

ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA

Ministry of Jal Shakti, Department of
Water Resources, River Development and
Ganga Rejuvenation

Newsletter

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ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA

About the program



Objectives and Target Groups

- Atal Bhujal Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation aims to improve ground water management in priority areas in the country through community participation. The objectives of the Program includes : enhancing the recharge of aquifers and introducing water conservation practices; promoting activities relating to water harvesting, water management, and crop alignment; creating an institutional structure for sustainable ground water management; and equipping communities and stakeholders to sustainably manage ground water.
- The beneficiaries of ABHY are the economies, livelihoods, and societies that rely on sustainable ground water resources for prosperity and health. The arrest in decline of ground water levels is likely to improve water regimes required for agriculture, domestic, and industrial purposes, thereby generating societal benefit. In particular, it will have positive impacts on women, small marginal farmers, and agricultural labourers.

ABHY PROGRAM

Atal Bhujal Yojana emphasizes the need to improve ground water data availability, sharing, and use in the country. Recognizing that the fate of ground water resources ultimately depends on how resources are used and managed at the local level, the Program is anchored in planning and ground water management led by an informed community. It incentivizes the convergence across government programs and schemes for more coordinated interventions related to ground water. It is expected that these measures will show early success and provide a solid foundation, paving the way for broader institutional reforms in the longer run.

ATAL BHUJAL YOJANA

About the program



ABHY PROGRAM

Atal Bhujal Yojana would expand and improve the quality of ground water monitoring network and the assessment and use of the monitoring data. It would help develop a more comprehensive information base that includes ground water availability and quality, as well as demands on the resource base. The Program would also incentivize the development of data collection and sharing mechanisms between central and state agencies. This would enable the dissemination of annual ground water status reports at the block level that are required for improved participatory ground water management.

Focused Strategies and Results

- The activities under the Program are mapped to two results areas and summarized in the following paragraphs.
- Results Area 1 – Improved planning and implementation of ground water management interventions. Activities under Results Area 1 will focus on (a) introducing bottom-up planning of ground water interventions through community-led WSPs, (b) improving government spending through the planning process, and (c) implementing participatory ground water management, including both supply and demand-side measures.
- Results Area 2 – Strengthened institutional framework and effective ground water data monitoring and disclosure. Results Area 2 focuses on building institutional capacity at all levels, including improving ground water information and making it publicly accessible. Activities will include building institutional capacity at the central and state levels by ensuring that staff are adequately trained to effectively manage ground water resources.

PROGRESS

Steps of improvement



◆ General

- The overall progress of ABHY toward achieving the goals and objectives is quite satisfactory.
- There are many factors to account for in a progress update like expenditure framework, data development, accuracy of the data, type of measurement, role of implementing agencies and partners etc. They are all important factors in accurate progress measurements.
- However for better planning and management, the progress update is divided under four broad headings such as
- General Progress
- Financial Progress
- Fiduciary Progress
- Technical Progress

◆ Financial

- The Atal Bhujal Yojana Scheme has experienced progressive and significant shortfalls between budget estimates and expenditures, with only INR 439 crores (or US\$65 million) disbursed to date.
- The reasons for limited disbursement include capacity constraints at the CGWB and the lack of a financing mechanism that allocates funds at the state and local levels.
- ABHY undertakes specific measures to ensure allocation of funds to the states and from thereon to the district and participating Panchayats (local bodies), where about 70 percent of the expenditure is expected to be incurred.

- The scheme's outlay for the five years has been outlined in the approval provided by the Government of India, while the budget provision will be made annually, thus ensuring financial sustainability and funding predictability.

◆ Fiduciary

- An Integrated Fiduciary Systems Assessment (IFSA) that evaluates Program fiduciary arrangements and systems has been conducted and the report is available.
- The assessment covered a sample of designated nodal agencies including three states (that is, Gujarat, Karnataka, and Haryana). These nodal agencies are considered representative of the spectrum of institutional capacities and implementation arrangements.

◆ Technical

- The technical progress of ABHY mainly covers the Management Information System (MIS) for data development and information access.
- ABHY's MIS System is a user-friendly website designed to gain an understanding of water and related features and processes influencing water conditions, links between water inflow and outflow, water security etc.
- It is the main platform to access hydrogeological information and information needed for better water management decisions.
- The system is inbuilt with special purpose data analytics, which will be used to operationalize and standardize the preparation of Water Security Plans (WSPs), water budgeting, monitoring of ground water levels and quality, and reporting on the progress in implementation of WSPs.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Ladders towards progress and prosperity



◆ MIS System

- An MIS System is being developed to operationalize and standardize Program implementation across the Participating States.
- It is a user-friendly information portal designed for people working in the areas of ground water and related fields.
- The system is inbuilt with special purpose data analytics, which will be used to operationalize and standardize the preparation of WSPs, water budgeting, monitoring of ground water levels and quality, and reporting on the progress in implementation of WSPs.
- It will provide access to information for beneficiary communities to plan and implement interventions.



Figure 1. Example of ABHY's MIS System

◆ Ground Water Monitoring

- ABHY's MIS system consists of a Ground Water Monitoring tool, designed specifically for mapping ground water levels, quality and quantity at different locations.
- It helps in monitoring ground water information (both pre-monsoon and post-monsoon levels) at different time periods.
- The tool consists of a Ground Water Level Deviation Component which studies the action of water departing from an established course or accepted standard based on the long term average.
- The system is equipped with Rainfall Deviation Component which helps in calculating the variability of the distribution. It continues to be a widely adopted indicator for water security applications, but rainfall deviations across space and time need to be interpreted with due care.

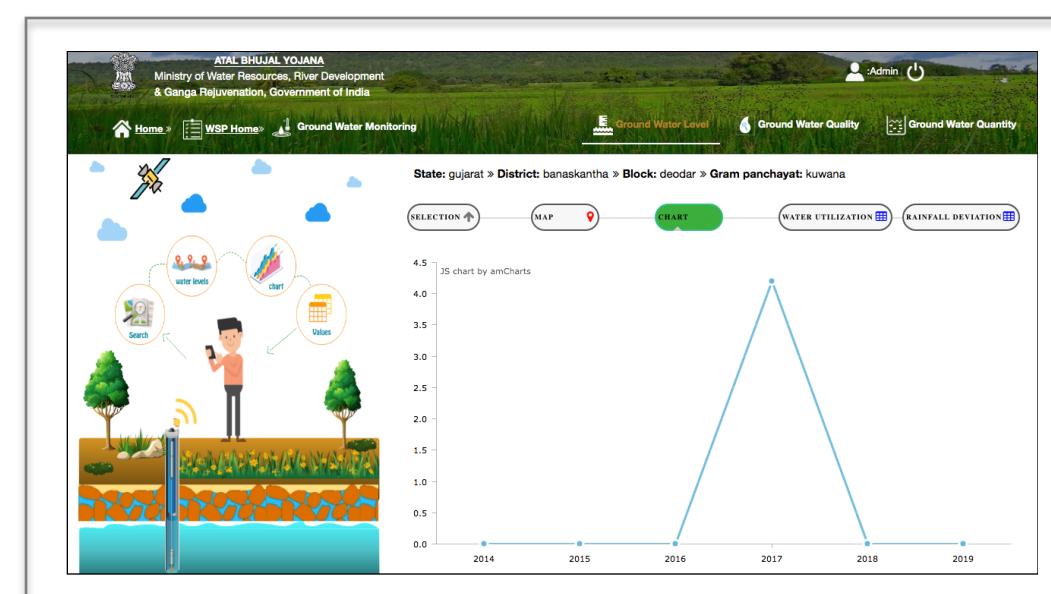


Figure 2. Ground Water Monitoring System at a glance

ACHIEVEMENTS

Ladders towards progress and prosperity



◆ Water Budgeting

- One of the specialised tools of MIS system is the Water Budgeting Application, which is an account of all the water that flows into and out of a project area.
- It helps in calculating all the components of water budget from surface water availability to ground water recharge to water draft and the remaining balance.
- The significance of water budgeting or water management tool is therefore to estimate the amount of water a landscape will require based on its availability, recharge and draft capacity.
- The tool is designed with due emphasis on the farming community which is heavily dependent on water for its crop production and management.

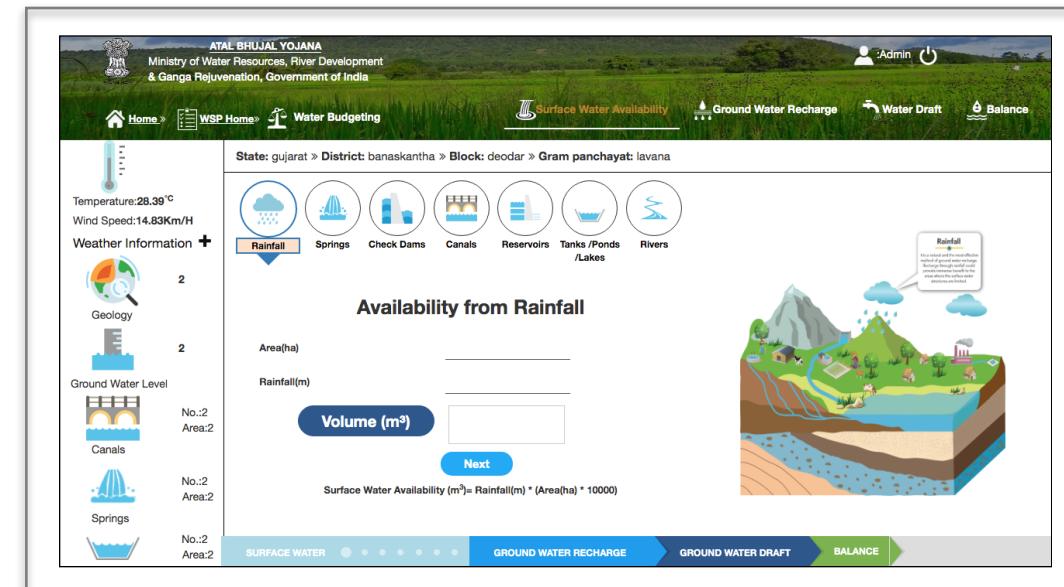


Figure 3. Water Budgeting Tool in the MIS System

◆ Water Security

- ABHY's MIS system is in-built with a Water Security tool to safeguard adequate quantities of quality water for sustaining livelihoods, human well-being, and socio-economic development.
- The main purpose of water security tool is to estimate the total water budget required for managing adequate quantities of water resources based on its demand and supply.
- The demand and supply component of water security tool covers a number of aspects and needs to be carefully filled for improved planning and management.
- Further to achieve water security, we must also protect vulnerable water systems, safeguard access to water functions and services and manage water resources in an integrated and equitable manner.

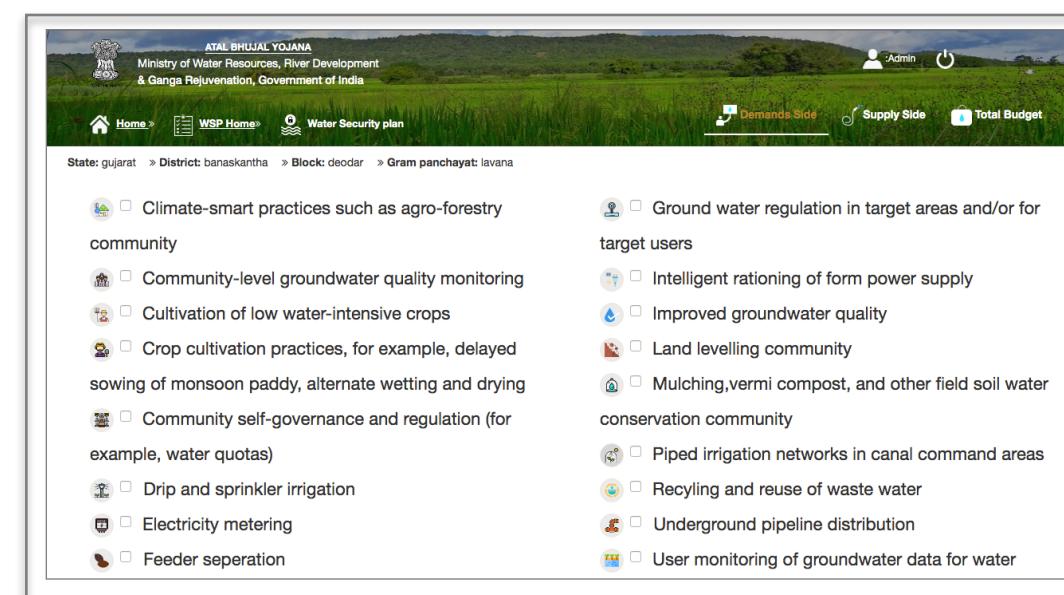


Figure 4. Example of Water Security Component

WORKSHOP/EVENTS

Developmental activities under the Program



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OTHERS

Other information related to the Program



◆ Conference

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◆ Awards

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◆ Publications

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