

EDITORIAL

Water resources for irrigation and other benefits have constituted the base of human civilization in India. The strong and durable agricultural base of the Indian economy has provided for resilience and endurance of the Indian civilization. Through successive five year plans, our country has achieved significant progress in developing its water resources for irrigation and other uses. However, to cope up with the increasing demands of foodgrains and water for various uses, for our expanding population, it is necessary to expand irrigation facilities and water resources development activities at an accelerated pace. Simultaneously, it is equally important to conserve and utilise our water resources in an optimal and efficient manner.

Conservation of water resources means putting the water resources for the most beneficial use with different technologies at our command. This also involves minimisation of evaporation and other losses, and providing maximum possible benefits to maximum number of people with due regard to the priorities like drinking, irrigation, hydropower, industry, navigation, recreation, etc. Conventional measures of water conservation include rain water harvesting, surface storages, interbasin transfer, artificial recharge, conjunctive use of surface and ground water, evaporation control, use of efficient irrigation systems like sprinkler and drip irrigation, conservation in domestic consumption and industrial use, etc. The message and philosophy of water conservation has to become part of our day to day life.

This issue of 'Jalvigyan Sameeksha' is devoted to the theme of water conservation and invited papers have been contributed by the authors covering various aspects. It is hoped that the information provided in these papers would be found to be useful and would also lead to increasing awareness about various techniques for water conservation.

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