

**GROUNDWATER GOVERNANCE IN THE HARD-ROCK AQUIFIERS OF INDIA -
POSSIBILITIES AND CONSTRAINTS IN MOVING TOWARDS NESTED GOVERNANCE
REGIMES**

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ABSTRACT

The importance of Common Property Water Resources (CPWRs) for rural communities is well recognized. However, there is a necessity for a disaggregated analysis of CPWRs use across different agro-climatic zones in the country. In this paper, we analyse the National Sample Survey (NSS) 54th round data on Common Property Resources for the states comprising the hard-rock aquifers (Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra). We examine the variation in CPWRs use and differential dependence on CPWRs between farmers of different operational size holdings and the rural labourers. We examine the implications for aquifer level governance mechanisms for groundwater (primarily drawing upon the contribution of Shah (2009) along with the NSS data) and examine the possibility and constraints in moving towards a nested and possibly a CPR based governance regime.

PALAVRA-CHAVE: Hard Rock Aquifers, Nested Governance Regimes, India