



Policy Brief **12**

Water Series

Translating Practices into Policy and Practice Changes

Tank Silt Application for Agricultural Production Enhancement - Scope, Issues and Challenges



Rainfall runoff with eroded top soil from surrounding lands filling the tanks



Silt removed from the tank transported to the farms for enhancing crop productivity

Executive Summary

Irrigation tanks formed many centuries ago as water harvesting structures to offset the vagaries of monsoons, serve the purpose of collecting and storing not only the rain water, but also the nutrient-rich top soil eroded from their catchment areas. Thus the tanks facilitate to conserve the prime and scarce natural resources, namely the soil and water while providing multiple services

such as irrigation, flood control, ground water recharge and other social, economic and ecosystem functions. Intermittent occurrences of rainfall with high intensity during the monsoons and the consequent heavy surface run-off, cause erosion of valuable nutrient-rich top soil from the catchment area comprising undulated wastelands and rainfed agricultural lands, which is carried along