

CHAPTER - XII

OTHER ASPECTS

12.0 Foreign exchange element

The Kosi-Mechi intrastate link project proposed by Government of Bihar is an irrigation project. There will not be any involvement of foreign exchange in the implementation of the project.

12.1 Revenue

Irrigation benefits from the project are the only source of the revenues as described below.

12.1.1 Irrigation

The proposed gross command area of the project and culturable command area are 2.75 lakh ha and 2.15 lakh ha respectively spread over in the districts of Araria, Kishanganj, Purnea and Katihar. The rates of Govt. of Bihar for providing irrigation water supply vary from Rs 35/- to Rs. 150/- per acre of land. As per the cropping pattern suggested by Government of Bihar, the main crops grown in the command are paddy and maize.

The irrigation benefits are the direct benefits from the project. However, the project will provide indirect benefits in the following sectors also.

12.2 Indirect benefits

12.2.1 Pisciculture development

There are number of ponds for fish production in the project area. The link canal will promote the water availability in the ponds and as such there can be possibilities to develop pisciculture.

12.2.2 Betterment levy

The introduction of irrigation will boost the crop yields and the value of land too. The pre and post-project irrigation benefits for the command area have been discussed in Chapter-VII Irrigation Planning and Command Area Development. Betterment levy may therefore be charged

from the beneficiaries of the command area in the districts of Araria, Kishanganj, Purnea and Katihar.

12.2.3 Poverty eradication/food security

Improved crop production through the commissioning of the irrigation scheme will increase farm income in the project area. Food supply will increase and there will be cash income available for food or other purchases.

12.2.4 Risk benefits

Project Districts Administration vis-à-vis State Govt. risks are considerably reduced through irrigation and the higher cropping intensities will protect the authorities against shortfall in crop production. With the existing population structure and its rapid growth in the project area the long term benefits from irrigation are even more important. Reliable water supplies along with improved package of agricultural practices may encourage farmers to go for round the year crop production to take advantage of market conditions.

12.2.5 Transfer of technology

Project Districts Agricultural Departments will be in a sound position to introduce modern agricultural technology and farming practices to retain the fertility status of the soil with the installation of the irrigation scheme. This may also serve as a demonstration to other farmers in the region.

12.2.6 Health and nutrition

Increased cash income resulting from increased crop production and employment opportunities would result in higher per capita consumption of a greater variety of food items. This in turn will improve the nutrition levels of the people in the project area.

12.2.7 Environmental aspects

The irrigation scheme will improve the overall environmental and ecological situations in the project area which in turn will reduce the health hazard.

12.3 Financial resources

The DPR of the link project would require the mandatory techno-economic clearance from Central Water Commission/ TAC of MoWR. Subsequently, the report will have to be cleared from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Tribal Affairs etc. based on there clearances. The Planning Commission of India for accord investment clearance. The concurrence of Ministry of Finance is also mandatory. The yearwise requirement of funds for the construction of the link project is furnished in the Annexure 8.9.

12.4 Future utilisation of the facilities created

In order to complete the construction of the link canal project, it is proposed to construct additional office and residential buildings near village Kaliaganj and near Bahadurganj town. The proposed buildings are of two types i.e. permanent buildings and temporary buildings. Both the types of buildings will be utilized for the purpose of establishing offices as well as residential colonies for the staff engaged in the construction of the project. Most of the permanent buildings can be utilized for operation and maintenance of the project after the completion of the project whereas the remaining buildings can be utilized for future projects if any, likely to come up in the vicinity of the project area. Since the link project is adjacent to Indo-Nepal border, these buildings can also be utilized for other Governmental establishments, if required in the region.

12.5 Public awareness programme

The local people are well aware of the likely irrigation benefits from the project and hence in general they are supportive of the project.
