



Policy Brief **1**

Encroachment of small scale water bodies: Emerging solutions for eviction

Executive Summary

A brief analysis of the existing status

Neglecting the periodical desilting of the tanks and inlet channels contributes to a gradual reduction of the storage capacity of the tanks. When the flow into tanks reaches zero level, encroachment gradually starts, first in the form of dumping garbage and later as a disposal site for wastes followed by planting of vegetables and trees, forming bunds, constructing small huts, acquiring right to use trees, attempting to get ownership rights and

finally bringing in political pressure to continue occupation while resisting eviction through prolonged legal battles in court.

Once the tank becomes dry due to choking of inlet channels by encroachment, the farmers resort to pumping ground water to meet the irrigation requirements. Due to excessive pumping and inadequate recharging structures, lowering of the ground water table gradually occurs and finally the