

Multi-stakeholder Workshop Proceedings

15 May 2015



Peri-urban Water Security Project

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SaciWATERS

NWO

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Acknowledgement

These are the proceedings of the multi-stakeholder workshop carried out under a project titled "Climate Policy, Conflicts and Cooperation in Peri-Urban South Asia: Towards Resilient and Water Secure Communities". The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) is supporting the project; thanks are expressed to NWO for the support provided. We would like to express our gratitude to the staff members of South Asian Consortium for Inter-Disciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERS), for the organizational support during the workshop. Lastly, SaciWATERS would like to thank all the participants and the advisory committee members of the project for their insightful contributions during the workshop.

BACKGROUND

South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERS) organized a multi-stakeholder workshop on the subject of periurban water security, conflicts & cooperation on 15th May, 2015 at Hotel Plaza, Hyderabad. The workshop was part of the ongoing project titled "Climate Policy, Conflicts and Cooperation in Peri-Urban South Asia: Towards Resilient and Water Secure Communities", funded by the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) under the Conflict and Cooperation in the Management of Climate Change - Integrated Project initiative. This workshop sought to engage with a critical mass of stakeholders. It sought to foster dialogue among them on issues of peri-urban water security, set a base for research uptake by sharing preliminary project findings with stakeholders and build a commitment to action, and to learn and network with other researchers on similar projects.

INTRODUCTORY SESSION

Ms. Jyoti Nair from SaciWATERS welcomed the participants of the workshop and gave an outline of the project around which the workshop was centered. Further, she introduced Dr. Anamika Barua (Executive Director, SaciWATERS) to set the tone of the discussion. Dr. Barua then explained about the larger theme of the project, Conflict and Cooperation in the Management of Climate Change. She further described the relevance of the theme in the context of the study of peri-urban areas and highlighted the major purposes of the one day workshop, which were:



- To receive feedback on the concepts, methods and preliminary field findings of the project
- To share an interdisciplinary perspective of the project
- To network with relevant resource persons from various departments in the government and across various academic disciplines for the project.

CONCEPTUALIZING CLIMATE CHANGE, PERI-URBAN WATER CONFLICTS, COOPERATION, AND POLICIES: ISSUES AND REFLECTIONS FROM THE CONTEXT OF HYDERABAD AND GURGAON

The session's panelists were introduced and invited by Dr. Anamika Barua.

Panelists:

1. Mr. Sumit Vij, Research Fellow, SaciWATERS
2. Dr. Vishal Narain, Associate Professor, Public Policy and Governance, Management Development Institute (MDI), Gurgaon

3. Dr. Poulomi Banerjee, Senior Research Fellow, SaciWATERS

Mr. Sumit Vij presented an overview of the peri-urban water security research project which is underway in four study sites – Khulna, Bangladesh; Kathmandu, Nepal; Gurgaon and Hyderabad; India. The objective of this research, he mentioned was to influence climate change policies, enhance the resilience of peri-urban communities and provides opportunity for improved livelihoods of the poor, marginalized and women. The research seeks to understand conflicts and cooperation at three levels; beginning with rural-urban conflicts, followed by rural-rural conflicts – including the caste and class issues, and finally the conflicts between users and the State.



Dr. Vishal Narain followed this presentation by describing the scope of the project and discussing some conceptual issues. He also highlighted the challenges faced within peri-urban regions. Dr. Poulomi Banerjee shared the insights on the methods and criteria followed for the selection of the study sites. She also mentioned the expectations from the workshop and how the outputs would support the research.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The discussion saw questions being raised about the methodology and criteria for the selection of the study sites. Further, clarification was sought regarding the processes used for incorporation of climate change drivers within the study. The discussion that followed brought out the specifics of the selection process. There was also discussion on the criteria that can be used to delineate or demarcate peri-urban areas. There is much literature on this aspect; however the debate on demarcation is still ongoing. Dr. Janakarajan mentioned that there might be more value in understanding the process of ‘peripheralization’ around a city, created by urbanization.

For the Hyderabad study site, the area under the jurisdiction of the Hyderabad Municipal Corporation is considered as ‘the city’ and the boundary or the peripheral regions within the Hyderabad Metropolitan Area are considered ‘the peri-urban’ areas. This larger peri-urban region is further divided into three zones. The division is based on nine criteria (a mix of qualitative and quantitative), a few of them being:

- a) Distance from the nearest city/town/ headquarters
- b) Change in occupation

- c) Change in the role of women
- d) The political dynamics
- e) Female education, etc.

Regarding the drivers for climate change, it was observed that there is a need for better identification of indicators. Apart from this, Dr. Suvarna hinted that a complementarity too could arise/be seen in situations of conflicts and/or co-operation. People across class/caste come together based on common goals and concerns. Dialogues and negotiations have been a mode for identifying issues and moving towards cooperation.

PANEL DISCUSSION: SESSION 1 - CONTEXTUALIZING WATER AND LIVELIHOODS IN PERI-URBAN AREAS: THE INTERLINKAGES

The session’s chairperson and panelists were introduced and invited by Ms. Nair.

Chair: S. Janakarajan, Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai

Panelists:

1. Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Executive Director, Institute of Resource Analysis and Policy, Hyderabad
2. Dr. Sucharita Sen, Professor, CSRD, JNU, New Delhi

Dr. Dinesh Kumar emphasized that a characteristic of peri-urban areas is that these are areas of a transition economy. Hence they display both multiethnic and occupational diversity. He mentioned that as cities grow, the existing peri-urban areas would become urban, further converting rural areas to peri-urban.



He also focused on the livelihood benefits within these regions by way of harnessing the different uses of wastewater within geographies and climatic contexts in developing countries. For instance, wastewater is being used for irrigation. He also mentioned

that this type of utilization reduces the pressures on freshwater resources. He shared an aspect related to the exponential growth of wastewater due to the expansion of urban agglomeration, which contributes to regular discharge of wastewater throughout the year.

Dr. Sucharita Sen presented her views on identifying peri-urbanization as a process guided by changes in land use, transitions in employment, fluidity of population and absence of institutions.

To conceptualize peri-urban areas she presented the continuum and discontinuum in population growth. She also shared findings from her research describing the reduced feminization of labor force due to a simultaneous participation of women in higher education and unaccounted for domestic work. She emphasized how scarcity brings out issues of exclusion not only within different classes but also along the lines of caste and gender.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The open session brought about an interesting and provocative discussion surrounding what constitutes peri-urban. It also included how the peri-urbanity influences the possibility of conflicts and cooperation. Further discussion focused on gender issues in the peri-urban interface.

An important point that emerged was how rural-urban transformations bring about changes in gender relations around water, but also within natural resource collection and management practices more broadly. This requires explicit attention to the changing household division of labor around natural resource collection and management, and to processes such as rural-urban migration and the feminization of agriculture. The loss of Common Property Resources (CPRs) in peri-urban contexts has clear implications for women's workload in natural resource collection, and thereby may impact their involvement in other household or productive activities. Though researchers may treat gender as a peripheral issue, it is probably more pivotal in peri-urban contexts, than may be conventionally believed. Several points came up in relation to the use of



wastewater. Dr. Dinesh Kumar mentioned that wastewater is an important ingredient of peri-urban agriculture and represents an aspect of urban-rural water flows that influence livelihoods. Though much has been researched on wastewater with regard to its impacts on livelihood security and health, the social dynamics of conflict and cooperation around its use have

received scant attention, as was emphasized in the subsequent discussions.

Dr. Janakarajan mentioned that it is important to recognize that wastewater is not a homogeneous whole. There are different kinds of wastewater and it cannot be termed “waste”; rather it better be called as “used” water, which often has the potential to be used further. In discussions on wastewater, it is also important to unpack its components and differential implications for agricultural productivity, farm incomes and health. Wastewater irrigation in agriculture provides a way to reuse it. However, there are also temporal dimensions of this use.

For example, farmers report a decline in the productivity of their fields upon utilization of wastewater over a period of 2-3 years, as was pointed out in the discussions that followed.

Water insecurity is a multi-dimensional issue and requires widening our focus to look at water in relation to the broader goals of development such as health, livelihood security or human well-being. It was suggested the team also should look at changing access to and use of water in relation to these goals in peri-urban contexts.

PANEL DISCUSSION: SESSION 2 - CLIMATE CHANGE, URBANIZATION AND WATER: A POLICY PERSPECTIVE

The session's chairperson and panelists were introduced and invited by Ms. Nair.

Chair: C Suvarna IFS, Member Secretary, Telangana state Biodiversity Board

Panelists:

1. Dr. Debolina Kundu , Associate Professor, National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), New Delhi
2. Dr. Srinivas Chary Vedala, Director, Centre for Energy, Environment, Urban Governance and Infrastructure Development, ASCI, Hyderabad

After an introduction and brief overview of the session by Dr. C Suvarna, Dr. Debolina Kundu, in her presentation, highlighted the process of urbanization and the subsequent rise in Census towns, within peri-urban areas. Due to the process of urbanization and increasing pre-urban areas there has been a large-scale utilization of groundwater; this was also validated using NSSO data. Data depicts emerging concerns for the future as an estimated 400 million addition to the labor force is predicted by 2050. Such massive transfer of population from rural to urban spaces, likely to increase pressure on periurban areas, leading to increase in water conflicts due to lack of management, governance and scarcity of resources.



Dr. Srinivas Chary Vedala from his prior discussion with government functionaries of Hyderabad highlighted that the provision of continuous water supply in light of the demographic shift (as a result of urbanization) is a major challenge. He further emphasized envisioning a paradigm shift from the current intermittent water supply to a continuous (24/7) supply. Lessons for this can be drawn from other developing countries, such as Cambodia, Uganda and Philippines, which have

such facilities. His presentation stated that the problems of leakage and wastage in the delivery channels of water, if avoided, could enable systems of continuous water supply. He laid emphasis on ‘fixing the leaking bucket’ approach to solving problems along with a need for a behavioral change among the consumers.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The discussions brought out the issues of migration and quality of life emerging within peri-urban areas. The process of urbanization, Dr. Kundu mentioned, has influenced migration patterns and increased the rural population flow into cities, but sadly migrants are not absorbed into the city’s fabric. For example, it is seen that among the 65 City Development Plans (CDP) that were reviewed only Shimla’s CDP accommodates the interest of the migrants.

Taking forward the discussion, issues of optimization of resources through adequate infrastructure and institutions were raised. To this Dr. Chary pointed out that the previous conception of private market driven solution has not yielded the adequate results. The solution needs to emerge from within the government systems. In the larger sense, equity can only be realized through state actors. However, there is a need for the redesigning of government institutions to adequately handle these growing needs and changes. The problems of leakages and inefficiency would also be part of this redesigning. It would also include efforts to change consumer behavior for improved accountability. Resource optimization can be considered as a distinct possibility when coupled with adequate and equitable pricing, regulations, creation of awareness and changes in operating infrastructure. The drinking water supply discourse needs to be changed, from demand driven to supply driven. With a view to summing up, Dr. Shaleen Singhal appreciated the discussion and the presentations made by Dr. Kundu and Dr. Srinivas. He commented that water issues are not isolated and are closely linked with the markets such as those for real estate, open flouting of regulations and shifting of interests among the different stakeholders present.

BREAKAWAY SESSION

Dr. Vishal Narain oriented the participants of the workshop on breakaway groups and the questions to be discussed by each group respectively.

Group 1: Dr. Shaleen Singhal (Group Chairperson)

Q. How can climate change and water policies address peri-urban water security and build resilience at the communities?

Dr. Singhal summarized the group discussion, highlighting that the problems in the peri-urban areas are to be looked at from a sectoral lens. He mentioned the importance of building resilience of communities to adapt to growing changes within peri-urban regions. The existing institutions

need to be empowered and include within their mandate to manage these areas. He added that there is a requirement for institutions to adapt to the changing needs by giving importance to not only water but other related resources as well. Further the market interests should not be ignored. He mentioned that the 12th five-year plan mentioned the term 'peri-urban' for the first time. This is a positive development; however, there should be a corresponding policy directive to provide required services to these areas.

Group 2: Prof N.C Narayanan (Group Chairperson)

Q. What kinds of peri-urban water conflicts do we expect to intensify in the future? Are these inevitable? Are there any in-built opportunities for cooperation?

Prof N.C Narayanan mentioned three crucial points that emerged from their group discussion. Firstly, he emphasized that the process of peri-urbanization is inevitable and hence conflicts are emerging, some of them due to the lack of governance in peri-urban areas. He further added that there is a need to learn from experiences, multi-stakeholder dialogues and participation. Finally, as industries, real estate companies, and municipal authorities acquire land there is a need to map the number of water sources. This is required to understand the growing dynamics of water markets. Within this context there are also emerging forms of cooperation that can be seen. For example gated communities that have begun to jointly manage their resource for effective utilization. The groups pointed out that the upcoming Land Acquisition Act provides support to the government and the private sector for acquiring agricultural/revenue/common property resources. This then makes process of peripheralization inevitable.



Group 2: Mr. K.J Joy (Group Chairperson)

Q. What are the gender, rights and equity dimensions of peri-urban conflicts?

Mr. Joy shared the discussion points on the dimensions of gender, rights and equity related to the conflicts in peri-urban areas. He said that to understand the conflicts and contests, along with the nature of the resource, we also need to look at the kind of rights people have on these resources. He added that due to changing political power, men tend to develop prominence in negotiations for resources, ruling out women. Looking beyond the issues of water, concentrating on education and livelihoods is equally important. He brought out the significance of citizenship in peri-urban spaces, heterogeneity among women in relation to equity, rights and justice, along with the

hidden role of children who fall out as indirect victims of conflicts. Peri-urban spaces are denied of both the privileges of urban structure and rural settings.

SUMMING UP

Dr. Vishal Narain highlighted the issues that came up in the workshop regarding demarcating and delineating peri-urban spaces, their fluidity due to the evolving new forms of social capital and erosion of the old, and the gendered dimensions of peri-urban spaces. Some of them are elaborated below.

It is important to appreciate the on-going processes of peri-urbanization in the context of the neo-liberal regime post 1991. He spoke of the changing nature and content of urbanization processes that have been deeply impacted by the processes of globalization and liberalization. These processes have created more space for private enterprise with polices, for instance, for the creation of Special Economic Zones and the growth of real estate. This has fundamentally altered the nature of urbanization processes, creating urban agglomerations with pockets of deprivation. There was much discussion in the workshop around the relationship between land use and peri-urban water insecurity.



Land use change is the basic driver of the peri-urbanization process. It is crucial, therefore, to look at the relationship between real estate and water use practices; how changes in the economy brought about by real estate create new demands for water, which in turn creates new contestations and potential for conflict.

Within this discourse, climate change remained somewhat peripheral to the discussions. An important point that was made is that in the project, a direct attribution of conflicts to climate change may not be possible. However, it is more important to recognize climate change as forming the context in which we are studying on-going processes of rural-urban transformations and peripheralization. Climate change should be seen not in isolation but in relation to other stressors (e.g. urbanization) whose impacts it is likely to aggravate. It is also important to distinguish between climate change and variability. One way to look at these issues is to observe our research sites when an extreme or unexpected climatic event happens, how communities respond to these changes and whether these changes create some potential for discord, or foster new forms of cooperation. It is often said that there is a governance lacuna in peri-urban contexts arising from lack of institutional cover. Multiple stakeholder platforms are seen as a way of bridging this gap in peri-urban contexts. However, past experience (e.g. in Chennai) suggests that multi-stakeholder dialogues may not necessarily provide the answer as with time, stakeholders may lose interest in the functioning of these forums.

He reiterated on the discussion on social capital and changing nature of social relationships in peri-urban contexts. Many factors in peri-urban contexts can erode social capital, for instance, migration or the takeover of CPRs that provide social glue. However, several new forms of social capital are also being created, for instance, the nexus between real estate, land mafia, local elite and village leaders that are crucial in shaping the processes of peri-urbanization. These represent emerging forms of cooperation that merit further study and investigation. Lastly, he mentioned that the objective of the research is not to substantiate climate change/ variability occurrence in periurban areas, but lack of policy directive on the threats of climate change in periurban areas.

The workshop provided a good base for research uptake among relevant stakeholders. The emerging findings were shared with relevant stakeholders and provided the basis for raising the level of debate around issues of periurban water insecurity, conflicts and cooperation. Many participants observed that the research had the potential of filling an important research gap in our understanding of periurbanization processes. Thus, the knowledge creation goal of the project was laudable. The workshop also helped the team contextualize the emerging findings with regard to other similar projects underway and gave further leads to the team to follow and build up on.

Dr. Anamika Barua gave a vote of thanks to each of the participants for their valuable contribution to the workshop.

ANNEX 1: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS*

Sr. No.	Name	Designation & Organization
1	Dr. Anandita Sarkar	Assistant Professor, University of Delhi, New Delhi
2	Dr. Debolina Kundu	Associate Professor, National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi
3	Prof. S a	Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai
4	Mr. K J Joy	Senior Fellow, Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM), Pune
5	Dr. N C Narayanan	Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai
6	Dr. Shaleen Singhal	Associate Professor, TERI University, New Delhi
7	Dr. Sucharita Sen	Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
8	Dr. Vishal Narain	Associate Professor, Management Development Institute, New Delhi
9	Dr. C Suvarna	IFS, Member Secretary, Telangana State Biodiversity Board, Govt. of Telangana
10	Dr. M Dinesh Kumar	Executive Director, Institute of Resource Analysis and Policy, Hyderabad
11	Prof. V Srinivas Chary	Director, Center of Energy & Environment, Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad, Govt. of India
12	Prof. Vijay Hari Gopal	University of Hyderabad
13	Dr. N Sai Bhaskar Reddy	Founder & CEO, Geoecology Energy Organization, Hyderabad
14	Mr. Ramasetty Murali	Regional Convener, Freshwater Action Network
15	Mr. Bhupen Mili	Research Scholar, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati
16	Mr. B Vinay Kumar	Osmania University, Hyderabad

* This list does not include the names of participants from SaciWATERS.

ANNEX 2: AGENDA OF THE WORKSHOP

Background:

Climate change and urbanization are major drivers that increasingly shape patterns of water security and insecurity in South Asia. Their combined effects are increasingly being felt in peri-urban areas, which tends to bear the burden of intensifying water and land pressures associated with urbanization. But, even as processes of climate change and urbanization is raising concerns related to water and land security and equitable distribution of scarce natural resources for peri-urban centres, critical knowledge gaps still persist.

About project and Partners:

Climate Policy, Conflicts and Cooperation in Peri-Urban South Asia: Towards Resilient and Water Secure Communities is a collaborative research project undertaken with the award of a Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO) “Science for Global Development (“WOTRO”) grant under its CoCooN – Conflict and Cooperation in the Management of Climate Change – Integrated Project.

Key project partners include:

- Wageningen University, Netherlands
- MetaMeta, Netherlands
- South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies (SaciWATERS), India
- International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), Nepal
- Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM) of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Bangladesh
- Jagrata Juba Shangha (JJS), Bangladesh

Objective of the project:

The objective is to contribute to the improvement of peri urban water security by enhancing community resilience to urbanization and climate change through increased cooperation and reduction of conflicts. It further emphasizes on producing opportunities for improved livelihood for poor, marginalized, and vulnerable groups and resulting in climate-smart water resource and climate change strategies, policies and actions at various levels. The project also focuses on understanding the climate change policies,

Objective of the workshop are to:

- Engage with a critical mass of stakeholders on the theme of project and foster dialogue among them on issues of peri urban security in India.
- Set a base for research uptake by sharing preliminary project findings with stakeholders and build a commitment to action.
- Learn and network with other researchers working in this arena

Schedule of the workshop:

Time	Agenda	Panelists
09:45 am – 10:00 am	Welcome address & opening remarks and purpose of the workshop	Anamika Barua
10:00 am – 10:30 am	Conceptualizing climate change, peri urban water conflicts, cooperation, and policies: Issues and reflections from the context of Hyderabad and Gurgaon	Sumit Vij/ Vishal Narain Poulomi Banerjee
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Q&A on the project	
10:45 am – 11:00 am	Tea Break	
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Panel 1: Chair – S Janakrajan Contextualizing water and livelihoods in periurban areas: the interlinkages	Dinesh Kumar Sucharita Sen
11:30 am – 11:45 am	Open discussion	
11:45 am – 12:15 pm	Panel 2 Chair – C Suvarna IFS Climate change, urbanization and water : a policy perspective	Debolina Kundu Srinivas Chary Vedala
12:15 pm – 12:30 pm	Open discussion	
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 pm – 1:45 pm	Orientation on Break away groups Brief on the topics: Periurban water security, conflicts, emerging cooperation, rights and justice	Vishal Narain
1:45 pm – 2:30 pm	Break away groups (3)	Chair 1: Shaleen Singhal Chair 2: NC Narayan Chair 3: K J Joy
2:30 pm- 2:45 pm	Tea Break	
2:45 pm – 3:45 pm	Reporting back from break – away groups and summing up Group presentations 15 minutes each group (3 groups)	Chairs to take the lead
3:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Summary	Vishal Narain
4:00 pm – 4:05 pm	Vote of thanks and close	Anamika Barua
4:05 pm onwards	High Tea	