

Building institutions for the sustainable management of artesian groundwater in Myanmar



Key details

Location

Myanmar

Duration

Start Jan 2020

End Dec 2021

Budget

AUD 626,806

Commissioned organisation

International Water Management Institute

Partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Myanmar; Aqua Rock Konsultants, Myanmar; CSIRO Land and Water, Australia; Myanmar Institute for Integrated Development

Project Leader

Sanjiv de Silva, International Water Management Institute

Program

Social Systems

Project code

SSS/2018/135

Overview

Developing and testing inclusive institutional arrangements and supporting a targeted public information campaign to restore artesian pressure in the Central Dry Zone (CDZ) of Myanmar as well as addressing inequities between water users to enhance equitable impact

Some 10.12 million people reside in the CDZ of Myanmar. Around 43% live in poverty and 40-50% of the rural population is landless. Most land owners are small holder/marginal farmers. The extreme variability and intensity of dry season rainfall are major constraints to rural livelihoods. Reliance on groundwater for agricultural and domestic use is therefore increasing.

Drawing on earlier work, this project will survey private tubewell farmers to understand their reluctance to adopt sustainable tubewell management practices. This will underpin the development and implementation of an awareness and stakeholder engagement campaign addressing farmer reluctance, especially in the pilot sites for testing local institutional arrangements for groundwater management.



Expected Outcomes

- Understanding how artesian aquifers operate and the implications of over-extraction, and consequently, will actively participate in institutional arrangements to conserve groundwater.
- Adopting sustainable and equitable practices for managing artesian tubewells.
- Implementing broader groundwater management policy and regulatory frameworks in Myanmar, such as the new national groundwater law, the emerging national integrated water management strategy, and resulting groundwater management plans, and their implementation, are informed and influenced.

Due to political developments in Myanmar the project was ended prematurely, therefore no complete final report is available.



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