



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of Maharashtra

Maharashtra State Water Policy

Water Resources Department

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MAHARASHTRA STATE WATER POLICY 2019

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MAHARASHTRA STATE WATER POLICY, 2019

1. PREAMBLE:

Per capita water availability is decreasing due to ever increasing population. Also, due to rising food demands, rapid industrialization and urbanization the stress on water management is increasing. As an effect water management has emerged as one of the 21st century's grand challenges.

In September 2015, the United Nations 193 member states including India, committed to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be achieved over the next 15 years. SDG-6, "ensuring clean water and sanitation for all" has placed "water" firmly on the global agenda. Without water, the other development goals - such as ensuring healthy lives, ending hunger, boosting economic growth and others- will not be achieved. Further, SDG - 12 - "**Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns**" and SDG - 15 - "**Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt degradation and halt biodiversity loss,**" also are equally relevant. Thus, to achieve the targets set forth in the SDGs, it is of utmost importance to effectively develop and manage the water resources.

The distribution of water resources is uneven over a large part of the State. A large area is, therefore, water deficit whereas a small part is bestowed with abundance in water. Large part of the State has already become water stressed. With the threat of climate changes the situation is likely to deteriorate.

Water being a State subject, State of Maharashtra had framed its Water Policy in 2003 which was subsequently revised in May 2011. Since adaptation of this policy, significant positive changes have occurred in the water scenario of the State. However, some of the issues and challenges faced in the state water sector still continue and require policy reforms.

Government of India (GoI) has also revised its earlier policy and released the National Water Policy in 2012. GoI vide provisions of clause 16.2 of the National Water Policy, expresses the intent that the states may revise and align their respective state Water Policy in accordance with the National Water Policy, keeping in mind the basic concerns, principles and also a unified national perspective.

With this background, the State has again revised its Water Policy in accordance with the National Water Policy for addressing certain State-specific concerns and challenges.

2. SCOPE OF THE POLICY:

This Policy applies to all the line departments, semi-government agencies of the State Government related to water, local bodies, bulk water users (domestic, industrial/commercial and others) and the citizens of the State.

3. OVERVIEW OF THE STATE:

Maharashtra occupies the Western and Central parts of India and has a long coastline of about 720 km along the Arabian Sea. With population of 112.4 million, as per population Census 2011 and geographical area of 0.308 million sq. km, Maharashtra is ranked 2nd by population and 3rd in terms of area. Maharashtra is highly urbanized with 45.2 % population residing in urban area.

The State enjoys tropical monsoon climate and is semi-arid. There exists an extreme spatial and temporal variation in the rainfall pattern in the State. The average annual rainfall in the State ranges from 400 to 6000 mm. The State witness frequent drought conditions. Almost, 42.5 % area of the State is drought prone. Gross cropped area in the State is 22.9 million ha (2015-16), net sown area is 17.19 million ha and area sown more than once is 5.929 million ha. Half of the State's population is dependent upon agriculture for their livelihood.

4. WATER RESOURCES OF THE STATE:

The area of the State is covered under five major river basins namely Godavari, Krishna, Tapi, Narmada and West flowing river basins. Also, a very small area of North-Eastern part of the State comes under the Mahanadi basin. The estimated average annual availability of water resources of the State is 198 Billion cubic metres (BCM) which consists of 164 BCM of surface water and 34 BCM of groundwater. The storage capacity created through State Sector water resources projects is 42.85 BCM as of June 2017.

Except the West flowing rivers, Maharashtra shares remaining four river basins with the neighbouring states. Various inter-state river water disputes, tribunal awards /agreements and decisions on water sharing have limited the use of surface water resources of the State to about 126 BCM, of which 69 BCM (55%) contribution is alone of west flowing river basins. The Cultivable area of this region is very limited (10.6 %), comprising narrow strip of 50 km between Sahyadri ranges and Arabian Sea. Hence, there is a limitation on local use of entire available water. The entire water available in basins of West flowing rivers can neither be used locally nor can be transferred economically to other basins as the rest of the basins are separated by high altitude ridge (+610 m). On the other hand, remaining four river basins having 89.4% of the cultivable area has only 45% of the water resources. Due to these constraints, about 42.50% area of the State lies in deficit or highly deficit sub-basins. The State is experiencing water shortage and recurrent droughts.

The State is divided into 1531 elementary watersheds considering river basin and sub-basin boundaries as the base. Watershed wise groundwater assessment was done in 2013-14 and it revealed that net groundwater availability is 31.48 BCM and annual draft is about 17.07 BCM.