

Role of Women and Youth in Water Security and Inclusive Growth (PD-11)

As primary providers, managers and users of water, women and youth are uniquely positioned to help in driving productive changes in the water security scenario with their original contributions in designs and maintenance of water systems, water distribution and policymaking. However, in the present scenario, it is important to think that what can be done to increase involvement of women and youth in water management and how can stakeholders better leverage the expertise and market intelligence of women and youth to restructure water management and influence household, agricultural and industrial water consumption patterns.

Despite known benefits of this type of involvement, improved technologies, renewed vigour from international donors and new high-profile supporters, the vast majority of this set of world's population are yet to fully embrace this fight for water security.

In Indian scenario, it has been unequivocally acknowledged that the continued decline in water security or the availability of safe, reliable water as both a commodity and a natural resource presents an immense risk to poverty reduction and sustainable development in the coming decades. Without involving the women and youth in a big way, it may not be possible to come out of that absolute water scarcity scenario in coming future. In this session, in India Water Week, we need to come up with strategies for adopting the ways to provide greater roles to these self help groups, involving them in true managerial skills with full control of water systems and formulate the policies for future.