

## FARMER PARTICIPATION IN INDIA: A Philippine View

We visited the Hemavathi command area in Karnataka state, India, where a warabandi (rotational) water distribution procedure is being introduced. The schedule of turns is written on a board conspicuously placed near the turnout gate. The irrigation engineers prepared the water schedule for each farmer. They did not consult farmers in the design of the canal system, or in the planning for the water schedule. In the Philippines, by contrast, farmers are the ones who formulate the water allocation schedule with the assistance of an NIA engineer.

Water users were grouped at three levels: block committees of 3-5 members at the lowest level, outlet committees, and distributary committees. Each group has an elected leader who serves as a liaison with the government agencies, resolves conflicts, and coordinates the activities of the members. Unlike the situation in the Philippines, no training is provided to these committees.

Less than 50% of operation costs can be met from the revenue collected in irrigation fees. Water rates per acre of paddy, regardless of the season, are US\$ 2.10 for government systems but US\$ 7.40 in private systems. The collection rates range from 50-70%. The fees are collected by the Revenue Department.

In the Philippines, collection rates range from 40-60% in national systems and 70-85% for communal systems. The water rates are US\$ 6.70 per acre in diversion systems during the wet season and US\$ 10.00 per acre during the dry season. For pump systems the rates are considerably higher: US\$ 16.90 (wet season) and US\$ 18.50 (dry season). The fees are collected either by the NIA or by the irrigation association.

The warabandi schedule introduced on a pilot basis in the Hamavathi command did not last long. After the first year, farmers did not follow it, and planted high water use crops such as paddy and sugarcane, instead of jowar (sorghum), ragi (millet), and cotton. Upstream farmers controlled the water supply, with resulting shortages for downstream farmers.

Ireneo C. Agulto, Dept. of Agricultural Engineering, College of Engineering, Central Luzon State University, Munoz, Nueva Ecija, PHILIPPINES and Eduardo G. Marzan, Jr. College of Agriculture, Central Luzon State University, Munoz, Nueva Ecija, PHILIPPINES.

## The Philippine Approach to FMIS Development: A NEPAL PERSPECTIVE

[Mr. D.N. Tiwari, from Nepal, reports on his PDI visit to the Philippines in April 1988, where he attended a NIA seminar on "Farmer Participation in Irrigation Development: The Philippines Experience" and visited several communal irrigation systems. This report draws comparisons with the situation in Nepal.]

### THE NIA APPROACH

The seminar outlined the participatory approach that has been used by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in the Philippines for more than a decade. The topics covered included an overview of the NIA's organizational pattern and a review of the evolving policies relating to irrigation development. The process whereby the NIA helps farmers establish an Irrigators' Association was discussed, not only in terms of the field implementation, but also the