

## **GOVERNING RECONFIGURED RIVER BASINS: AN EXPERIMENT IN INDIA**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Meghal is a small river basin in semi-arid western India. Over the past two decades, the basin has seen development of more than a thousand decentralized water harvesting structures. This development has transformed the hydrology and the agrarian economy of the basin and in a region characterized by high inter-annual rainfall fluctuation, it promises to improve security against droughts. Since 2002, AKRSP India, a local NGO, has been working in the basin with a view to implement an adapted version of Integrated River Basin Management. Besides technical and economic interventions, AKRSP has encouraged and assisted in the formation of an informal Core Group of local village leaders to adopt a common river basin identity and initiate planning at the river basin level. This paper presents results from an on-going research program to understand the hydrological and socio-economic impacts of decentralized water harvesting and the evolving institutional framework for water governance.

**PALAVRA-CHAVE: India, Decentralized Water Harvesting, River Basin Planning, Basin Institutions**