



## WORLD WETLANDS DAY CELEBRATIONS AT RALLIS

Every year World Wetlands Day [WWD] is conducted world over on 2<sup>nd</sup> February to commemorate the signing of the UN Convention on wetlands, better known as Ramsar convention.

This year **Rallis India Limited** has celebrated WWD, as **CARING FOR WETLANDS: AN ANSWER TO CLIMATE CHANGE**, across the country. As irrigated rice fields are known to contribute to 10-15 per cent of global methane emission, the programme was targeted at rice farmers for creating awareness on their role in climate change and ways to mitigate the same. Similarly, in some locations we had involved the school and undergraduate students. These children were exposed to the concept of role of Wetlands in Global warming. The celebration was done in collaboration with governmental agencies and/or non-governmental organizations, which showed interest.

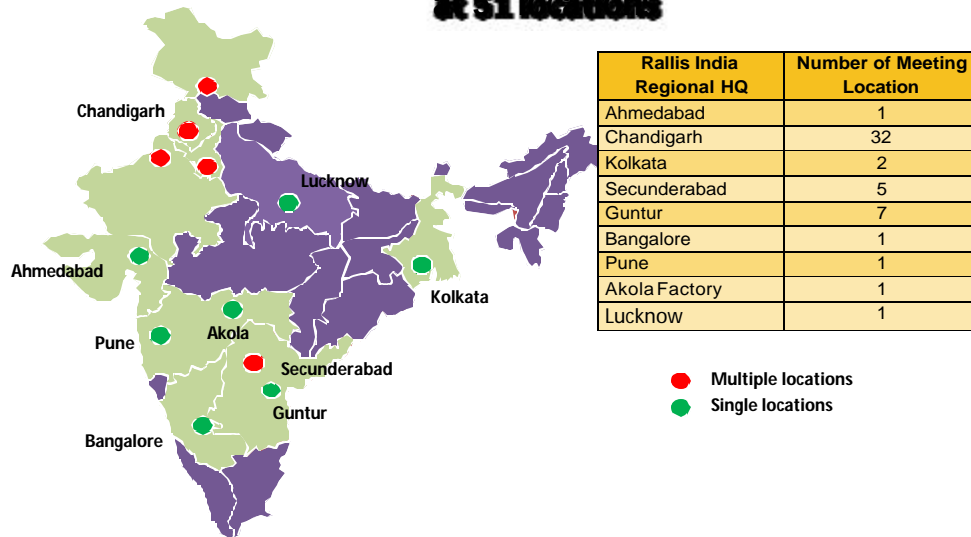


A well planned agenda was followed in all the states.

- Visit to the Rice fields / water ponds, reservoirs / composting yards / by School children to understand the concept
- Painting competition for children on the concept and awarding the winners
- Meeting with the farmers to explain about WWD
- Suggest to farmers various interventions in rice fields to mitigate methane emission.

- Group discussion by farmers to recommend the easy to adopt interventions
- Follow up action plans

**WWD was celebrated by RALLIS at 51 locations**



- Oath taking by farmers and other participants
- Discuss follow up plan to measure the effectiveness

**PARTICIPATION**

| Rallis India Regional HQ | Number of Participants                    | Support organisation   |
|--------------------------|---|--|
| Ahmedabad                | 43 farmers                                | Centre for Environmental Education, Ahmedabad  |
| Chandigarh               | 1200 farmers<br>2200 children             | Agriculture Department   |
| Kolkata                  | 55 farmers                                | Agriculture Department   |
| Secunderabad             | 152 farmers                               |  |
| Guntur                   | 220 farmers                               | Agriculture Department   |
| Bangalore                | 45 farmers<br>21 children                 | Taralabalu Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Davangere<br>DRM College, Davangere<br>Agriculture Department |
| Pune                     |   |  |
| Akola Factory            | 550 children<br>55 farmers<br>15 teachers | Sirushti Vaibhav, Akola<br>Jay Bhajrang Vidyalaya, Kumbhari<br>Many other schools              |
| Lucknow                  | 30 farmers                                |  |

As a strategy for mitigation of methane emission the following interventions were discussed in detail with the participant farmers.

### **STRATEGY FOR REDUCING METHANE EMISSION**

1. Application of well composted organic matter in place of fresh organic matter and green manure.
2. Use of Single Super phosphate as basal.
3. Application of urea and ammonia based fertilisers in split doses
4. Use of neem coated urea to increase the nitrogen use efficiency.
5. Minimum intercultural operations by using a suitable post-emergent herbicide
6. Use of Potassium sulphate in place of Ammonium Sulphate.
7. Replacement of N broadcasting with foliar sprays
8. Intermittent irrigation in place of continuous flooding of fields.

### **AWARENESS ON PRESERVING BIO-DIVERSITY IN RICE FIELDS:**

1. Importance of frogs, spiders, reptiles and other natural enemies in the rice ecosystem and ways of preserving them.
2. Use of safe pesticides – our objective is not to kill the frogs and snakes
3. Safe disposal of washings from spray tanks and remaining pesticide solutions
4. Weedy bund management for encouraging multiplication of useful organisms.

The celebration was considered unique by farmers as they found the proceedings interesting and of educational value.

#### **OATH ADMINISTERED TO ALL PARTICIPATING FARMERS**

I ..... [Name] confirm that I have understood the need for preserving the climate

I promise that I will educate my children and fellow farmers on preserving climate

I promise that I will do everything possible to minimize pollution to water bodies around my place.

There will be follow up with the farmers who have participated, to assess what interventions have been implemented in the current season and how much has been communicated to the fellow farmers.

### **CELEBRATIONS BY AKOLA MANUFACTURING FACILITY:**

1. The unit members visited a small natural lake at village Kumbhari & discussed with the villagers on the preservation of Kumbhari Lake.
2. All, along with the villagers, have taken oath to preserve this natural resource. Around 55 villagers were present & the participation certificates were distributed to the villagers.
3. Organized an awareness session for the Jai Bajarang Vidyalaya school children in the after noon session. Made a small presentation on the water resource conservation, various plants, various types of birds & species normally occurring in the pond.
4. A 15 min video clip named "Shapit Jalbindu" which was on the preservation on water resource from the contamination was shown to the participants.

## WWD – at Chandigarh



About 2000 children participated

## WWD – at Chandigarh



Some of the painting entries

## WWD – at Ahmedabad



43 FARMERS participated.  
Done with the cooperation of  
Centre for Environmental  
Education



Farmers taking oath



Government Officer addressing WWD at Guntur



Farmers Receiving Certificates – Guntur

Any further information with regard to WWD at Rallis India Limited may please be addressed to [gshankar@rallis.co.in](mailto:gshankar@rallis.co.in)

Visit our website for Photo Gallery on World Wetlands Day: [www.rallis.co.in](http://www.rallis.co.in)