

water governance challenges, including rising water demands due to a growing population and climate-induced challenges like increasing frequency of floods and droughts. The policy emphasises managing canal water supply through efficient practices to enhance water availability.

The policy advocates for enhancing water supplies by promoting practices such as conjunctive use and reuse of drainage effluents, considering water quality, and discouraging water-intensive crops. 'Water conservation' has been prioritised as a tool to serve tail-end areas, maintain environmental flows, and support the expansion of irrigated agriculture. It also encourages adaptive water resource management practices to secure water availability for diverse demands across the province.

As part of the overall management and development of water resources in line with Sindh Water Policy 2023, the Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia Project, in collaboration with the Government of Sindh's Irrigation and Agriculture departments, has co-developed this compendium of best adaptive water resource management practices. The compendium includes water saving or water conservation interventions practiced in various districts of the province, with a potential for scaling up and scaling out across Sindh, Pakistan. The compendium focuses on sustainable water supply management, and on agricultural production.

The compendium aims to sensitise policymakers, water resource managers, agricultural extension workers, and farmers on the judicious use of water, ultimately conserving water to serve tail-end areas, meet environmental flow requirements, and support agricultural expansion for food security and economic upliftment of the province. It also serves as a reference for researchers and academia to extend their studies for the efficacy of the adaptive water management practices in different agro-ecological zones of the province.

The Context

In mid-2021, The Government of Sindh's Irrigation Department organised a consultation meeting to discuss priority interventions in Sindh as part of the Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia Project funded by the World Bank. The meeting was attended by representatives from provincial and federal government departments, academia, and international organisations, including:

- Sindh Irrigation Department, Government of Sindh
- Sindh Irrigation and Drainage Authority (SIDA), Government of Sindh
- Sindh Agriculture University, Tando Jam, Sindh
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations represented by the consultant from the Sindh Barrage Improvement Project (SBIP)
- Pakistan Council of Research in Water Resources (PCRWR), Ministry of Water Resources, Government of Pakistan

In mid-2022, the Ministry of Planning, Development, and Special Initiatives (MoPDSI) and Irrigation Departments of Sindh and Balochistan as part of the national planning meeting of the Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia Project endorsed the proposed study on identification of best practices, including indigenous/local adaptive water resources management to adapt and build resilience of the farming community of the province to changing climate