

‘Draw water from dams, not from polluted rivers’

Staff Reporter

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-tamilnadu/draw-water-from-dams-not-from-polluted-rivers/article4616179.ece>

The Federation of Tamil Nadu Farmers’ Associations made an appeal to the State Government to implement drinking water supply schemes for the residents of districts downstream River Cauvery to get clean drinking water directly from Mettur Dam.

Farmers said that the residents are supplied with water that is polluted by dyeing units, textile processing units, tanneries and other industries. The federation’s secretary C. Nallusamy said that a resolution in this connection was passed in the district level meeting of the association that was held here on Saturday. “The State Government, Public Works Department, District Administration and the elected representatives of local bodies in the districts located on the banks of the river should take up the issue seriously and redress the drinking water crisis faced by the people”, Mr. Nallusamy added.

The federation also passed a resolution to urge the Government of Tamil Nadu to extend the drought relief of Rs. 15,000 per acre to farmers in all the drought-hit districts across the State.

They also sought the government’s intervention in removing encroachments on water bodies and to take necessary steps to put an end to pollution of water bodies.

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- *‘Government should redress the drinking water crisis faced by the people’*
 - *Call to take necessary steps to prevent pollution of water bodies*
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Kenya: Sh550 Million Dams for Narok Floods

EWASO Ng’iro South Development Authority will construct three dams and water reservoirs worth Sh550 million in Suswa and Narok.

Managing director Charles Sunkuli said the dams will curb excessive damages caused by adverse weather conditions especially during the rainy seasons.

Speaking to the press at the weekend in his office, Sunkuli said the regions have been declared an environmental disaster which needs to be addressed.

"The floods have destroyed property and claimed lives. It occurs due to land degradation on the watersheds, flood basins and excess surface run-off occasioned by change in land use," said Sunkuli.

He said the frequent floods in Suswa cuts communication between Nairobi and South Western **Kenya** and the dams will reduce the damage by 45 percent.

The MD said the water reservoirs will be used for livestock, domestic use and irrigation during dry seasons and will boost the local economy.

Sunkuli said his authority, whose function is the management for the improvement of the livelihood and use of resources, also intends to plant 2 million trees near Longonot area to assist to control floods in Suswa.

"The floods can be control through catchment conservation and rehabilitation through afforestation to achieve 10% forest cover in the immediate catchment," he said.

He said the proposed interventions are an integral part of the development process and aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals and is formulated in line with vision 2030.

"The vision 2030 outlines a clean, secure and sustainable environment. The economic risks associated with floods are huge estimated to billions of shillings," he said.

On Mau catchment, they are rolling out a program of scientific modeling and management of rivers which is first of its kind.

India to press China further over building dams on Brahmaputra

[Sachin Parashar](#) Sachin Parashar, TNN | Apr 18, 2013, 05.18 AM IST

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-to-press-China-further-over-building-dams-on-Brahmaputra/articleshow/19607327.cms>

NEW DELHI: Ahead of Chinese PM Li Keqiang's visit to India — with the new Chinese leadership not responding to New Delhi's concerns over diversion of Brahmaputra waters — the Centre has decided to press its proposal for a joint monitoring mechanism further with Beijing. Despite PM [Manmohan Singh](#) himself taking up the proposal to ensure transparency in China's construction activities on [the river](#) during his first meeting with President [Xi Jinping](#) in Durban last month, there has been no

response from Beijing yet.

Singh had said that he had proposed this mechanism to address concerns in India, which has been exacerbated by reports that China was going to build three more dams on the river. The proposal was first taken up at a technical-level meeting between the two countries.

All India knows until now is Beijing's already stated position that China is a responsible country and that the existing joint expert-level mechanism is enough to deal with all issues related to trans-border rivers. This mechanism, however, is limited to sharing of hydrological data.

It is learnt that the government here has decided to not give up so easily - not after the PM himself took up the proposal with the Chinese again. The issue is likely to again come up in Singh's meeting with his counterpart next month during what will be Li's first visit abroad after taking over as the PM.

Unlike India, China doesn't have a water-sharing agreement with any lower riparian country. China maintains that the dams being constructed on the Brahmaputra are essentially run-of-the-river projects that won't impact the flow of water. A joint mechanism would have ensured transparency in the ongoing construction work, allowing New Delhi to allay the fear of diversion in the north-east which, at times, can border on paranoia. While disclosing the fact that he had raised the Brahmaputra issue with Xi in Durban, Singh had also said that India still believed the Chinese assertion and assurance that water was not being diverted.

The water issue has the potential to turn into a major bone of contention at a time when the two countries are looking to expand cooperation in several other areas, including the issue of post-US-led troops' drawdown in Afghanistan next year.

On Thursday, India and China will hold their first ever dialogue on Afghanistan, a country where both have major economic interests. While China has conveyed to India in no uncertain terms that Pakistan will be a factor that has to be taken into account in dealing with Afghanistan, Beijing also regards certain groups operating in the war-torn country as inimical to its interests and seems willing to cooperate with New Delhi in dealing with those.

Note from Emmanuel Grenier: I don't put the whole article, because it is very long. You can read it on the link below. You can note the "deadly sins" which give a religious color to the anti-dam movement. This comes directly from the last WWF report, titled: Seven Sins of Dams Building (march 2013, <http://www.wwf.eu/?207987/7-sins-of-dams>), which praises IHA, but totally ignore ICOLD !

Deadly Sins in the Brazilian Amazon

The trampling of indigenous rights, military force used against protesters, impunity, megadams and environmental destruction. Is Brazil returning to the bad old days?

by [Bianca Jagger](#)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/bianca-jagger/belo-monte-dam_b_3076501.html

The controversial Belo Monte Dam, which is under construction on the Xingu River in the Brazilian state of Pará, is roughly twenty percent completed. Belo Monte will displace over 20,000 people, gravely endanger the survival of indigenous peoples and local communities and cause irreparable environmental damage to the Brazilian Amazon.

Belo Monte will be the third largest hydroelectric plant in the world and the second-largest hydroelectric dam in Brazil. At an estimated cost of upwards of \$18 billion US dollars, the dam will stand 90 metres high, 3,545 meters long, with a planned installed capacity of over 11,000 megawatts. Belo Monte is not merely a dam. It is a megadam. It is a travesty of human rights and an [environmental crime](#).

Tussle Over Dam Water Adds to Vietnam Drought Woes

04/17/2013

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Tussle Over Dam Water Adds to Vietnam Drought Woes

2013-04-16

An emergency request to release more dam water to alleviate a severe drought in central Vietnam has not been met due to a tug-of-war between local authorities and the hydropower plant's operators.

More than a month after Deputy Prime Minister Hoang Trung Hai issued a directive to the Dak Mi 4 hydropower dam in Quang Nam province near Danang city to release water to address critical shortages in downstream areas, the issue remains unresolved.

More than 1.7 million people living along the Vu Gia River in Danang and neighboring Quang Nam have been reeling from water shortages since the beginning of the year that are threatening 10,000 hectares (25,000 acres) of summer crops.

The authorities have asked the dam operator, Dak Mi 4 Hydropower Joint Stock Co., to release water in line with a directive made three years ago but the company argues that it is not obliged to do so and that it needs the water for generating electricity.

The endless debate has left officials warning that the issue has to be resolved at the next sitting of the national Assembly, the country's parliament, in May.

The Dak Mi 4 dam issue underscores a larger conflict of balancing water needs between agriculture and electricity generation, said Pham Hong Giang, a senior official in charge of dams and water resources.

"There is a problem with managing water used for electricity generation and water needed for other purposes," Giang, the president of the Vietnam National Committee on Large Dams and Water Resources Development, told RFA's Vietnamese Service.

"We have not done well in this respect," he said.

Seeking intervention

Danang and Quang Nam officials plan to seek the intervention of the Ministry of Industry and Trade to pressure the dam operator to discharge water into the Vu Gia to alleviate water shortages that will harm this year's crops.

The Irrigation Department this month instructed the the Dak Mi 4 and the nearby A Vuong hydropower plant to discharge 39 and 50 cubic meters of water per second, respectively, from May 15 to 30, but it remains unclear whether the volume will be enough to ease the drought.

A senior agriculture official has charged that Dak Mi 4 Hydropower Joint Stock Co. was holding on to water in the reservoir at the expense of local agriculture.

"The water level in Dak Mi 4 reservoir is very high, but they don't release it," Deputy Director of Danang's Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Huynh Van Thang Thang said at one of several meetings in March aimed at ending the row, state media reported.

"This is to ensure the company's benefit. But the Dak Mi 4 has to return the water to us," he said.

"Danang could face the worst drought in 40 years," Thang warned.

He said the hydropower plant, which began operation last year, had not properly carried out government orders and allowed the dam to redirect too much water from the Vu Gia into another river, the Thu Bon.

If the dam continues to direct water from the Vu Gia to the Thu Bon, water levels fall too low for downstream farm irrigation pumps to operate, he said.

Reservoir level low

The ongoing drought has also impacted water levels at the dam, which had already released some water in response to appeals from local officials, Deputy Director of the Dak Mi 4 Hydropower Joint Stock Co. Dao Minh Tien told the March meeting.

Levels have dropped to just 10 meters (32 feet) above the "dead level" of 250 meters (820 feet) at which it can no longer produce electricity, he said, according to state media.

The dam had released water 14 times in March at the request of Danang and Quang Nam authorities, preventing the 190-megawatt plant from operating at full capacity, he said.

Water research official Vu The Hai, the director of Vietnam's Institute for Water and Environment, said other dams in the region were facing similar problems this month.

"Central Vietnam is facing a severe drought and water going into hydroelectric dam reservoirs is very limited compared to the capacity they were designed for," he told RFA's Vietnamese Service.

Long-running contention

The Dak Mi 4 dam has been a source of contention between local authorities and hydropower officials even before its construction began in 2008, with Danang officials making numerous requests to the Ministry of Industry and Trade to delay the project.

In 2010, the government ordered investors to add a sluice gate to the dam design so that it could discharge up to 25 cubic meters per second of water to avoid water shortages in downstream areas.

But power plant officials have said the directive only pertains to the design of the dam, and that there is no legal obligation for them to discharge water in the dry season, according to Thanh Nien News.

Hydropower dams are crucial for Vietnam's energy security, contributing about 30 percent of domestic electricity production, dams and water resources official Giang said.

"However, the rapid development of hydroelectricity power plants in the past decades has revealed some conflicts," he said.

Reported by An Nguyen for RFA's Vietnamese Service. Written in English by Rachel Vandenbrink.

(Note EG : for Italian speaking people, this news is about ICOLD European Club meeting in Venice)

Dighe, l'esperienza Enel per un piano europeo

Pubblicata il: 2013-04-19

Enel ha ospitato il summit europeo sull'idroelettrico: l'esperienza del Gruppo per promuovere un impegno comune ed affrontare le sfide che attendono il settore in questo nuovo secolo

Si è tenuto dal 10 al 12 aprile a Venezia il summit europeo "Sharing experience for safe sustainable water storage", organizzato dall'ICold European Club e ospitato da Enel. Il Simposio continentale è stato interamente dedicato alle dighe e ai serbatoi artificiali d'Europa e alle sfide che attendono il settore in questo nuovo secolo.

Dal confronto delle esperienze tra gli operatori è emersa l'esigenza di un'integrazione regolatoria, tecnica e ambientale, con l'obiettivo primario di ammodernare le grandi dighe in chiave sostenibile e trasferirne il know-how alle nuove generazioni, attraverso un impegno comune che coinvolga interlocutori istituzionali e imprenditoriali.

"L'apporto di Enel all'evento è stato economico, organizzativo e tecnico", ha dichiarato Giovanni Ruggeri, responsabile Ingegneria civile idraulica della divisione Generation ed Energy Management di Enel.

"Oggi nessun impianto [idroelettrico](#), qualunque sia la sua destinazione", ha proseguito Ruggeri, "può perseguire una sola finalità: ormai la conservazione dell'ambiente, la valorizzazione e la difesa del territorio circostante sono attività e obiettivi inevitabilmente integrati nello scopo originario, con l'impegno quindi di trovare il miglior equilibrio tra produzione industriale e tutela ambientale e territoriale".

Un equilibrio che il Gruppo Enel, che oggi opera un **parco idroelettrico** da 31.000 MW di capacità, ha già individuato e sta perseguendo. Ne è un valido esempio la produzione di energia dai salti generati dal Deflusso Minimo Vitale (Dmv), ovvero il rilascio d'acqua imposto dalle Autorità ai produttori per salvaguardare la "salute dei corsi d'acqua". Il Dmv, infatti, fa diminuire l'efficienza dell'impianto, ma quello che poteva risultare un limite per l'azienda è stato trasformato in opportunità, grazie a delle miniturbine applicate allo scarico. Il progetto più importante è quello di Isola Serafini, il più grande impianto idroelettrico dell'azienda in Italia.

Grazie all'innovazione tecnologica, inoltre, le centrali idroelettriche di Enel sono in grado di **destinare parte delle risorse idriche all'uso potabile e irriguo**. In questo modo, gli impianti acquistano un valore sociale oltre che industriale; inoltre, per garantire maggiore tutela degli ecosistemi ambientali, è stato sviluppato un sistema per assicurare un flusso continuo di acqua nei fiumi a valle delle dighe.

Sotto il profilo dell'impatto delle attuali derivazioni idroelettriche sulla **fauna dei corsi d'acqua**, la Divisione Ingegneria e Ricerca ha recentemente presentato uno studio in cui vengono individuate una serie di soluzioni per permettere ai pesci la risalita dei corsi d'acqua.