

The continuation of the scheme as WDC-PMKSY 2.0 has been approved by the Government on 15 December 2021. Under WDC PMKSY 2.0, total 1150 watershed projects covering an area of 50.16 lakh ha at a total cost of Rs.12303.33 crore have been sanctioned to States/UTs by the Department of Land Resources, GoI for implementation of projects from FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26. An amount of Rs.4527.92 crore (as on 04.12.2024) has been released as Central share to the States/UTs for 6 States covering Western Ghat region. The State-wise details of projects sanctioned area covered, project cost and Central funds released from 2019-20 to 2024-25 (as on 04.12.2024) for these States is given at **Annexure I**.

The activities undertaken in scheme inter alia include soil & moisture conservation measures, rain water harvesting measures, afforestation, horticulture and pasture development, livelihood activities, production system support and capacity building, etc.

End-line evaluation reports of completed projects reveal that there is significant improvement in availability of surface & ground water, increase in productivity, vegetative cover, enhanced livelihood opportunities and household incomes in project areas.

The details of physical and financial progress made under WDC-PMKSY2.0 in during the 2019-2024 for 6 States of Western Ghat region are given at **Annexure II**.

- (c) & (d) In consonance with the National Forest Policy 1988, the local communities are involved through Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) in the management of forests and various afforestation activities. Various schemes including Green India Mission are being implemented by the Ministry and the State/UT governments with the participation of these committees. Further, for the management of the Wildlife Protected Areas, Eco Development Committees (EDCs) are also formed to ensure people participation in wildlife conservation.