

Policy for Ground Water Management, Rain Water Harvesting & Ground Water Recharge in the State of Uttar Pradesh

SALIENT POINTS

- Uttar Pradesh is an agrarian state, where ground water resource has attained a prominent position as prime source of irrigation.
- Nearly 70 percent irrigated agriculture in the state is mainly dependent on ground water resources. Water needs of drinking water and industrial sectors are also mainly fulfilled from ground water.
- Due to unlimited & excessive use of ground water, the situation of over-exploitation has emerged in many rural & urban areas of the state.
- Ground Water development is the need of state, therefore long-term management and planning becomes essential for the stressed areas like over-exploited/quality affected areas.
- The State Government is serious for the sustainable management of this resource alongwith its conservation. The programmes like rain water harvesting, ground water recharge and aquifer management have been kept amongst the top priorities of the government.
- The need is to prepare comprehensive ground water management policy in the state with the aim to manage ground water resources in a sustainable way and to implement rain water harvesting and recharge programmes in an integrated manner.
- The State Government has issued a “Comprehensive Policy for Ground water Management, Rain Water Harvesting & Ground Water Recharge in the State” vide Government Order, dated 18 February, 2013.

Objectives

- To ensure regulated exploitation and optimum & judicious use of ground resources.
- To initiate National programme of aquifer mapping and aquifer based management in the state in a planned way for overall ground water management.
- To implement ground water recharge programme on a large scale in an integrated manner and to bring over-exploited/critical blocks into safe category in a time bound manner.
- To effectively implement conjunctive use of surface water and ground water.
- To promote efficient methods of water use in the stressed areas.
- To give priority to the river basin/watershed approach in ground water management planning and conservation.
- To identify ground water polluted areas in order to ensure safe drinking water supplies.
- To implement ground water conservation and recharging programmes by the concerned departments through participatory management approach in a co-ordinated and integrated manner.

- To make provisions of effective legal structures for ground water management.
- To promote research and training along with public awareness.

Main Action Points

➤ **Aquifer Mapping and Aquifer based Ground Water Management**

- The National Programme of Aquifer Mapping and Aquifer based Management be taken-up on a big scale for management of ground water resources.
- In future, strategy for execution of schemes related to ground water resource planning, exploitation, use and conservation will depend upon area-specific aquifer management plans.

➤ **Optimum Use of Ground Water and Planned Management of its exploitation.**

- To protect ground water resources in the state, concrete interventions need to be applied for promoting its judicious, optimum and efficient use and also for its planned development/abstraction.
- Separate management interventions for urban & rural areas are suggested for implementation in the policy document.

➤ **Rain Water Harvesting and Ground Water Conservation/ Recharge**

- It has become imperative that the recharge schemes be implemented in an integrated manner based on geo-scientific norms, so that ground water situation could improve.
- Comprehensive recharge plans for ground water stressed major cities will be prepared.
- Roof top rain water harvesting system on buildings along with 'Combined Recharge System' will be implemented on priority.
- Effective system for enforcement and monitoring of various mandatory provisions related to ground water recharging will be implemented.
- In rural areas, Integrated recharge plans will be prepared to bring over-exploited/critical blocks of the state into safe category.
- Emphasis will be given to saturate each micro watershed of Bundelkhand-Vindhya by different recharge structures.

➤ **Setting Ground Water Regulation Process**

- For regulated & controlled exploitation of ground water resource and its harvesting/conservation in the state, formulation of practical and acceptable regulation process be considered separately for both urban and rural areas.

➤ **Continuous Monitoring of Ground Water Quality and Environment Protection**

- An integrated action plan for mapping of ground water quality be prepared by the Ground Water Department. On this basis, GIS based comprehensive mapping of ground water quality will be carried-out with the co-ordinated efforts different concern department.

➤ **Ground Water Study and Research**

- New investigations and research studies in ground water sector will be promoted Establishment of high level “Ground Water Research and Training Institute”, as a Centre of Excellence in the state will be considered for promoting the advanced researches and studies in ground water sector.

➤ **Management of Ground Water Data**

- Organized approach for collection and analysis of reliable data of ground water resources available with different departments will be ensured.
- To ensure effective management of ground water data in the state, a GIS based efficient “Ground Water Data Bank and Information System” (State Ground Water Informatics Centre) will be developed, as per the need of various sectors.

➤ **District-wise Water Management Plan**

- “Water Management Plan” will be prepared for every district based on the local hydrogeological conditions, which will be separate for urban as well as rural areas.

➤ **Training, Publicity-Extension and Public Awareness**

- For extensive ground water awareness, schemes will be prepared for propagating message of ground water conservation by launching large scale movement from “Panchayat to Panchayat” in rural areas and from “School to School” in urban areas.
- At government and non-government level, the capacity building and training programmes would be conducted in an effective manner.

➤ **Strengthening of Existing Institutional System**

- The need is to establish a well-defined institutional structure for ground water sector in the state.
- For new challenges of ground water, the Ground Water Department shall be strengthened with a new vision.

Formulation, Inter-departmental Coordination and Implementation of Schemes

- To provide guideline/proper technical support and inter-departmental co-ordination, in the formulation of ground water based schemes, a 'Separate Cell' with efficient expertise be established in Ground Water Department.

Monitoring and Review

- Implementation and compliance of provisions/guidelines of comprehensive ground water policy would be ensured at different levels in a time-bound manner.
- For regular monitoring and review, “Comprehensive Ground Water Policy Monitoring and Review Committee” shall be constituted under the chairmanship of Agriculture Production Commissioner.