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**Meeting Minutes**

**Maharashtra Cotton Water Platform Coordination Workshop**

29 March 2016

IFC Office, Mumbai

**Agenda Items**

* Welcome Remarks
* Introduction to the Coordination Workshop
* Discussion on Innovative Project Concepts
* PPP-IAD Opportunities
* Views of Financial Sector
* Thoughts and Perspectives of Participants
* Closing Remarks

**Objective of the meeting**

* To promote a coordinated and integrated approach towards providing a range of services required by farmers from water availability, irrigation, extension services to marketing.

**Discussion Points**

* Mr. Bastiaan Mohrmann, 2030 WRG introduced the GCF proposal for USD 300 million, for which the concept note is currently being developed by CEEW. The implementation (key results) of the pilot projects of the Maharashtra Cotton Water Platform will directly feed into the GCF proposal due 2016-17.
* Discussion on Pilots (8): The pilots could be implemented in 4 or 5 pilot blocks with a few organizations leading these blocks. The blocks comprise of 5000ha of watershed area (geography) in the Marathwada and Vidharba regions. Implementing partners could choose the number of villages, farmers and area within the watershed.
* In order to roll out the pilots in the upcoming Kharif season, it was suggested to choose pilots areas where organizations have ongoing initiatives and the partners could step up to fill in the implementing/funding/capacity building, etc. gap in the region. For those without an ongoing project, 2030 WRG will facilitate the selection of a block.
* Participants suggested how the pilots could work and the opportunities for irrigation companies in Maharashtra. They described the role of think tanks- to support documentation, MIS companies- to develop infrastructure from source to field and on-field technologies, banking sector- on the innovative financing methods and the role of farmers to repay a certain amount invested in them through increased productivity due to the stakeholders.
* Views of the financial sector - shared insights on exploring innovative financing options and showed willingness to work with the partners.
* Feedback from the participants in the closing session brought to light not only the exciting possibilities of working together in Maharashtra andthe constraints in rolling out pilots in a short span of time. It was thus decided that organizations could choose the size of their pilots as long as it is a collaborative effort and has the ability to create impact.
* 8 PPP pilot concepts were proposed under the Cotton Water Platform.

**Key messages**

* Focus of the pilots: water augmentation, water conveyance, efficient on-farm water distribution and value chain enhancement
* Roll out pilots in the upcoming Kharif Season through coordinated implementation and partnerships
* Leverage markets through these pilots