

# S I D

## Society for International Development



Chapter Bonn

### **Vorlese zum 17. Gespräch mit der Praxis am 27.11. 2017**

**Watershed Organisation Trust (WOTR)** ist eine international anerkannte indische NRO, die von 1993 bis 2007 als Durchführungsorganisation des Indo-German-Watershed-Management Projects der staatlichen deutschen EZ fungierte. Ziel von WOTR ist die Regenerierung der natürlichen Ressourcen eines Wassereinzugsgebietes und die dauerhafte Verbesserung der Lebensbedingungen der dort lebenden Menschen. Mit einem speziellen partizipatorischen Ansatz, der alle Dorfbewohner einbezieht, werden 'village associations' gebildet, welche die Maßnahmen zur Zurückhaltung des Monsun-Regenwassers verantwortlich organisieren und die Erhaltung von Querrinnen, Dämmen, Wasserspeichern usw. sichern. Auf diese Weise wurden bisher - inzwischen auch finanziert von Unions- und Landesregierungen - etwa 9000 km<sup>2</sup> Land in semi-ariden Gebieten in „blühende Landschaften“ verwandelt und ca. 1,4 Millionen Menschen direkt oder indirekt erreicht. Über 385.000 Menschen aus Indien und 63 anderen Ländern haben an Trainingsprogrammen und Maßnahmen zum Capacity Building teilgenommen.

WOTR hat den Tätigkeitsbereich - durch deutsche Nichtregierungsorganisationen gefördert – kontinuierlich ausgeweitet, u.a. auf Mikrofinanzwesen, Gesundheit und Ernährung, insbesondere für Mütter, und auf die Bekämpfung von Abtreibungen weiblicher Föten (Programm "Save the Girl Child"). Gefördert von der Schweizer SDC hat WOTR in den letzten Jahren auf Dorf- und Farmebene in Zusammenarbeit mit dem India Meteorological Department, Universitätsinstituten, Privatunternehmen, landwirtschaftlichen Beratungsdiensten und lokalen Institutionen ein innovatives, computergestütztes Mess- und Beratungssystem für klimaangepasste Landwirtschaft aufgebaut. Derzeit ist WOTR Partner von BMZ/GIZ in einem Programm zur Bodenverbesserung.

Die Projektgebiete und das Trainingsinstitut in Maharashtra wurden u.a. von Bundespräsident Köhler und einer Reihe von Ministern und Abgeordneten besucht. WOTR hat zahlreiche Auszeichnungen erhalten, zuletzt den UNCCD "Land for Life Award 2017".

Dr. Marcella d'Souza und Crispino Lobo haben das Mid-Career Master Studium der Harvard Kennedy School absolviert.

(KvdS)

## **Enough Water is Not Enough: The Role of Institutions in a Multi-Stakeholder Approach to Sustainable Agriculture**

### ***Water as Development***

1. In farming systems that depend upon seasonal monsoon rainfall and ground water for purposes of irrigation, the challenge is not only to harvest and store on the surface and underground as much rain water as possible (whenever and wherever it falls), but also to ensure it is used efficiently and equitably. We thus need to look at both the supply side and the demand or use side of water management.
2. While **supply side management** (or rain water harvesting) is relatively easier to achieve, **demand side management**, however, is a lot more complicated. It involves, amongst others, undertaking Water Balance Assessments and Water Budgeting, adopting appropriate cropping patterns, efficient water use practices and putting in place regulatory and governance mechanisms that ensure rational and equitable use of water resources.

### ***Rainfed/ Dryland Agriculture as the Engine for Rural Growth***

3. While the chemical intensive, irrigation-dependent “green revolution” yields are plateauing and even declining across India, rainfed or dryland agriculture is now being looked at as the “brown revolution” to feed India’s growing population and as a driver of rural development. But the productivity of rainfed agriculture is low. And the bulk of the poor live in the drylands of India.
4. Making rainfed farming systems remunerative and sustainable will require, amongst others, upgrading the knowledge and technical skills of farmers, introducing affordable productivity enhancing technologies; promoting scientifically validated low external input technologies and crop management practices, progressively improving soil health and market access and building resilience to climate-induced risks.

### ***The Institutional Challenge***

5. Climate change, market forces and rising “quality of life” expectations of a growing population are further intensifying the problems facing the water and agricultural sectors. Addressing these challenges requires that science, policy, governance and practice come together across all related levels. Stakeholders, especially the primary stakeholders, must incentivise cognitive, attitudinal and behavioural changes that facilitate the conservation and the optimal use of resources.
6. This presentation will share how WOTR is trying to bring about such an enabling alignment for positive behavioural change in regard to water and agricultural management at the local level that can be up-scaled. The presentation will share the difficulties faced, solutions that have evolved and challenges that remain.
7. It will outline the pathways adopted, namely, (i) rigorous science-based applied transdisciplinary research that is embedded in on-going developmental initiatives and which is focussed on inputting grounded insights in to the policy, program design

and capacity building processes at the national and state levels; (ii) innovatively engaging with and partnering key institutional stakeholders across levels, namely, academic and research, governance and policy making, financial, implementation and extension services in order to leverage synergies and mobilise resources and “buy-in”; (iii) dissemination of learnings, experiences and skills through media, knowledge and capacity building events.

8. These issues will be discussed in the context of 2 key programmatic initiatives that WOTR has been implementing since some years now in rural India, namely, (1) Water Budgeting and Water Stewardship; and (2) Adaptive Sustainable Agriculture both of which are being piloted and steered by the WOTR Centre for Resilience Studies (W-CReS).

(Crispino Lobo)