

REPAIR RENOVATION AND RESTORATION OF WATER BODIES (RRR)

In Tamil Nadu tanks / ponds have traditionally played an important role in conserving water for meeting various needs of communities. Irrigation is one of the vital role in agricultural activities and plays an important task in food security.

In Tamil Nadu there are 14306 tanks which are rehabilitated on rotational basis as the rainfall is erratic in nature and farmer's vital source of water for irrigation depends on tanks. The Water Resources Department focuses on activities for effective management of water resources to attain self sufficiency in all water needs of Tamil Nadu.

Hence the Water Resources Department is more focused and take effective steps to maintain robust health of the water bodies and restore the original capacity of Tanks. The primary goal is to increase the irrigated area, strengthen the irrigation infrastructure and preserve the available water resources and to ensure irrigation facilities to all areas. Hence sustained and continuous efforts are being taken to increase the water use efficiency of the irrigation systems of the State.

Hence in order to meet the future needs, rehabilitation of tanks are being taken up under Repair Renovation and Restoration of water bodies (RRR) which is a Central-State shared scheme included under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana(PMKSY) – Har Keth Ko Pani (HKKP) in the ratio of 60:40.

The objective of the scheme is comprehensive improvement of selected water bodies as a whole thereby increasing the storage capacity of water bodies, ground water recharge, improvement in agricultural productivity and increased availability of drinking water are achieved.

Under RRR scheme, works to restore the original storage capacity of water bodies by desilting the tanks and strengthening the tank bund are carried out. Also, the Sluices / Weirs which are in dilapidated condition are reconstructed / repairs done along with lining of field channels for efficient flow regulation of water. Desilting & Improvements to Supply channels are done to ensure continuous water supply to the tanks. Artificial recharge shafts are constructed to improve the ground water quality and quantity.

In Tamil Nadu RRR scheme is being executed in Phase wise from 2015 onwards. Under this scheme totally 768 tanks are taken up for an estimate amount of Rs.597.79 crore. On completing the RRR scheme from Phase I to X, 65193 Ha Ayacut will be benefitted, restoration of irrigation potential will be 21585 Ha and capacity restored will be 17 Mcum.

So far works in 502 tanks are completed, thereby irrigation potential of 14503 ha have been created & irrigation capacity of 12 Mcum has been restored. Also 143 works are in progress and 123 works will be taken up on receipt of central assistance.

The tanks taken up under RRR scheme are mapped in GIS for Geotagging and made available with the NWIC water body layer.

The benefits of the RRR scheme are as follows:

- ❖ **Increased Storage Capacity** : Enhances the storage capacity of water bodies, thereby enhancing more water for irrigation and other uses.
- ❖ **Ground Water Recharge** : Promotes groundwater recharge by improving water bodies, which benefits long term water availability.
- ❖ **Improved Agriculture & Horticulture**: The restored water bodies increases the water access, thereby enhancing the productivity in agriculture and horticulture, supporting livelihoods.
- ❖ Ayacutdhars and farmers of the tanks are fully satisfied with the RRR works and the impact of the scheme in a successful manner.
