



Irrigation Scenario in Akola District

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Introduction:

Irrigation is regarded as an integral part of a sound infrastructure and is one of the basic ingredient of agricultural activities. To be successful and well developed agriculture requires supply of water at regular intervals and required quantities. This could be done by artificial application of water to land for growing crops and is known by the terms 'Irrigation'. Importance of irrigation as an essential input hardly needs emphasis. Moreover it is a pre-requisite for the adoption of new technology in agriculture and for rapid growth of agriculture sector. The conversion of dry land into wet land provides a security against the vagaries of rainfall preventing crop failure and enabling higher yield per hectare.

It also helps to the farmers to take two or more crops from the same field within a year and it increases the productivity of the land by transforming agriculture. The impact of irrigation is all prevailing as it leads to changes in cropping pattern, increases yield rates and labour utilization and in the vitimate analysis brings prosperity for socio-economic change that sets moton the productive forces in the agricultural sector. Irrigation appears to the most basic inputs as HYV seeds consume more water is adequate and timely doses a thing not possible in rainted Agriculture.

A) Modes of irrigation :-

There are different irrigational sources in Akola District. The following modes of irrigation are used for irrigating the agricultural land.

- (a) Major Irrigation Projects.
- (b) Medium Irrigation Projects.
- (c) Minor Irrigation projects.
- (d) Well irrigation.

(a) Major irrigation projects:-

An irrigation projects which covers more than 10000 hectares as the cultural common area is called major project. The major project can change socio-economic structure of the region. There is four major project in the Akola District, Wan, Adan, Katepurna and Ekbhurji projects. The Wan river is one of the major project in Akola District. This project has start in 1996-97. This work is in progress

Table No.1
Major Irrigation Project in Akola District.

Sr. No.	Item	Year	Major Project.			
			Van River	Adan	Katepurna	Ekbhurji
1	a)Year of completion	1996-97	Work in progress	Work in progress	1974	1964
	b) Estimated cost of expenditure in lacs.		16,456	46,86	5,32	49.37
	c) Total length of Canal in K.M.		231.18	65	115	54
2	Culturable area communicated in Hectare.		22525	104	11187	2429
3	Area Irrigated at present(in Hectare)		110	104	2073	2429

Source:- Socio-economics abstract in Akola District.

Whenever this progress will complete at that time total cost would be Rs.16456 lacs. The canal length of this project is 231.18 K,M. and Area under irrigation is 22515 Hectares. Adan is second major project in this district total cost of this project is Rs.4686 lacs and this project is already completed. The length of canal is 65 K.M.. and area under irrigation is 104 Hectare. Third is Katepurna project. This project completed in 1974 at that time construction cost of this project is Rs.532 lack.

The canal length is 115 K.M.. And area under irrigation is 11187 Hectares. Fourth major project is Ekbhurji. This project is completed in 1964 and at that time



construction cost was Rs.49.37 lacs. Total area under this project is 2429 Hectares and length of canal is 54 K.M.

(b) Medium Irrigation Projects:-

Medium Irrigation projects are those with culturable command areas between 2000 to 10000 Hectares. There are 09 Medium irrigation projects in Akola District. These are Motsawanga, Giroli, Sonal, Uma, Morna, Nirguna, Karodi, Mas and Man. Table 1 reveals that nine medium project were completed before 1996-97 in different parts of the study area. Government has spent about Rs.6832.87 lack or the completion of nine Medium Projects. Out of the eight projects nearly Rs.43 lacs amount was spent on Motsawanga Medium Project. Highest amount is spent on Man Medium Project i.e. Rs.4850 lack.

The length of the canal is different. Motsawanga project canal has 14 K.M.. Whereas Koradi Project canal is highest length i.e. 49.3 K.M. and only 8 K.M.. Length is lowest of Giroli Project canal. Cultural command area of this medium project is about 37216 Hectares. The total irrigatable area of these medium project is about hectares during the year 1996-97. Many medium projects have no water for irrigation some of them are useful for irrigation in winter seasons.

Irrigation Projects :-

After Independence of the India Government of Maharashtra has given more stress on minor irrigation tanks. There are nine minor irrigation projects in the study area.

(d) Well Irrigation :-

As the cost of construction of wells is low. They are well suited to poor and marginal farmers. There is great demand for irrigation wells due to the paucity of other irrigation facilities. Akola district has given more priority for the construction of new well as well as regions of the old wells. Irrigational wells are increased through five year plans in Akola District.



Table No.2 - Medium Irrigation Project in Akola District.

Sr. No.	Name of the project.	Year of completion	Estimated Cost of Expenditure (in lacs)	Total Lenth of canel in K.M.	Culturable area communi-cated (in Hectare.)	Area Irrigated at present. (In Hectare)
1	Giroli	1978	38.89	8	794	706
2	Sonal	1981	320	23	3496	20
3	Uma	1981	125	17	3060	561
4	Morna	1969	241	40	6225	50
5	Nirguna	1975	290	83	5341	4
6	Koradi	1998	861	49	936	--
7	Mass	1982	63.67	24	6307	--
8	Man	Work in progress	48.5	22	975	--
9	Motsawanga	1974	43	14	1302	654

Source:- Socio-economics abstract in Akola District.

Table No.3 - Statement showing Tahsil Wise progress of irrigation wells in Akola District.

Sr. No.	Name of Tahsil	1982-83			1996-97		
		No. of Wells use for Irrigation.	No. of wells not in use.	Total No. of wells for Irrigation	No. of wells used in Irrigation	No. of wells not in use.	Total No. of wells for Irrigation
1	Akola	728	126	854	490	582	1072
		85.25	14.75	100	45.71	54.29	100
2	Barshitakli	645	804	1053	1382	34	1416
		61.25	38.75	100	97.60	2.40	100
3	Akot	2409	473	2882	2763	533	3296
		83.59	16.41	100	83.83	16.17	100
4	Telhara	1675	75	1750	1637	159	1796
		95.71	4.29	100	91.15	8.85	100
5	Murtizapur	936	28	964	2456	279	2735
		97.10	2.90	100	89.80	10.20	100
6	Karanja	969	183	1152	2174	29	2203
		84.11	15.89	100	98.68	1.32	100
7	Mangrulpir	717	447	1164	1218	425	1643
		61.60	38.40	100	74.13	25.87	100
8	Manora	405	1242	1647	1420	354	1774
		24.59	75.41	100	80.5	19.95	100
9	Washim	451	417	868	1354	195	1549
		51.96	48.4	100	87.41	14.59	100
10	Malegaon	1063	401	1464	1070	507	1577
		72.61	27.34	100	67.85	32.15	100



Sr. No.	Name of Tahsil	1982-83			1996-97		
		No. of Wells use for Irrigation.	No. of wells not in use.	Total No. of wells for Irrigation	No. of wells used in Irrigation	No. of wells not in use.	Total No. of wells for Irrigation
11	Risod	1708	610	2318	3872	230	4102
		73.68	26.32	100	94.39	5.61	100
12	Balapur	441	507	948	925	327	1252
		46.82	53.48	100	73.88	26.12	100
13	Patur	1141	323	1464	1096	1407	2503
		77.93	22.06	100	43.78	56.21	100

Source:-Socio-Economics Abstract of Akola District 1982-83 and 1996- 97.

In 1982-83 out of the total irrigation wells below 10% wells were not in use in Akola District on the other hand Barshitakli 65% wells were not found in use. In Akot 17% wells were not in use. Telhara 5% well are not in use. Murtizapur near about 3% wells are not in use. Karajna near about 18% wells, Mangurlper 55%, Manora 75%, Washim 50%, Malegaon 27%, Risod 24%, Balapur 52% and Patur 20% wells are not in use in year 1996-97. It means that the rate of use of well increased to some extent during the period of investigation.

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