

Construction of Recharge Shafts to improve groundwater table; a Case study of Tamil Nadu

Problem statement: Recharge of groundwater sources in a cost-effective manner

Intervention: SLNA of Tamil Nadu reported that they have adopted the construction of Recharge Shafts to improve the groundwater table as a cost-effective and innovative intervention. It was reported by the SLNA that Recharge Shafts are the most efficient and cost-effective structure to recharge the shallow aquifers. Recharge Shafts of 0.5 to 1 metre diameter and 10 to 15 metres deep were constructed across the state watersheds.

Impact: The impact reported was the rise in groundwater level from 0.33 meter to 3.28 meter in the intervention watershed areas of Tamil Nadu.

Sustainability: Given the success and cost-effectiveness, so far 17,879 Recharge Shafts have been created with an expenditure of Rs. 68.10 Cr. These structures are sustainable and are effective for long duration leading to sustainable recharging of groundwater sources.

(Reference: Based on written response against questionnaire submitted by the SLNA of Tamil Nadu)