



Irrigation Facilities in Aurangabad District (MS)

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Introduction:

As such irrigation is necessary not only for extending the cultivated area, but its wider use will also reduce the dependence, upon the fluctuations of the monsoon and increase the area that can be sown more than twice a year. Further, the lack of irrigation leads to a drag on the farmer's initiative. He remains hesitant to provide other inputs, such as improved seeds, manures, fertilizers, pesticides etc. If irrigation facilities are assured to the farmer, he can be made to shake off his reluctance to provide inputs required to increase agricultural production. Stepping up irrigation is therefore, basic to any progress in this direction. The study region comes under the rain shadow region in eastern part of Western Ghats, where rainfall is received inadequate and uncertain. The most of the river gets dried in summer or have very less water except the Godavari.

Major Irrigation Projects

Irrigation projects with a culturable command, area more than 10,000 hectares are classified as major projects. There is one major irrigation project located in the district, whereas, Nandura Mahademeswar irrigation project located in Igatpuri tahsil of Nashik district, it has got benefit from this project. Jayakwadi major irrigation project is constructed on the Godavari river, near Jayakwadi village for the construction and development of canal Rs. 76617.50 lakh amount was spent, the project was completed 1976. The height of the project and total length of the canal are recorded 37.73 meters and 208 km respectively. The maximum storage capacity of Jayakwadi project is 2909 million cubic meters where, irrigation potentials of the project is marked about 2,63,860 hectares. Aurangabad Jalna and Beed districts are



benefited from this project. Nandura Mahademeswar irrigation project was completed 2009. The irrigation potentials of this project are 43500 hectares.

Medium Irrigation Projects

Irrigation projects with a culturable command are between 2,000 and 10,000 hectares is known as medium irrigation projects. There are 17 medium irrigation projects in the study area. It is observed that highest number of medium irrigation projects are found in Kannad tahsil (5 medium projects) and lowest in Soygaon, Khuldabad, Gangapur and Paithan tahsils in the period under study. About Rs.32,332.56 lakh amount was spent, for the construction and development of canals of all medium irrigation projects. The total irrigable area of these medium projects about 52,555 hectares. The length of canal is different. Shivana project canal has 65 kms length, followed by Girija project 25.65 kms, Anjana-Palsi project 22.65 kms, whereas the length Lehuki project canal is only 2.50 kms.

Minor Irrigation Projects

All ground water and surface schemes having culturable command area up to 2,000 hectares individually, are classified as minor schemes. These include construction of open wells, private shallow tube wells, deep public tube-wells, and small band hares on tributaries of rivers, rain storage in small catchment, and lift irrigation. The central Government is providing loan assistance under. The Government of Maharashtra has given more attention towards minor irrigation schemes. The total irrigation potential of minor schemes was 59937 hectares.

Well Irrigation

A well is a small hole dug in the earth surface from which subsoil water is taken out for irrigation and drinking purposes. It is a cheap, dependable and popular source of irrigation in the study region. There are 85,933 wells in 2015. Farmers prefer well for irrigation due to several favorable factor, including easy availability of loans from the government and financial institutions, subsidies on lift machines, cheap power supply, and above all an acute urge with the farmer to have his own irrigation source.

Irrigation Status in Aurangabad District

The irrigation status in Aurangabad district is given in table 1

Table No.1

Irrigation Status in Aurangabad District (Year 2018)

Sr. No.	Tahsil	% of Net sown area to total geographical area	% of irrigated area to net sown area.
1	Kannad	76.24	13.56
2	Soygaon	73.74	11.33
3	Sillod	74.52	10.23
4	Phulambri	75.10	24.84
5	Aurangabad	69.98	17.19
6	Khultabad	72.33	14.43
7	Vaijapur	82.21	16.39
8	Gangapur	75.70	16.88
9	Paithan	69.46	26.23
	Aurangabad District	74.87	16.79

Source: Aurangabad District Socio-Economic Abstract, 2018

Table 1 reveals that, out of total geographical area, net sown area of the district is 74.87%. Highest of these has been found in Vaijapur tahsil with 82.21%, and the lowest area under cultivation is 69.46% in Paithan tahsil. The area under cultivation shows that more than 75% area has been noted from Vaijapur (82.21%), Kannad (76.24%), Gangapur (75.70%), Paithan tahsil (75.10%) whereas 70% to 75% net sown area has been noted from Sillod (74.52%), Soygaon (73.74%) and Khultabad tahsil (72.33%). Apart from this, the area under cultivation less than 70% is found in Aurangabad (69.98%) and Paithan tahsil (69.46%).



In regard with irrigated area to net sown area, 16.79% area is under irrigation. There is a large amount of variation in tahsilwise area. Accordingly, the highest irrigated area has been observed from Paithan tahsil (26.23%) whereas the lowest is found in the Sillod tahsil (10.23%). Classification shows that, more than 20% irrigated area has been noticed from Paithan tahsil (26.23%) and Phulambri tahsil (24.84%) whereas in 20% to 25% irrigated area has been noted from Aurangabad (17.19%), Gangapur (16.88%) and Vaijapur tahsil (16.39%).

Less than 15 percent of the irrigated area has been noticed from the tahsils of Khultabad (14.43 percent), Kannad (13.56 percent), Soygaon (11.33 percent) and Sillod tahsil (10.23 percent). Availability of irrigation facilities directly controls the irrigated area as it is noticed in the case of Paithan tahsil. The big dam 'Jayakwadi' is situated near Paithan city. So the nearby area is benefited by the dam water. The water is also made available for industrial use in Aurangabad and Paithan city. The canal of the 'Jayakwadi' dam is also made and go through the Aurangabad and Jalna district. The above analysis shows that, the district has ample irrigation facilities. But most of the irrigation facilities are seasonal.

References

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