



ACWADAM's Course on Groundwater Governance

About the Course

Scripted in its agricultural hinterland, the development of India's groundwater resources is a story about how groundwater has enabled millions of farmers to improve agricultural production over reasonably short periods of time. At the same time, it has also ensured access to safe drinking water and has proven to be a buffer for poor rainfall years, including complexities of drought and floods. This has, however, given rise to serious issues around socio-ecological sustainability of the resource itself which manifests in the form of depleting water tables including problems linked to public health, environment and increased levels of vulnerability to resource abuse and contamination. Groundwater competition is playing out in myriad ways, before flash points of conflicts become obvious.

The rationale behind the need to develop mechanisms of groundwater governance includes participatory forms of groundwater management. Aquifer-based approaches inclusive of combination of groundwater management and governance have begun to find their way into the practices and policies dealing with groundwater in India. While discussions on various approaches to groundwater management have gained momentum the question of 'complementary' groundwater governance remains largely unresolved. In this light, a significant diversion from a business-as-usual approach to groundwater resource management in India could be to move away from 'infrastructure' based, 'supply-side' solutions, to more comprehensive solutions that integrate hydrogeology and engineering with sociology and economics in developing a groundwater governance framework.

This course will attempt to take up these various linkages of issues, solutions, experiences and challenges to address the questions pertaining to groundwater governance in India. The course is designed in a bi-modular fashion to cater to the needs and gaps in groundwater understanding and to comprehensively introduce a package of science, participation and regulation, all of which form the backbone of the groundwater governance framework.

Who can enroll?

Practitioners, civil society organisations, government officials, students, researchers and activists can enroll for the course. Although there is no stipulated minimum background qualification for eligibility, participants should have understanding of English, Marathi or Hindi language. Experience of working in the water sector or associated with various developments in the sector would be an added benefit.

Course design

Two modules:

- **Science of Groundwater and its importance in Groundwater Management**
- **Groundwater Management and Governance**

Two modules are offered and participants can either enroll for one module or the entire course (two modules). The modules consist of classroom sessions involving participatory pedagogy, practical and field work. Each module will be run for a 5-week period. The course details are as follows:



Duration: 10 weeks starting 16 July 2017 (Four Days a week, Monday to Thursday, Evening 6 to 8 PM)

Venue: **Will be confirmed soon.**

Selection and Fees: ACWADAM will exercise a selection of participants, depending upon enrolment and the limit to the number of seats. The course costs are subsidized through a support from Ford Foundation. A nominal fee of Rupees 1000/- will be borne by the participants as a contribution towards ACWADAM's work on aquifers, watersheds and environmental co-management (Fee for a single module is Rupees 500/-). Fees can be remitted through cheque drawn in favour of ACWADAM, Pune at the time of the registration session.

Interested individuals/organisations can contact: acwadam@vsnl.net for enrollment details or queries, if any.

ACWADAM

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