

MOVING TOWARDS WATER SECURITY

Structures, Tools, and Processes for Drought Prone Areas



The effective management of water resources demands a holistic approach, linking social and economic development with protection of natural ecosystems. Water development initiatives should be based on a participatory approach involving users, planners, and policymakers at all levels. From the traditional knowledge of the rural poor to assisting the vulnerable in accessing agricultural insurance, the Water Security Programme of AIDMI integrates many aspects of development for water resource sustainability.



All India Disaster Mitigation Institute

September 2005

Experience Learning Series 31

All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), Gujarat, is a community based action research, action planning and action advocacy organisation now spreading it's work across India. It works towards bridging the gap between policy, practice and research related to disaster risk mitigation, in an effort to link the local community to policy level activities.

AIDMI's activities for disaster risk mitigation include: (a) Awareness Generation, (b) Capacity Building, (c) Policy Advocacy, (d) Direct Implementation, (e) Research and Publications, and (f) Networking.

AIDMI was established in response to the repeated 1987-89 droughts in India. It has evolved from a project in 1989 to an autonomous organisation in 1995. During its evolutionary journey AIDMI has developed four security programmes and eleven activity centres run by 83 team members.

Four sector securities include: (a) Food (b) Water (c) Livelihood and (d) Habitat. The four jointly add up to building Human Security.

Eleven Activity Centres include:
(i) Action Review and Research Services,
(ii) Bhuj Reconstruction Project, (iii) Building Peace and Protection, (iv) AIDMI-AMA Joint Centre for Disaster Risk Management,
(v) Emergency Food Security Network,
(vi) Emergency Health Unit, (vii) Learning Resources, (viii) Livelihood Relief Fund,
(ix) Organisation Resources, (x) Sphere Resource Centre and (xi) Water Security Programme.

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with
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This document is for watershed development practitioners and others determined to meet water security during disaster recovery. It demonstrates how a small, Southern organization brings together a variety of stakeholders to help identify and solve problems faced by communities in drought-prone areas. By emphasizing participatory methods for planning, implementing, and managing water resources, AIDMI has learned how to keep communities at the center of rural development. This document shares the structures, tools, and processes we have found especially appropriate for these ends.

The dedication of Mr. Jikesh Thakkar to the Water Security Programme for over a decade has provided the substance of this report. Mehul Pancholi and Jaydeep Vyas conducted research in communities and helped design the tools described here. These report was written by Ms. Shweta Vadalkar. Mr. Tommy Reynolds contributed with revisions and Mr. Manish Patel formatted this report.