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PDR Report Series: PDR/NWGIS - 1d (Draft)

**A Process Based Diagnosis of Election of  
WUA Functionaries in Nepal West Gandak Irrigation System  
Election of Women Representatives, Functionaries of Executive Committee and  
Formation of Regional Committees**

**Process Documentation Report No. 4  
(July - August, 1998)**

**A Collaborative Research Program of :**

**Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science  
International Irrigation Management Institute  
and  
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Department of Irrigation**

**Irrigation Management Systems Study Group  
Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science  
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Irrigation Management Systems Study Group (IMSSG) is an institutional body of Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS), Tribhuvan University with the mission to address the issues on water management and other areas of natural resources through research, publication, training and interdisciplinary discussion and knowledge sharing among intellectual/scientific community, policy personnel and users.

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# 1. About This Report

This Report is output of a Process Documentation Research (PDR) in Nepal West Gandak Irrigation System (NWGIS) initiated as collaborative research program of Irrigation Management Systems Study Group (IMSSG) at the Institute of Agriculture and Animal Science (IAAS), International Irrigation Management Institute (IIMI) and Research and Technology Development Branch (RTDB) of Department of Irrigation (DOI).

This report is based on documentation of process of election of women representatives, in the Board of Directors, Election of Executive Committee functionaries and election of functionaries for the Regional Committees. Three earlier reports in series (PDR/NWGIS-1a, PDR/NWGIS-1b and PDR/NWGIS-1c) cover the dynamics of election of Upatoli, Toli, Branch level functionaries and the election of functionaries for the Board of Directors of WUA. The readers are requested to refer to earlier reports to understand the entire process and dynamics of election of WUA functionaries at different tiers.

## 2. Election of Women Representative for the Board of Directors

### 2.1 Provision

In article of 4.10.5 of the revised constitution of WUA, there is a provision of election of four women representatives in the Board of Directors. Any women of the concerned region could be the candidate provided she belongs to a share holder family. The members of the Board of Directors from the four regions are to nominate representatives from the respective regions.

### 2.2 Process of Election

The schedule of election of Women representatives in the Board of Directors was notified by the Election Commission on July 19, 1998. Interested women users belonging to a share holder family were asked to file the nomination from the respective regions by July 25, 1998. The notice was circulated to all the four regional offices of WUA. The election schedule circulated by the election commission is given in Table - 1.

Table - 1. Schedule for the Election of Women Representative in the BOD.

S. N.	Date	Description	Time	Venue
1.	July 25, 1998	Filing of Candidature	10:00-2:00	Office of the Election Commission
2.	July 25, 1998	Declaration of name of Candidates	2:00-7:00	Office of the Election Commission
3.	July 27, 1998	Election	2:00- 3:00	Office of the Election Commission

The list of candidates who filed nominations for the women representatives is given in Table – 2. There were no fixed criteria for filing nomination. The candidates were not required to show their share certificates and water fee receipts at the time of filing of nomination, rather they were asked to give an application quoting the region they belong and share certificate number.

Mr. Laxman Prasad Upadhyay, the office secretary of WUA and Mr. Paramanand Kohar, member of the Water Management Taskforce for Region – I, were deputed for checking and registering of the applications of the candidates.

Table – 2. List of Candidates for the Election of Women Representatives

S. N.	Name of Candidate	Address	Region	Name of Canal
1.	Mrs. Indira Pangen	Rupaulia – 8	I	Chhiwani Water Course
2.	Mrs. Shanti Devi Gaire	Rupaulia – 9	I	MC – 2
3.	Mrs. Tulsa Basyal	Rupaulia – 9	I	MC – 2
4.	Mrs. Dhan Kumari Neupane	Rupaulia – 6	I	Chhiwani Water Course
5.	Mrs. Haddisun Nessa	Thulo Khairatawa	I	Bishnugunj Branch
1.	Mrs. Tilottama Devi Chaudhary	Jamunia – 2	II	Nandapur Minor
2.	Mrs. Sadhana Tiwari	Badahara Dubaulia	II	Bhujahawa Minor
3.	Mrs. Sita Devi Upadhyay	Jahadha – 1	II	MC – 12
1.	Mrs. Nazma Khatoon	Sarawal – 9	III	Shankarpur Minor
2.	Mrs. Habibun Nessa	Kusma – 6	III	MC – 21
1.	Mrs. Shanti Devi Gaud	Palhi – 3	IV	MC – 24
2.	Mrs. Jaibun Nessa	Sanai – 1	IV	Ragargunj Minor

On July 27, 1998, the election of Women representatives in the BOD was started. As per the provision of WUA constitution one women representatives from each of the four regions of WUA were to be nominated by the members of the BOD from respective regions. The Chief Election Officer asked the members of the BOD to discuss among them and nominate consensus women candidate from each region. Consequently the members in the BOD from region – III nominated a consensus candidate. This became possible because Mrs. Nazma Khatoon withdrew her candidacy in favor of Mrs. Habibun Nessa. However, the member representatives from region could not develop consensus and decided to elect candidates from their regions through majority votes. The representatives from Reion I, II and IV were asked to put (✓) in favor of the candidates of their choice. Mrs. Indira Pangen who was contesting election from Region – I did not withdraw her candidacy rather appealed the voters to vote for Mrs. Dhan Kumari Neupane. As a result of this election Mrs. Dhan Kumari Neupane, Mrs. Tilottama Devi Chaudhary, Mrs. Habibun Nessa and Mrs. ~~Shanti Devi Gaud~~ <sup>Jaibun Nessa</sup> were elected from Regions I, II, III and IV respectively. The votes obtained by different candidates in the four regions were as under:

### Region – I

<u>S. N.</u>	<u>Name of the Candidate</u>	<u>No. of Vote</u>
1.	Mrs. Indira Pangi	0
2.	Mrs. Shanti Devi Gaire	1
3.	Mrs. Talsa Basyal	0
4.	Mrs. Dhan Kumari Neupane	6
5.	Mrs. Haddisun Nessa	2

### Region – II

1.	Mrs. Tilottama Devi Chaudhary	5
2.	Mrs. Sadhana Tiwari	3
3.	Mrs. Sita Devi Upadhyay	1

### Region – III

1.	Mrs. Habibun Nessa	Unanimous
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### Region – IV

1.	Mrs. Shanti Devi Gaud	3
2.	Mrs. Jaibun Nessa	5

## **2.3 Elected Candidates**

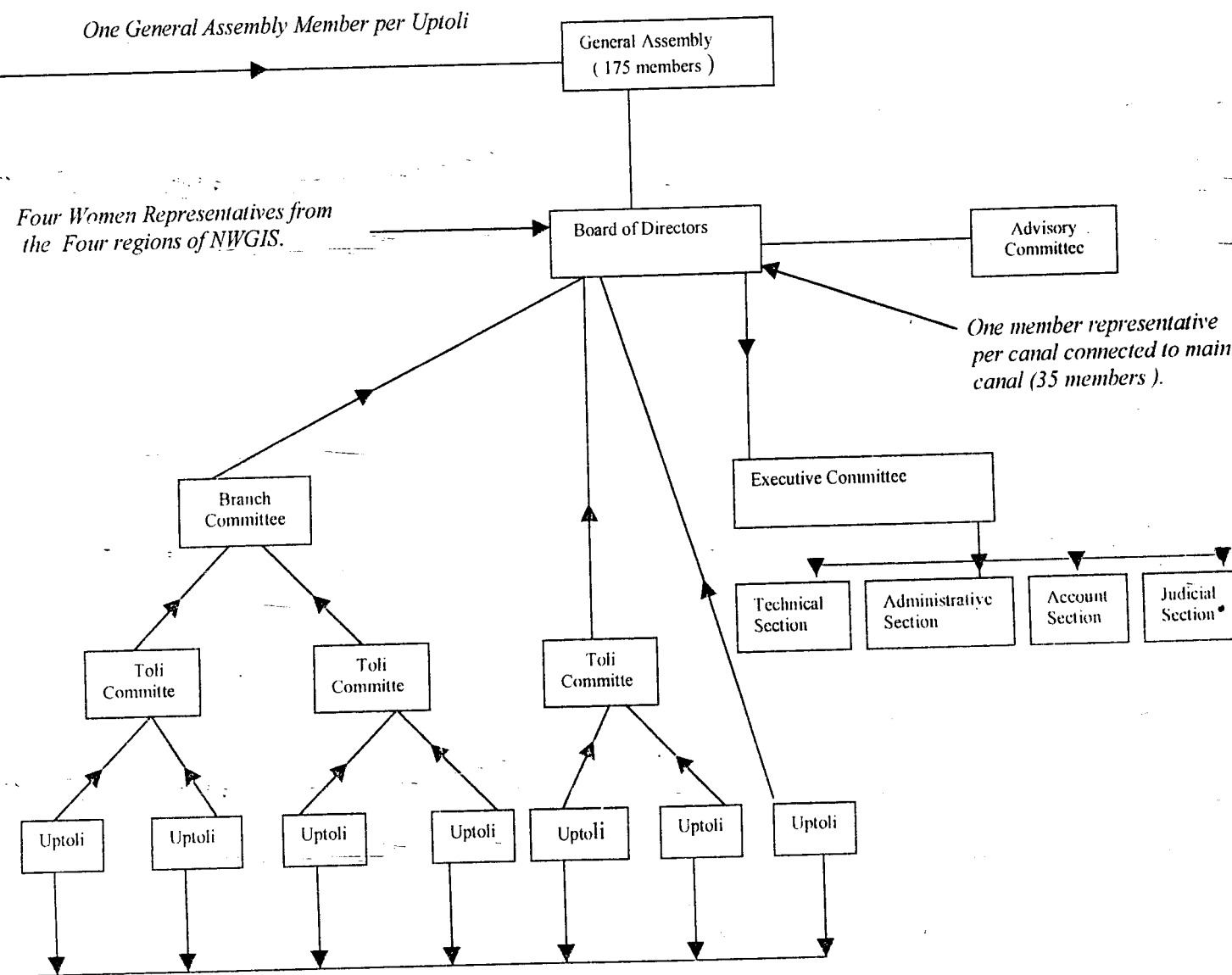
After the counting of the votes was over, the Chief Election Officer announced the name of the winning candidates to the voters. The elected candidates for all the four regions were as under:

1. Mrs. Dhan Kumari Neupane	-	Region – I
2. Mrs. Tilottama Devi Chaudhary	-	Region – II
3. Mrs. Habibun Nessa	-	Region – III
4. Mrs. Jaibun Nessa	-	Region – IV

## **3. Election of Executive Committee Functionaries**

### **3.1 Provision**

In article 4.10.6 of the revised constitution of WUA provision of an Executive Committee has been made which is to be constituted by five members nominated from among the members of the Board of Directors. (Fig. 1). The provision of the Executive Committee has been made with the aim of creating a unit within WUA, responsible for day-to-day technical, administrative, financial and judicial management functions of WUA. One of the members in the Executive Committee is to be designated as manager who is also to work as ex-officio secretary of the Board of Directors. Other



**Fig. 2. Organization of WUA as per New Constitution**

four members of the Executive Committee, representing each of the four regions of NWGIS, are to be designated as sectional heads of administrative, accounts/store, technical and judicial sections of the Executive Committee.

### 3.2 Process of Election

The first meeting of Board of Directors was held on July 21, 1998. The agenda of the meeting was i) formation of Executive Committee, ii) Taking over the charge from outgoing main committee of WUA including auditing of previous accounts, and iii) construction of work remained to be accomplished in *Jharahi khola*.

With regards to the election of the Executive Committee functionaries, the Chairman of the Board of Directors was of the opinion that functionaries of the Executive Committee be selected through general consensus but this did not happen. The moment the Chairman proposed the motion to elect the functionaries of the Executive Committee, the member representatives splited in two groups. One group was led by Mr. Sadhu Sharan Yadav and was interested to elect Mr. Yadav as the Manager and Mr. Tilak Ram Chaudhary, Mr. Harendra Prasad Chaudhary, Mr. Mobarak Khan and Mr. Sarajuddin Ansari as members from regions I, II, III and IV, respectively. Another group led by Mr. Ishwori Prasad Chaudhary was interested to select Mr. Chaudhary as Manager and Mr. Buddhi Sagar Neupane, Mr. Rajesh Mishra, and Mr. Jit Bahadur Chaudhary as members from regions I, II and IV respectively. This group did not propose candidates from Region – III and hence Mr. Mobarak Khan who filed his candidature for the member of Executive Committee from Region – III obtained the support of this group. Since the members of the Board of Directors, were divided in two factions, there was no chance of general consensus. Therefore decision was made to elect the functionaries by majority voting.

Out of the 39 members of the Board of Directors only 35 members participated in the election. Four members, who did not support any group were Mr. Lal Bahadur Chaudhary, Mrs. Tilottama Devi Chaudhary, Mr. Ram Lakhan Harijan (Vice-Chairman of WUA) and Mr. Ambrish Ray (Chairman of WUA). The voters were asked to show their support to the candidates by giving signature in favor of the candidates they vote. Total of 22 voters favored the group led by Mr. Sadhu Sharan Yadav and only 13 members supported the groups led by Mr. Ishwori Prasad Chaudhary. Therefore, the group led by Mr. Sadhu Sharan Yadav was declared elected. The Chairman of WUA announced the names of candidates elected as Manager and members of the Executive Committee.

### 3.3 Elected Functionaries of Executive Committee

- |                                  |   |                       |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Mr. Sadhu Sharan Yadav        | - | Manager               |
| 2. Mr. Tilak Ram Chaudhary       | - | Member (Region – I)   |
| 3. Mr. Harendra Prasad Chaudhary | - | Member (Region – II)  |
| 4. Mr. Mobarak Khan              | - | Member (Region – III) |
| 5. Mr. Sarajuddin Ansari         | - | Member (Region – IV)  |



After the formation of the Executive Committee on July 21, 1998, the manager of the Executive Committee called the first meeting of the Executive Committee on July 22, 1998. The meeting was also participated by engineer in-charge of NWGIS and the coordinator of Water Management Task Force (Karyadal). The major agenda of this meeting was assignment of works to the elected members of the Executive Committee. Accordingly, the four members of Executive Committee, representing each of the four regions of the WUA were assigned sectional chief of the four unit of the Executive Committee as under:

- |      |                               |   |                               |
|------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| i.   | Mr. Sadhu Sharan Yadav        | - | Manager                       |
| ii.  | Mr. Sarajuddin Ansari         | - | Chief, Administrative Section |
| iii. | Mr. Mubarak Khan              | - | Chief, Account/Store Section  |
| iv.  | Mr. Tilak Ram Chaudhary       | - | Chief, Technical Section      |
| v.   | Mr. Harendra Prasad Chaudhary | - | Chief, Judicial Section       |

In the same meeting Mr. Laxman Prasad Upadhyay, who has been working as office assistant of WUA was deputed as office assistant of the administrative, account & store and judicial section. Similarly, Mr. Keshav Raj Adhikari, who has been working as coordinator of Water Management Taskforce (*Mool Karyadal*) was deputed as assistant of the technical section.

## **4. Formation of WUA Regional Committees at NWGIS**

### **4.1 Provision**

There is no provision for the formation of Regional Committees in the constitution of the WUA in NWGIS. In the very first meeting of Executive Committee on July 22, 1998, the members felt and realized the need for Regional Committee and decided that a recommendation regarding the formation of Regional Committee be made to the Board of Directors. The members of the Executive Committee agreed in principle that only Chairman be elected for Regional Committee, and that the members of the Board of Directors of the concerned region be the ex-officio members in respective Regional Committees.

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held on August 24, 1998 to discuss the recommendation made by Executive Committee concerning the formation of Regional Committees. The members were of the opinion that there must be provision of Regional Committees in the constitution. Since, there was no such provision in the constitution, the Board of Directors unanimously decided to constitute the Regional Committees in the four regions of WUA and get the decision approved by general assembly of WUA.

## 4.2 Process of Election

The Executive Committee issued election schedule for the Regional Committee functionaries which is presented in Table – 3.

Table – 3. Election schedule for formation of Regional Committee

S.N.	Date	Region	Venue
1.	July 26, 1998	I	Regional Office, Singaha
2.	July 27, 1998	II	Regional Office, Semari
3.	July 28, 1998	III	Regional Office, Belashpur
4.	July 29, 1998	IV	Regional Office, Palhi

### 4.2.1 Formation of Regional Committee in Region – I

On July 26, 1998, a meeting of the members of the Board of Directors from Region – I was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Ambrish Ray, Chairman of Board of Directors, at Regional Office, Singaha. The meeting started at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was attended by following members of the Board of Directors and invitees from Region - I:

- |                              |   |                              |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Ambrish Ray           | - | Chairman, Board of Directors |
| 2. Mr. Sadhu Sharan Yadav    | - | Manager, Executive Committee |
| 3. Mr. Bishnu Subudi         | - | Member                       |
| 4. Mr. Tilak Ram Chaudhary   | - | Member                       |
| 5. Mrs. Dhan Kumari Neupane  | - | Member                       |
| 6. Mr. Ganga Ram Chaudhary   | - | Member                       |
| 7. Mr. Nanda Kishor Panjiyar | - | Member                       |
| 8. Mr. Ek Narayan Neupane    | - | Member                       |
| 9. Mr. Til Chandra Neupane   | - | Member                       |
| 10. Mr. Damodar Aryal        | - | Member                       |

#### Invitees

1. Mr. Parmanada Kohar
2. Mr. Saddique Ali Dhunia
3. Mr. Keshav Raj Adhikari
4. Mr. Lalman Prasad Panjiyar
5. Mr. Khil Prasad Chaudhary

## Process of Election

Initially only 6 members out of 10 members from Region – I in the Board of Directors were present in the meeting. The Chairman of the Board of Directors Mr. Ray opened the discussion by asking the members present to nominate a member for the position of Chairman of the Regional Committee. None of the members were interested for the position therefore, Mr. Ray asked whether any of the absentee members would show their interest to be elected as Chairman of the Regional Committee. Mr. Ganga Ram Chaudhary told that Mr. Ek Narayan Neupane is interested for the stated post. Then all the members agreed on his name and gave their consent. Mr. Ray then informed all the members that the members in the Board of Directors from Region – I shall be ex-officio member of the Regional Committee of Region – I. At the same time Mr. Ek Narayan Neupane, Mr. Damodar Aryal and Mr. Til Chandra Neupane arrived in the meeting. The Chairman of the WUA briefed the development that took place in their absence. Mr. Ek Narayan Neupane accepted the decision and thanked the members for selecting him as Regional Committee Chairman even in his absence.

### **4.2.2 Formation of the Regional Committee in Region – II**

On July 27, 1998, a meeting of members of Board of Directors from Region – II was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Ambrish Ray to form a Regional Committee and to elect a Chairman of the committee. The meeting started at 1:45 p.m. at the Conference Hall of WUA at Semari that was attended by the members in the Board of Directors from Region – II as well as invitees.

- |                                  |   |                              |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Ambrish Ray               | - | Chairman, Board of Directors |
| 2. Mr. Sadhu Sharan Yadav        | - | Manager, Executive Committee |
| 3. Mr. Harendra Prasad Chaudhary | - | Member, Executive Committee  |
| 4. Mr. Iswori Prasad Chaudhary   | - | Member                       |
| 5. Mr. Ram Awadhhar Dube         | - | Member                       |
| 6. Mr. Narayan Prasad Upadhyay   | - | Member                       |
| 7. Mr. Lal Bahadur Chaudhary     | - | Member                       |
| 8. Mrs. Tilottama Devi Chaudhary | - | Member                       |

#### **Invitees:**

- |                            |   |                                    |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Tilak Ram Chaudhary | - | Member, Executive Committee        |
| 2. Mr. Keshav Raj Adhikari | - | Coordinator, Water Mgmt. Taskforce |
| 3. Mr. Saddique Ali Dhunia | - | Member, Water Mgmt. Taskforce      |
| 4. Mr. Parmanand Kohar     | - | Member, Water Mgmt. Taskforce      |
| 5. Mr. Baliram Harijan     | - | Member, Water Mgmt. Taskforce      |
| 6. Mr. Mubarak Khan        | - | Member, Executive Committee        |

## Process of Election

Only 7 members out of 10 members of the Board of Directors from Region – II participated in the meeting. Mr. Keshav Raj Adhikari explained the agenda of the meeting, which was to elect the Chairman of the Regional Committee for Region – II and

make the Committee functional. He also declared that Mr. Harendra Prasad Chaudhary, member of the Board of Directors and Chief of the Judicial Section of the Executive Committee, will not be allowed to file his candidature for the position of the Chairman, though he is a member of the BOD from Region – II. The reason was that he was already a member in the Executive Committee. Then Mr. Adhikari asked the remaining 6 members to express their views on the election of the Chairman. Two members namely Mrs. Tilottama Devi Chaudhary and Narayan Prasad Upadhyay expressed their interest for the stated post. Later these two candidates were requested to discuss among themselves and come to consensus. When candidates failed to come to any sort of compromise, the members were asked to elect a candidate through majority voice. All the members supported Mrs. Tilottama Devi Chaudhary for the post of the Chairman and she was declared elected as regional committee Chairman from region – II.

#### **4.2.3 Formation of Regional Committee for Region –III**

In order to form Regional Committee, a meeting of members of the Board of Directors from Region – III was held at Belashpur under the chairmanship of Mr. Ambrish Ray on July 28, 1998. The meeting began at 2:45 p.m., which was participated by following members and invitees.

1. Mr. Ambrish Ray	Chairman, Board of Directors
2. Mr. Kanhaia Prasad Maurya	Members
3. Mr. Hiralal Gupta	Member
4. Mr. Brahma Prasad Gupta	Member
5. Mr. Akhtar Hussain Khan	Member
6. Mr. Ayodhya Yadav	Member
7. Mr. Mubarak Khan	Member

Invitees:

1. Mr. Sadhu Sharan Yadav
2. Mr. Tilak Ram Chaudhary
3. Mr. Keshav Raj Adhikari
4. Mr. Saddique Ali Dhunia
5. Mr. Baliram Harijan

#### **Process of Election**

There were only 6 members out of the 10 members of the Board of Directors from Region – III, present in the meeting. Four members namely Mr. Haidar Ali Momin, Mr. Tajmool Hussain Ansari, Mr. Srikant Mishra and Mrs. Najma Khatoon were the absentee members.

The Chairman of the meeting Mr. Ray asked the members to express their views individually for the position of Chairman of the Regional Committee. Three out of six members, present in the meeting, showed their interest in getting elected. Thus, there were three candidates for the position. The Chairman then asked the candidates to discuss among themselves and try to develop consensus on chairmans' candidate. The three

candidates had a discussion and finally they agreed to propose Mr. Kanhaiya Maurya as the Chairman of the Regional Committee. Hence, Mr. Kanhaiya Maurya was declared as Chairman of the regional committee from Region – III.

#### **4.2.4 Formation of Regional Committee for Region – IV**

The meeting of members of the Board of Directors from Region – IV was held on July 29, 1998 at regional office of the WUA at Palhi. The meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Mr. Sadhu Sharan Yadav who is the Manager of Executive Committee as well as the member of the Board of Directors from the same region. Following members and invitees were present in the meeting.

1. Mr. Sadhu Sharan Yadav	Manager, Executive Committee
2. Mr. Om Prakash Gupta	Member
3. Mr. Dina Nath Yadav	Member
4. Mr. Sitaram Sahani	Member
5. Mr. Sarajuddin Ansari	Member
6. Mr. Jaibun Nessa	Member
7. Mr. Ram Kishun Yadav	Member

#### **Invitees:**

1. Mr. Bramha Prasad Gupta
2. Mr. Tilak Ram Chaudhary
3. Mr. Krishna Raj Sharma
4. Mr. Jagdish Sahani
5. Mr. Baliram Harijan
6. Mr. Mubarak Khan
7. Mr. Bishnu Dayal Gupta

#### **Process of Election**

Out of 10 members, only 7 members were present in the meeting. The meeting started formally at 1:00 p.m. and three members filed their candidature for the position of the Chairman of the Regional Committee. These members were Mr. Om Prakash Gupta, Mr. Dina Nath Yadav and Mr. Sitaram Sahani. The Chairman of the meeting asked the candidates to discuss among them and develop a consensus. The candidates had discussions but they could not develop consensus. All the three candidates were interested to be elected as Chairman and for that they had their own reasoning. According to Mr. Om Prakash Gupta, other two candidates belonged to Sanai Village and the Manager of the Executive Committee also belonged to the same village, and therefore, it was not rational that the position of regional Chairman also goes to the members from Sanai village. Mr. Yadav had his own grievances that he had been working for the WUA for long time but did not get any recognition and hence, this time he must get the position of the regional chairman. Mr. Sahani said that he was interested to work for the welfare of the farmers of that region through Regional Committee and there is no question of withdrawing his name. The discussion became very hot and took a

long time and at last the Chairman of the meeting Mr. Yadav came in picture as a mediator and discussed with all the candidates and the discussion was fruitful. Finally, all the candidates agreed to the name of Mr. Om Prakash Gupta as the Chairman of the Regional Committee. Eventually, Mr. Om Prakash Gupta was declared elected as regional Chairman of Region – IV.

### **4.3 Existing Controversies about Formation of Regional Committee**

The formation of Regional Committee of the WUA in four regions of NWGIS has been against the provision of constitution. When the PDR team raised this issue with the Chairman of the Board of Directors, he expressed following opinion concerning the formation of regional committee.

*There is need for Regional Committee because this system has large service area, which has already been divided into four regions. Because of a very large service area, it would be a daunting task for the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee to coordinate, supervise and monitor the activities of each of the Upatoli, Toli and branch Committee. Regional Committee will be in a better position to coordinate the water management task in their respective regions. Though, at present it seems that the regional committees have been constituted against the provision of the constitution, the board of Directors would get the approval of the general assembly and a constitutional amendment shall be made to this effect.*

## 5. WUA Interaction program

### 5.1 Purpose

A two days interaction program for WUA in NWGIS was organized by IMTP/DOI on July 13 and July 14, 1998. The purpose of the interaction program was to review the strength and weaknesses of WUA, provisions of the constitution and identify the areas of responsibility and the roles of the four section of the executive committee. The interaction program was participated by the members the newly constituted Board of Directors, Functionaries of the out going Main Committee of WUA and one general assembly member from each of the four regions of the WUA. The interaction program was conducted by Mr. Rishi Ram Sharma Neupane and Mr. Durga Prasad Upreti, the members of TA team of IMTP/DOI. The schedule of the interaction program is given in Table – 3.

Table – 3. Schedule of the interaction program

Time	Topic	Presentator
<u>July 13, 1998</u>		
10.00 – 11.00 a.m.	Opening ceremony	Mr. Narayan Prasad Koirala
11.00 – 12.30 p.m.	Introduction and Importance of Constitution of WUA	Mr.D.P.Upreti/Mr.R.R.S. Neupane
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Introduction of New WUA	Mr. R.R.S. Neupane
2:30 – 3:30 p.m.	Discussion on Constitution	Mr.D.P.Upreti/Mr.R.R.S. Neupane/Mr. N.P. Koirala
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Experience on implementing the Constitution	Mr.H.A.Momin/Mr.D. Kalwar
<u>July 14, 1998</u>		
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Past Strength and Weaknesses of the financial activities	Mr. H.P. Chaudhary/Mr. T.C. Neupane
11:00 – 12:00 a.m.	Strength and Weaknesses of decisions made in Past	Mr.B.P.Gupta/Mr.S.A. Anasri
12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	Strength and Weaknesses of Canal Operating System in Past	Mr. K.R. Adhikari
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.	Past Strength and Weaknesses of the WUA	Mr.D.P.Upreti/Mr.R.R.S. Neupane
2:30 – 3.30 p.m.	New Financial Act/Rules and provisions	Mr.D.P.Upreti/Mr.R.R.S. Neupane
3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Discussion	Mr. N.P. Koirala

## **5.2 Proceedings of Interaction Program**

### **Opening Ceremony**

On July 13, 1998, Mr. Narayan Prasad Koirala, the sub-project manager of NWGIS opened the program by congratulating the newly elected functionaries of the Board of Directors and then he requested Mr. Keshav Raj Adhikari to conduct the program as per the schedule.

### **Introduction and Importance of WUA Constitution**

Mr. Durga Prasad Upreti read the constitution of the WUA and stressed that no body should go against the constitution. Whatever development work has to be done, it must be accomplished within the mandate of the constitution.

### **Introduction to New Organizational Structure of WUA**

While talking about the organizational structure of WUA, Mr. Rishi Ram Sharma Neupane focussed that this organization is very big and a lot of work is to be done to overcome the existing problems of the system. In order to make it successful, the functionaries of the WUA has to work honestly and sincerely for the betterment of the Association as well as the farmers of the command area.

### **Discussion on Constitution**

While discussing the present constitution of the WUA, all the participants agreed in principle that few changes are required to be made in the constitution to make it more effective. These changes pertain to formation of regional committees and raising of Irrigation Service Fee (ISF).

### **Experience in Implementing the Constitution**

In the absence of Mr. Haidar Ali Momin (Ex-Chairman of Main Committee) and Mr. Dev Karan Kalwar (Ex-Chairman, Managing Committee of Piparpati Parasauni), Mr. Sadhu Sharan Yadav (Ex-Chairman, Main Committee) and Mr. Kashi Nath Neupane (Member, Managing Committee of Piparpati Parasauni) were asked to express their experience.

Mr. Yadav said that being the first Chairman of WUA, he encountered number of problems. He stressed that during his tenure, politics was not dominant in the organization rather the functionaries of the organization worked in favor of the farmers. however, at present this organization has become platform for the politicians.

Mr. Neupane expressed deep concern about the politicization of the organization. According to him, the organization, instead of functioning as an organization of water users, has been running as a political organization. Right from the beginning, politics has been dominant in the elections but the magnitude was very high in



third election. He also added that there is communication gap among the functionaries of the WUA and the farmers. He claimed that in the process of turn-over the system to the WUA, the project officials gave false promises. They said that the project may bear 75% of the cost of constructing the WUA office, which is not yet materialized.

Mr. Narayan Prasad Koirala was requested to clarify on the false promises made by the project officials at the time of turn-over. Mr. Koirala did not accept the blame and said that all the farmers were taken into confidence and agreed at the time of turn-over. Whatever problem is there, it is because of the faulty workplan and the weaknesses on the part of the farmers. He also said that a very little work has been accomplished during past two years. If there is no mutual trust and cooperation among the functionaries and the farmers, there is no use of having any office of the WUA.

### **Past Strength and Weaknesses of the Financial Activities**

On July 14, 1998, Mr. Harendra Prasad Chaudhary, ex-treasure of the WUA, was requested to explain his experiences as a treasurer of the organization. He expressed that he has worked for five years in the association and faced very tough time in performing duties and responsibilities as a treasurer. The time when he took-over the responsibilities, there was only Rs. 3950.00 left in the fund and it was very difficult to manage the activities for such a big system. He tried and managed some additional funds by charging Rs.500.00 per truck brought at the cattle fare in Purnaha. Once some funds were raised, the members started taking meeting allowances, which added financial burden to the organization. If this trend be not stopped, it would be extremely difficult to run the association. At last he presented income expenditure statement of his tenure to the participants, as stated here under:

<b><u>Fiscal Year</u></b>	<b><u>Income</u></b>	<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>
1993/94	Rs. 22761.25	Rs. 22761.25
1994/95/96	Rs. 814483.55	Rs. 814483.55
upto May, 1997	Rs. 488392.30	Rs. 275540.85

Bank Balance: Rs. 188548.33  
 ( From Share : Rs. 88500.00,  
 From Sisso : Rs. 40245.00  
 From ISF :Rs. 59805.33)

Mr. Til Chandra Neupane expressed his view on financial balance. According to him, if the workplan be developed on time and implemented collectively, then only the association would be financially strong. On the issue of the political influence on the system, he appealed to make the organization free from politics. He also added that if this be not possible then we must make arrangements so that all the political parties will have equal representation in the Executive Committee and this may be the best way to make the organization more effective.

## **Strength and Weaknesses of the Decisions Made in the Meeting**

Expressing his view regarding the impact of decisions made in the previous meetings on the performance of the organization, Mr. Subhan Ali Ansari (Ex-Secretary of WUA) said that initially, it was quite difficult to handle the organization as there was lack of physical facilities and that the functionaries as well as the farmers were not aware of the concept of WUA. He also said that the provision of meeting allowance is not good and that this has been the main weakness of the association. Initially, there was no provision of ISF collection but later it was decided that the farmers must pay ISF and has been implemented successfully. There have been some irregularities in implementing decisions regarding cutting of *Sisso* plantation along the canal bank.

Mr. Brahma Prasad Gupta (Ex-Secretary of WUA) said that the number of shareholders increased from 4000 to 88500 in his tenure that indicates the strength of the association. Due to misunderstanding among the main committee members, it became extremely difficult to take any decision in meetings in absence of required quorum for six months. Though the amount of ISF collected is relatively less, it is a good sign for institutional development. There is no proper accounting and record keeping of the funds generated through ISF, share distribution, *Sisso* plantation along the bank of the main canal and the funds generated from other sources.

## **Strength and Weakness of Canal Operating System**

Mr. Keshav Raj Adhikari (Coordinator of Water Management Taskforce) informed the participants that altogether 215 members of the Water Management Taskforce have received training on water distribution and canal operation. But there is confusion about the accountability of the members of *Sewa Karyadal* and *Tewa Karyadal*. He argued that the water distribution process has been excellent in this system, as region – I and II gets water for 3 days a week and region – III and IV receives for rest 4 days. The process of collection of funds and record keeping is still not up to the mark.

## **Strength and Weakness of WUA in the Past**

Mr. Durga Prasad Upreti and Mr. Rishi Ram Sharma Neupane explained the strength and weaknesses of the WUA which is presented in Annex – I.

## **New Financial Act of the WUA**

Mr. Rishi Ram Sharma Neupane informed the participants that the Financial Act – 2054 of the WUA has been prepared and approved by general assembly. Finally he explained all the following sections of the act to the participants:

- i. Introduction
- ii. Budget preparation
- iii. Fund mobilization of the WUA
- iv. Process of assets management
- v. Provision of procurement

- vi. Provision of sales/auctions
- vii. Labor mobilization and wage rate
- viii. Provision for travelling and daily allowance
- ix. Disbursement and reimbursement
- x. Miscellaneous

The detailed description of the financial act has been given in Annex – II