

Indo-French Collaborative Water Projects in Pipeline

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Puducherry: Ambassador of France in India, Francois Richier, on Tuesday announced funding of two to three new Indo-French collaborative projects in the area of water management, under the aegis of Indo-French Water Network (IFWN).

"We are looking at more such joint projects on water and land resource management, identified as a priority area under the Indo-French collaboration," said Richier, delivering the inaugural address at the three-day Indo-French Workshop on water and land management, 'Is an Integrated Management of Surface and Ground Water

possible?', at the French Institute of Pondicherry.

The workshop is jointly organised by the Department of Ecology and Environment sciences of Pondicherry University and French Institute of Pondicherry on Tuesday and fully funded by IFWN.

Richier said IFWN wants to have a holistic approach to water and land-related issues. "It could also be an intellectual platform for addressing questions on water and land through a multidisciplinary perspective by bringing together private enterprises, public entities, individuals, academics, government, industry and any other person or group from France or India working in the sector," Richier further

added. The three-day workshop is the second collaborative project of the IFWN with a funding of ₹9.4 lakh through the Indo-French Centre for Research.

Richier also added that higher education was another priority area.

Ramasamy R Iyer, former secretary, Ministry of Water Resources said, "Big dams lead to dry patches on river. In some cases tunnels for over 100 kilometres have tremendous effect on ecology and those dependent on water resources," he said.

Ramasamy R Iyer also expressed the need for the holistic use of water, prevent transmission loss and recycling of water, particularly by the industries.