
Water and Agriculture

Support of private development of groundwater irrigation for promoting agricultural growth will continue, alongside surface water development where feasible. But there will be a renewed focus towards increasing efficiency of water use in irrigation through various measures including drainage-water recycling, rotational irrigation, adoption of water conserving crop technology where feasible, and conjunctive use of groundwater and surface water.

Water allocations in irrigation systems have to be done with equity and social justice. At the same time, serious consideration should be given to non-point pollution of water systems by fertilizer and pesticides that are either leached to the groundwater or washed off the fields to rivers and lakes. For this purpose, the policy of the Government is to:

- a. Encourage and promote continued development of minor irrigation, where feasible, without affecting drinking water supplies
- b. Encourage future groundwater development for irrigation by both the public and the private sectors, subject to regulations that may be prescribed by Government from time to time.
- c. Improve efficiency of resource utilization through conjunctive use of all forms of surface water and groundwater for irrigation and urban water supply.
- d. Strengthen crop diversification programmes for efficient water utilization.
- e. Strengthen the regulatory system for agricultural chemicals that pollute ground and surface water, and develop control mechanism for reducing non-point pollution from agro-chemicals.

Strengthen appropriate monitoring organizations for tracking groundwater recharge, surface and groundwater use, and changes in surface and groundwater quality.