

NOTES AND NEWS

WORKSHOP ON “GROUNDWATER SCENARIO, WATER QUALITY AND ENHANCEMENT OF WATER USE EFFICIENCY IN KARNATAKA AND GOA”

A two day workshop was organized by the Central Ground Water Board, South Western Region on “Groundwater Scenario, water quality and Enhancement of water use efficiency in Karnataka and Goa” at Bangalore on 25th and 26th February 2009. The workshop was aimed at generating public awareness about these vital aspects of groundwater management. Inaugurating the workshop Dr. A.K. Sinha, DDG, Geological Survey of India spoke about the deteriorating water quality and the need for intervention to alleviate the threat. Speaking on the occasion R.H. Sawkar of Geological Society of India opined that rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge can effectively improve water availability in the country. Suresh Heblikar, noted Environmentalist, stressed on the involvement of stakeholders in the management of water resources. In all 24

technical papers were presented in six technical sessions by experts from Indian Institute of Science, ISRO, Quality Council of India, CGWB, State Department of Mines and Geology, Karnataka Natural Disaster Management Centre, KSPCB, Krishi Vigyan Kendra etc, followed by intense interactions of the participants.

The delegates spoke about adverse effects of unscientific development of groundwater, need for water conservation measures and enhancement of water use efficiency through rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge and recycling along with appropriate crop selection and micro irrigation. This needs active participation of stake holders in water management. Women as decision makers may also ensure vibrant response of the water sector to the actual needs of the society. The crucial importance of water quality for human consumption and

other uses, calls for groundwater quality surveillance through specific monitoring programmes. In urban areas there is need for municipal and hazardous waste treatment and disposal facility (TSDF) to avert groundwater pollution.

In the concluding session, Dr.Thuppil Venkatesh, Advisor, Quality Council of India, warned about rising levels of lead content in drinking water. Dr. A.N. Yellapa Reddy, noted Environmentalist, mentioned about adverse fall outs of privatization in water sector, as also of deforestation and indiscriminate mining. During the workshop an exhibition was arranged displaying working models, borehole TV camera, Geophysical instruments, charts and maps highlighting the theme of the workshop.

Bangalore

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