

**Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India**

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Subject: Call for information on Best Water Saving Practices in Agricultural Water Use for Selected Crops

Dear Friends,

The Society for Promoting Participative Ecosystem Management (SOPPECOM) is a non-profit, non-governmental organisation working in the area of Natural Resource Management (NRM), primarily in rural areas. Within the broad spectrum of rural livelihood issues, water resource management, along with land, biomass and renewable energy, forms the core of SOPPECOM's concerns. In its initial phase it piloted various action research programmes around sustainable use of land and water, low external input cropping practices, alternative technology for buildings and water storage structures that have helped develop broad norms for equitable access to resources and their sustainable use. Since 2004, SOPPECOM has played the role of anchoring the 'Forum for Policy Dialogue on Water Conflicts in India', henceforth 'Forum', which is a loose network of individuals and organisations working on issues related to water conflicts in India. More on the Forum and SOPPECOM can be found on their respective websites at [www.waterconflictforum.org](http://www.waterconflictforum.org) and [www.soppecom.org](http://www.soppecom.org)

The Forum has currently undertaken thematic activities in the Mahanadi basin, one of which is 'Conflicts around Industrial-Agricultural water allocations'. Allocations are crucially influenced by water requirement norms and practices. As part of this theme we are studying cropping practices in the Mahanadi Basin (i.e. Chhattisgarh and Odisha) and exploring water saving practices available for the major crops in the basin, namely, rice, wheat, moong, urad, gram, groundnut, mustard, sugarcane, potato. We invite you to send us any information you may have with respect to water saving practices for these crops, not necessarily from the Mahanadi basin. We would request you to include a) brief description of the practice, (including as many salient points as possible), b) the place/institution where you know it is being practised and c) source of further information about it. This will help us build a roster of practices from which we would later pick some of the promising ones for further study and dissemination. We would also very much appreciate it if you could pass this mail on to people within your networks who may know more about such best practices. If there are relevant experts who you know of, please do suggest their names so we could consult with them in respect of the practice(s).

Sincerely

SuhasParanjape, K J Joy and Craig Dsouza,  
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(SOPPECOM)