

UU May 2018 Mission

Meeting: Review of National Water Policy

May 08, 2018

Meeting Notes

Participants:

MUET Team: Bakhshal Lashari (BL), Altaf Siyal (AS), Kamran Ansari (KA), Rakhshanda Bano (RB), Latif Qureshi (LQ), Arjumand Zaidi (AZ), Muhammad Ali (MA), Rasool Bux Mahar (RBM), M. Munir Babar (MMB), Zubair Ahmed (ZA), Uzma Imran (UI), Asmatullah (AT), Waqas Ahmed (WA), Sara Hassan (SA), Naveed Qambrani (NQ), Muhammad Rizwan (MR), Anila Yasmeen (AY), Ayesha Tajamul (AT), Kazi Suleman (KS), Shakeel Shaikh (SS), Tanveer Ahmed (TA), Ghulam Hussain (GH), and Shahid Panhwar (SP)

UU Team: Tariq Banuri (TB), Aslam Chaudhry (AC), Steve Burian (SB), Mike Barber (MB), Tim Edgar (TE), Jeff Ullman (JU), Jennifer Weidhaas (JW), and Mercedes Ward (MW)

Invited Participants: Mushtaq Meerani (MM), Ihsan Leghari (IL), Naveed Iftkhar (NI), Fateh Mari (FM), Abubakar Muhammad (AM)

UU mission along with center's faculty and some water experts made a critical review of the recently-approved National Water Policy (NWP) in a consultative meeting held on 8th May 2018 (Thursday).

At the outset, Dr. Tariq Banuri gave a brief presentation on salient features of the policy and then invited the meeting participants to provide their input on i) gaps & missing elements, ii) research needs, iii) what the center can do for implementation of the policy.

During his presentation he raised following points;

- 1) There is no exclusive discussion on the subject of environment in the policy document.
- 2) This is a fragmented policy with so many duplications in terms of objectives, principles, etc.
- 3) There is a need to map the policy objectives with SDG-6 targets and come up with a strategic framework that can help in implementation of this policy.
- 4) The selected elements of the policy discussed as under;
 - a. Irrigation
 - b. WaSH
 - c. Industry
 - d. Hydropower
 - e. Water rights
 - f. Groundwater

- g. Participation
- h. Flood management
- i. Drought mitigation
- j. Drainage & reclamation
- k. Water quality and
- l. Informatics research

Discussion points are given as under:

Dr. Aslam Chaudhry added the following points:

- 1) Action plan needs to be developed.
- 2) Institutional mapping also needs to be done while identifying the existing conditions and future requirements and actions needed.
- 3) SDG framework is a classical framework to link it with the policy objectives.

Gaps:

- 1) MM: Ambiguity on the major water storage project of Mohmand Dam – this seemed to be altogether new project which had never been heard.
- 2) MM: Ambiguity on drainage projects of RBOD-I, RBOD-II and RBOD-III which are mentioned as new drainage projects – though not new.
- 3) MM: Implementation of the policy lies with the provinces and their capacity is a big issue.
- 4) AC: It is essential to set the targets to work out the investments. Responsibilities of federal and provincial governments are not defined. Gender perspective is completely missing.
- 5) IL: Restructuring of institutional structures and organizations. Climate Change is not appropriately discussed. There is a lot of emphasis on National Drainage Project in the policy and Sindh has reservations on it.
- 6) BL: Coordination mechanism among various departments is missing along with implementation mechanism of research results/findings. Human Resource Development aspect is also completely missing. Water sharing mechanism in between irrigation, drinking water, environment and industry is absent as well.
- 7) SB: There is need of engaging water experts to advice on implementation of the policy at the highest level.
- 8) AS: RBOD-I, II & III projects are already under construction but here given as new projects. NIO is given as to monitor the sea water intrusion only however; there should be other organizations as well. The Policy Steering Committee should also have representation of provinces. There is no regulation for use of water from hill torrents.

- 9) KA: Environmental flows should have been ensured but it is not taken as priority. No agreement discussed with Afghanistan under trans-boundary water related issues.
- 10) NI: It is not known that what was the mindset behind this document as it opens with Disaster Risk Reduction and then irrigation is given on top priority. This needs to be understood.
- 11) NI: Action on policy is required at provincial level but do the provinces have capacity. National Water Council is created to address the provincial issues which reports to CCI – how efficient this council would be! Policy Steering Committee is chaired by Minister of Water Resources – why not to give this role to Deputy Chairman Planning Commission as it is not possible that a minister can spare time to chair such committee due to multi-dimensional nature of tasks. The document also lacks clarity on participation guidelines – is it to follow Public Private Partnership (PPP) laws or some other guidelines.
- 12) FM: Other departments to be involved in the steering committee. PCRWR being a national level organization engaged in water-related research shall be given a key role in the implementation of policy. Federal and provincial level strategic plans shall be developed. CAS-W shall come forward and offer its services to the federal and provincial government.
- 13) TB: A professor of the center shall do a detailed analysis of the policy.
- 14) RB: Glacier management is missing in the policy.
- 15) LQ: The figures of underground water extraction given in the policy are not correct/updated.
- 16) AZ: With regard to low riparian rights, only water quantity is discussed and not the quality. Pollution rights are discussed from irrigation aspects and not for urban water uses.
- 17) MA: Renewable energy is proposed for ground water extraction – which is not a sustainable option. Using Run-off River for energy is ignored.
- 18) ZA:
- 19) RBM: Industry pollutants – who to enforce and implement laws. EPA should be on Policy Steering Committee.
- 20) TB: Mohmand Dam and the RBOD projects are the problematic areas. What if provinces can not complete these RBOD projects!

Research Needs:

- 1) Water pricing
- 2) Unstructured flood mitigation measures.
- 3) Reallocation of water for canal – criteria to be set-up.

- 4) Participation and partnerships – existing situation and their efficiency and the way forward.
- 5) Capacity of water agencies.
- 6) What is the appropriate alternate of flood irrigation?
- 7) Climate Change.
- 8) Desalination of sea water.
- 9) Participatory Irrigation Management – what are the challenges?
- 10) Critical analysis of institutions – capacity needs assessment.
- 11) Business model for alternate water supply management.
- 12) Climatic zoning.
- 13) Storm-water management.
- 14) Industrial research on water consumption and water use.
- 15) Access to safe drinking water.
- 16) Municipal water reuse and WaSH awareness and practices.
- 17) Groundwater management and monitoring.
- 18) Inefficiency in data collection.
- 19) Review of best practices in water policy
- 20) Expert review.
- 21) Allocations of budget for research

WaSH

- 22) Water quality: HH water treatment
- 23) Risk assessment of water borne diseases.

EnvEng

- 24) Suitable sustainable solutions for safe access of water.
- 25) Desalination techniques.
- 26) Water distribution system

HID

- 27) Use of IT for canal monitoring
- 28) Equity among stakeholders
- 29) Groundwater availability
- 30) Institutional structures and challenges in implementation of policies.
- 31) Impact of crop rotation in Kharif season.

32) Exploitation of groundwater.

IWRM

33) Why PIM failed in SIDA

34) Irrigation efficiency: why technology is not adopted.

35) Improved techniques for furrow irrigation.

36) Variation of water flows in climate change

37) Viability of natural lakes on right and left banks of river for water conservation.

Conclusion:

The participants highly appreciated the approval of National Water Policy aimed at addressing all water-related issues effectively. The participants stressed the need for evolving a coherent framework to implement the policy and improve it in future. They welcomed it as the first good attempt by the government to have an NWP.

In the end, Dr. Tariq suggested that the faculty of the center should identify research questions based on the existing work and also unlocked new research areas. Further he advised that faculty should develop inter-disciplinary projects as per needs of the industry.

It was also suggested to link individual research goals with the SDG-6 targets and the water policy objectives.

Dr. Aslam stated that we need to understand the existing situation of research. He suggested that the research groups of the center shall produce status report on existing situation of research and link it with their existing research maps.

Dr. Steve added that the HID and IWRM groups should also look into the flagship project: Indus Basin DSS questions while formulating their research questions.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks.