



INDIA

Rajasthan Drought Management Programmes

Disaster Context

Drought is a recurrent phenomenon in India. Therefore, drought is one of the focus areas of the 2003-2007 Government of India-UNDP Country Cooperation Framework. In response to recent droughts in Rajasthan, UNDP has been supporting state government efforts to strengthen its coordination systems and revive traditional water harvesting structures.

Rajasthan has faced 84 droughts in the last 100 years, including five from 1997 to 2002. All 32 districts of the state are affected and are currently suffering from sharp depletion of ground water and damage to the livelihood and animal husbandry sectors. In order to provide relief to the affected communities and to strengthen the coordination mechanism among the agencies involved in the drought mitigation framework, UNDP has started multi-focus interventions in selected districts covering both short-term and long-term interventions.

In order to tackle the problem of drought at the national level and support the Government of India's Ministry of Agriculture in promoting a unified and efficient drought strategy, UNDP is developing a Disaster Risk Management Programme focusing on slow-onset disasters. The project proposes to consider drought as a complex phenomenon, where both analysis of different climate aspects and reduction of the vulnerability of communities will play a crucial role. This project is under formulation.

Project Titles

- Rajasthan Coordination (IND/99/914)
- Drought Mitigation in Rajasthan (IND/01/010)
- Rajasthan Drought Recovery Programme (IND/02/009)
- Disaster Risk Management Programme - Slow Disasters

Sectors

- Drought mitigation strategies

- Awareness raising
- Community-based drought proofing
- Coordination

Funding

UNDP contributed \$130,000 from TRAC 1.1.3 funds.

Partners

- Health, Environment and Development Consortium
- Association for Rural Advancement Through Voluntary Action and Local Involvement

Project Activities

- Production of public-awareness material on water management for dissemination in schools and public buildings
- Organisation of district-level coordination meetings among NGOs, government officials, and agencies involved in order to facilitate the information-sharing process and the coordination of relief interventions
- Preparation of community-based drought proofing plans for affected communities
- Rejuvenation of traditional rainwater harvesting structures
- Support to the livelihood and animal husbandry sectors through employment generation and establishment of cattle camps