

# Download File PDF Irrigation Water Power And Water Resources Engineering In Si Units

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4 IRRIGATION AND WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING

State	Period	Yield, Tonne/Hectare		
		Unirrigated	Irrigated	Total
Andhra Pradesh	1977-79	0.42	1.69	1.48
	1977-79	0.47	1.11	2.27
	1977-79	0.49	0.53	2.00
Tamil Nadu	1966-66	0.81	4.00	2.14
	1956-58	0.66	1.78	1.69
	Average	0.58	4.35	2.21
		1.92		

Reliable and adequate irrigation is known to raise the employment. According to some field studies, increases in working days per hectare with irrigation compared with rainfed conditions have been 61 per cent on the Dandwara canal project in Gujarat) to as high as 150 per cent in Ferozpur, Punjab (4). As a result, production as well as incomes are generally stable at higher levels.

Due to the assured employment and higher incomes spread over the entire year, there is added security against impoverishment. Therefore, the need for having dependent relationships with moneylenders and employers as well as the dangers of having to dispose of assets like land to buy food or meet debts is much less.

Another beneficial aspect of irrigation is that it stops exodus and attracts people to the region. Therefore, hardships associated with split families are avoided and a more stable and settled family life results.

Irrigation influences the quality of life. One major effect is the increase in prosperity which must improve the nutrition intake and resistance of the people against disease. The prosperity, in its wake, does bring some evils such as dowry, drug habits, etc. But, these evils can be eradicated through education and social welfare programmes. In addition to the above-mentioned gains in agricultural production and livelihood of rural population, irrigation also provides protection against famine and increases the quality of agricultural yields. Other secondary benefits of irrigation projects, such as hydroelectric power generation, use of canals for inland navigation, domestic water supply, and improvement in communication systems also affect the human environment in a favourable manner.

There can, however, be adverse effects too. The adverse effects are mainly in the form of waterborne and water-related diseases and waterlogged saline lands.

### 1.3 WATER RESOURCES OF INDIA

India, with a geographical area of 299 Mha (million hectares), is blessed with large river basins which have been divided into 12 major ones (Table 1.4) and 68 medium river basins comprising 25.8 Mha and 24.9 Mha of total catchment area, respectively (6). It possesses about 4 per cent of the total average annual runoff of the rivers of the world. The per capita water availability of natural runoff is, however, only 2390 cubic metre per year which is about one-third of the per capita water availability in USA and Japan (6). The per capita water availability in India would further decrease with ever-increasing population of the country.

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