

# **CHAPTER 9**

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

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Flood is a great menace to the common people of the District Koch Bihar since the time immemorial. Both the natural as well as the human interferences into the nature are responsible for this hazard. Siltation within the river channel is the main cause of flooding. Heavy rainfall, sudden and sharp rise of water level in the catchments area are also causes flood. Flood is a misery, though it has some good effects for the people of the District. The total flood control in the District is hardly possible. For the traditional method of constructing embankment, the river accelerates the sedimentation processes and having a quick rate of decay. The people living in this District must learn to live with flood. But a flood management programme like construction of flood-shelter, scientific land use, plan for flood zone, introduction of flood warning systems, proper medical facilities during and after flood and supply of pure drinking water and food may reduce the distress of the affected communities to a great extent. Disaster Preparedness Policies and Response Planning are being made in advanced for disaster mitigation, warning, emergency operation, rehabilitation and recovery. Under such plans activities like training, post disaster evaluation, review and coordination of Central, State and local level preparedness programme will be involved.

To abate flooding effects in the District measures to be taken is given below in brief:

1. Every flooding incident of the District is to be analyzed, by identifying the factors responsible for flooding.
2. Repairing of all existing embankments, Sluice-gates etc.
3. Dredging the river beds to increase carrying capacity.
4. Reclamation and protection of reservoirs, *khals*, *bills* and ponds.
5. Protection of forest from illegal cutting in upper catchment areas in Jalpaiguri, Sikkim and Bhutan.
6. Popularise the social forestry and afforestation programme in Jalpaiguri, Sikkim, Bhutan and in the District Koch Bihar also.
7. Construction of flood shelter in every flood prone villages.
8. Strictly maintain not to settle or set up building in the river bed or over the embankment.

9. Development of efficient drainage system in the District and in the Jalpaiguri District also by re-excavation or re-sectioning of existing canals and drainage channels.
10. Development of proper land use pattern in the District.
11. Set up of meteorological centers in adequate number with sophisticated instrument to collect flood related data and information.
12. Development of suitable flood forecasting techniques for every Blocks of the District.
13. Forecasting in proper time and forecasting information have to reach easily even among the remote villages also.
14. Close coordination between meteorologist, irrigation engineer, agricultural scientists and officers, administrative officers and the common people living in flood prone areas.
16. Appropriate communication and infrastructural development in flood prone areas. As during the flooding situation administration can easily and immediately save the flood victims, a proper co-ordination among the whole administrative machinery is to be considered as the most urgent need of the hour by pushing aside all sorts of differences.
17. Introduce appropriate crop and variety suitable for flood prone areas specially for flooding season.
18. Establishment of seed bank in every flood prone areas.
19. Find out alternative occupation for flood victim farmers who lost their agricultural lands and became landless farmer.
20. Supply of medical facilities and medicines for flood victims and for cattle during and post flood situation.
21. Supply of adequate AVS injection to Primary health centers which are situated in the flood prone areas to face snake bite incidents during flood season.
22. Supply of food and pure drinking water during the flooding and post flooding situation.
23. Introduce the economic rehabilitation for flood prone areas.
24. Introduce the Flood Insurance Policy for the people of flood prone areas.
25. Preparation of Master Plan for flood prone areas.
26. Formation of Joint River Commission with Bhutan Government as most of the rivers of the District originates from Bhutan. Dolomite extraction of Bhutan

Government and release of excessive water during monsoon are causing flood in Jalpaiguri and in this District Koch Bihar.

27. Formation of Joint River Commission with Bangladesh Government, as in a few places of border area of the District flooded due to creation of embankment in Bangladesh territory.
28. The various Departments of Governments like Food & Supplies, Health, Public Health Engineering, Animal Resources, PWD Roads, Electricity, Relief, Panchayets, etc. have to be mobilized for rehabilitation programs through coordinated efforts.
29. The Panchayet and the grass-root officers should be well acquainted with the affected areas, so that the mobilisation of available resources to the affected areas and the people is swift and effective.
30. Relief materials, food stuff should be distributed through the Panchayet and Municipality only.
31. Road communication should be kept motorable before the onset of monsoon. Any damage of road should be repaired promptly.
32. All the weather forecast message, heavy rainfall, high rainfall warnings, report of discharge from dams, high rise of water level report should be analyzed in terms of flood possibility.
32. Dissemination of flood possibility messages should serve top administrative level to the grass root level.
33. Dissemination of messages at the grass root level may be made through the cycle or motor cycle messengers with microphone.
34. Use of microphone to the people should be made only when the disaster is really imminent otherwise microphone announcement may create panic, price hike, scarcity of necessary commodities, etc.
35. Identification about availability of country boat, mechanized boats, trucks and jeeps should be made well before the GP, Block, Subdivision and District level.
36. All officials of the District, dealing with flood like disaster should observed the satellite pictures on TV sets and take necessary follow-up actions.
37. Supply of Cattle feed and straw for the cattle health.
38. Assistance for repair or rebuilding of private properties.
39. Desilting and dewatering of inundated areas.

40. Taking up appropriate measures according to Contingency Plan for agriculture sector.
41. Reputed NGOs should be engaged in flood situation.
42. Formation of survey team for quick inspection of flood damages and make the priority lists of families eligible for financial help.
43. All deaths due to flood should be cross checked with report of BDO, the OC of Police Station and the post mortem report as the victim family should get compensation immediately.
44. Local people specially youth have been trained in providing with first-aid to the affected persons and have to act as volunteers for providing assistance to the field level officials.
45. People awareness has to grow in the District. People, who are living in the remote villages, have misconcepts about flooding. Proper guidelines are to be prepared on priority basis for what to do in pre, during and post flood situation.

Finally, it may be said that the flood problem in the study area Koch Bihar District cannot be totally eradicated because of its inherent physical set up, particularly, in terms of topography, relief, gradient, channel pattern and climatic condition. This flood problem can be partially mitigated by adopting measures as suggested above. Therefore, practically, there is a very narrow scope to be free from flooding in this study area. So, the common people of the entire District are advised not to go and fight against any natural phenomena like flood, rather to try to adopt them with flood.