

**WESTERN GHATS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (WGDP)**  
**(Funding pattern- 90% Centre - 10% State)**

**Introduction:**

The Hill Areas Development Programme (HADP) and Western Ghats Development Programme (WGDP) have been in operation since the Fifth Five Year Plan (1974-79) to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in the development of ecologically fragile designated hill areas/western ghats taluks. The WGDP is being implemented in the States of Goa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu. The Western Ghats taluks were identified in 1972 by a High Level Committee set up for the purpose by the Planning Commission, Government of India. For delineation of the area for coverage under the WGDP, the criteria of elevation (600 meters above MSL) and contiguity with taluka (a territorial administrative unit) have been adopted.

**Objectives:**

The main objectives of the programme are eco-preservation and eco-restoration with a focus on sustainable use of bio-diversity. The programme also focuses on the needs and aspirations of local communities ensuring community participation in the design and implementation of the strategies for conservation of bio-diversity and sustainable livelihoods. Watershed based development is the basic thrust area of the programme along with a participatory approach to ensure efficiency, transparency and accountability.

**Watershed Approach/Selection of Schemes:**

The main aim of the watershed approach is to ensure a holistic view of water and land resources and to prevent further degradation of these ecologically fragile areas. However, the development of people of these hilly areas in consonance with the fragility of their habitat demands an approach, which is more than just watershed development. More attention needs to be paid to economic activities which are sustainable, use of technologies which will reduce the burden of the people both in economic and household situations and ensure means of livelihood for the inhabitants with as little disturbance to the ecology. Thus, the approach has to be a watershed plus approach, which gives as much emphasis to ecology as to economic development.

The **common guidelines for watershed development projects** as circulated by National Rainfed Area Authority, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India in the year 2008

are to be followed for implementation of watershed development projects. In addition to watershed related schemes, the following schemes may be taken up.

**Innovative schemes for technologies suited to hill areas:**

The development and spread of technology/instruments/materials which are amenable to the hill economy/society such as the use of farm implements suited to small holdings, provisions of bio-fertilizers, seeds and other inputs in smaller bags which are easier to carry uphill etc., Traditional and sustainable practices of medicinal plants, bamboo and jatropha cultivation should be encouraged.

**Schemes for Bio-Diversity conservation:**

The hill areas of the Country are home to many indigenous species which are fast becoming extinct and funds under the programme may be used to support conservation of such species and exploring their commercial use. Traditional knowledge, innovations and farming practices should be encouraged to conserve and use bio-diversity sustainably. The development of sustainable livelihoods and incentives for the sustainable use of natural produce especially medicinal plants, bamboo, jatropha and fruits are to be supported.

**Schemes for income generation:**

Schemes such as cultivation of medicinal plants, bamboo, jatropha and agro-forestry which would enable people to earn a livelihood in a manner which causes least ecological disturbance should be encouraged and demonstration of these schemes may be funded under WGDP/HADP.

**Gap-filling infrastructure:**

Though the funding under the programme is limited and is only an additive to state plan funds, it is seen that some small gap-filling schemes such as water-pipe lines, foot bridges etc., can go a long way in improving the quality of life of the local people. These may be encouraged under the programme.

**Funding:**

Special Central Assistance(SCA) under these programmes during XI Five Year Plan (2007-12) is to be utilized as an additive to normal state plan flows. SCA is released in 90:10 ratio i.e.90% grant and 10% as State share.

### **Release of funds, monitoring and review:**

Before the commencement of a financial year, Planning Commission will inform the States of the funds available for the State under the Programme. The Annual Plan is to be sent to Planning Commission by the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. Funds will be released in two instalments by Planning commission. The first instalment (75%) will be released after the approval of annual plan. The second and final instalment 25% will be released after utilizing 60% of the previous releases and submission of the third quarterly progress report and the anticipated expenditure for the year. Unspent balance pertaining to the previous year if any, available with the State Government will be adjusted while releasing the final instalment, if approval for revalidation of this amount to be spent on spill-over works is not obtained from Planning Commission. The State Government would be required to pass on the funds to the implementing agencies within 15 days of the receipt of assistance from the Government of India.

The State Governments are required to submit quarterly progress reports immediately after the close of the quarter. They should also furnish utilization certificates pertaining to the previous year regularly and before the statement of actual expenditure required to be furnished by them in the month of January/February. This will enable the Planning Commission to consider release of second and final instalment of Special Central Assistance.

### **Training:**

As Capacity Building is very crucial for effective implementation of any programme, the Union Planning Commission will arrange for training facilities for the Officers who are directly involved in implementation of HADP/WGDP. There will be two training programmes every year viz., (1) sensitization training programme on integrated watershed management for the Senior Officers at the level of Secretary/Additional/Joint Secretary/Deputy Secretary, Directorate Heads, District Nodal Officers connected with the HADP/WGDP and (2) training programme for the middle level Officers of the State Governments. These training programmes would be arranged by the Planning Commission and the course fee for the training programmes will be borne by the Planning Commission. The State Governments would be required to nominate their officials for the training programme and to ensure that the nominated officers attend the

training without fail. Similarly, State Governments would be required to organize training programmes for the grass root level officers to be funded by them from the SCA allocated under WGDP/HADP.

### **WGDP in Karnataka:**

In Karnataka WGDP is being implemented in 40 taluks of 11 districts (list enclosed). District Watershed Development Officers (DWDOs) are functioning under the control of Zilla Panchayats. They are the Project Implementing Agency (PIA) for all the watershed development programmes. It has multi disciplinary team of officials like forest, agriculture, and horticulture officers. Watershed Development team (WDT) and Watershed Committee (WDC) are constituted in all districts. The following are the sectors under which Government of Karnataka usually undertakes various schemes in the Annual Plans under WGDP:

Agriculture and soil conservation, social forestry, animal husbandry, spice board, horticulture, sericulture, apiculture, minor irrigation, veterinary, fisheries, roads and foot bridges, livelihood activities, small scale industries, administration, training and community organization. Some of the main activities are discussed below:

#### **Soil & Water Conservation**

The mountainous terrain of western ghats region and abundance of rainfall varying from 1500 to 4300 mm/annum results in soil erosion of the unprotected areas. Hence Soil Conservation aspects on watershed basis receive maximum attention. These activities are implemented depending upon the requirements of each watershed. The programmes are (i) Land development activities such as leveling, bench terracing, land reshaping, amalgamation of paddy fields, land reclamation, contour bunding etc. (ii) Water harvesting and erosion control structures like check dams, vented dams, nala bunding, boulder bunds and checks, gully checks, ravine reclamation structures etc. (iii) Farm ponds and (iv) Diversion channels, water ways, vegetative filter strips etc. to regulate the flow and disposal of excess water.

#### **Horticulture**

Under WGDP the cultivation of horticulture crops on waste lands will serve the dual purposes of ecological regeneration and provide complimentary avenues for income for small and marginal farmers. Various horticultural programmes are being implemented depending upon the needs and demands in the local areas. The important programmes are

(1) Supply of horticultural plants (2) Expansion of area (3) Training of farmers in horticulture (4) Establishment of school gardens and community gardens (5) Mushroom production (6) Spices Project. Other activities include supply of plant vegetable seeds distribution, supply of horticultural tools, conducting demonstrations etc. Certain schemes are implemented through the Spices Board for which funds are provided through the Zilla Panchayats.

### **Forestry**

Denudation of the once thick forests in Western Ghats has been a serious problem. Construction of huge irrigation/hydro-electric projects and expansion of agriculture without commensurate afforestation has led to serious effects on ecology and environment. Therefore, the accent of forestry programmes has been on Afforestation in forest lands as well as on private lands. The most important programmes implemented are Afforestation and Nursery Programme – raising, maintenance and distribution on seedlings. Other programmes include rehabilitation of degraded forests, agave and khus plantation, fuel wood project, fodder development, soil conservation measures.

### **Social Forestry**

Social forestry aims at raising plantations by the common man so as to meet the growing demand for timber, fuel, fodder etc, thereby reducing the pressure on the traditional forest area. Planting of nurseries along roadside, river and canal banks, village common land, Government wasteland and Panchayat land is undertaken. The most important programmes implemented are Farm Forestry, Community Forestry, Extension Forestry and Agro Forestry.

### **Animal husbandry**

Development schemes under the Animal Husbandry sector include 1) Artificial insemination for upgrading cattle 2) Fodder development plots in farmers holding and Govt. Farms 3) Poultry development 4) Piggery development 5) Rabbit development 6) Organizing health camps etc. 7) Distribution of medicines, mineral mixtures and food ingredients.

### **Lively hood support for Landless families .**

Attempts are being made to encourage cottage or small scale industries to provide additional income to farmers. Bee-keeping, Distribution of Sewing machines, Carpentry kits, Kitchen garden, Development of small animals, Issue of Giriraja chicks, Bee

keeping is one of the subsidiary occupation which has great scope in this region where flora required by bees exist in abundance.

### **Rural roads and foot bridges**

With steep hilly terrain compounded by high rainfall, many places in the Western Ghats region become inaccessible due to swollen rivers, land slides, slushy mud roads etc., during rainy season. The population criteria and existing norms under PMGSY, NABARD-RIDF, CRF-Central road fund etc., does not permit to provide rural connectivity to small habitations of Western Ghats. The main demand of the people in these areas is for All weather roads and foot bridges. The issue of connectivity is crucial, as much of the area coming under Western Ghats in the State is highly infested by the Naxalism. The Zilla Panchayats have been flexible in their approach while providing foot bridges keeping in view the local demands.

### **Financial progress under WGDP since 2000-01**

(₹ in crores)

<b>Year</b>	<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Releases</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>% age of Ach.</b>
2000-01	16.69	16.69	14.98	90
2001-02	15.57	15.57	14.30	92
2002-03	15.57	15.53	13.65	88
2003-04	15.57	15.57	15.57	100
2004-05	15.57	15.57	14.52	93
2005-06	15.57	14.01	11.92	85
2006-07	24.18	21.76	15.41	71
2007-08	24.18	21.76	19.77	91
2008-09	29.24	26.32	25.19	96
2009-10	29.24	26.60	21.97	83
2010-11	29.24	29.24	19.81	68
2011-12	32.30	32.30	23.15	72
2012-13	32.40	21.87	14.72	67

**Note:** The II instalment being released during February/March of the concerned financial year. The unspent balance will be spent for the spillover works during successive year.

**Sectorwise Allocation under “Western Ghat Development Programme for the year 2012-13 in Karnataka State**

**(₹ in lakhs)**

Sl.No	Name of the Sector/Scheme under WGDP	Total Allocation
1	2	3
	<b>A. Management Component</b>	
1	Administrative cost	206.590
2	Monitoring	5.150
	<b>Income generating activities</b>	7.650
	<b>Evaluation</b>	10.790
	<b>B. Preparatory phase</b>	
3	Entry point activities	139.500
4	Institutional & capacity building (Training)/Community organisation	108.815
5	DPR	
	<b>C. Watershed works phase</b>	109.430
6	Agriculture & Soil Conservation works	1195.509
7	Forest	105.430
8	Nursery/PB seedlings	44.295
9	Agro forestry/Social Forestry	174.606
10	Horticulture	301.735
11	Foot bridges/Hanging Bridges/vented dam cum foot bridges/PRED	462.070
	<b>Livelihood activities for asset less persons</b>	108.075
12	Animal husbandry, Supply of Giriraja birds/calves/Development of small animals, Supply of Sewing machines/ Masonry, Fodder, Carpentry kits/Kitchen garden Animal health camp/ Fodder development	94.665
13	Livestock management including Goatry,Piggery, .etc	25.725
	<b>Production system &amp; micro enterprises</b>	52.320
14	Crop diversification, crop demonstration, Nutrition management/ Organic fertiliser etc.	31.075
15	WGDP CELL @ State level	56.570
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3240.000</b>

Districts and taluks covered under Western Ghat Development Programme		
Sl. No	District	Taluk
1.	Belgaum	Bailhongal
		Belgaum.
		Khanapur
		Hukkeri
		Soundathi
2.	Chikmagalur	Chikmagalur
		Mudigere
		Koppa
		N.R.Pura
		Sringeri
3.	Dharwad	Dharwad
4.	Dakshina kannada	Puttur
		Suliya
		Belthangady
5.	Udupi	Karkala
		Udupi
		Kundapura
6.	Hassan	Alur
		Belur
		Hassan
		Sakaleshpur
7.	Kodagu	Madikeri
		Somwarpet
		Virrajpet
8.	Chamarajanagar	Gundlupet
9.	Mysore	H.D.Kote
10.	Shimoga	Sagar
		Hosanagar
		Thirthahalli
		Shikaripura
		Shimoga
11.	Uttara kannada	Karwar
		Ankola
		Bhatkal
		Honnavar
		Kumata
		Siddapura
		Sirsi
		Joida
		Yellapura
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>40</b>