

SUSTAINABLE FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT THROUGH LINKING OF MAJOR RIVERS IN INDIA

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ABSTRACT

India has a variable monsoon climate and is subjected to cyclical flood and drought. The country has a large network of rivers with an estimated annual flow of 1900 Km³. Many of the rivers in the north of India are frequently affected by floods and discharge copious amount of water during monsoon months every year. However, the rivers of southern part of India are monsoon fed and faces severe drought, in case the monsoon fails. Therefore, a viable solution is the linking of north-south rivers so that the massive surplus flood water from the northern part be transferred to the deficit water prone rivers of south in order to get rid of floods in the north and droughts in the south. The idea of inter-basin transfer, at first instance, envisages 30 river links of a Ganga - Cauvery Canal.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: flood forecasting, inter-basin transfer, monsoon, river linking