

Exit Protocol

58. The ZP/DRDA, under the guidance of the State Government, will evolve proper exit protocol for the watershed development projects. It will endeavor to motivate Panchayats to take over the assets created in the completed watershed development projects for the purpose of operation and maintenance. The watershed projects should generally be managed by the respective Watershed Associations / Watershed Committees under the overall supervision of the gram Panchayat after the project period is over and after the external supporting agencies have withdrawn. Mechanism of such Exit Protocol should explicitly form part of the watershed development plan. The ZP/DRDA should ensure to include the details of the exit protocol in the watershed development plan. A locally acceptable, proper mechanism for utilisation of watershed development funds for post project maintenance & its regular augmentation should be specified. Equity and sustainability of the benefits of the assets created under the watershed development plan should be clearly spelt out by the PIA before it exits from the area.

Financial Powers

59. While most of the works may be actually executed through the user groups, incurring of expenditure shall be authorized to the extent of Rs. 5000 by the Watershed Secretary, up to Rs. 20,000 by the Watershed Committee and above Rs. 20,000 by the Watershed Committee after specific approval of the concerned technical member of the Watershed Development Team. However, withdrawal of funds from the project A/C shall be only through joint signatures as prescribed earlier & the funds will be entrusted with the Watershed Secretary.

Liaison with Scientific Institutions

60. Most of the problems identified may have simple, straightforward technical solution within the competence of the WDT members. However, in a few cases, there may be need to understand, validate