



Implementing *PMKSY* in India's Eastern Geography

Abhishek Rajan



Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY)

- India's flagship Irrigation Scheme
- Overarching vision is to ensure irrigation access to every farm in the country- *Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP)*
- Scheme has multiple objectives which includes
 - Physical access to water on every farm
 - Improve on-farm water use efficiency
 - Enhance aquifer recharge
 - Convergence of investments at field level

Components of PMKSY



PMKSY and Irrigation Realities of India



Type I vs Type II Irrigation

| Type I | Type II |
|--|---|
| Government/Community | Individual/group |
| Canals/Tanks/Watersheds | Wells/Tubewells/Surface Lift |
| Low year-round, on-farm water control | High year-round, on-farm water control |
| Farming system adapts to the irrigation regime | Irrigation regime adapts to farming systems |
| Unsuited for micro-irrigation | Suited for micro-irrigation |

Unirrigated Geography of India



Half of the cultivated area around 68 million farm holdings remains totally rainfed

 Major chunk of unirrigated area are concentrated in the eastern geography



Can PMKSY achieve HKKP?

- Current design of PMKSY looks insufficient to achieve
 Har Khet Ko Pani
 - Against 68 m ha of rainfed area, PMKSY offers to provide irrigation to only 5 million ha
 - Relies on Type I irrigation for irrigation expansion
 - Only 0.25 m ha through groundwater irrigation
 - Overlooks the irrigation-deprived geography

Spatial and Social Dimension of Irrigation Deprivation



- 112 most irrigation-deprived districts which have unutilized GW potential for future irrigation development
- Districts have less than 30% irrigated holdings and less than 70% GW development
- Half of India's unirrigated holdings concentrated in these districts
- 68 out of 112 districts are located in eastern geography
- This geography also represents social dimension of irrigation-deprivation

AIBP overlooks Most Irrigation-Deprived Districts



Projects will f irrigated area

gation-deprived 2 benefit from und 0.2 m ha of

Re-visioning PMKSY

- Quickest and most cost-effective way of expanding irrigation access through Type II irrigation
- PMKSY should focus on 112 districts which have unutilized groundwater resource
- PMKSY should design a loan-subsidy scheme to enable farmers to own a dug well, a 3.5-5 kWp solar pump and 500 meters of flexible distribution pipe.
- PMKSY should aim at 1-1.5 million solarized irrigation wells in target 112 districts by 2020. These will add 5-7.5 mha of gross irrigated area in the country's most 'irrigation deprived' districts.

Uptake of ITP's Recommendation

• Central Groundwater Board (CGWB) and Government of India

"Groundwater irrigation scheme under Prime Minister Krishi Sinchai Yojna – Har Khet ko Pani will be taken up in 96 deprived irrigation districts where less than 30 per cent of the land holdings gets assured irrigation presently. I have allocated ₹2,600 crore for this purpose."

– Excerpt from Union Budget 2018 Speech

• In its 2018 Budget, the Finance Minister allocated Rs. 2600 crores for 2018-19 to kick start the scheme.

Target Geography of PMKSY-HKKP-GROUNDWATER

- Selection crit
 - Less than
 - Less than
 - More tha
 - GW occui

Region represented in Green is the target geography

istricts

From District to Block level Implementation

- Block should be the unit of planning and implementation of the scheme
- Around 800 blocks in 96 districts are targeted by the scheme



Implementation Roadmap for PMKSY-HKKP-GW



How many new wells in 110 Blocks?

- Quantum of GW Available in 110 blocks
 - 0.5-0.6 million ham of additional GW available for utilisation in without posing any threat to GW utilisation (CGWB 2013)
- Potential of creating 0.25-0.3 million groundwater wells using available GW
- With the allocated amount of Rs. 2600 crores, the scheme can construct 0.1-0.12 million groundwater wells
 - Cost of constructing dugwell/borewell/shallow tubewell
 - Cost of mechanised pumps (25% are solar pumps)
 - Cost of 200 m of water delivery pipe

Way Forward....

- Impacts of prioritizing investments in these 0.1-0.12 million groundwater wells
 - Increase the irrigated area from 7% to 24%
 - enhance the gross value of crop-milk output by more than Rs. 20-25 billion annually
- Convergence of the scheme with other govt. schemes like KUSUM and Aspirational District Program
- PMKSY-HKKP-GW scheme should involve the participation of grassroots NGOs and CSOs for its effective implementation