



NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
**Women-led Water Management:  
Strategies towards water sustainability in rural India**

**November 5-6, 2012**

**Jointly Organized by**

**The Institute of Rural Research and Development and UNICEF India**

**CALL FOR PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS**

**Introduction**

The Institute of Rural Research and Development in partnership with UNICEF India and invite the participation for their National Conference on '**Women-led Water Management: strategies towards water sustainability in rural India**' from interested development practitioners, academics, educational institutions, government and non-government organizations, media, think tanks, foundations and such others to participate and or make presentations.

Although women are major stakeholders of water and sanitation, most of the strategies of community engagement around water management and sanitation are men-centric, and women have been reduced to mere end users. Gender-differentiated needs are subsumed within the general category of "stakeholder participation" where 'consultation with communities' signifies consultation with men as head of households and/or community leaders.

According to the review of the report of the First National Commission on Water in India (1999) by one of its members, women have "little voice in water resource planning in this country", yet they are always depicted as the providers and managers of water at the household level (Iyer 2001). Studies from different parts of the country show that water management programmes are more effective if women are in decision making as they can play a more instrumental role in the same. Moreover, they seem to be less affected by village politics, which further justify the need for enhancing their role in water related decision making.

**At this conference, participants will share best practices of women-led water management at the grassroots, explore policies that promote inclusion of women in community water management, and plan collective action for furthering women's roles in this sector.**

## **Abstracts submission**

Abstracts (max. 500 words) of papers should contain a thesis and describe the research to be explored. Proposals for small group exercises on women and water management are also welcome. Each submission should also include one paragraph about the proposed speaker and one paragraph about the organization, if any. Please forward your abstract/proposal to [waterandwomen@irrad.org](mailto:waterandwomen@irrad.org) by Aug 20, 2012. Authors will be notified by August 31, 2012. Complete papers and presentations are due on October 15, 2012.

## **Themes for Papers**

- *Experience sharing*
  - Success stories/best practices related to women leadership/role in decision making/participation in water management and sanitation.
  - Women's roles in Water Management and Sanitation: needs assessment, planning, decision making, implementation, monitoring and social audit
  - Innovative approaches to elevate women dignity and eliminate water related women drudgery
- *Equity and inclusion*
  - Gender equity and inclusion in all stages of water management and sanitation (planning, securing funds, implementing, monitoring and social audit)
  - Social, cultural, economic and political challenges for women leadership and way forward
- *Capacity Building*
  - Ways to Strengthen women's capacity in water management and sanitation
- *Policy and Governance*
  - Policies, governance and institutional structures encouraging women's participation and decision making

## **Expenses of Participation**

IRRAD will support pre-approved travel cost of selected presenters from NGO and academic sectors.

## **Conference Venue**

The conference will be held at the Auditorium of the S.M. Sehgal Foundation, Sector 44, Gurgaon, Haryana, India.