# Managing Land Degradation for Enhancing Fram Productivity

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#### Editors:

P.R. Bhatnagar D. Dinesh Vijaysinha Kakade V.C. Pande Omprakash Meena



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Composed, Designed & Printed in India

Dr. Pratap Ray Bhatnagar, Former Head and Principal Scientist (Soil and Water Conservation Engineering), ICAR- Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Research Centre, Vasad has excellent career in agricultural research and research coordination at different levels through 33 years of service period. A graduate in agricultural engineering from CTAE, ML Sukhadia University (presently under MPUAT), Udaipur, Master of Technology in Water Resource Development and Management from Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and Ph.D. in Irrigation and Drainage Engineering from GB Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand. Obtained Senior Research Fellowship of ICAR as well as CSIR, and opted for CSIR - SRF during Ph.D. Course. After selection under Agricultural Research Services (ARS) delivered services as Scientist and Scientist (Senior Scale) and contributed in the field of rainwater harvesting based water resource development in hilly terrain and its effective utilisation for field crops and vegetable cultivation in terraced field. Gravity fed micro irrigation with an innovative star configuration was developed for judicious water application in hills. A new fin type light trap has been developed and standardised which was patented by the VPKAS, Almora later on. Low cost polyhouse designs and other plasticulture interventions were developed along with their spread in hill farmers. As Senior Sceintist, worked as Project Coordinator in-charge (1998-2003) of AICRP on Groundwater and based on the performance during IX plan period, the project was survived against recommended phasing out, but expanded with four new centres and new dimension of ground pollution studies. Strategies for multiple uses of water in different agro-ecosystem e.g. canal irrigation, groundwater irrigation, rainwater harvesting in eastern plateau, as well as for arid region (later on in Vasad) were developed. Under a DFID, UK funded project, demonstrated the excel based equitable water delivery model efficacy and different dimensions of utilisation of poorly utilised land due to water logging in canal command areas. As Key collaborating scientist, also started a tribal area based watershed management project in Purulia district with funding of ACIAR, Australia. On the position of Project Coordinator with full tenure renewal, of AICRP on Application of Plastics in Agriculture (renamed as Plasticulture Engineering and Technology) worked to enhance the farmer's productivity in farmer's field through various plasticulture interventions. The project was termed as "Action Research Project" and "Project in field" by respective QRTs. It won ChDevilal Award for Best AICRP - 2013 award of ICAR. Expanded to 14 centre by XII plan as compared to only 9 centre in X plan with new dimensions of plasticulture in animal shelter and animal husbandry with animal based two centres. Participated SIL Congress in August 2004 at Lahti, Finland sponsored by the organiser and IWMI-India. Undertook training-cum-visit to International Water Management Institute, Colombo in 2004 and had interactional learning about water balance modelling. Participated in the Brainstorming Meeting to discuss important issues in groundwater management in China and India, sponsored and organized by IRRI, Philippines at Dujiangyen City, Sichuan, China in 2003. Sponsored by ACIAR, Australia undertook visit to participate in project workshop at Toowoomba, Queensland and interactions at ANU, Canbera. Also visited NARC, Kathmandu, Nepal under the ICAR-NARC work plan 2009-10 to study the Plastic houses constructed and used by farmers of Nepal to grow off-season vegetables. Apart from AICRP award, he received ICAR award for Team research for outstanding contribution under IVLP programme, Shankar memorial award of ISAE for outstanding SWCE research. He has contributed more than 100 papers in different categories including national and international research papers and presented in seminar and symposium along with several book chapters.

**Dr. D. Dinesh**born in Vellore district of Tamil Nadu,completed his B.Sc. (Ag.) Adhiparasakthi Agricultural College, Vellore, from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, did master from master's PAJANCOA & RI Agriculture Agricultural College Karaikal, Puducherry; and Doctoral degree in Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry from TNAU, Coimbatore, and hismastery withdeveloping Nitrogen management strategies for System of Rice intensification (SRI); during doctorate his specialised in utilisation of distillery industrial waste as source of nutrients for crop plants. He started his career as a Scientist (Soil Science) from ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation and served at Research Centre-Udhagamandalam, Tamil Nadu During his service, actively involving assessing soil erosion relationship with crop productivity; nutrients losses in runoff and sediments. He is presently working as a Soil Scientist at ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation, Research centre Vasad, engaged in developing of soil carbon stock and soil quality index for various landuse system across ravine affected lands. He has also published national and international research articles, popular articles, and book chapters in his specialised areas.

**Dr. Vijaysinha D. Kakade** is a scientist (fruit Science) at ICAR-IISWC, Research Centre, Vasad (Gujarat). He graduated from Dr. P.D.K.V., Akola (Maharashtra); did his Master and Ph.D. in abiotic stress management and crop improvement in areas of fruit sciences from ICAR-IARI, New

Delhi. During his service, he has developed his expertise in the areas of development of bio-engineering measures for management of ravine lands, water management in fruit crops under rain-fed conditions, improvement of establishment of young plants under degraded ravine lands with use of different soil and water conservation measures and microsite improvement techniques and also identified some new fruit and tree crops which are suitable for remunerative agroforestry systems in ravine lands. He has also published national and international research articles, popular articles, and book chapters in these areas.

Dr. V. C. Pande Presently working as Principal Scientist (Agril. Economics), has about 28 years of research experience in the areas of resource conservation and management; socio-economics of conservation agronomy/agroforestry production. He specializes in resource economics and his works include studies on economics of soil &water conservation and watershed management, impact evaluation of watershed management, community managed water resources, ecosystem service valuation. He has wide experience in preparation and execution of watershed management plan along with impact evaluation. He has attended 17 professional national and international training programmes and worked in several projects funded by ICAR, National Bamboo Mission, consultancy projects funded by NABARD, Narmada Control Authority, Extramural Fund Scheme. Publications to his credit include 37 research papers in national and international journals, 45 conferences papers presented in national and international conferences, 08 extension bulletins, 01 book and 15 book chapters.

Mr. Omprakash Meena is a scientist (Soil Science) at ICAR-CAZRI, Jodhpur (Rajasthan). Earlier he was posted at ICAR-IISWC, Research Centre, Vasad (Gujarat). He graduated from S.D.A.U. (Gujarat); did his Master from Soil Science department of A.A.U. (Gujarat). During his service, he has developed his expertise in the areas of soil heath management of ravine lands, water management in fruit crops under rain-fed conditions, He has also published national and international research articles, popular articles, and book chapters in these areas.



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#### **Foreword**

The western region of the country has wide variation in agricultural system and opportunity to grow varied crops and allied production systems. It comprises of 85.03 million ha (25.87% of total area of the country) in the states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa along with union territories of Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Large variation in topography and climatic conditions along with natural vagaries in this region render farmers striving hard to sustain the production systems remunerative and hence the farmers are mostly resource poor. The climate varied from too harsh arid conditions in desert of Rajasthan having rainfall less than 250 mm to more than 2500 mm in Western Ghats and coastal area of Maharashtra and Goa pose difficult conditions for farming. The erratic climatic conditions, frequent draughts, unexpected floods in some parts, fast land degradation processes are some of the major issues that make farming difficult in this area. Even with such harsh conditions, the farmers are striving hard to make their farming and allied production better with hard work and adoption of some of modified and modern innovative techniques of rainwater harvesting and irrigation strategies. Research Institutions and universities are making good efforts in alleviating the difficulties of farming communities in most suitable way as per demand and varied conditions.

Research and participatory field demonstrations carried out by various research organizations established that resource conservation techniques, water harvesting and its efficient utilisation, adoption of improved cultivation practices have the potential to utilise the natural resources more efficiently and substantial enhancement in productivity without further degradation. Protection of land resources from further degradation, reclamation and productive utilisation, restoring and

enhancing the ecosystem services, etc., are imperative to ensure sustainability for which active involvement of all stakeholders will be desirable. The book entitled "Managing Land Degradation for Enhancing Farm Productivity in Western India" includes information and research recommendations to achieve the goal of sustainable agricultural development in this region.

I appreciate the contributors and editors of the book and compliment for bringing out the very useful book for benefit to the farmers of western India.

Dated 24th June 2020

(T. Mohapatra)

Mugnto

New Delhi

The natural resource management becomes very important when such resources availability for the agricultural production are scarce and difficult to put in productive use without skillful efforts. In western region of the country the availability of land and water resources are too difficult to manage due to undulating and sloppy terrains in hilly areas in Aravali and other hill ranges in Maharashtra, harsh climatic and soil conditions in thar desert of Rajasthan, black cotton soils in Gujarat and Maharashtra, heavy soil erosion occurrence in alluvial plains in arid region and salinization and sea water ingress in coastal region having more than 2000 km length, etc. Burgeoning population growth and consequent pressure on natural resources and ecosystems warrant effective Natural Resource Management (NRM), soil and water conservation and participatory watershed management. Different research organization under ICAR and agricultural universities are being working to develop effective techniques and practices for effective management of natural resources at different levels e.g. field level, watershed level or basin level. Such efforts are also being implemented with active involvement of different agencies e.g. NABARD, State Departments, NGOs, KVKs etc. and active participation of farmers and other stakeholder since long. However due to few reasonable bottlenecks in terms on lack awareness on the associated issues and technologies, which points out the need of widespread sensitization. The continuing and poorly assessed impacts of human activities on land degradation, availability of water, sustainability of production systems and upstream-downstream linkages are point to this.

More attention is deserved in such fragile systems that also have ecological interactions with other regions and have not been adequately heeded by the policy so far. Focus is now given to a more sustainable road-map to development backed by indigenous knowledge and participation through regional planning. The key to such a plan can be provided by the analysis of Farmers view point on regional strengths and weaknesses. Such a strategy can be drawn on the observed responses evinced by the concerned stakeholders to the incentives and limitations imposed by the mainstream development process. At this context, the Conference "Farmers First for Conserving Soil and Water Resources in Western Region- 2018 (FFCSWR-2018)" held on 1-3 February 2018 at Anand, Gujarat, brought out wisdom and experience of farmers on the management and conservation of soil and water, forests, streams and

rivers complementing the research outputs and scientific knowledge to solve prevailing problems by harnessing potentials and available solutions for the sustainability of the region. The participants comprised of representatives from all stakeholder institutions in the region who deliberated in response to farmer's experiences and policies.

The present book contains selected papers presented in FFCSWR-2018 and is compilation of various topics on the prime concerns of natural resource conservation in arable and non-arable lands, soil-water resource development and conservation, diversification of crops and farming systems, management of various ecosystems, people's participation, livelihoods, socio-economic development, success stories, etc. with reference to western Rajasthan, east and south Rajasthan, Saurashtra, central Gujarat, south east Maharashtra, coastal south Maharashtra and Goa which occupies 85.03 million ha i.e. 25.87% of the total geographical area of the country. Papers from other state relevant to resource conservation have also been included in the present compilation having common interests and implications for the regional development are also included. The book is organized in 6 sections: Natural resource management in farming systems, issues of soil and water conservation and resource management, integrated participatory resource conservation and management, Ecosystem Management for Livelihood Sustainability, socio-economic issues in resource conservation and governance and policy issue.

The authors are grateful to the office bear of Indian Association of Soil and Water Conservationists (IASWC), Dehradun and The Director, ICAR –Indian Institute of Soil and Water Conservation (IISWC), Dehradun for granting permission to publish the book.

18 June 2020 Vasad, Anand District Authors

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## The participants from the following Institutes/Organization attended the conference and shared their work in different forms

- ☐ ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil & Water Conservation, Dehradun. And its Research Centres,
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- □ Navsari Agricultural University, Navsari, Gujarat
- Junagadh Agricultural University, Junagadh
- □ Sardarkrushinagar Dantiwada Agricultural University, Sardarkrushinagar, Gujarat
- □ Orissa University of Agriculture & Technology, Bhubaneshwar
- ☐ Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam
- ☐ Agriculture University, Kota, Rajasthan
- □ School of Engineering, R.K. University Rajkot
- □ ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi
- □ ICAR-Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute, Ela, Old Goa-403402, Goa
- □ ICAR-Agricultural Technology Application Research Institute, Pune

	ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Regional Research Station, Bharuch (Gujarat)	
	ICAR- Central Research Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Santoshnagar, Hyderabad	
	ICAR-National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management, Baramati, Maharashtra ;	
	ICAR-National Research Centre for Banana, Trichy, Tamil Nadu	
	ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal, Haryana	
	ICAR-Indian Institute of Soil Science, Nabi Bagh, Berasia Road, Bhopal, MP	
	ICAR-Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Regional Research Station, Bikaner, Rajasthan	
	ICAR-National Institute of Agricultural Economics and Policy Research, New Delhi	
	ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam	
	ICAR-National Research Centre on Pomegranate, Kegaon, Solapur, Maharashtra	
	ICAR-Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, RRS, Bharuch, Gujarat	
	ICAR-Directorate of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Research, Boriavi, Anand, Gujarat	
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	National Rainfed Area Authority, New Delhi	

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- □ Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
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**Editors** 

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