

➤ **CSOs Consultation on Collaborative Efforts towards addressing Water Crisis and Scarcity in Jharkhand on 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep, 2023:**

A two-day consultation meet of CSOs from across the state of Jharkhand was organised at Hotel Maplewood, Ranchi to reflect on the deepening Water Crisis and Management in context of Jharkhand. Setting the context and welcoming all, Ms. Suchita, welcomed all the guests and after a brief introduction by participants the session was initiated. For setting the context she invited Mr. Krishnakant, Mr. Dheeraj, Mr. Ghanshayam and Mr. Balram for deliberation on this topic of vital importance.

Importance of water in present times, its scarcity at local, national and international level and its serious implications on livelihood, lives and well-being of people across the globe were discussed in due course. Balram ji further added that water is that natural resource that neither increases or decreases just changes its face. Water Cycle when disturbed leads to water crisis, the situation that we are facing currently. Water is the subject of fights and disputes in the present times. With increased levels of seas and rivers, many cities are in the threat of getting submerged. Also the changing climatic conditions lead to erratic and untimely rainfall. We



need to curtail our water usage and see that water fit for drinking must not be used for other purposes. Deep boring is leading to non-recharge of ground water and hence the situation is aggravated.

Another point highlighted in due course of deliberation was that agriculture has led to the creation of many dams which in real sense is a threat to agriculture. Pattern of fooding has changed in present times and mono cropping is the present day trend. Even in Jharkhand 40% of land is now only producing rice, which fails at times and leads to food insecurity. It was analysed in a study that urbanization has 6 to 7 times more water usage and people do not take steps to conserve water. But now people and administration has awakened and people are taking steps to harvest the rain water in towns and cities too. It is indeed a pity that ponds are dried to acquire land for construction. Rivers too have a

poor state of affairs now. We are focussing more on water withdrawal while less importance is being given to water recharge, storage and conservation. Priority setting of interventions, way of action in association with local institutions was elaborated in the workshop

In the proposed way forward it was anticipated that in the coming times. the challenge of water crisis management will increase. Advocacy to start at grassroots level and also policy level. Organizations should not work as implementing agency but as an empowering organization. At grassroots level strengthen Gram Sabha, the community and women. Empower women and provide them with active and equal participation.

Work towards self-sufficiency in water management. To strengthen the state, utilize the resources given by nature and handed down by our ancestors. There is a need to preserve our resources as we have to hand it over to the future generations. Save forests. We have a history of 4000 years of conservation. Do good work and give a message that it can be done. Prepare a plan for the next 1 – 2 years. Also prepare short term, medium term and long-term plans. CSOs can collaborate with govt to facilitate trainings in districts where they are working.

Community cannot be left alone. In the rural community there is a tradition of worshipping fields, animals, etc. These traditions and festivals teach us how much we should take from nature and when. This tradition is breaking now. There is a need to acknowledge this traditional knowledge. The forests are dependent on ecology. We need to understand that if one insect dies what would its impact be on the forest. Leave forests alone. Seeding is done by birds and animals. They will rejuvenate themselves.