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Ministry of Rural Development  
Government of India



Ministry of Jal Shakti  
Government of India

# Water Security and Climate Adaptation in Rural India (WASCA)



## Context

According to India's Composite Water Management Index (2018), 600 million people in the country (44% of the total population) face extreme water stress. A shrinking and sometimes contaminated water supply, heavy reliance on rainfall and lack of efficient irrigation systems are major problems in rural areas, where almost 70 percent of the Indian population live. India is one of the countries most affected by climate change and occupies sixth place in the Global Climate Risk Index of 2018. The Global Commission on Adaptation Report (2019) notes that India's GDP will fall by 6% in 2050, in case they do not implement more efficient water allocation strategies. In this changing climate scenario, water security is therefore a prime concern. The Indo-German Project WASCA is commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) in cooperation with the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

The Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) is the nodal agency for most of the development and social programmes in rural India. MoRD is investing Rs. 1,01,500 crores (~12 billion EUR as of May 2020) in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) during 2020-2021, thereby making a substantial contribution to rural infrastructure development and rural livelihoods. More than half of the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA expenditure goes towards sustainable natural resource

management including land and soil development, water harvesting and conservation, and protection against extreme weather events, such as drought and flooding, thus creating significant climate adaptation and mitigation co-benefits.

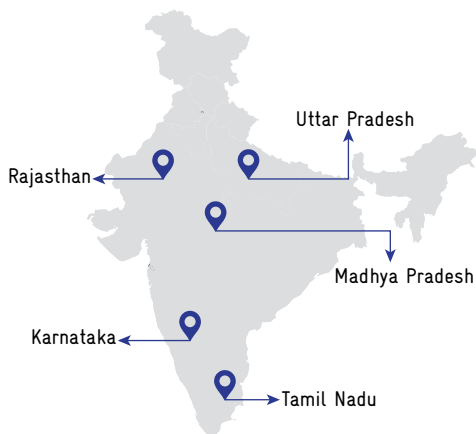
The Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) was formed in May 2019 and is the nodal ministry for water in India, bringing together all the national agencies working on water including the National Water Mission, Central Water Commission, Central Ground Water Board, River Boards, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation etc. under one umbrella. The newly launched programmes in 2019, such as the Atal Bhujal Yojana for groundwater management and Jal Jeevan Mission for providing Functional Household Tap Connection to every rural household by 2024 further enhances the scope for WASCA interventions in rural India.

The BMZ is one of the largest donors in the water sector, and attaches priority to the human rights-based approach and the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## Objective

Water resources management is enhanced through an integrated approach at national, state and local level with regards to water security and climate adaptation in rural areas. WASCA is operational at the national level and in select regions of five states namely Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka.

## Project Approach and Outputs



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- Output 1:** Improved convergence of existing planning and financing approaches to strengthen water security.
- Output 2:** Demonstration of convergent planning, financing and implementation at local level.
- Output 3:** Cooperation with the private sector.
- Output 4:** Productivity and income of small farmers are increased through climate resilient and water efficient management models.

The project will strengthen the knowledge and capacity of public and private institutions, as well as of stakeholders at different levels, to plan and implement integrated water resources management. Parallel to this, collaboration between various government departments and other stakeholders will be promoted to improve the financing of climate adapted water security. To do so, holistic pilot measures at district/ sub-catchment level will be taken up in selected districts, and successful approaches will be scaled-up at the state and national levels. Given the private sector footprint in water, greater cooperation with them is envisaged to leverage public-private financing and improve sustainable practices for local water security.



## Key Activities

- Demonstrating district level water resources management plans.
- Localising digital tools and technologies including remote sensing and GIS data for improving climate resilient water resources management.
- Capacity building of existing technical workforce of Mahatma Gandhi NREGA and other Government programmes for implementing water management measures.
- Developing strategies and activating platforms for converging technical and financial resources at state, district and local level for planning and implementing climate resilient water resources management.
- Field pilots for strengthening dialogue and cooperation with the private sector for water security.
- Innovation hub on 'GIS based planning and monitoring for public employment programmes' in partnership with the Global Alliances for Social Protection programme, for knowledge transfer from India to African and Latin American countries via digital learning mechanisms.
- Collaboration with SEWOH Project 'Soil Protection and Soil Rehabilitation for Food Security' for promotion and upscaling of integrated approaches for water resources management, and with SEWOH project 'Food and Nutrition Security, Enhanced Resilience' for co-developing community nutrition gardens, leveraging public financing from Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

## Contribution to International and National Agreements on Water and Climate Action

WASCA contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1: No Poverty, SDG 2: Zero Hunger, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, and SDG 13: Climate Action. With its focus on water related climate action and integrated water resources management (IWRM), the project significantly contributes towards SDG 6.5.1 by ensuring efficient, sustainable, and inclusive water outcomes.



<b>Project name</b>	Water Security & Climate Adaptation in Rural India (WASCA)
<b>Commissioned by</b>	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
<b>Project region</b>	Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka
<b>Lead executing agencies</b>	Ministry of Rural Development; Ministry of Jal Shakti
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Water Security for Climate Adaptation in Rural India  
A2/18, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi 110029  
Phone +91 49 49 5353  
Fax +91 49 49 5391

Responsible Rajeev Ahal  
Director, Natural Resource Management  
rajeev.ahal@giz.de

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