FAO-MASSCOTE approach

To improve the performance of irrigation projects, capacity building training workshops have been organized by the three Nigams (KNNL, KBJNL & CNNL) with the cooperation of UN-FAO & ADB during 2006-16 in major irrigation projects;

1) GLBC (October-2006)
2) Gandorinala-Bennithora (December-2006),
3) Bhadra (January-2007)
4) Hemavathy (June-2007)
5) Almatti Lifts (May-2008),
6) Naraynpur Canal Systems (Jan-Feb 2009),
7) VNC & TLBC (Aug-Sept 2016)

In these training workshops, the tools developed by FAO; Rapid Appraisal Procedure (RAP) and Mapping System and Services for Canal Operation Techniques (MASSCOTE) were used. The objectives of the workshop were;

- Produce food for thought for decision-makers before engaging in investment plans, particularly on how to ensure that diagnosis and solutions are investigated properly in modernization projects;
- Suggest some specific strategies to conceptualise modernization of irrigation management;
- Lay the foundations of a stepwise modernization plan
- Introduce the MASSCOTE and RAP exercises to irrigation managers through real-case application.

The MASSCOTE application was field tested in these Projects successfully and over 300 Engineers of WRD have been trained in the application of these tools.

Workshop benefits:

- One of the significant contributions of the training workshops is towards the publication of FAO Irrigation and Drainage paper 63 in the year 2007 titled ‘Modernizing irrigation management-the MASSCOTE approach’.

The document FAO ID paper 63 has many references to Karnataka Projects. The photograph on front page is of GLBC. On page xx, reference is made to the study conducted with staff of KNNL where MASSCOTE was refined and finalized. On Pp 46,52,73,100,111,121 &122 reference to GLBC is made.

The document can be downloaded from the web link: [http://www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/masscote/technical/Masscote.pdf](http://www.fao.org/nr/water/docs/masscote/technical/Masscote.pdf)
Five policy issues that emerged from the GLBC MASSCOTE workshop which are under consideration are;

- A revised approach to hydraulic equity
- Accept the need for flexible Cropping patterns
- Shift from protective to productive irrigation
- Service oriented management (SOM) and explicit IWRM
- Revisiting the concept and practices of “Payment for water services”

A typology of all the irrigation systems under various stages of implementation emerged to allow each system being referred to some of the key features/aspects identified in the systems where workshops are conducted.

The strategy for modernization in Karnataka broadly emerged into:

(i) Address the policy issues for modernizing irrigation management,
(ii) Improve internal performance indicators (RAP),
(iii) Improve water use efficiency,
(iv) Capacity building at all levels
(v) Establishing a centre of excellence collaboration (AC-IWRM)
(vi) Plan for modernization, monitoring and evaluation.

Follow up actions on the recommendations of the workshop were initiated on all the projects to evolve modernisation plans and implement them.

Also, workshops on irrigation modernization have been held with FAO cooperation wherein WRD Engineers participated as resource persons in

(i) Jaunpur Branch Canal of Sarda Sahayak Project in Uttar Pradesh (December 2007),
(ii) Lower Ganga canal in UP (Sept 2008)
(iii) Tashkent, Uzbekistan (July – Aug 2009) &
(iv) Osh city, Kyrgyzstan (Nov-Dec 2017)

The trained engineers presented papers at various fora viz., ICID conference, India Water Week etc.