



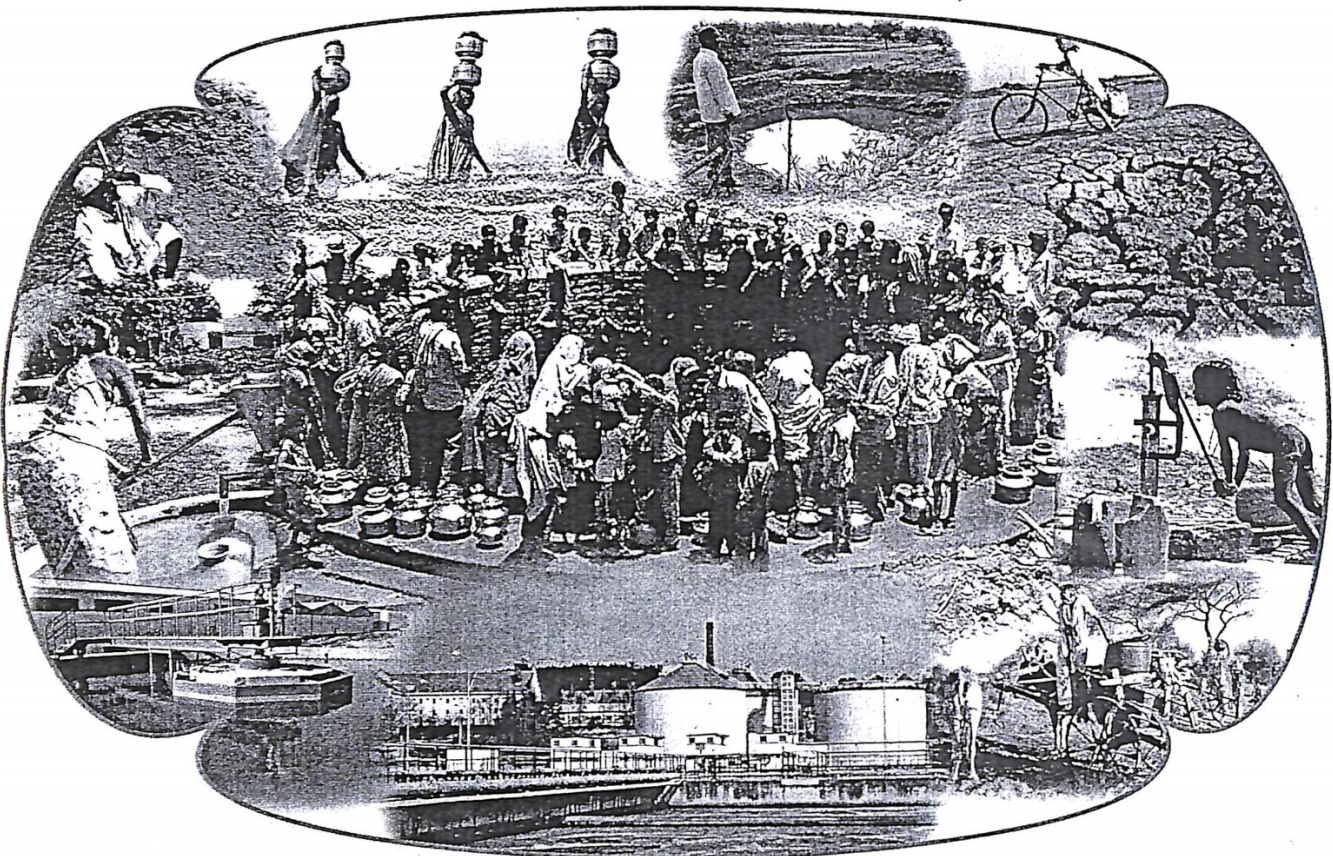
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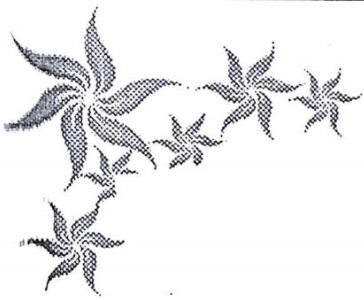
National Level Seminar

Special Issue On

WATER MANAGEMENT

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"Water Management"

26th and 27th February 2015

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“WATER MANAGEMENT IN MAHARASHTRA”

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ABSTRACT -:

On the earth land cover of the water body is 72%, but an extreme serious fact is only the 2 to 3 % are the sources of fresh water usable for drinking and irrigation purpose. Water management in short means the per unit productivity of water and to increase the per unit productivity of water, it is necessary to have perfect water management. Maharashtra state has formed various water policies but the actual need is of strict implementation of the rules to conserve and to save water. The need to involve the farmers i. e. the water users, in planning and executing irrigation improvement and rehabilitation programmes is no longer a subject of dispute.

KEYWORDS -:

Irrigation, Irrigation Potentials, Gross Cropped Area (GPA), WUAs

OBJECTIVES -:

- To overview the key properties of irrigation water.
- To overview the poor status of Irrigation in Maharashtra.
- To have an overlook on the Water Policy in Maharashtra.
- To elaborate the need of Water Management in India.
- To suggest the measures to sort out the problems in water management in Maharashtra.

INTRODUCTION -:

Today India is the country being the topmost among the country of excessive water utilized country in the world because of the population explosion. The water utilized percentage of India is 13%, America is 9% and China having 12%, suppose this ratio will continue, water problems would be increased and have to face the inadequacy of water in future.

In the year 2005, Maharashtra Govt. passed an act for the control of resources and the uses of the water. The main objective of this act is to maintain the co-ordination between the resources and uses of the water, main stress is given on irrigation.

While studying the water distribution policies, it is important to overview **the key properties of Irrigation water**. Irrigation water is the basic input used for agricultural production.

1. Irrigation water has been transformed into an economic good from a free good after taking a form of dams, weirs, canals, reservoirs; tube wells etc although there is no change in its quality.
2. Irrigation water is divisible input for its users. The supply price depends on various factors such as its location; type of structure, technology used which is not in the case of other agricultural inputs.
3. Irrigation water is a "Leading Input" for technological progress in agriculture. As only irrigation can provide assured supply of water which only can cover the risk of applying innovative techniques in agricultural sector.
4. Irrigation water helps to improve the permanent nature of land. It can achieve better terms of growth and equity.
5. Irrigation water is not just an input of agricultural production but it bears a strong relationship with the social organization.

Poor Status of Irrigation Continues in Maharashtra:-

The Government of Maharashtra (GoM) recently released its Economic Survey 2013- 2014. According to the report, total irrigated area in the state registered a decline in 2012-2013. The state had created total irrigation potential of 6,479 thousands hectares by June 2012 by means of various Irrigation Projects, of which only 2,660 thousands hectares was utilized in 2012-2013. The actual irrigation potential utilized in 2011-2012 was higher at 3,464 thousands hectares. The main reason sighted for this downfall was insufficient rainfall in the state in 2012-2013. Due to less live storage of water, it was recorded to be stored for drinking purpose due to which the state's irrigation potential could not be fully utilized.

For the second consecutive year, the report has remained silent on the gross irrigated area in Maharashtra and its share in gross cropped area. It sources this information from the Commissionerate of Agriculture, GoM. In Economic Survey 2011-2012, the Maharashtra Govt. had highlighted the poor performance of its Irrigation sector. It reflected only a 0.1 % increase in the irrigated area in the decade from 2000-2001 to 2009-2010. In 2000-2001, 17.8 % of the gross cropped area was irrigated which merely rose to 17.9 % in 2009-2010.

Maharashtra State Water Policy:-

Objectives: - The Objectives of the Maharashtra State Water Policy are to ensure the sustainable development and optimal use and management of the state's water resources to provide the greatest economic and social benefit for the people of the state of Maharashtra in a manner that maintains important ecological values within rivers and adjoining lands.

Volume of water delivered at their respective off-takes. WUAs and other water user entities shall be responsible for determining internal water charges and assessing each of its members to obtain the funds required for paying water charges, carrying out necessary maintenance and for any other purpose approved by the membership. In order to alleviate the impact of such charges on those unable to pay the complete charge, the state may allow cross- subsidies and Government funds.

Conclusions:-

In this way though there are various rules and regulations to manage the water resources in a proper way the problem is in implementation of the rules and regulations in Maharashtra. From the studies it is concluded that instead of having measures for water conservation there is a need of perfect water management in the present situation.

Suggestions:-

- The needs to be pursued more vigorously with genuine empowerment of WUAs, the objective should be to cover the entire command of all major and medium projects with WUAs.
- The pricing structure for water needs a serious review to reflect the scarcity value of water. Water charges must ensure that the revenues earned by state Government cover the operation and maintenance costs of irrigation and water supply systems.

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