

23 March 2023

GS-3 - Environment

2. Water Scarcity will aggravate in the country, if swift actions are not taken to save small water bodies. Analyse

United Nations website shows the population in water scarce regions about to increase from 1.9bn (2015) to 2.7-3.2bn.
by 2050

Also centre water commission of India - in 'water related statistics' shows 1 in 3 will be in water - scarce area by 2025.

Small water bodies - Benefits.

small water bodies though small - have wider benefits

1. presence over all regions of the country.
2. Accessible. → domestic need, Animal husbandry, drinking water. etc.
3. Reduce conflicts between kil ends head reach farmers usually occurring in canal irrigation
4. Reduce poverty of water resource → Poor & marginal farmers are main beneficiaries
5. Increased small water bodies → will increase ground water recharge → reduce stress of water shortage

Status of small water bodies.

Rapidly declining both in numbers and area of imigation

1. The area declined from 46 L hectare to 16.2 L hectare.

2. The present share of tank irrigation declined from 20% $\rightarrow$ 2%.

eg: Tamil Nadu $\rightarrow$ the area - declined $\Rightarrow$ 9 L.h.a to 3.72 L.h.a.

left most of agri Land - fallow

Factors

Urban agglomeration $\rightarrow$ Increasing encroachments

1. Standing committee on water $\rightarrow$ state agencies itself encroaching water bodies
report

Led to loss of 1m potential irrigation area

2. Minor irrigation census - 2017 $\rightarrow$ Surface water Scheme irrigation
declined from 6L to 5.92 L.

Measures

1. Repair, Rehabilitate & Renewal - Small water bodies

2. Legislation $\rightarrow$ regulate encroachments on Small water bodies

Madhes High court $\rightarrow$ Judgement $\rightarrow$ not allow building on land close to small water bodies

3. Farmers - age - old 'rudimentary system' - need to be encourage.

Way ahead
It is important - policy makers must understand the disturbance area of small water bodies & take measures which may aggregate water conservation scheme or effort