ARTICLES

Exploring the Socio-Economic Impacts of Micro-Irrigation System: A Case Study of Public Tube wells in Gujarat, Western India
P.K. Viswanathan and Chandrasekhar Bahinipati

Achieving Food Security in Storm Surge-prone Coastal Polders of South-West Bangladesh
Md. Gulam Kibria, Debanjali Saha, Tamanna Kabir, Taznin Naher, Sultana Maliha, M. Shahjahan Mondal

The Late Embrace of Urban Water-Service Privatization in India: A Political Economy Explanation
Gregory Pierce

COMMENTARY

Water into whine
Why deliberative governance of South Asia’s rivers is little more than a talk shop
Paula Hanasz

BOOK REVIEW

Diverting the Flow: Gender Equity and Water in South Asia
Vishal Narain
Chief Editor
Anjal Prakash, International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development, Nepal

Managing Editor
Sumit Vij, South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies

Co-ordinator
Jyoti Nair, South Asia Consortium for Interdisciplinary Water Resources Studies
# Table of Contents

**Note from the Editor**
Anjal Prakash

Exploring the Socio-Economic Impacts of Micro-Irrigation System (MIS): A Case Study of Public Tube wells in Gujarat, Western India
P.K. Viswanathan & Chandrasekhar Bahinipati

Achieving Food Security in Storm Surge-prone Coastal Polders of South-West Bangladesh
Md. Gulam Kibria, Debanjali Saha, Tamanna Kabir, Taznin Naher, Sultana Maliha, M. Shahjahan Mondal

The Late Embrace of Urban Water-Service Privatization in India: A Political Economy Explanation
Gregory Pierce

Water into whine
Why deliberative governance of South Asia’s rivers is little more than a talk shop
Paula Hanasz

Vishal Narain
Dear Reader,

This is the first volume of South Asian Water Studies (SAWAS) since I took over the charge of the journal in November 2014. I was one of the fortunate members of the team when SAWAS was conceptualized at a tiny office in southern Indian city of Hyderabad in 2009. Since then, Prof Vishwa Ballabh of Xaviour Labour Relations Institute (XLRI), Jamshedpur, India has been the chief editor of this open access journal. After the term of Prof Ballabh expired, I had taken over as the chief editor and this is the first volume we are presenting to our readers. With this note, I want to thank Dr. Ballabh for his able leadership in editing this journal for first five years.

The present volume has three interesting papers on three different topics – micro irrigation systems, water privatization issues in India and food security issues in coastal Bangladesh. The paper by P.K. Viswanathan and Chandrasekhar Bahinipati titled - Exploring the Socio-Economic Impacts of Micro-Irrigation System (MIS): A Case Study of Public Tube wells in Gujarat, Western India, presents the results of a techno-economic analysis of the performance of 122 tube wells installed with pressure-induced irrigation network and micro-irrigation systems in nine sub-districts of Banaskantha district in western Indian state of Gujarat. The analysis demonstrates that farmers who had adopted the MIS under the state subsidy programme had been compensated for the investments they had made. By and large, farmers reported growing a range of crops especially during the kharif and rabi seasons. Most of these crops had been brought under the MIS. Even so, while their adoption of MIS has been quite impressive during these two seasons, the use of MIS for growing summer crops was found to be much lower and highly restricted to a few crops. This was reported mainly due to the shortage of groundwater. The paper highlights that the limited adoption of MIS among farmers belonging to socially backward communities is a matter of concern that needs to be addressed by implementing specifically targeted MIS programmes for communities lower in socio-economic hierarchies.

Gregory Pierce’s paper - The Late Embrace of Urban Water-Service Privatization in India: A Political Economy Explanation, explores the Political and economic reforms in India that made private sector participation (PSP) in urban water delivery a viable strategy for state and city policymakers. This move has been against the expectations of many scholars. The paper provides a comprehensive analysis of the development of temporal, geographic, and stakeholder variations in urban water PSP in India. Regression models are used to explore state-level correlates of PSP as well as variations in city-level contract features. Findings emphasize the role of political party ideology in implementation and the decreasing cost and length of initiatives. They also suggest the prospects for future private sector participation in India. The paper by Kibria Gulam et al titled - Achieving Food Security in Storm Surge-prone Coastal Polders of South-West Bangladesh documents the issue of food security from the south-west coastal region of Bangladesh which is highly vulnerable to various natural disasters. The area had experienced numerous cyclonic storms in the past. During the cyclone Aila in 2009, the embankments were breached and overtopped at many places, causing inundation and saline water intrusion, damaging agricultural land, and subsequently resulting in food insecurity. This paper is based on a study that was conducted to assess the impacts of Aila and the measures to achieve food security in Dacope upazila, Khulna district. Data were
collected in 2014 from three visits to the study area and relevant organizations. The results showed that agriculture was the most affected sector along with distinct changes in land use pattern. The farmers found that cultivation of rice as well as non-rice crops such as sunflower, sesame, and watermelon was more profitable than single rice crop cultivation, previously practised. The FAO AquaCrop model simulation resulted also in an increased yield of dry-season crops in the future. This indicates that integrating the practice of cultivating both staple food and cash crops with improved water management will increase income, provide better accessibility to food, and serve as the way to attain food security in the long run.

At the end, an interesting perspective comes from Paula Hanasz titled Water into whine: Why deliberative governance of South Asia’s rivers is little more than a talk shop? In a rather provocative commentary, Paula talks of deliberative governance of South Asia’s transboundary waters. The region with its long history of political participation of citizen in governance and commitment to pluralistic democracy, consensus building on transboundary water governance is not proving right due to lack of institutional and multi-lateral governance structures. She calls for addressing power asymmetry and political will for solving the issue of transboundary water governance in South Asia. Lastly, the review of the book - Diverting the Flow: Gender Equity and Water in South Asia edited by Margreet Zwartveen, Sara Ahmed, Suman Rimal Gautam is done by Vishal Narain. I am sure you would enjoy this volume. We look forward to your views on this.

Warm regards,

Anjal Prakash
Chief-Editor- SAWAS
Email: anjal.prakash@icimod.org
Articles

Exploring the Socio-Economic Impacts of Micro-Irrigation System (MIS): A Case Study of Public Tube wells in Gujarat, Western India
P.K. Viswanathan and Chandrasekhar Bahinipati

Achieving Food Security in Storm Surge-prone Coastal Polders of South-West Bangladesh
Md. Gulam Kibria, Debanjali Saha, Tamanna Kabir, Taznin Naher, Sultana Maliha, M. Shahjahan Mondal

The Late Embrace of Urban Water-Service Privatization in India: A Political Economy Explanation
Gregory Pierce

Commentary

Water into whine: Why deliberative governance of South Asia’s rivers is little more than a talk shop.
Paula Hanasz

Book Review

Diverting the Flow: Gender Equity and Water in South Asia.
Vishal Narain