

India Water Action Network



Water is a critical resource in India, essential for livelihoods, sustaining future urban and industrial growth, and maintaining ecosystem survival. Virtually all sectors of society intersect in determining the country's water future. There is a need for strategic investment in resource development and management, recognizing the diverse, competitive needs, the multiple scales of potential development and use, and the changing physical and social environment.

Columbia Water Centre (CWC) and Centers for International Projects Trust (CIPT) launched an India Water Action Network (IWAN) in 2008 to engage leaders in industry, government and non-government organizations to develop and communicate a clear scientific assessment of the key water issues and opportunities from a broad set of user and developer perspectives.

The forum aims to strategically identify important water issues in the agricultural, industrial, domestic and ecological sectors, and develop mechanisms for implementation of potential solutions through scenario analysis in the appropriate physical and social context determined by sustainability considerations. The initial efforts target agriculture, water and energy security in the context of changing climate and demographics in India and their connections to local and global factors. The role industries can play to contribute to water security is one aspect of this work.

Objectives

- Develop IWAN stakeholders with specific framework of action;
- Promote sustainability through stakeholder partnerships;

- Strengthen agricultural extension/technology transfer through multi-stakeholder partnerships and implementation of better financial mechanisms such as incentivization, micro-credits, insurance systems;
- Develop recommendations through successfully applied and tested multi-stakeholder actions;
- Develop and document experiments on water-energy savings;
- Influence policy based on scientific analysis, successful demonstration and field experiments that use state-of-the-art tools and technologies;
- Develop recommendations for enabling Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in water-energy-livelihoods in agriculture.

Potential Areas

- **Irrigation management** - working with farmers (through partners – corporate and civil society) to reduce the use of water in irrigation through demonstrated interventions like tensiometers, sensors and pricing of water and energy.
- **Mapping industrial water risks** - working with industries to use the district water stress index of CWC and map out the results across different ecological regions and industrial sectors.
- **Building partnerships** - to develop decision support systems in water management.
- **Influence water governance** – to disseminate best practices and be part of a national discourse.

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