

THE ANDHRA PRDESH FARMERS MANAGEMENT OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS
(DELINEATION AND FORMATION OF WATER USERS ASSOCIATIONS) RULES, 2003.

[G.O.Ms.No. 20, Irrigation and Command Area Development (CAD.IV), Department 20th
February, 2003]

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 43 read with sections 3,4,5,6,7,8,9,13,21,27,28 and 41-B of the Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Management of Irrigation Systems Act 1997 (Act 11 of 1997) in supersession of the Andhra Pradesh Farmers Management of Irrigation System Rules, 1997 issued in G.O.Ms.No. 45, I&CAD (CAD.IV) Department, dated 30.04.1997, the Governor of Andhra Pradesh hereby makes the following rules.

RULES

1. Short Title

These rules may be called the Andhra Pradesh Farmers' Management of Irrigation Systems (Delineation and formation of Water Users Associations) Rules, 2003.

2. Definition

In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires:-

- (1) "Act" means the Andhra Pradesh Farmers Management of Irrigation Systems Act, 1997.
- (2) "Authorised Officer" means an officer not below the rank of a Deputy Tahsildar who is authorized by the District Collector.
- (3) "Form" means a form appended to these rules.
- (4) "Farmers Organization" means water users association at the primary level, distributory committee at the secondary level and project committee at the project level.
- (5) "Notice" means Notice appended to these rules.

(6) ¹["Upper reaches" means the ayacut comprising of 50 percent of the total number of Territorial Constituencies which are adjacent to and nearby to the entry point of the water course based on the hydraulic particulars within the jurisdiction of the Water Users Association."

(7) "Lower reaches" means the ayacut of a Water Users Association covered by the remaining 50 percent of the total number of the Territorial Constituencies."]

3. Delineation of Command Area of an Irrigation System

- (1) The District Collector shall delineate or cause to be delineated by the authorized officer, the command area of each irrigation system within the district into areas of operation for the purpose of forming water users associations and publish in notification-I, appended to these rules. The Farmers Organization as so formed shall have distinct names. The distinct name may be either the name of the irrigation system or the name of the tank as locally known.

Provided that the District Collector may either suo motu or on an application made to him for the reasons to be recorded in writing revise or rectify, the delineation published in the Notification-I appended to these rules.

Explanation :

- (i) For the purpose of this rule, it is hereby clarified that every water users association shall have the name of a village as its district name in which the major extent of the ayacut is situated. If there is more than one association in such village, then such association shall be called by adding numerals to the district name.
 - (ii) For each of the irrigation system, the District Collector shall cause preparation of maps or sketches, indicating the distribution system like majors, minors and outlets along with the related structures in the command area. In the map or sketch the village boundaries, the drains, ayacut roads and all structures shall be marked.
 - (iii) The areas irrigated or planned to be irrigated under each of the distributory, minor, survey number wise shall be prepared.
 - (iv) The command area for each water user area shall be delineated on hydraulic basis, each to be served by a distinct segment of the irrigation system and with a control structure or a mechanism at its head for supply of allocated or designed quantity of water for that command area.
 - (v) Such delineated area may have one or more distributaries or minors or sub minors or direct pipes or outlets or a combination of two or more thereof, serving its command. It shall also have a distinctly demarcated boundary, which could be a drain, or a bund or an uncommandable land.
- (2) Wherever the ayacut of a Water Users' Association spreads over more than one district, the District Collector of such district in whose jurisdiction the major extent of ayacut lies shall be the officer to exercise and perform the functions of a District Collector in such cases.
- (3) In case of any doubt or clarification the matter shall be referred to the Commissioner, whose decision shall be final.

1. Added as per G.O.Ms.No. 48, I&CAD (CAD.IV) Dept., dated 04.04.2003.

4. Delineation of Water Users Associations

- (1) In case of minor irrigation system, including tanks, diversion channels, lift irrigation schemes, wells and such other smaller irrigation systems each shall form into one water user area.
- (2) In case of medium irrigation system such delineated water user areas shall be more than one and the ayacut in each Water Users Association shall be in between 400 ha. To 1000 ha.
- (3) In case of major irrigation system such delineated water user areas shall be more than one and the ayacut in each Water Users Association shall be in between 400 ha. To 1600 ha.

Provided that the ranges given above are only for general guidance and the water user areas may be delineated or redelineated depending upon the hydraulic feasibility and convenience of water management.

- (4) To ensure administrative viability, the area of operation of each of the water users areas shall be within the limits of a village or contiguous villages situated within a Mandal, as far as possible.
- (5) Since the Managing Committees of Water Users Associations are made a continuous bodies with one third of the Territorial Constituency members retiring once in every two years, it is essential to form the required number of territorial constituencies in each of the Water Users Associations. There shall be twelve territorial constituencies in each Water Users Association of Major and Medium Irrigation systems. In respect of Minor Irrigation systems, the number of territorial constituencies shall be six. Hence, the District Collector shall divide each of the water user area (i) in a major or medium irrigation system into twelve territorial constituencies as far as possible equally and (ii) into six territorial constituencies as far as possible equally in respect of minor irrigation systems.

Provided that the ayacut under a direct pipe or a pipe outlet as far as possible, not be bifurcated while dividing territorial constituencies.

- (6) In case any difficulty arises in dividing the ayacut under the command of a hydraulic structure for delineating or redelineating a water user area, suitable reaches of the concerned Minor, Distributory, Canal, as the case may be considered.
- (6A) ¹[While delineating the Territorial Constituencies of Water Users Association based on hydraulic basis, half of them have to be demarcated as the Territorial Constituencies in the Upper reaches and the remaining half of them as the Territorial Constituencies of Lower reaches, based on their proximity to the water source and notify them accordingly]
- (7) The draft command area map or sketch of the water users area demarcating the boundaries of territorial constituencies in the area of operation shall be prepared. The particulars containing the survey numbers of the lands situated in each of such territorial constituency in form "A" shall be displayed together with such map or sketch on the notice board of the Gram panchayat and the Mandal Parishad for information of the land holders.
- (8) Objections or suggestions against the delineation of water users area or the division of territorial Constituencies, if any, shall be filed, by the land holders in the area of operation, before the District Collector or an officer nominated by him in this behalf, within a period of seven days excluding the date of display.

1. Added as per G.O.Ms.No. 48, I&CAD (CAD.IV) Dept., dated 04.04.2003.

