



Policy Brief **11**

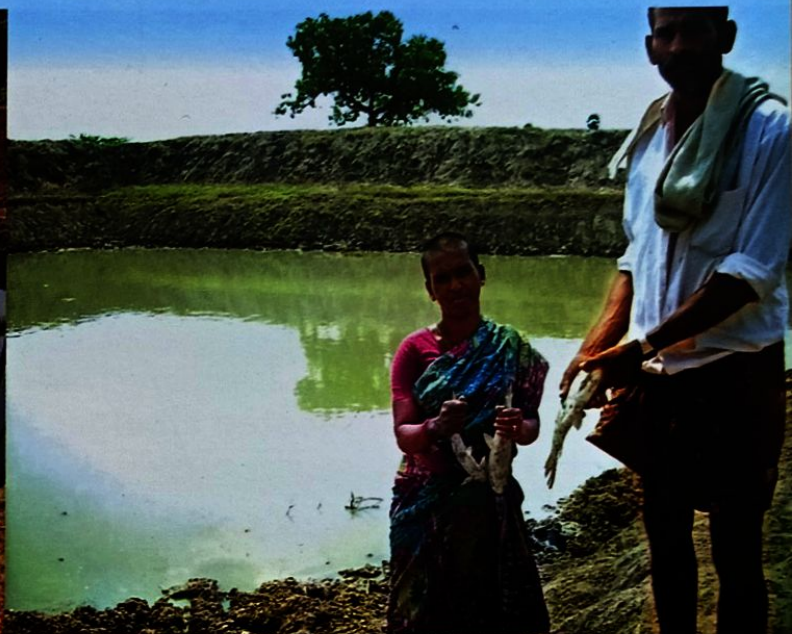
Water Series

Translating Practices into Policy and Practice Changes

Farm Ponds for Enhancing Food Security



Farm pond constructed by Mr. V. Chandran, Kirungakottai village in Singampunari Block, Sivagangai District



Farm pond of Mr. Sethuraman, Pulliangulam Village, Manamadurai Block where inland fishing is introduced

Executive Summary

Climate Change is posing a major challenge for rainfed agriculture. In spite of adequate amount of rainfall, the crops often suffer from moisture stress due to erratic behaviour of the monsoon. To reduce the impact of moisture stress, there is a need to conserve and manage the rain water for efficient use. Farm ponds and small tanks constructed at appropriate locations capture and store surface and sub surface flow of rain water for future use. They also help in preventing over- utilisation of ground water resources. They are able to stabilise rainfed agriculture and facilitate multiple use of the stored water. The Central and State Governments are allocating funds for improving the water resources through development of water harvesting structures such as farm ponds, check dams and percolation tanks. The common

guidelines for watershed development projects provide financial assistance for implementing such works both in common lands and in private lands. (Ref: paragraph 8.2 and 9.6 of Common Guidelines 2008)

Funding through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) provides for creation of productive assets at village level, beside wage employment to the local people for their livelihood. The works that can be carried out under this Act include improvements to existing water resources such as desilting supply channels and renovation of village tanks, ponds and other water storage structures. According to the Union Rural Development Ministry, the percentage of works done under MGNREGA went up when the Government permitted the execution