Climate Change Impact Assessment on Indian Water Resources



Groundwater Management in India: Issues and Challenges

IWRM a viable option

River Basin is the basic unit

- Makes possible to work out water balance
- Understanding about spatial and temporal variability
- Environmental Impacts assessment
- Implications of manmade changes
- Implications on account of Climate change and adaptation options thereof

Biodiversity & EIA

- EIA is usually limited to an audit of the present conditions
- Impact assessment due to the proposed intervention is usually missing
 - Worst affected is the biodiversity

Issues around water resources development

- Many parallel programs with competing demands
 - Such as watershed management, rainwater harvesting, water intensive industry, etc.
- No mechanism for tradeoffs between competing demands
- Ignoring environmental demand

Scientific base is essential

- Specific models to be deployed
 - Hydrological model
 - Hydraulic model
 - Water quality model
 - Groundwater model
 - Environment model
 - System model
 - Frameworks to allow interoperability

Some of the efforts made by IIT Delhi

- India's National Communications (NATCOM) to UNFCCC Coordinated by MoEF
- The first communication was made in 2004 and the Second in 2012
 - Work on quantification of climate change impacts on water Resources was entrusted to IIT Delhi

SWAT Model Components

Features

- Physically based
- Distributed model
- Continuous time model (long term yield model)
- Uses readily available data
- Suitable for long Aquifer
 term impact studies



Ganga Basin Hydrological Modelling – Base layers



Ganga Basin Hydrological Modelling – SWAT Outputs

River Basins Modeled – NATCOM II

Index map of River Basins used for Hydrological Modelling

Modelling Outcomes

- Detailed outputs include all the water balance component at spatial and temporal scales which are analysed for
 - Changes in magnitude and frequency of flood peaks
 - Severity of droughts
 - Changes in flow patterns
 - Changes in groundwater recharge

Percent Change in Precipitation across India

Percent Change in Water Yield across India

Analysis and Layouts prepared by IIT Delhi in association with INRM Consultants

Decrease from baseline

-1% - 0%

> +15%

Percent Change in Sediment Yield across India

Percentage Change in Drought Weeks (JJAS) across India

Based on Agriculture Drought Index ranging from -2 to -4 (moderate to extreme soil moisture stress during critical growth stages of crops)

Percentage Change in Stream Discharge at 99th percentile** across India

A shareable information base

- To keep pace with the fast changing baseline
- To provide an integrated information for river basins including transboundary
- Generate scenarios and provide information on implications thereof
 - To create adaptation options
 - Can be used for disaster management

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Conclusions

• To address water issues better:

- IWRM principles should be deployed to formulate River Basin Management plans
- Detailed climate change implication studies should be undertaken to quantify the implications
- Use thus created science base for formulating effective adaptation options
- Creation of sharable information is essential for sustainable use of water resources through engagement of stakeholders

Thank you