

Orissa Community Tank Management Project (OCTMP)

Government of Orissa in partnership with Government of India has initiated a project to repair and rehabilitate approximately 900 minor irrigation tanks having a command area of 40 ha to 2000 Ha and covering 1.20 lakh ha across the state of Orissa with funding from World Bank. Tank irrigation is one of the oldest methods of irrigation in Orissa. The State has 28,303 tanks approximately, including tanks of the Government and Private Sector (GoI, Minor Irrigation Census, 2001). About 3847 of these tanks are relatively large with an irrigation capacity of 5.69 million hectares. These 3847 tanks irrigate between 40 ha to 2000 ha of land and are managed by the MI Department. The Orissa Community Tank Development and Management Society (OCTDMS) has been formed as a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) under the Department of Water Resources, Government of Orissa and will conceptualize and operationalize the Orissa Community Tank Management Project (OCTMP). The project envisages execution through primary and secondary institutions from the State Project Unit to the Community Level Groups with facilitation of Support Organization.

Project Principle

The key principles underlying project design are

- A decentralized setting where the main tank beneficiaries play a proactive role in planning, implementing and sustaining project interventions.
- The tank system rehabilitation work meets technical quality and safety standards and pays adequate attention to social, environment and fiduciary considerations.
- To improve agricultural productivity and farmer incomes, access to improved agricultural technologies and practices and facilitation of market linkages for agricultural producers, are as important as improving access to water.

Objectives

In consonance with the overall National Framework of GoI, the Orissa Community Tank Management Project (OCTMP) has been conceived with an overarching project objective for selected tank based producers to improve agricultural productivity and water users associations to manage tank systems effectively.

The project design would set its priorities on the following key outputs and outcomes

- Sustainability of the restored systems through community participation and empowerment facilitated by Support Organizations (SO)/ other agencies to have self-supporting groups at the level of water body.
- To create enabling legal and institutional environment to implement the solutions emerging out of participatory and demand driven processes.

- To improve the production and productivity of selected agricultural commodities in tank command area and enhance livelihood options.
- Community contribution to be made compulsory. The suggested extent is about 10 % of the total project cost out of which 5 % may be kind and the remaining cash.
- Although the project will likely to benefit the farmers (land owners) more, however it will include the whole of the tank user community involving other users like landless farm families, livestock owners, fishermen community etc.

Project Components

In order to achieve the project objectives, the project would encompass four main project components as described below:

- ***Institutional Strengthening:*** This would include, inter alia, strengthening of community-based institutions to assume responsibility for the tank system improvement and management, development of human resources and developing mechanisms whereby the needs of the traditionally vulnerable stakeholders can be addressed.
- ***Tank System Improvements:*** This would include physical investment in tank systems. The actual rehabilitation work required would be determined for each tank system individually with an upfront 'Tank Improvement and Management Plan' prepared in consultation with tank users prior to undertaking any investments. In general, interventions are likely to address deficiencies in feeder channels, tank bed and structures, and the water distribution and drainage systems.
- ***Agricultural Livelihoods Support Services:*** This would include promotion of farmer interest groups, agricultural research and extension support through public agencies and private sector providers as appropriate, and facilitation of market linkages for agricultural producers' groups including fisheries and livestock products.
- ***Project Management:*** The objective of this component is to ensure smooth implementation of project activities, monitoring of project implementation progress and outputs/ outcomes achieved, and learning from project experience. Major activities under this component would include: (i) setting up and supporting project management units at the state and district levels, (ii) project MIS, (iii) internal monitoring, evaluation and learning, (iv) services of an external M & E agency to be engaged as consultants for the duration of the project; and (iv) information and communications support

including establishment of project website and documentation of project experience and its dissemination into the wider development community (v) Finance and Procurement.

Scope of the Project

The project will carry out rehabilitation work in about 900 tank systems covering a command area of nearly 1,20,000 hectares, supported with institutional building and agricultural livelihood development in three batches:

Sl. No.	Batch No.	No. of Tank Systems
1	1	300
2	2	300
3	3	300
Total		900