants and highlighted the issues in groundwater both related with urban supply side and rural recharge. He highlighted the critical need for inter-departmental collaboration, particularly between MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) and the Ground Water Department, to address water management issues. He cited Dungarpur as a case study, noting that the region received only 50% of its usual rainfall during the last monsoon, underscoring the importance of effective rainwater harvesting in such crisis situations.

He pointed out that despite significant financial investments—amounting to 4000 crores of rupees—in MGNREGA, water sufficiency has not been achieved. This highlights a gap between expenditure and effective outcomes, suggesting a need for better coordination and implementation of water conservation measures. He further said that government schemes like MGNREGA and Atal Bhujal Yojana has potential to address the issue of ground water recharge but unfortunately structures are being built under these schemes has almost no monitoring system hence structures become defunct and does not serve the purpose.



*Special Address by Mr. Surajbhan Singh, State Project Director, ABhY, Rajasthan*

Mr. Devi Lal Vyas also emphasized on the agriculture practices like excessive use of chemical, agriculture has now almost become ‘chemiculture’ which is also a reason for groundwater contamination.

These require policy level change and effective coordination between different departments.

## Session-I

### (A) Political Economy of Bottom-up Governance: Lessons from Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY ) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA)

The presentation was done by Ms. Suchiradipta Bhattacharjee, Policy Engagement Specialist, IWMI. She did an elaborate presentation encompassing her experience during the visit to 4 districts; i.e. *Alwar, Dausa, Bhilwara and Chittorgarh* in *Rajasthan*, challenges she observed in these schemes and learnings. First, she highlighted what are going well in these schemes.

MGNREGA	Atal Bhujal Yojana
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased awareness among people regarding entitlements, better demand &amp; bottom-up planning</li> <li>▪ Increased women participation, for example increased number of women mates</li> <li>▪ Reliable source of income</li> <li>▪ Increased convergence with JJM, Amrit Sarovar, and other schemes</li> <li>▪ Productive asset building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Gradual progress in community awareness</li> <li>▪ Visible data management structure which is resulting in improved technical capacity</li> <li>▪ Coordination across line departments; develops network across departments</li> <li>▪ Decentralized planning</li> <li>▪ Focus on convergence and coordination</li> </ul>

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Convergence for overcoming structural challenges, like convergence ABY and other schemes has helped overcome the challenge posed by 60:40 ratio in budget</li> </ul> |  |
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Then she highlighted the stakeholder wise challenges observed in MGNREGA and ABY

## MGNREGA

### Community

- Employment less than 100 days
- Delay in payment, sometime cancelled payment
- Reduced individual work, problem of back subsidy
- Implementation is hindered by various technological barriers, impacting efficiency and effectiveness.

### Gram Panchayat

- Low material rates compared to prevailing market rates
- Shrinking community space for NRM related work

### Block/District

- Technical capacity limitation of persons involved in planning

### State level

- Timely fund availability

## ABY

### Community

- Localized training at the GP and *Aanganwadi* level
- Selection of trainees
- Lack of understanding among WB/WSP

### DIP (District Implementation Partner)

- Retailing experts/personnel
- Limited expertise of GP/Block level

### DPMU (District Project Management Unit)

- Carry out activities even if the DIP is inactive.
- Lack of data integration among different line departments

### SPMU (State Project Management Unit)

- Lack of data integration among different line departments
- Absence of nodal point of contact

At the end of the presentation, she discussed the learnings from the field. In case of MGNREGA she emphasized on creation of productive assets through involvement of Gram Sabha. Convergence of fund from different schemes could be solution to the problem of fund availability and systemic bottlenecks (60:40 ratio in budget). Role of technology has to be improved for better performance, it is possible through capacity building of the human resources (tech literacy, awareness of permitted work) on use of technology and improving the entire ecosystem. The scope of capacity development also exists for community in addition to community; i.e. better awareness of entitlements under and processes of MGNREGA.

Ensure records are current and precise to improve management and transparency and improve decision making. Equip participants with necessary technological skills and updating of documents like Aadhar Card to overcome implementation barriers.

Convergence can play a vital role in resource availability, inter-departmental convergence not only helpful in resource availability but also in accessibility and utilization of data/information for better planning and execution. Convergence with CSOs and increased stakeholder interaction will be helpful in community mobilization, monitoring and course correction.

Social audit is instrumental in bringing transparency and can be and can be emulated in other schemes also. Scientific assessment of structures can give further insight regarding the feasibility and technical viability etc. Community involvement from asset planning to creation gives higher community ownership of rural assets.

In the case of *Atal Bhujal Yojana* (ABY), she emphasized that the selection of a District Implementation Plan (DIP) is most crucial for implementation. Creating more scope for cross learning among States, improving in training (integration of decision-making tools, behavioral Games for capacity building on governance. The idea could be explored about incentivizing Panchayats based on indicators of their ability to reach the wider community. Increased administrative resources are required, for example dedicated people in the line department. More time is required for community mobilization as 2 years have gone by because of the COVID and finally Behaviour changes towards GWM.

The session also revisited the challenges and learnings addressed in the previous consultation workshops, reinforcing similar issues and solutions.

The session facilitated the questions and discussions and highlighted the necessity for continued collaboration, technological improvements, and community engagement to address the challenges in water management and employment programs effectively. The discussions and presentations underscored the importance of strategic planning and the implementation of practical solutions to overcome these obstacles.

Formal inauguration of the workshop was done by Mr. Surajbhan Singh, State Project Director, ABY and other respected dignitaries joined him for inauguration followed by special address by Mr. Surajbhan Singh. The inauguration was done by lighting of the lamp

### ***Special address by Mr. Surajbhan Singh, State Project Director, ABY***

Before the end of this session, Mr. Surajbhan Singh, State Project Director, ABY has already been arrived. After the completion of the session I, Mr. Singh was invited for special address. Mr. Surajbhan Singh first briefed about the ABY and its goal to demonstrate community-led sustainable ground water management which can be taken to scale. The major objective of the scheme is to improve the management of groundwater resources in select water stressed areas in identified states, Rajasthan is one of the states where the ABY scheme is being implemented. However, he accepted that it is facing challenges at the time of implementation. Community participation and ownership is a big challenge. There is lack of effort in the integration of the knowledge, resources as interdepartmental communication lacks, there is no established mechanism for effective interdepartmental communication as of now. Community and CSOs should also deliberate at their end if their effort in this regard has been sufficient.

He cited the example of the states like *Gujrat and Maharastra* where effective implementation of the ABY is being done, in Rajasthan, unfortunately the DIP is weak compared to these mentioned states. Exposure of the team and community on ABY work is less, VWSC members do not have exposure regarding Jal Suraksha Yojana, Gram Sabha Anumodan etc. In term of resources, there is only 1 officer at the district level.

### *Special address by Mr. I.P Agarwal (Executive Engineer, MGNREGA)*

Mr. I.P. Agarwal was invited to deliver his special address. Mr. Agarwal first very briefly discussed about the convergence of the ABY Yojna and MGNREGA, he said, as we know that the MGNREGA is a wage employment scheme, beside this it is also about creating durable and usable assets in the rural area. Among the permissible work under the MGNREGA, 182 work are related with Natural Resource Management (NRM) and 85 are related with water. He highlighted MGNREGA's crucial role in water recharge, noting that this contribution was often overlooked despite the demand significantly exceeding the supply and stressed that without MGNREGA, the water crisis would have been even more severe.

Technology has been well integrated with the MGNREGA scheme like Geographic Information System (GIS) based mapping is being used for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) for improvement in planning and implementation, it is an important tool to ensure participatory planning at the implementation level. He also discussed about portal for labor attendance to ensure transparency and accountability and monitoring by drone, utilization of drone technology to enhance water conservation efforts.

He discussed about the agriculture practices in brief and put his point saying that agriculture mechanization, solar pumps have actually increased water requirement in agriculture. Groundwater exploitation has gone up and water harvesting structures, rainwater harvesting are some of the effective ways to deal with the rapid groundwater level decline. MGNREGA has provision of ridge to valley treatment which allows better management of water flowing from the ridge to the valley and ensures conservation of rainwater.

Integration of schemes is important as it helps to deal with the fund scarcity and technical and procedural bottlenecks. MGNREGA is the best schemes to increase groundwater, he advised that all stakeholders working on water should come on single platform to address the issues like delayed payment, effective panning and monitoring.

The special address underscored the critical role of MGNREGS and ABY in water management. It highlighted the need for integrating technological advancements, better departmental coordination, and effective village-level planning. The importance of leveraging existing schemes like MGNREGS for sustainable water management solutions was emphasized as essential in mitigating the water crisis.

Post this special address, Q/A session was introduced on Ms. Suchiradipta Bhattacharjee's session Political Economy of Bottom-up Governance

Question: First question was from Prayatna, Udaipur and the question was about green job creation in MGNREGA, sustainable source of income and visibility of MGNREGA work

Ms. Suchiradipta answered that technology readiness and appropriate integration is the answer. MGNREGA has sufficient provision for creating structure which can contribute in green economy. Capacity development and community participation is also the need of the hour. Involvement of CSOs can also be good ideas as it can bring innovation and encourage informed and active community participation.

Foundation for Ecological Security (FES) brought the point of community managed resources. FES is working for recharge of shallow aquifer. Grazing lands are source of water recharge. They presented the calculation that 15 Ha of grazing land can recharge up to 36.9 TCM (3.36 crore) of water. Rajasthan

is well known for community-managed resources so it could be a great idea for groundwater recharge, employment creation and sustainable asset creation in rural areas.

- (B) Scientific tools for facilitating bottom-up decision-making in MGNREGS and the presentation was made by Ms. Garima Taneja, Research Officer, IWMI. Ms. Taneja talks about the importance of scientific tools in MGNREGA and presents a brief about the tool being developed by IWMI. When we see the MGNREGA workflow we find there are 3 stages, planning, monitoring and execution and impact assessment/evaluation. There are various tools and approaches used to manage the MGNREGA work process at various stages. For at planning stage, the participatory approach used to identify assets, job cards are issued, execute projects using material, demand for assets & actual days of work generated. In the Monitoring and execution stage NREGASoft, Geo-MGNREGA, SECURE Workflow software etc. tools are used. But there is no specific tool for impact assessment or evaluation.

Ms. Garima Taneja presented on Impact Monitoring tool. The tool captures the potential impact of works done under MGNREGA.

- Training Module for Participatory Groundwater Management Process (Training Module for Leadership Skills for PGWM programs)
- MGNREGA Tool developed for measuring the impact of assets/works

#### Basis of the Tool

- The tool uses approximately 100 input indicators to derive around 15 output indicators.  
Key input indicators include structure dimensions, gross irrigated area created, and the number of beneficiaries. Data for these indicators is collected using ODK, an open-source mobile data collection platform.
  - Employs a unique asset ID system for tracking and measurement.
  - Tracks these output indicators to measure performance.
  - Provides a unique identification for each asset created under MGNREGS.

She further informed that the tools have been implemented in 3 states, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala and total 10800 responses have been recorded till date.

This is an excel based tool will be helpful for outcome measurement and will be helpful for technical officer, ground level staffs.

In brief, the ODK tool developed by IWMI, aimed at enhancing decision-making processes in MGNREGS through the measurement of outcomes. The tool's deployment in Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Kerala marks the beginning of its application. The subsequent Q&A session demonstrated a strong interest and engagement from the audience, indicating a positive reception towards the tool's potential benefits.

#### **Session-II**

- (A) Creating leadership for scaling participatory groundwater management under ABY and this session was jointly presented by Mr. Archisman Mitra, IWMI and Mr. Pankaj Papnoi from CmF. First Mr. Mitra put emphasis on the need of capacity building and skill development as they are the drivers of community participation. Mr. Mitra further highlighted the challenges in scaling capacity development
- Selection of trainees often ad-hoc (gap in community mobilization training and protocols)
  - Localised training at GP/Anganwadi, often missing out on wider community members

- Substantial gap between the different phases of training; not the same group in each phase (an effective way for remembering and bringing everyone to speed)
- Adequately skilled DIPs responsible for mobilization and training may not always be available
- Better understanding of technical information, water budgeting, and WSP among the wider community often missing out
- Soft-skill development especially around community mobilization is lacking

Mr. Pankaj Papnoi from CmF presented about importance of local level leadership development in People Centric Groundwater Management (PGWM). He emphasized that both resources and time is required to build local leadership. He brought in the reference of *Hiware Bazaar, Pipalantri, MARVI* project in reference to ABY.

Mr. Pankaj presented an outline for capacity and skill development

- 3 days visioning workshop
- Field demonstration
- Community engagement in data mining
- Water Security Planning

Developing leadership with soft skills within the community is crucial for scaling participatory groundwater management under ABY Create a vision for the community

- Take leadership in mobilizing the community
- Sustainability beyond the scheme
- Complement the work done by DIPs
- Ensure VWSC participation in training, community participation in water budgeting and Water Security Planning

Mr. Pankaj presented the entire schedule of the 3-day vision building workshop for Champions / Local Leaders. The objective of the workshop was to create leadership / Champions for scaling participatory groundwater management under ABY

Post presentation some suggestions came from the audience, Mr. J.B.R Murty (Tata Trust Consultant) suggested that leadership development is crucial job, and we may also explore some innovative way of doing it. He suggested trying a hackathon for grassroots level leadership development. This kind of event can bring together local leaders and experts to improve upon or build local leaders. He also suggested adoption of a traditional comprehensive model for groundwater management, emphasizing that leadership cannot be fully developed through workshops alone; broader awareness is crucial and highlighted the importance of solutions emerging from the community itself

Richu Sanil from FES recommended involving resource persons who demonstrate best practices within the state of Rajasthan.

In the next session. a Panel Discussion on “Scaling up Participatory Groundwater Management under ABY ” was moderated by Mr. Kumar Ranjan, General Manager, CmF

#### Panel members were

- Mr. J.V.R. Murty (Tata Trust Consultant)
- Dr. Vinay Bhawe (Nodal Officer, ABY)
- Dr. Jagdish Purohit (GIZ)

- Ms. Priya John (One Drop)
- Mr. Richu Sanil (FES)

**Panelist: Mr. J.V.R. Murty (Tata Trust)**

Mr. J.V.R. Murty first spoke about participatory groundwater management under ABY. ABY first introduced in Andhra Pradesh. The objective was to help farmers make their water budget, community decision, crop selection (crop change) etc. But unfortunately, the community ownership is missing. Agencies are creating plan instead of the community. Where is the participation, how do you empower the community? We need to give leadership to the community and that will only happen when the local level leadership comes forward.

Key points from Mr. Murty's address

- Highlighted the absence of community ownership in ABY, stressing its importance.
- Advocated for the significance of involving communities through participatory rural appraisal.
- Suggested empowering communities through resource allocation rather than solely relying on budgetary allocations.

**Panelist: Dr. Vinay Bhawe (One Drop)**

Dr. Bhawe talked about the need of convergence, capacity building of the community and effective implementation. There are resources laying under different program and effective convergence mechanism can be useful for leveraging resources. Water Security Planning (WSP) is helpful in participatory planning, selected timeframe is required and timely allocation of resources as, at present, there is mismatch between resources availability and need.

Key points from Dr. Bhawe

- Highlighted Identified challenges including convergence, capacity building, and participation in implementation.
- Practical Challenges - Noted time constraints for rural individuals and the time-bound nature of activities such as water security planning.
- Informed about the implementation of ABY in approximately 1129 Gram Panchayats.
- Raised concerns over technocrats preparing plans instead of involving the community because of the aforementioned challenges.
- Highlighted the need for visible impacts from recharge activities on the ground.

**Panelist: Dr. Purohit (GIZ)**

Dr. Purohit also talked about effective convergence and community participation. He further said that water concerns the farm sector and most of the related issues emerges from the demand side. He also talked about Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) which is coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources to maximize the resultant economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

*Panel discussion on participatory ground water management under ABY*



He further added that changing climatic conditions has currently made it mandatory to encourage participatory groundwater management and convergence of resources. Groundwater constitutes about 99 percent of readily accessible freshwater, In India groundwater has played a major role in sustaining the nation's economy, preserving its environment, and improving standards of living. However, the past few decades have seen an increase in groundwater extraction, with some regions extracting more than the annual replenishment rate. This is high time that we focused on water use efficiency and water productivity, and how to apply and dispose.

He also mentioned that Gujrat constituted water use efficiency, water productivity to ensure comprehensive multi- sectoral planning, development and management of the State's water resources, and effective, efficient, equitable and sustainable service deliveries for various water uses

#### Key points from Dr. Purohit

- Discussed the increase in irrigated areas and increased agricultural sector consumption.
- Pointed out the need to address demand-driven issues rather than solely focusing on the supply side.
- Noted the absence of specific groundwater targets and the concentration of efforts on surface runoff.
- Highlighted MGNREGA's strong community connection and its activities, citing examples from MP and how it can be one of the most useful schemes to work on Water Management.
- Mentioned the utilization of expert assistance and scaling up of tracking outputs in the schemes.
- Focused on improving water use efficiency, currently at 37%.

#### ***Panelist: Ms. Priya John***

Ms. Priya talked about power dynamics and gender issues in participatory groundwater management. She said that it is a deep-rooted problem and there is no quick fix. She further elaborated how gender and class differences impose challenges to participatory groundwater management. Hiware Bazar is a story of homogenous community, but we do not have the luxury of homogeneity everywhere, it may be a challenge to practice participatory groundwater management in heterogeneity. Scale is also a challenge.

Inclusion should be driven by systems; heavy emphasis should be on information, education, and communication (IEC) for inclusion. She emphasized folk arts to engage people as folk arts are rooted in local custom and culture.

She also emphasized the importance of regular feedback mechanism and grievance redressal to create changemakers at the community or local level.

#### Key points from Ms. John

- Emphasized that water management is a complex issue with deep-rooted social and economic challenges and did not have any quick fix.
- Praised the leadership module and ABY for their guidelines focused on community participation, though noted that implementation is lacking.
- Stressed the importance of creating meaningful and relatable Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials for communities.
- Advocated for using folk art to raise awareness and promote advocacy on water management, citing successful examples from tradition.
- Highlighted the need for regular feedback mechanisms and better grievance redressal systems.

### ***Panelist: Mr. Richu Sanil (FES)***

Mr. Sanil emphasized the capacity building of the community, what exactly we could do? Our mental model is water under land is personal proper and exploitation to any extent is permissible. In the last few decades, the groundwater level has gone down and tools like trendline analysis could be used to check the depth of the well/borewell to help the community understand the severity of the rapid decrease in the groundwater. Community is responding to technological changes so technology can play a vital role in participatory groundwater management.

There are social practices that are instrumental in groundwater management and these must be encouraged. The planning process must be more engaging with adequate use of decision support tools. Participatory groundwater management requires a coordinated effort from the government, CSOs, research bodies, and above all community to be successful.

#### **Key points from Mr. Sanil**

- Discussed the challenges in building capacity and the tools developed by FES, including those focusing on informing about water-intensive and water-sensitive cropping patterns.
- Explained how tools like games and resource mapping can make complex concepts more understandable and engaging for communities.
- Mobile App for Water Management - Introduced an app using color coding to identify water-stressed areas, currently in use in Karnataka and Meghalaya.

#### **Concluding Remarks from the Panelists**

Dr. VN Bhave

- Highlighted ABY efforts in incentivizing demand-driven approaches, micro-planning on 60,000 hectares, and including folk artists in guidelines.
- Identified district-level implementation as a significant challenge due to insensitivity to needed changes.
- Concluded with the importance of conserving freshwater for drinking purposes.

Priya John:

- Focus on inclusivity, shifting IEC perspectives, people-centered approaches, and leveraging folk art for social and behavior change.

Richu Sanil:

- Emphasized water stewardship, community ownership, decentralization below the panchayat level, and the need for multistakeholder platforms and community leadership.

JV Murty:

- Stressed the need to focus on the demand side, including behavior change and cropping patterns.

Jagdish Purohit:

- Highlighted the importance of scientific information dissemination, community water budgeting, and changing perceptions about groundwater dependency.

The session concluded with a vote of thanks from IWMI and CmF, acknowledging the contributions of all participants and emphasizing the need for ongoing efforts in water management and community engagement.

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## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Himadri Banerjee and Pankaj Papnoi are with the Centre for Microfinance (CmF), Jasminder Kaur is with People's Education and Development Organization (PEDO) and Garima Taneja, Suchiradipta Bhattacharjee and Archisman Mitra are affiliated with International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

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## ANNEXURE: AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

Venue: Jaipur Date: 21<sup>st</sup> May, 2024.

09:30 - 10:00	Registration and Welcome Tea/Coffee
<b>Opening session</b>	
10:00 – 10:50	<p><i>Welcome remarks - Archisman Mitra, Researcher, IWMI Special Remarks - Malika Srivastava, Executive Director, CmFSpecial Remarks - Devlal Vyas, Executive Director, PEDO</i></p> <p><i>Special Address - Surajbhan Singh, State Project Director, ABY Special Address – I P Agarwal, Executive Engineer, EGS - MGNREGS</i></p> <p><i>Key Note Address – Dr. Samit Sharma, Secretary, PHED &amp; Ground Water Department</i></p>
<b>Session 1: Political Economy of Policy Processes and Bottom-Up Decision Making - Lessons from ABhY and MGNREGS</b>	
10:50 – 11:05	<p><b>Political Economy of Bottom-up Governance:</b> Lessons from Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY) and Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) <i>Suchiradipta Bhattacharjee, Policy Engagement Specialist, IWMI</i></p>
11:05 – 11:20	<p><b>Scientific tools for facilitating bottom-up decision-making in MGNREGS</b> <i>Garima Taneja, Research Officer, IWMI</i></p>
11:20 – 11:40	<b>Facilitated discussion on the presentations</b>
11:40 – 12:00	<b>Tea Break</b>
<b>Session 2: Scaling Community Mobilization for Participatory Groundwater Management under ABhY</b>	
12:00 – 12:15	<p><b>Creating leadership for scaling participatory groundwater management under ABY</b> <i>Archisman Mitra, IWMI + CmF/PEDO (TBC)</i></p>
12:15 – 13:00	<p><b>Panel Discussion</b> on “Scaling up Participatory Groundwater Management under ABY” <i>Moderated by Kumar Ranjan, CmF</i></p>
13:00 – 13:15	<b>Q &amp; A</b>
13:15 – 13:25	<b>Concluding remarks (IWMI)</b>
13:25 – 13:30	<b>Vote of Thanks (CmF)</b>
13:30 – 14:30	<b>Networking Lunch</b>