

# Executive Summary

## Introduction

The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) had been passed by the Government of India in September 2005. Later, the Act has been renamed as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). It is proposed to address mainly the issues of poverty and unemployment. The Act also protects the citizen's fundamental right to work with dignity. The Act came in to force initially in 200 districts and during 2007-08 and it was extended to 330 districts and finally it was extended to the entire rural area of the country. As a result, the Act has been covered in Lakshadweep Islands under the Union Territory of Lakshadweep Administration. As per the provisions in the Act, every district has to prepare a perspective plan of MGNREGS for a period of five years. The Lakshadweep administration has taken a decision for the preparation of district perspective plan and this is the humble attempt in this direction. The following are the major objective of the perspective plan.

## Objectives

The following are the major objective of the perspective plan of MGNREGA

1. To prepare project proposals for employment generation and sustainable development of 10 islands (Village Dweep Panchayat) under MGNREGA for a period of five years.
2. To prepare labour budget for Lakshadweep
3. To assess the requirement for resources for the proposed perspective plan of Lakshadweep
4. To identify existing gaps in the infrastructure of the district (Lakshadweep as a whole) five blocks and 10 islands in Lakshadweep
5. To identify needs / requirements of every island / Village Dweep Panchayat (VDP)
6. To converge the existing plans and programmes with the proposed perspective plan under MGNREGA

## Methodology

Lakshadweep Administration, Union Territory of Lakshadweep, Kavaratti contracted the Centre for Rural Management (CRM), Kottayam to prepare the Perspective Plan of MGNREGA. This perspective plan has been prepared by considering the fragile ecosystem of the corral islands of the Lakshadweep. The works which supports the flora and funa of Lakshadweep have only proposed in the perspective plan. In connection with the preparation of the Perspective Plan, a team from CRM has visited all the 10 inhabitant islands and other major satellite islands to

understand the developmental potentials of these areas. The team also held wider discussions with members and chair person of all Village Dweep Panchayat (VDP), all the members of the District Panchayat, officials, farmers, senior citizens, former panchayat members, key informants, SHG leaders, leaders of different political parties and workers under MGNREGA. In addition to this, an institutional survey has been conducted by covering schools, anganwadis and hospitals to document the missing infrastructure facilities of the respective institutions. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) also were conducted to understand the felt needs and demands of the community based social infrastructure in the islands.

### **Profile of Lakshadweep**

The district of Lakshadweep stretches from 80° to 12°30' North latitude and from 71° to 74° East longitude. The distance of Union territory of Lakshadweep from the Malabar Coast in the south - west of India varies between 200-400 kms. An archipelago of 12 atolls, it is comprised of 26 beautiful islands out of which 10 are inhabited and 16 uninhabited islands, islets and immersed reefs. It has about 4 lakhs sq. kms of economic zone, about 4,200 sq.kms of lagoon area, and 20,000 sq. kms of territorial waters. The emerald waters are dotted with silvery beaches and swaying coconut trees. Lakshadweep is spread over a total geographical area of 32 sq. kms, it is a uni-district territory. With its administrative headquarters in Kavaratti, the district of Lakshadweep is home to 60650 people as per the census of 2001. The sex ratio is 948 females 1000 males. The major Lakshadweep islands are Amini, Kadamat, Andrott, Kalpeni, Agatti, Kavaratti, Bitra, Chetlat, Kiltan & Minicoy. The economy of Lakshadweep consists of coconut cultivation, fishing, cattle rearing, coir twisting and tourism.

According to the latest population estimates Lakshadweep district has a population of 68251(2009 population projections<sup>1</sup>). Out of these 34959 (51.22%) are males and 33292 (48.78%) are female. The sex ratio of the district according to this projection is 952 females per 1000 males. According to latest figures there are 9994 households out of which 902 are in Below Poverty Line (BPL) which comes to 9.02 percent. The average density of population is 2131. The literacy rate of

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<sup>1</sup> The population projection is taken from the Basic Statistics Document published by the Directorate of Planning and Statistics, Lakshadweep.

Lakshadweep Island as a whole comes to 86.66. The table no.(i) provide a summation of the block wise details of the above information.

**Table No.(i): Population and other details of Lakshadweep District 2001**

Particulars	Name of the Blocks					
	Kavaratti	Andrott	Amini	Kiltan	Minicoy	Total
Population	17193 (28.34%)	15048 (24.81%)	12687 (20.92%)	6227 (10.27%)	9495 (15.66%)	60650 (100%)
Male	9275 (29.79%)	7635 (24.52%)	6428 (20.65%)	3176 (10.21%)	4617 (14.83%)	31131 (100%)
Female	7918 (26.82%)	7413 (25.11%)	6259 (21.20%)	3051 (10.35%)	4878 (16.52%)	29519 (100%)
Density	2687 (23.24%)	2055 (17.77%)	2274 (19.66%)	2375 (20.54%)	2173 (18.79%)	11620 (100%)
ST	15844 (27.64%)	14223 (24.81%)	12386 (21.61%)	6035 (10.53%)	8833 (15.41%)	57321 (100%)
Sex Ratio	854	971	974	961	1056	948
Literacy	87.68	84.36	84.96	83.44	93.05	86.66
Male Literacy	93.44	92.15	91.48	87.24	95.39	92.53
Female Literacy	80.96	76.02	78.31	79.23	90.86	80.47
House hold	2879 (28.81%)	2444 (24.45%)	2119 (21.20%)	1198 (11.99%)	1354 (13.55%)	9994 (100%)
BPL Families	148 (16.41%)	254 (28.16%)	280 (31.04%)	206 (22.84%)	14 (1.55%)	902 (100%)
Poverty Ratio	5.14%	10.39%	13.21%	17.20%	1.03%	9.02%

Source: Basic Statistics 2007, Directorate of Planning and Statistics, Lakshadweep & DRDA, Kavaratti, Lakshadweep

### Work Participation

An analysis of the work participation suggest that the female work participation is quite poor in almost all the islands and this is mainly because of the gender practices and work culture in the island. Out of the total population of 60650 only 15354 people 'work', this is 25.31 percent, as per the census definition. Male female work participation also differs much, while male work participation is 42.41 percent the female work participation is just 7.28 percent The table No.(ii).

**Table No. (ii): Gender Work Participation Rate, Block Wise**

SI No	Block	Total Population			Total Workers			Percentage		
		Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1	Kavaratti	9275 (29.79%)	7918 (26.82%)	17193 (28.35%)	4613 (34.94%)	694 (32.28%)	5307 (34.56%)	49.74	8.76	30.87
2	Andrott	7635 (24.52%)	7413 (25.11%)	15048 (24.81%)	2927 (22.17%)	436 (20.28%)	3363 (21.90%)	38.34	5.88	22.35
3	Amini	6428 (20.65%)	6259 (21.20%)	12687 (20.92%)	2542 (19.25%)	424 (19.72%)	2966 (19.32%)	39.55	6.77	23.38
4	Kiltan	3176 (10.21%)	3051 (10.35%)	6227 (10.27%)	1322 (10.01%)	194 (9.02%)	1516 (9.88%)	41.62	6.36	24.35
5	Minicoy	4617 (14.83%)	4878 (16.52%)	9495 (15.65%)	1800 (13.63%)	402 (18.70%)	2202 (14.34%)	38.99	8.24	23.19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>31131 (100%)</b>	<b>29519 (100%)</b>	<b>60650 (100%)</b>	<b>13204 (100%)</b>	<b>2150 (100%)</b>	<b>15354 (100%)</b>	<b>42.41</b>	<b>7.28</b>	<b>25.31</b>

Source: 'Basic Statistics 2007', published by Directorate of Planning & Statistics, Kavaratti, Lakshadweep

### Basic Amenities and Infrastructure

The infrastructure and amenities in the district include ponds, wells, schools, health centers and other basic amenities. The table no (iii) provides the detail of the infrastructure and the amenities in the district.



**Table No.(iii): Basic Amenities and Infrastructure – Lakshadweep**

Amenities / Infrastructure	Unit	Kavaratti	Andrott	Amini	Kiltan	Minicoy	Total
Pond (2009)	Number	340 (31.86%)	340 (31.86%)	173 (16.21%)	160 (15%)	54 (5.07%)	1067 (100%)
Well (2009)	Number	2973 (26.61%)	3557 (31.84%)	2521 (22.56%)	1372 (12.28%)	750 (6.71%)	11173 (100%)
PWD Road (2009) - Km	Kilometer	36.36 (22.61%)	45.02 (27.99%)	41.80 (25.99%)	11.49 (7.15%)	26.15 (16.26%)	160.82 (100%)
Lower Primary School (2009)	Number	3 (23.08%)	3 (23.08%)	3 (23.08%)	3 (23.08%)	1 (7.68%)	13 (100%)
Upper Primary School (2009)	Number	3 (25%)	3 (25%)	3 (25%)	2 (16.67%)	1 (8.33%)	12 (100%)
High School	Number	1 (16.67%)	4 (66.67%)	1 (16.66%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	6 (100%)
Higher Secondary School (2009)	Number	3 (30%)	2 (20%)	2 (20%)	2 (20%)	1 (10%)	10 (100%)
Anganwadi (2009)	Number	24 (27.59%)	21 (24.14%)	18 (20.69%)	10 (11.49%)	14 (16.09%)	87 (100%)
Krishi Bhawan (2009)	Number	2 (22.22%)	2 (22.22%)	2 (22.22%)	2 (22.22%)	1 (11.12%)	9 (100%)
Veterinary Hospital (2009)	Number	2 (22.22%)	2 (22.22%)	2 (22.22%)	2 (22.22%)	1 (11.12%)	9 (100%)
Primary Health Centre (2009)	Number	2 (22.22%)	2 (22.22%)	2 (22.22%)	2 (22.22%)	1 (11.12%)	9 (100%)
Sub Centre (2009)	Number	1 (12.5%)	2 (25%)	3 (37.5%)	1 (12.5%)	1 (12.5%)	8 (100%)
First Aid Centre (2009)	Number	0(0%)	0(0%)	0(0%)	1 (100%)	0(0%)	1 (100%)
Library (2009)	Number	2 (20%)	2 (20%)	2 (20%)	3 (30%)	1 (10%)	10 (100%)
Rain Water Harvesting Tank (2009)	Number	355 (39.05%)	61 (6.72%)	103 (11.33%)	160 (17.60%)	230 (25.30%)	909 (100%)
Post Office (2002)	Number	2 (20%)	2 (20%)	2 (20%)	3 (30%)	1 (10%)	10 (100%)
Power Generation (2006-07)	Kwh	9326.55 (33.34%)	6010.32 (21.49%)	4973.8 (17.78%)	2140.1 (7.65%)	5521.68 (19.74%)	27972.43 (100%)
Power Consumption - Domestic (2006-07)	Kwh	4617.82 (27.06%)	4136.31 (24.24%)	2955.9 (17.32%)	1413.2 (8.29%)	3941.01 (23.09%)	17064.24 (100%)
Power Consumption – Commercial (2006-07)	Kwh	2424.88 (46.44%)	889.4 (17.03%)	713.79 (13.67%)	429.13 (8.23%)	764.01 (14.63%)	5221.21 (100%)
Power Consumption – Industrial (2006-07)	Kwh	104.43 (26.72%)	61.03 (15.61%)	70.97 (18.16%)	17.97 (4.60%)	136.46 (34.91%)	390.86 (100%)
Power Connections – Domestic (2006-07)	Number	4968 (29.91%)	4083 (24.59%)	3538 (21.30%)	2027 (12.20%)	1991 (12%)	16607 (100%)
Power Connections – Commercial (2006-07)	Number	1008 (30.17%)	869 (26.01%)	606 (18.14%)	438 (13.11%)	420 (12.57%)	3341 (100%)
Power Connections – Industrial (2006-07)	Number	70 (24.82%)	78 (27.66%)	68 (24.11%)	29 (10.29%)	37 (13.12%)	282 (100%)
Telephone Connections (2007)	Number	2622 (30.24%)	2178 (25.12%)	1617 (18.65%)	918 (10.59%)	1336 (15.40%)	8671 (100%)

Source: (i) Basic Statistics, 2007, Directorate of Planning and Statistics, Kavaratti, Lakshadweep  
(ii) Participatory Discussions during field visits with various stakeholders in the block.

## Local Economy

Local economy of Lakshadweep district consists of agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries. Coconut is the dominating agricultural crop in the district. A total of 580.18 Lakhs of coconuts have been harvested in the district in 2006-07. Apart from these 1848400 liters of milk and 12736000 eggs have been produced in the district in 2006-07 and this includes both private and public sector. In 2006 in Lakshadweep a total of 11751 tons of fish have been landed including the fish landing of 1452 tones from Suheli Island. The revenue from this comes to around Rs.2350 Lakhs. There is an increase in revenue over years. The peak year was 1998 when the yield was 14626 tons and the revenue was Rs.2486.42. In Lakshadweep there are a total of 2624 full time active fishermen and 5516 part-time or occasional fishermen as per 2006-07 statistics. The table no. (iv) suggests the block wise distribution of fish coconut and other production in the island.

**Table No. (iv): Block wise Production of coconut , egg fish etc..**

Block	Coconut (In Lakhs)	Milk (In Liters)	Egg (In Numbers)	Fish Landing (In Tons)
Kavaratti	154.26 (26.59%)	451845 (24.44%)	3229944 (25.36%)	3680 (35.73%)
Andrott	190.7 (32.86%)	496252 (26.84%)	3303407 (25.94%)	2089 (20.28%)
Amini	139.46 (24.04%)	386085 (20.89%)	2785405 (21.87%)	508 (4.94%)
Kiltan	58.3 (10.05%)	280896 (15.20%)	1831971 (14.38%)	1572 (15.26%)
Minicoy	37.46 (6.46%)	233322 (12.63%)	1585273 (12.45%)	2450 (23.79%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>580.18 (100%)</b>	<b>1848400 (100%)</b>	<b>12736000 (100%)</b>	<b>10299 (100%)</b>

Source: Basic Statistics, 2007, Directorate of Planning and Statistics

## MGNREGA Governance and Registration Trend

A total of 8540 families have been registered for MGNREGS work and out of this 3367 job cards have been issues (39.43%). 46151 Mandays have been created in the island and out of this women worked in 18159 days (39.35%). The table no. (v) suggests the block wise break up of this.

**Table No.(v): MGNREGA Block Wise Registrations and Mandays Generated**

Name of the Blocks	No of HH Registered	No. of Job Card Issues	% of Job card Issued out of Registered	No. of Mandays Generated			% of Female Participation out of total participation
				Male	Female	Total	
Kavaratti	2478 (29.01%)	719 (21.35%)	29%	2449 (8.75%)	3199 (17.62%)	5648 (12.24%)	57%
Andrott	2198 (25.74%)	1725 (51.23%)	78%	14507 (51.83%)	11022 (60.70%)	25529 (55.31%)	43%
Amini	2165 (25.35%)	341 (10.13%)	16%	771 (2.75%)	489 (2.69%)	1260 (2.73%)	39%
Kiltan	1104 (12.93%)	443 (13.16%)	40%	9534 (34.06%)	1708 (9.40%)	11242 (24.36%)	15%
Minicoy	595 (6.97%)	139 (4.13%)	23%	731 (2.61%)	1741 (9.59%)	2472 (5.36%)	70%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8540 (100%)</b>	<b>3367 (100%)</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>27992 (100%)</b>	<b>18159 (100%)</b>	<b>46151 (100%)</b>	<b>39%</b>

Source: Discussion with VDPs and the MGNREGA progress report, DRDA, Kavaratti, Lakshadweep

### Labor Supply Trend

The labour availability in Lakshadweep for various works has been limited by a number of factors in different island. Some of the factors include;

- Seasonality of Fishing
- Cultural Preferences
- Labour Practices
- Gender Practices and Culture of Work

All these affect the labour availability. More over the climatic changes and the various festivals in the island also are the factors that affect the availability of labour force. A labour projection has been worked out to estimate the future labour availability in the island for MGNREGS and it is shown in the table no.(vi).

### Labour Projections

The labour projection has been worked out based on a methodology which considers the total population, present registration and the potential labour force for further registration under MGNREGA. In each island, the base year has been worked out mainly from the present registration trend for the work and the population growth rate of that particular island. The maximum of 10 percent labour projection has been done in Minicoy block whereas the corresponding figure for the Amini block is only two percent. It is noticed that maximum registration of labour force under MGNREGA has been done in Amini block (Amini & Kadamat islands). And

this has been done based on a house based survey by the Village Dweep Panchayat in Amini Island. Our observation is that in Minicoy island there is more potential for further registration of labour force under MGNREGA. The labour projections have been worked out in table no. (vi). In 2010-2011, the labour projection (number of persons, not mandays) for MGNREGS is estimated as 19172 and for the year 2014-2015, it is projected as 21671 persons.

**Table No. (vi): Block wise Distribution of Labour Projection**

Name of the Block	Labour Projection (in nos)					
	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Growth Rate
Kavaratti	4507 (23.51%)	4676 (23.64%)	4852 (23.77%)	5036 (23.90%)	5228 (24.12%)	3.50%
Andrott	5917 (30.86%)	6080 (30.74%)	6248 (30.61%)	6422 (30.47%)	6502 (30%)	3.50%
Amini	5711 (29.79%)	5825 (29.45%)	5941 (29.11%)	6060 (28.75%)	6182 (28.53%)	2%
Kiltan	1847 (9.63%)	1888 (9.55%)	1929 (9.45%)	1973 (9.36%)	2017 (9.31%)	4.67%
Minicoy	1190 (6.21%)	1309 (6.62%)	1440 (7.06%)	1584 (7.52%)	1742 (8.04%)	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>19172 (100%)</b>	<b>19778 (100%)</b>	<b>20410 (100%)</b>	<b>21075 (100%)</b>	<b>21671 (100%)</b>	<b>4.73%</b>

Source: Calculated from the population growth trend and the labour supply trend Basic Statistics, 2007, Directorate of Planning and Statistics, Lakshadweep &. Information collected from DRDA, Kavaratti

### Proposals of Work under MGNREGA

Six sectors have been identified under MGNREGS for Lakshadweep. These sectors are; i.water conservation, ii.renovation of traditional water bodies, iii rural connectivity, iv.flood control, v.land development and vi.other works (works does not fall in any of the above categories are put under the other works category). The table no. vii suggests the details of works under six different sectors. For the entire work in Lakshadweep, the required mandays is 4629395 with a budget of Rs.8919.72 lakhs.

**Table No. (vii): Sector and Profile of Activities – Lakshadweep District**

Sector	Works Proposed	Number of Works	No. Mandays	Percentage	Cost (In Lakhs)	Percentage
<b>I. Water Conservation</b>	1. Digging of Pond	86	61920	1.34%	129	1.45%
	2. Percolation of Well	371	56091	1.21%	116.87	1.31%
	3. Rain Water Harvesting Tank	1832	267468	5.78%	549.6	6.16%
	4. Well Recharge Pit	556	6672	0.14%	8.35	0.09%
	5. Chakirikkulam	150	3000	0.06%	3.75	0.04%
	6. Husk Burial	11845	568560	12.28%	1184.5	13.28%
	<b>Sub Total (Sector)</b>			<b>963711</b>	<b>20.82%</b>	<b>1992.07</b>
<b>II. Renovation of Traditional Water Bodies</b>	1. Well Renovation	2280	164160	3.55%	342.05	3.83%
	2. Pond Renovation	437	104880	2.27%	218.5	2.45%
	<b>Sub Total (Sector)</b>		<b>269040</b>	<b>5.81%</b>	<b>560.55</b>	<b>6.28%</b>

Table No. vii contd.....

Sector	Works Proposed	Number of Works	No. Mandays	Percentage	Cost (In Lakhs)	Percentage
III. Rural Connectivity	1. Link Road (km)	63.79	1224771	26.46%	2551.6	28.60%
	2. Ring Road (km)	32.15	617280	13.33%	1286	14.41%
	3. Road Maintenance (km)	0.6	11520	0.25%	24	0.27%
	<b>Sub Total (Sector)</b>		<b>1853571</b>	<b>40.04%</b>	<b>3861.6</b>	<b>43.29%</b>
IV. Flood Control	1. Anti Sea Erosion Work (km)	28.7	220416	4.76%	459.2	5.15%
	2. Maintenance of Anti sea erosion work (km)	5.5	21120	0.46%	44	0.49%
	3. Sea Shore Plantation (ha)	126.6	151351	3.27%	315.74	3.54%
	4. Sea Mouth Cleaning (meter)	250	20000	0.43%	25	0.28%
	<b>Sub Total (Sector)</b>		<b>412887</b>	<b>8.92%</b>	<b>843.94</b>	<b>9.46%</b>
V. Land Development	1. Coconut Seedling	26990	64776	1.40%	134.95	1.51
	2. Coconut Pathy	265	23051	0.50%	45.05	0.51
	3. Centri Pital Terracing	70000	28000	0.60%	35	0.39%
	4. Coconut Compost Pit	721	8652	0.19%	10.82	0.12%
	5. Coconut Trench	800	9600	0.21%	12.005	0.13%
	6. Compost Pit	775	9300	0.20%	11.63	0.13%
	7. Waste Pit	3133	38136	0.82%	47.67	0.53%
	8. Coir Pit Compost	320	3840	0.08%	4.8	0.05%
	9. Fish Waste Compost	197	2364	0.05%	2.955	0.03%
	10. Horticulture (ha)	192.55	157191	3.40%	198.45	2.22%
	11. Bio Fencing (mtr)	37000	40320	0.87%	84	0.94%
	12. Land Development and Island Cleaning (ha)	1442	55565	1.20%	69.22	0.78%
	13. Road side Plantation (ha)	13.48	15994	0.35%	33.32	0.37%
	14. Clearing Bushed (ha)	68.3	28160	0.61%	34.2	0.38%
	15. Soil Up Filling (ha)	1.59	6624	0.14%	8.28	0.09%
	16. Land Leveling Work in Schools (ha)	0.46	14000	0.30%	25.5	0.29%
	17. Tree Plantation (ha)	0.207	4836	0.10%	10.073	0.11%
	18. Vegetable Garden (ha)	0.531	32544	0.70%	63.72	0.71%
<b>Sub Total (Sector)</b>		<b>542953</b>	<b>11.73%</b>	<b>831.61</b>	<b>9.32%</b>	
VI. Other Works	1. Septic Tank	1102	48469	1.05%	99.18	1.11%
	2. Public Toilet and Urinal	4	3840	0.08%	8	0.09%
	3. Coconut Climbing	0	468000	10.11%	585	6.56%
	4. Mosquito Control (days)	600	600	0.01%	0.75	0.01%
	5. Param Maintenance	69	1380	0.03%	1.725	0.02%
	6. Compound Wall (School and public place) (km)	2.12	15264	0.33%	31.8	0.36%

Sector	Works Proposed	Number of Works	No. Mandays	Percentage	Cost (In Lakhs)	Percentage
	7. Cycle Shed - School	3	1440	0.03%	3	0.03%
	8. Kitchen Repair and New Kitchen	3	1680	0.04%	3.5	0.04%
	9. Auditorium , New Hall and Buildings & Repair	4	40800	0.88%	85	0.95%
	10. Lab	1	5760	0.12%	12	0.13%
	<b>Sub Total (Sector)</b>		<b>587233</b>	<b>12.68%</b>	<b>829.95</b>	<b>9.30%</b>
	<b>G Total</b>		<b>4629395</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8919.72</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source : Consolidation of block wise final works

### Implementation Calendar

We have prepared an implementation calendar for the MGNREGA works in Lakshadweep. While preparing the implementation calendar, seasonality of the island the labour availability, religious festivals and practices (Ramzaan & Fasting), gender Issues, women participation in work, material transportation, cost effectiveness, seasonality of agricultural crops land acquisition has been considered seriously.

### Proposed Outcome of MGNREGA

The proposed outcome of the MGNREGA works has also has been analysed and it has far reaching outcomes such as positive effect on poverty reduction, employment generation, asset creation and infrastructure facilities for agriculture & fisheries, preservation of traditional agrarian practices, women empowerment, traditional nature of the Island, capacity building of the Village Dweep Panchayats, disaster mitigation and climate change management.

### Challenges and Limitations

The poor work participation and scarcity of labour force for hard work was a real challenge in the preparation of the perspective plan. We are fully aware that 'these small island economies are also facing, in general, depletion of the natural resources'. As we have already mentioned the fragile ecosystem of the corral island, and the flora and fauna of Lakshadweep was another limitation for proposing certain developmental schemes for the islands. However, we made all our attempts to propose works which protects the fragile ecosystem & flora and fauna of the islands. The preparation of the perspective plan of MGNREGA for the small island economies (SIEs) was another major challenge. On the other side, Lakshadweep has a larger territorial water and

exclusive economic zone which makes the perspective plan very important for the islands. We are sure that implementation the MGNREGS in the islands and the work scheduling in the islands may be another challenge. Of course, we hope the experienced political and official functionaries of the islands with their native wisdom will implement the perspective plan for a sustainable and equitable development of the islands.

### **Suggestions**

Two major suggestions has been made (i) since the material mobilization need to be done in advance and are transported from the main land the cost of materials might be higher compared to that of the other places., this might increase the material cost component of MGNREGS. This is one of the major issues in the governance of the scheme in Lakshadweep Islands. Therefore, it is suggested to follow a reverse ratio of wage and material that is 40:60 (40% for wage and 60% for material) instead of the 60:40 ratio (60 for wage and 40 for material), which is mentioned in the guideline. (ii) Inclusion of coconut climbing in to MGNREGS activity has been another suggestion done because of the strong priority given by the islanders and its linkages with the other sectors like land development. Apart from that it also would give the coconut climbers with a better dignity and finally more workers can be attracted to this sector. These two suggestions need special consideration from the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt of India.

### **Design of the Perspective Plan**

The report consists of six chapters. Chapter I deals with Introduction. Chapter II deals with Existing Schemes and Fund Flow to District, Blocks and Islands. Chapter III shows District Analysis of Perspective Plan of MGNREGA in Lakshadweep. Chapter IV and V explain the block and island wise perspective plan of MGNREGA, respectively. Chapter VI deals with the Output and Over all Outcomes of the MGNREGA. We have tried to follow the guidelines and chapterisation of MGNREGA suggested by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India. Of course, slight modifications also have been made as per the specific spatial and other socio cultural dimensions of Lakshadweep.