

Stakeholder Consultations in Irrigation

The case of Andhra
Pradesh



Andhra Pradesh



- Population 85 Million.
- land Area : 28 million ha.
- 73% of population rural based.
- Area under cultivation 13.04 m.ha.
- Irrigated agriculture - 4.84 m. ha.
- Irrigation forms 40% of state's gross cropped area.
- Irrigated Agriculture - 60% Agrl. Output

AP Background

Distribution of irrigated area

- Small (<1 ha) 27.0%
- Medium (1-2ha) 27.3%
- Large (>2,5 ha) 26.9%

- Irrigation a State Subject.

- Projects classified (ha)

- Minor < 2000 ha (12,264) - 1.30 m.ha
- Medium 2000 – 10,000 ha (75) - 0.34 m.ha
- Major > 10,000 ha (18) - 3.20 m.ha

New leadership

- 1995 New leadership
- Keen on launching innovative approaches.
- Keen on giving an important role to farmers in irrigation as AP is predominantly an agriculture state
- Process of reforms begin in 1996.
- Core group.

Status Of Irrigation Before Reform (1996)

- Poor-performance of Irrigated Agriculture:
- Low Yields and Farmer Incomes
- Inadequate O&M.
- Low irrigation System Performance
- Decline in Irrigated Area.
- Gap in irrigation commands 13-08 lakh Acres.
- Very little participation of farmers in irrigation management..

Stakeholder consultations

- Seminars, Workshops
- Public consultations at the project, district and state level.
- Meetings, discussions with political parties
- Formal and informal interactions.
- Interdepartmental consultations – Revenue, Agriculture, Law, Finance Depts.

Levels of Consultations

Phase of consultations	Steered By	Level of consultation	Stakeholders	Issues
1	CM	Government	Irrigation Revenue and Finance Department	Broad framework of the concept.
2	Consultants	Project level	Farmers and I&CAD	Needs analysis and alternatives
3	Consultants	Project level	Farmers & I&CAD	Identification of key issues.
4	District Collectors	Districts	All departments, ZP General Body meetings	Discussion on white paper.
5	District Collectors	Districts	All Department, ZP General Body meetings, farmer organizations in the district./	Framework for WUAs, alternatives for delineation, functions and roles
6	Government	CM, I&CAD	Irrigation Department engineers, Walamtari	Delineation alternatives, guidelines
7	Government	Districts	Farmers, Mandal level	Delineation process, notification etc.
8	Government	CM, Political Parties	Leaders of all political parties, Press	Draft framework
9	Government	CM, Political Parties	Political Parties, Members of Parliament, Press	Revised Framework.
10	Government	CM, Government level	Law, I&CAD, Revenue, Finance	Draft APFMIS Bill
11	CM	District Level	Farmers' Public meetings	Increase in water charges, formation of water user associations.
12	CM	Government	Revenue, Finance & ICAD	Level of enhancement of water charges.
13	Speaker of the House	Legislative Assembly	Members of Legislative Assembly	Passing of the Bill into an Act.
14	CM	Collectors Conference	District Collectors and All Government departments	Arrangements for elections.
15	I&CAD / FO's	Regular tele & Video conferences	WUA presidents, ICAD, District collectors, Agriculture Department, Revenue Department.	Feedback in meetings. Etc

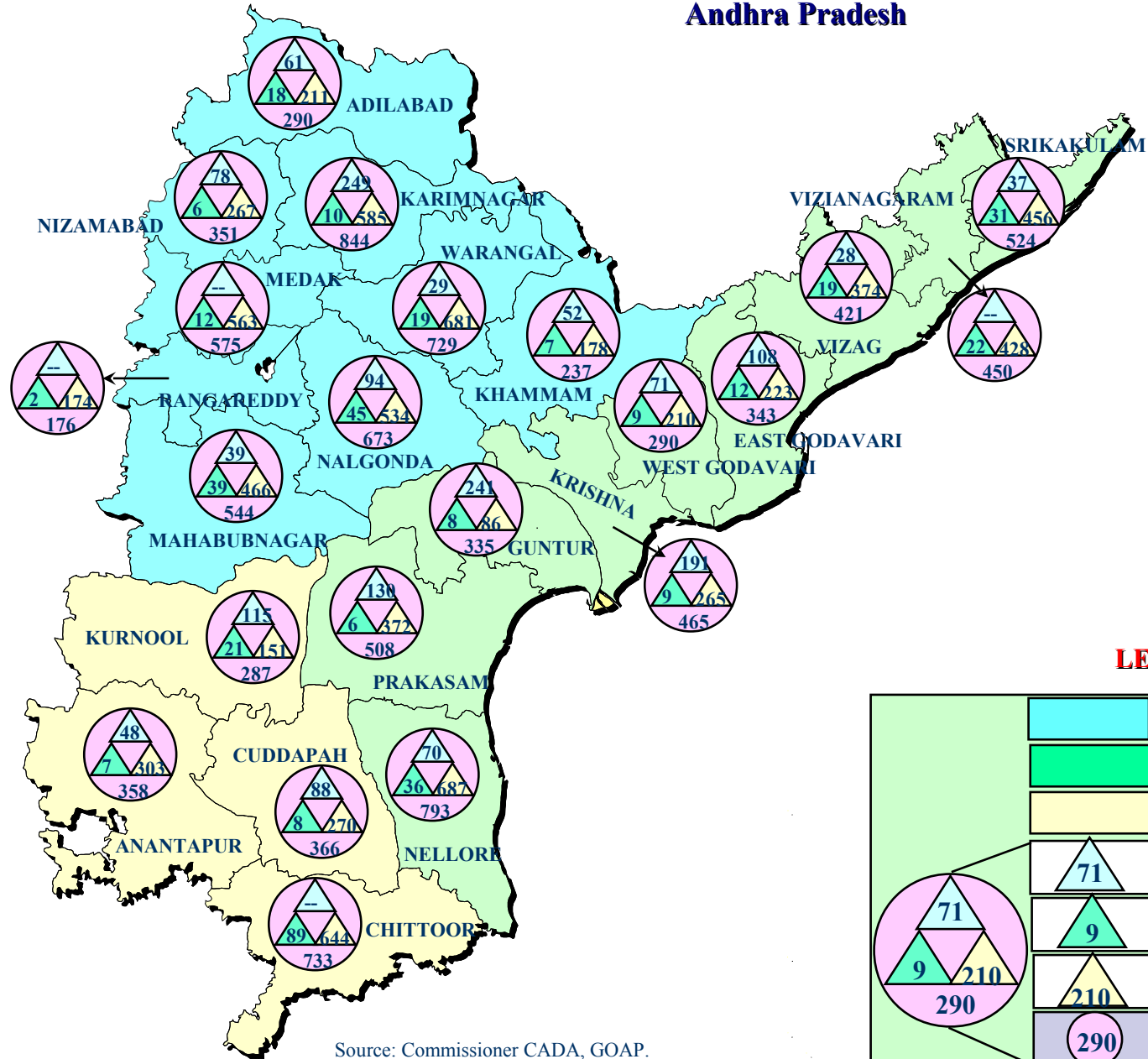
The APFMIS Act - 1997.

- First of its kind in India – detailed rules.
- All farmers are members.
- Recall.
- Dispute resolution by FO's themselves.
- FO's can levy a tax.
- Irrigation agency made the competent authority – for technical advice.
- Five years tenure for FO's.

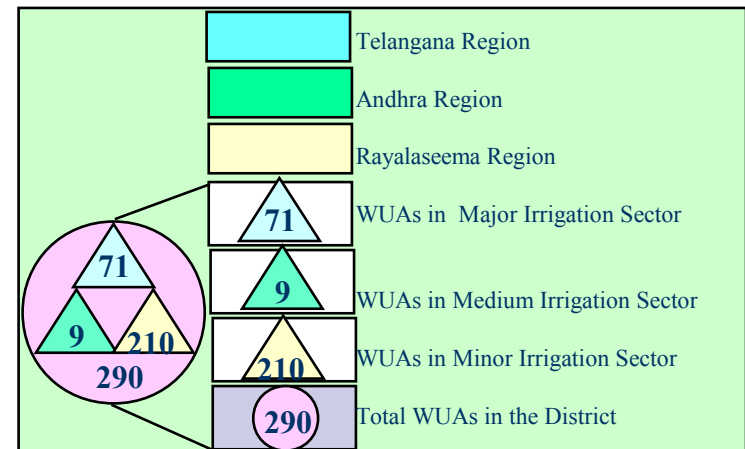
AP Reforms Overview

- APFMIS act 1997
- Management of O&M by WUA in all irrigation systems 4.84 m.ha
- Elections to WUAs – 1997 (10,292)
- Elections to distributory committees 1997 (174)
- Tripling of water charges and linking water charges to O&M of irrigation systems.
- Taking up O&M works by WUAs since 1997 – to date
- Elections to WUAs to be conducted in 2002

Water User Associations (WUA) in Major, Medium & Minor Irrigation Sectors Andhra Pradesh

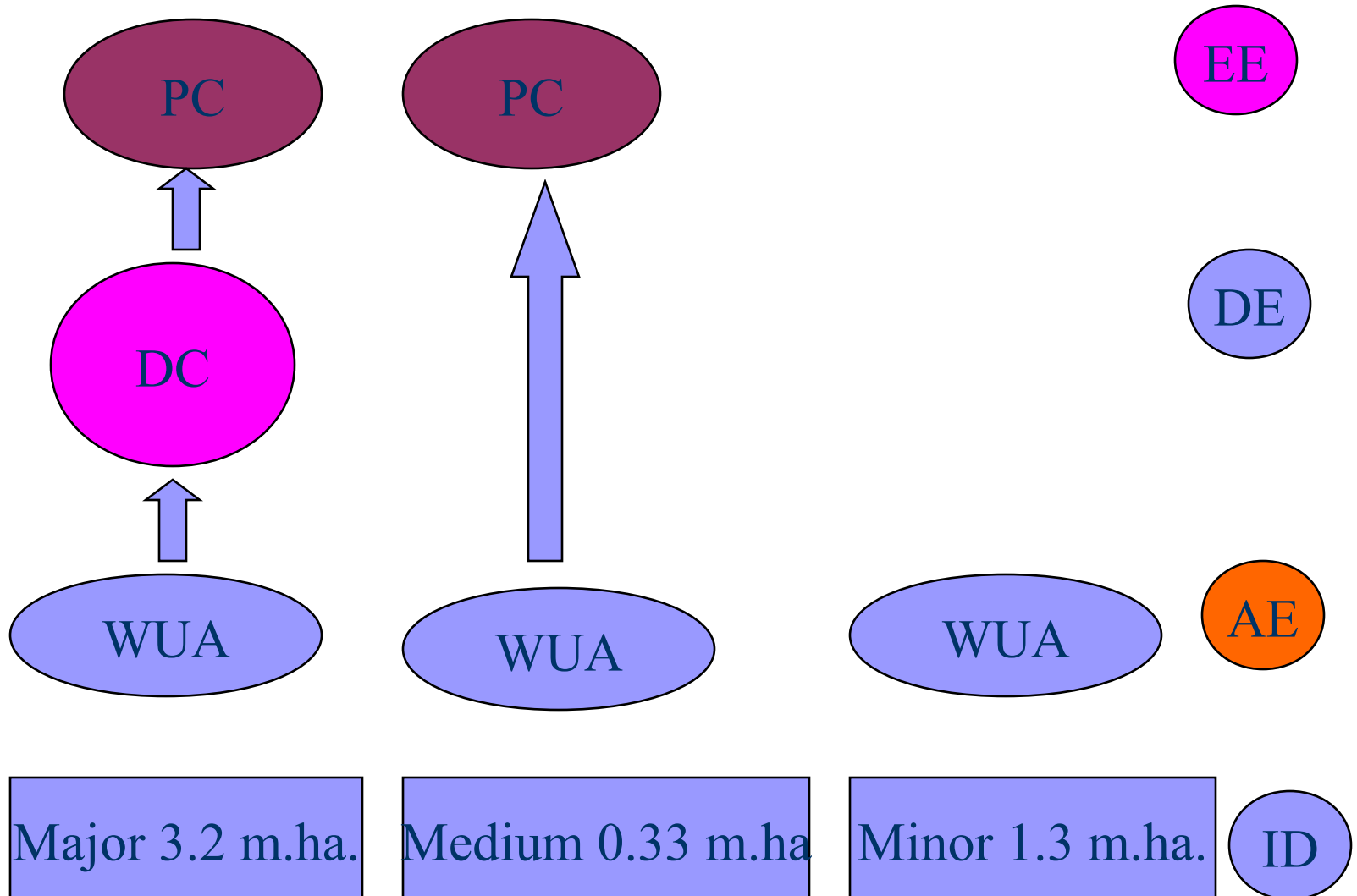


LEGEND



Source: Commissioner CADA, GOAP.

Types of farmers organisations:



Reforms Impacts:

- WUAs - a forum for debate, IDB & Discussion forum
- O&M works cheaper (15-20%)
- Works taken up throughout the command area as opposed to selective reaches under the APERP Project (incremental maintenance) – 40,000 works.
- Bridging Gap areas hitherto lost due to silting and deteriorated conditions of canals and drains.
- Execution of over 2600 minor drains in the delta areas.
- Clashes with fishing rights and usufructs of trees/ grass with local institutions.
- Reorganization of the irrigation Agency to make it more functional – merging parallel agencies, closing redundant units, redeployment of staff etc. Study on Institutional restructuring under way.

Reforms – Key Features

- Dynamic leadership & strong political will
- Committed core group
- Stakeholder consultations.
- Legal framework
- Tripling water charges and linking to O&M
- Linking up AP restructuring project to undertake minimum rehabilitation at US \$ 32 per hectare.