**WELCOME**

**WATER USERS ASSOCIATIONS**

&

**POWER SECTOR**

Akkineni Bhavani Prasad  
Vice President  
Federation of Farmers Associations

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**IRRIGATED AREA**

Gross Cropped Area : 127.6 Lakhs Hectares

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>By canals</td>
<td>15.6 Lakh hectares</td>
<td>12.1 Lakh hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>By Tanks</td>
<td>5.7 Lakh hectares</td>
<td>4.2 Lakh hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Tube wells and Open Wells</td>
<td>19.3 Lakh hectares</td>
<td>18.4 Lakh hectares</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>40.6 Lakh hectares</strong></td>
<td><strong>34.7 Lakh hectares</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH:
IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT

The A.P. Farmers Management of Irrigation System Act Came into Operation : Act 11 of 1997

June 1997 : Elections were held for 10,292 Water Users Associations by direct Election.

November 1997 : Indirect Elections were conducted for 174 Distributory Committees

Terms of office : 5 Years

FOLLOW UP ACTIONS & RESULTS

- The Project Committees were not formed as envisaged in the Act.
- Only one Training Programme is conducted at District Level.
- No. Social Audit is conducted.
- No. Annual Audit is Conducted in respect of the Accounts of around 30 to 35% of the W.U.A.s and Distributory committees
- Water Cess is collected by the Revenue Dept. and Funds for the works were released from the State Budget.
- No Crop Planning is carried out.
- No Operational Plans were prepared at Project Level or any other level.
- No water budgeting or ‘WARABANDHI’ system is followed.
**APERP FUNDS**

A.P. ECONOMIC RESTRUCTURING PROJECT FUNDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>NUMBER OF WORKS COMPLETED</th>
<th>VALUE OF WORKS DONE (RS. CRORES)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1998-99</td>
<td>21,406</td>
<td>117.56 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>17,186</td>
<td>136.70 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>6,768 (147 Tanks)</td>
<td>98.940 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>6,100 (1,144 Tanks)</td>
<td>112.81 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>820 (1,703 Tanks)</td>
<td>119.53 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>17,209</td>
<td>139.591 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>19.250 Crores</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upto6/2004</td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL 744.381 Crores</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**PRESENT SITUATION**

a. The term of Office in respect of the Water User Associations and the Distributory Committees for which election were conducted in June and November 1997 has been completed in 2002 itself.

b. The previous Government has conducted elections for the Water User Associations in 13 Districts only.

c. The present Government has declared that they will complete the process of elections in the remaining 9 Districts of the State for the Water User Associations and the Distributory Committees.
WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

a. Once the elections are over for the Water User Associations and the Distributory Committees, the Project level committees are to be formed.

b. Intensive awareness and training programme are to be conducted for the elected members of these farmers organizations, so that, they are fully familiarized with the responsibilities and the functions of their organization - Water User Associations / Distributory Committees / Project Committees.

c. Similarly, the Irrigation engineers and the staff are to be given training in the preparation of operational plans, Water budgeting and Warabandi system.

d. The members of the elected representatives of the Water User Associations may be sent for a field visit to some of the successfully run Water User Associations in the previous tenure to get a first hand knowledge on their functions and responsibilities.

ROLE OF FEDERATION OF FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS, AP

1. Federation of Farmers Associations being a non political organization and committed to the welfare and betterment of the Agriculture Sector and the farming community, is the right organization to be associated with the activities of the Water User Associations, Distributory Committees and Project Committees.

2. The Federation of Farmers Associations will be able to undertake the social engineering aspect to each a level of these farmers organizations.

3. Federation of Farmers Associations can act as a facilitator to coordinate the farmers, Agricultural Officers, Irrigation authorities and others to plan a cropping pattern and provide the farmers with all the necessary information with regard to crop management etc.

4. Federation of Farmers Associations will be able to disseminate the information with regard to the marketing of the produce and steps to be followed in the Post Harvesting Season, so that, they can get a fair price for their produce.
5. The farmers organizations (WATER USER ASSOCIATIONS etc) will be monitored for the following:
   a. Proper maintenance of the records - particulars of the Members, Timely conducting of meetings and decisions are made on participatory process.
   b. Proper maintenance of financial books and accounts.
   c. Annual Audit of Accounts and presenting annual report to the general body.
   d. To ensure social audit for each organization. The social audit shall cover
      - Equity in water distribution
      - Proper Crop Planning
      - Increasing Productivity and Production
      - Crop diversification
      - Water use efficiency etc.,

6. To ensure the proper maintenance of all the structures including canals and drains under the area of operation of each Farmers Organization.

7. In monitoring and evaluation of each farmers organization.

8. In order to ensure desired result, FFA, Govt. of AP, Farmers Organizations and Funding Institutions must sit together and plan the action.

Note: A detailed review of the situation in respect of Water User Associations Act of 1997 is enclosed along with a proposed ad-hoc budget. In case, if our proposal is accepted in principle, we may have to sit together with Government of AP and funding agency (World Bank) to work out a detailed project report along with Budget.
## STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL POWER CONNECTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Sets (Lakhs)</th>
<th>Agri-Sector energy consumed (MU)</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1996-1997</td>
<td>18.21</td>
<td>7,835</td>
<td>Result of superficial energy audit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997-1998</td>
<td>18.24</td>
<td>9,336</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-1999</td>
<td>18.84</td>
<td>9,554</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999-2000</td>
<td>19.32</td>
<td>10,222</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-2001</td>
<td>19.39</td>
<td>11,071</td>
<td>Trauco quoted values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001-2002</td>
<td>21.56</td>
<td>9,815</td>
<td>ERC Allowed Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>21.23</td>
<td>9,936</td>
<td>ERC Directed Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td>20.04</td>
<td>12,237</td>
<td>ERC Directed Value</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
<td>23.39</td>
<td>11,450</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: AP Trauco
### Status of Agricultural Pump Sets in the State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of pump sets (as per AP Transco &amp; the utilities)</td>
<td>23.04 lakhs (Regular)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.0 lakhs (Unauthorized as claimed by utilities)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Consumed</td>
<td>12,237 million units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average horse power of a pump set</td>
<td>4.85 Hp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area irrigated by the pump sets</td>
<td>47 lakh acres includes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.80 lakh acres irrigated by I.I Schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or 19.3 Lakh Hect.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

But according to farmers organizations in the state, the total number of pump sets operated stands around 17 lakhs only. Out of this 15-20% of the pump sets are not operated for reasons of dried up bore wells or lowering of the ground water table.

As per AP Transco & Utilities the total Hp used

\[ = \frac{23,044\text{ lakhs} \times 4.85\text{ Hp}}{1,174,400\text{ Hp}} \]

\[ = 0.35\text{ acre or 35 Cents} \]

Area of land covered per Hp

(Now abouf?) 13

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### Status of Lift Irrigation Schemes in the State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of Lift Irrigation Schemes</td>
<td>1327 (approximate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area irrigated by these schemes</td>
<td>5.80 lakh acres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proposed number of hours energy supply</td>
<td>16 hours per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actual number of hours energy supplied</td>
<td>7 to 9 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of schemes became defunct</td>
<td>579 Nos. (approximate)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The schemes are covered under "H.T. Category-IV (B)-Agricultural" by APERC
- A flat rate tariff of the Rs. 430 per Hp/annum on the contracted load is charged.
  Metered tariff is optional @ Rs. 0.35 paise per unit subject to a minimum of Rs. 300 per Hp per Year of contracted load.
- During the years 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 50% of the L.I. Schemes could not function due to prevailing drought condition in the State and no crop could be raised by the farmers.
INFERENCES

- Agricultural Energy Consumption as given by the DISCOMS is only an estimated figure basing on the number of pumpsets energized.
- Inspite of clear orders of APERC, the DISCOMS are not in a position to give the number of pumpsets actually working.
- The DISCOMS are adjusting their Energy Balance by adding the commercial losses & the reduced T & D losses to the Agriculture Sector, since there is no metering system for the Agriculture Sector.
- The Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has failed to evolve a policy for writing-off the bills raised against the defunct Lift Irrigation Schemes (LIS) & Schemes under which no crop is raised for Two Successive crop seasons & More.

SURVEY OF A SUB-STATION:

MAIN OBSERVATIONS

1. The substation, the distributory transformers and the lines needs lot of improvements.
2. On an average, one Horse power is irrigating a land 1.4 acres which is quite normal.
3. The overall efficiency of the pump sets is observed as 19% only as against 45 to 50%.
4. The efficiency of Electric motors is observed as 60-65% only as against 74%.
MAIN OBSERVATIONS

5. As per the original understanding, the substation is supposed to be handed over to FFA for the operation and maintenance purpose so that, the actual agricultural energy consumed is properly accounted for and also to plan a proper cropping system in the area. But the DISCOM is taking an attitude of non-co-operation.

6. The survey is conducted during the peak summer months of April, May and June, but did not find a single transformer failure.

7. It is observed that the outgoing metered energy is much more than the Incoming energy at substation level.

8. The energy balance submitted on weekly basis includes specific figures of energy consumption on feeders which have no metering facility.

FREE POWER

- Govt. of Andhra Pradesh has declared supply of FREE POWER to the Agriculture Sector and also to write-off the arrears amounting to Rs.11,79 crores.

The Step is hailed by one and all as the farmers are facing drought situation in the last three years and a positive relief is given by the Government.

- The farmer is investing an amount of Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 1 lakh to dig a bore well and to have a power connection i.e., the total investment by the farmers stands around Rs. 13,824 Crores taking into consideration that the number of pump sets existing as 23.04 Lakhs and the cost is taken as Rs.60,000/- per pumpset. The Agricultural produce coming out of these lands is contributing to the GSDP of the State in addition to providing significant rural employment.
FREE POWER

- There is a hue and cry that the farmers will exploit the ground water to a larger extent and there by power is wasted. The water level depletion is of local phenomena. The farmers were never trained in recharging the bore wells from the rainfed water. The rainfall will be experienced on few occasions and lot of water will be run-off. We would like to inform that no farmer will unnecessarily draw water and waste the same as the farmers are fully aware of the importance of water for their irrigation needs.

- AP TRANSCO is advising the farmers not to go for Paddy cultivation under bore-wells. Here I would like to inform that the farmers would be happy to raise Irrigated Dry Crops provided the Government comes forward with marketing facility for the ID crops as is being done in the case of Paddy.

FREE POWER

- But, today whatever the enhanced consumption shown by DISCOMs against agricultural sector is nothing but commercial theft of energy

- There is lot of talk about unauthorized agricultural connections. We wonder as how a farmer could take an unauthorized connection without the knowledge of the energy departmental officials.

- Citizen’s Charter as published by AP TRANSCO - Discoms remained only on paper but not passed on to the consumers.
CONTROLLING OF UN-AUTHORIZED CONNECTIONS

- The Agriculture Sector Energy Consumption must be metered and the meter readings are recorded in presence of our representative.

- Quality of Electricity Supply with proper Voltage & Frequency must be ensured for at least 12 hours a day.

- Citizens Charter must be implemented with accountability for each level of management.

- Farmers Representatives must find a place at all levels of management.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE OF ELECTRICITY SECTOR IN ANDHRA PRADESH

1. As a sequence of reforms introduced in the Electricity sector, APSEB has been divided into APGENCO, AP TRANCO and 4 UTILITIES.

2. The affairs of APSEB were carried out by about 5 members including a Chairman till 96-97.

3. Consequent on bifurcation into AP GENCO, AP TRANSCO and 4 UTILITIES, a total number of about 27 Directors are looking after the Management.
4. Though the Electricity sector is brought into corporate culture, CORPORATE GOVERNANCE is yet to be implemented.

All the Directors are brought on promotion from their Engineering Faculty and many of them were continued for years and years even after their superannuation.

This has led to a sort of non incentive to the efficient juniors, lethargy and unaccountability has crept in to the Managerial system.

5. It is suggested that the Board of Directors of these companies must be filled from various groups of the consumers (say from institutions like independent farmers organizations, CII and FICCI etc).

6. Accountability for each Managing Committee Member and staff should be the top priority.

7. Citizens Charter should be broadly propagated among the consumers and implemented.

8. Participation of Stakeholders in the management affairs of the system must be adopted.

9. No long term policy for Electricity Tariff in the State is envisaged.

10. It has appeared in a section of the Press suggesting review of the Private Power Purchase Agreement, so that, the TRANSCO can get a benefit of Rs. 441 Crores, as was reported in a section of the press sometime ago.
PROPOSAL FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE WORLD BANK

FFA, AP proposes to undertake the operation and maintenance of Pedapulivarru Sub-Station, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh which is under the administrative control of the Southern Power DISCOM Limited, Tirupathi provided the Government of Andhra Pradesh and World Bank comes forward to assist the project.

Federation of Farmers Associations will work for the following:

1. To account for the actual power utilization in respect of the pump sets located in the sub-station area.
2. To improve the efficient use of ground water by the farmers.
3. To educate the farmers with regard to the maintenance and operation of the motor pump sets in a scientific manner.
4. To plan a proper cropping pattern in the area.
5. To organize the farmers for effectively utilizing the systems for the advantage of both the farmers and the Government.
6. To organize the farmers for collective action in procuring the inputs and selling the agriculture produce in the market yards or by undertaking exports by themselves.

JAI KISAN