

Civil Society and NRM

Definition

CSOs are those informal, semiformal or formal organisational formations that protect, promote and facilitate the principles and practice of democracy, participation, pluralism, rights, equity, justice and peace among people locally, nationally and internationally

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Role of CSOs – in the light of changing discourse on politics, development and governance. The emerging trends are:

- Deficit of democracy and erosion of rights
- Saturation of the state and crisis in governance
- Marketisation of politics and development
- Competing fundamentalisms and identity politics
- Conflicts over resources and market

Civil Society and NRM

NRM activities and civil society

- Watershed programmes
- JFM
- Revival or creating drinking and irrigation water facilities
- Technology for better NRM
- Irrigation (PIM)

Civil Society and NRM

- NGOs
- Advocacy organisations – movement
- Advocacy based on research and analysis (studies)
- Movements against the state
- Different partnerships where donors are also party
- Membership based
- Corporate-NGO-Community partnership

Irrigation Management

- Failure of technocratic solutions – modernisation and rehabilitation (top-down, blue-print)
 - Cost recovery of large scale project investments
 - Failures of economic water pricing system
 - Absence of the user in the configuration of players
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- Enabling role of the CSOs to strengthen the system and the existing institutions – FOs and Ids
 - Recasting of existing institutions

Participatory Irrigation Management

- Early 1990s PIM emerged alongwith other NRM programmes – national participatory watershed dev., Integrated wasteland development programmes
- CSOs as innovators/catalysts – to re-cast the roles of the farmer organisations and the irrigation department
- NGOs are often mandated by the community to work for broader development goals and irrigation is a means

Participatory Irrigation Management

- NGOs have demonstrated capacity to innovate and experiment & also to partner with policy making bodies with the government
- Contribution of NGOs in significant manner in influencing policies – introduction of PIM in AP and Gujarat states e.g AKRSP and the DSC
- Strength of CSO matching opportunity in PIM
- Formal recognition of their rights, roles and responsibilities in developing and management of NR through policy declarations – right step

Pre-conditions of success of NGOs in NRM

- Greater clarity in relations between NGOs and local groups
- Labour availability and income generation
- Advocacy and the power to influence
- Upgrading of technical skills

Weaknesses of NGOs in NRM

- Lack of ability to identify and address the processes and relationships underlying rural poverty
- Lack of ability to exploit opportunities to influence government
- Lack of ability to link groups to market channels
- Poor pre-project appraisal, monitoring and evaluation
- Lack of evidence of cost effectiveness (no process documentation)