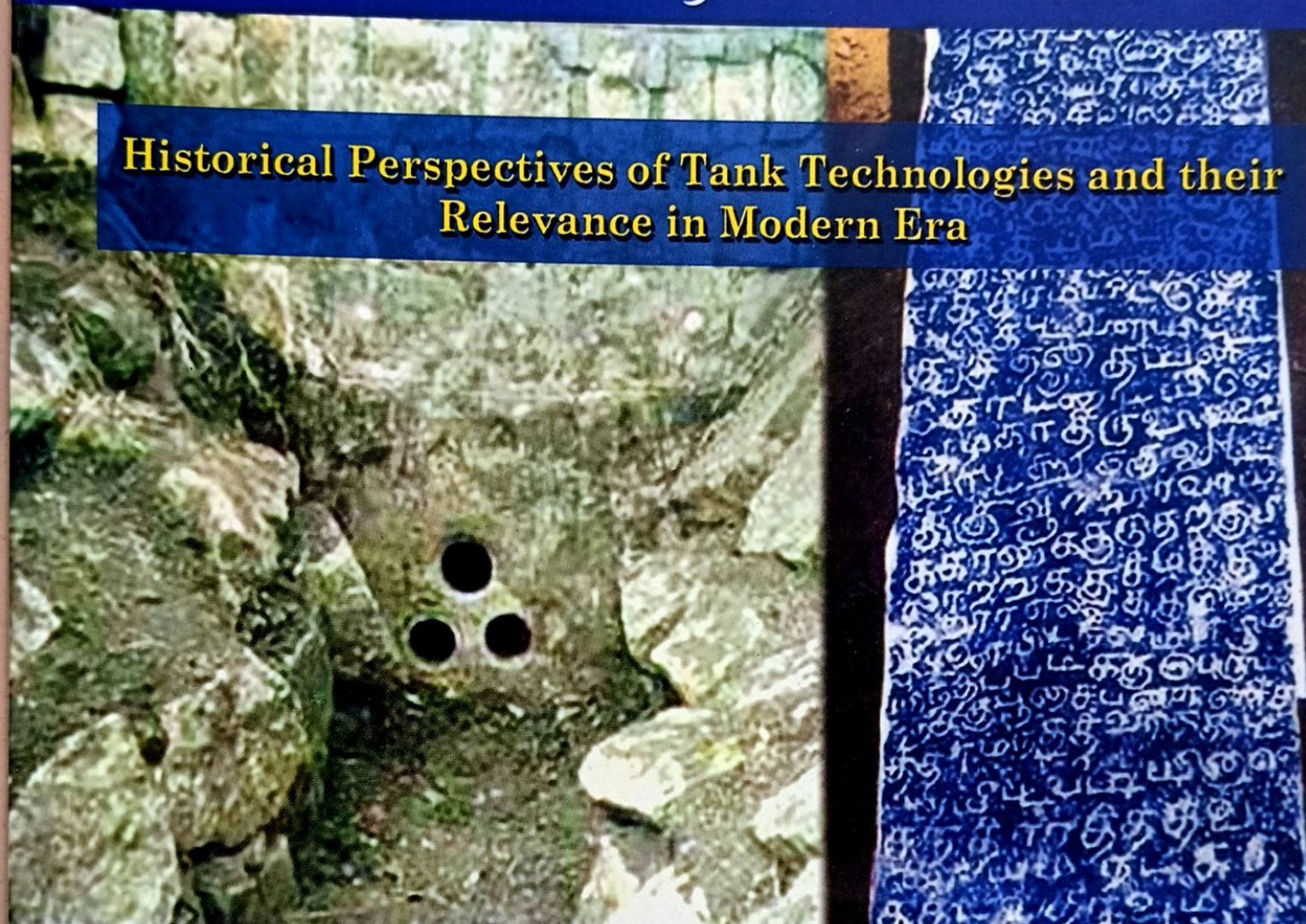




Policy Brief **4**

Historical Perspectives of Tank Technologies and their Relevance in Modern Era



Pulikkan Madai, (Tiger's Eye Sluice) Nenmeni Tank, Sattur

Stone Inscription

Executive Summary

Catching rainwater “where it falls” was practiced in India as well as in Tamil Nadu. Thousands of small-scale water bodies are scattered over the countryside even now. These water bodies have survived the passage of time. These tanks have been carefully planned by our ancestors based on good site selection backed by sound knowledge of local conditions using locally available materials for their construction. Most of these tanks serve the purpose of irrigation

and ground water recharging. They not only serve humanity but also the flora, fauna and at the same time keeping the equilibrium of the village ecosystem. This traditional intellectual wisdom of our forefathers has been appreciated by the modern day engineers.

The small irrigation works thus created are environment friendly and easily manageable by