From the Joint Director’s Desk

In Bihar, the cumulative rainfall from 1st June to 31st August 2015 has been recorded 643.2 mm by IMD which is 20% deficient from the normal rainfall of 803.3 mm. Out of 38 districts, 17 districts recorded deficient rainfall (i.e. -20% to -59%). Deficiency in seven districts Araria, Purnea, Saharsa, Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur and Bhojpur was more than 40%. 20 districts recorded normal rainfall (i.e. -19% to +19%) and only one district Banka recorded excess rainfall. (i.e. +20%).

The rainfall in Bihar has a paradoxical situation, where north Bihar faces problem of recurrence flood and south Bihar faces problem of drought. There are a number of climatic and non-climatic drivers influencing flood and drought impacts. Floods may include river floods, flash floods, urban floods and sewer floods and can be caused by intense and/or long lasting precipitation, snow melt, dam break or reduced conveyance due to ice jam or landslides. Floods depend on intensity of precipitation, volume, timing, antecedent conditions of the river and their drainage basins. Human encroachment into flood plains and lack of flood response plans increase the damage potential.

The term drought may refer to meteorological drought (when the precipitation is well below normal), hydrological drought (low river flow and water levels in water bodies like lakes and groundwater), agricultural drought (low soil moisture) and environmental drought (a combination of the above). Interaction between human factor and natural conditions cause socio-economic impacts such as change in land use and land cover, water demand and use.

Impacts of extremes on human welfare are likely to occur disproportionately in developing countries. For example the flooded area in Bangladesh is projected to increase at least by 23% to 29% with a global temperature rise of 2°C. The 20% of world’s population living in river basins are likely to be affected by increased flood hazards by the last quarter of present century. Likewise almost same amount of the world’s population will face drought situation.

A workshop on Index Based Flood Insurance was held on 1st August 2015 at Patna in which FMISC participated. The concept of Index Based Flood Insurance may be useful if proper indexing is done and the benefit of insurance is ensured to the real sufferers. New concepts with meaningful objectives need to be adopted with proper care……
A meeting of Executive Committee (E.C) of BAPEPS held on August 25, 2015 under the chairmanship of Development Commissioner in which the E.C considered the scheme of Protection and Restoration of Km 0.0 to 28.20 of Eastern Kosi Embankment under Bihar Kosi Flood Recovery Project (BKFRP) and Proposed Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project (BKBDP) for revised administrative approval. The scheme has been granted revised technical approval by Chief Engineer, Central Design and Research, Patna for Rs. 632.77 Crore. Earlier in the 18th Executive Committee meeting held on November, 2014 by agenda no 10, an Administrative Approval for Rs. 382.97 Crores was granted for this scheme. The revision in the cost has been due to modification in DPR due to change in design, drawing and specification with the recommendation of CWPRS, Pune after conducting model studies for the said proposed works. Since the scheme is partly to be executed under ongoing BKFRP and partly under proposed BKBDP, Executive Committee granted Administrative Approval by agenda no 1/20 only on the part of work which is to be executed under BKFRP. The Executive Committee granted Administrative Approval for Rs. 154.86 for two packages PKG- 1A and PKG-IB under this scheme.

1. A workshop on “Enhancing the benefits of Remote Sensing and Flood Hazard Modeling in Index-based Flood Insurance” was organized by CGIAR, CCAFS and IWMI on 1st August 2015. Joint Director and other engineers from FMISC participated in the workshop.
2. A team of World Bank visited the field, Birpur from 05.08.15 to 06.08.15 to see the ongoing as well as completed work under BKFRP. Wrap up meeting was held on 07.08.15 with the World Bank officials, BAPEPs and Implementing Agencies at Hotel Maurya, Patna to review the progress of ongoing activities under BKFRP project.
5. Negotiation meeting with M/s DHI on Centre of Excellence on 21.08.2015.
6. A meeting with all Implementing Agencies within WRD to discuss immediate NHP issues was held at FMISC on 22.08.2015.