

Watershed management offers a unique approach for integrating technologies, governance, and socio-economic strategies within the natural boundaries of a drainage area. This allows for the optimum development of land, water and plant resources to meet the basic needs of people and animals in a sustainable manner. The watershed is a natural ecosystem, defined by its critical resource - water. How soil, water and plant resources are used in one part affect – either positively or negatively – their availability and use in other parts of the watershed. Watershed management has become a prominent concept today in dealing with issues of land and water resources as indicated by increased financing by international banks and other funding institutions, as well as government agencies. Despite this awareness and the opportunities available, many development organizations lack the capacity to initiate and implement successful watershed management initiatives. Community-based integrated watershed management is a process of involving local communities and local governance structures in formulating and implementing a course of action involving the water and land resources or watershed, with emphasis on the linkages between the upstream and downstream parts of a watershed and their respective human and biophysical endowments.

Course description

This course is designed for mid and senior level rural development professionals and government functionaries to learn concepts and strategies of a watershed approach in solving many of the problems that beseech rural development and natural resources management initiatives. Participants will learn the skills and techniques necessary to systematically plan, implement, monitor and evaluate community-based watershed initiatives in partnership with local communities, government line agencies, and rural development practitioners. Hence, the course design strikes a balance and practical integration between the technical, social, economic, and political elements of community-based integrated watershed management implementation.

This course will be conducted jointly by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) and the World Agroforestry Centre formerly known as ICRAF. IIRR is known for its innovative approaches in addressing poverty through capacity building that includes systematic learning, documenting and sharing information and knowledge for scaling up and replication. The World Agroforestry Centre is dedicated to generating and applying the best available knowledge to stimulate agricultural growth, raise farmers' incomes and protect the environment.

Course Objectives

By the end of the course, participants are expected to:

- Learn the skills and techniques necessary to systematically plan, implement and monitor and evaluate community-based watershed initiatives.
- Balance and integrate the technical, social, economic and political elements and community-based integrated watershed management implementation

This course will run for 12 days and will focus on the following modules:

Module 1: Concepts and Framework of Community-based Integrated Watershed Management

This module describes the basic elements and concepts of community-based integrated watershed management, stressing the watershed approach as a relevant and practical response to a wide range of issues affecting rural development and natural resources management at community and provincial levels.

Module 2: Planning and Implementing Community-based Integrated Watershed Management

This module discusses the needs and opportunities for watershed management, together with the various stakeholders by using various planning tools based on the local, social, cultural and environmental situations. This module highlights the use of social and programmatic analytical tools such as Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) as they apply to doable community-based integrated watershed management initiatives. This module also includes hydrologic analysis using SRTM DEMS.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS

- Highly participatory methods (simulation exercises, focus group discussion, role play, video showing, case stories, games and field practicum)
- Participants as active resource persons, facilitators and learners
- Field practicum for hands-on practice in facilitating community-based integrated watershed management
- Action planning



Module 3: Multi-level Applications of Community-based Integrated Watershed Management

This module provides first hand practical experience on community-based integrated watershed management applications at national, provincial and local levels and attempts to link theory to practice by exposing participants to the realities and challenges of undertaking watershed management programs. Module 3 takes place in the 'field' and covers elements of community assessment and analysis.

Module 4: Support Mechanisms to Community-based Integrated Watershed Management

This module discusses a number of additional considerations to support community-based integrated watershed management to ensure that community-based watershed management approaches lead to desired results and outcomes.

Module 5: Action Planning

This module provides participants an opportunity to synthesize lessons learned from the previous modules and identify lessons and specific actions to apply them, given their own particular work situations.

Training Approach and Trainers

The course will use a participatory training approach. The lectures are complemented by group exercises, case study analysis, plenary discussions and field visits to communities. The trainers are IIRR and ICRAF management staff and specialists who have in-depth experience in community-based integrated management.

Who should attend

The course is targeted towards planners, middle and senior level officials, technical and non-technical staff, and those working in rural development, government and non-government organizations particularly in the areas of food security, sustainable agriculture, and water and natural resources management. Participants must be proficient in English.

Where

The two-week course will be held at Y.C. James Yen Center of IIRR in Cavite, Philippines, about an hour's drive from Manila. Facilities include air-conditioned training rooms, open-air centers for outdoor sessions, a dining hall, and participants' hostel and dormitories, swimming pool, and other sports and leisure facilities.

Course Fees and Related Terms

The course fee of USD1800 includes course-related materials, field and agency visits, airport transfers and a weekend excursion. Participants will pay USD850 per person for double room occupancy and board for the duration of the course. Single room occupancy is available for an additional cost. The food includes three full meals and two coffee breaks. The fees do not include all international and local airfares, laundry, and incidental expenses. A minimum pocket allowance of USD100 per week is suggested for incidental and personal expenses. Applicants are encouraged to secure financial support from their organizations or donor agencies. IIRR reserves the right to cancel the course one month before its schedule if the required quorum is not met. This will be immediately conveyed to the applicants. Course fees will be refunded in full.

For further information please contact:

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Deadline for application: April 27, 2012

Deadline for payment: May 18, 2012

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