## Global Water Partnership



## GROUNDWATER RESOURCES critical focal points requiring conjunctive vision and management

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### CONJUNCTIVE USE OF GROUNDWATER & SURFACE WATER scope and relevance to developing economies

#### no rigorous definition

provision of 'water-supply demand centre' in parallel from surface water and groundwater sources to improve water-supply security and water-resource use efficiency groundwater/surface water can be hydraulically independent or link

- spontaneous development quite widespread :
  - part of urban water-supply expansion
  - private coping strategy in irrigated agriculture
    but to achieve optimum results requires scientific planning
- potential benefits include :
  - much greater water-supply security in drought or emergency
  - larger net yield for somewhat increased investment
  - reduced environmental impact (low-flow conservation)

## **GROUNDWATER STORAGE** very wide variation in size and connectivity



**CRITICAL HYDROGEOLOGICAL SETTINGS REQUIRING 'CONJUNCTIVE VISION'** 

- alluvial plains with shallow water-table aquifer
- piedmont fans with surface water-dependent recharge
  - mid-catchment aquifers providing river baseflow

## URBAN WATER-SUPPLY

### **CONJUNCTIVE USE FOR MAJOR URBAN WATER-SUPPLY** from spontaneous development to planned strategy





### **CONJUNCTIVE USE IN URBAN WATER-SUPPLY** impediments to optimum development

- split responsibility for surface and groundwater management (and even development)
- urban water engineers often prefer (superficially) simple operational set-ups
- urban water-service utilities institutionally or politically constrained as regards development of protected peri-urban wellfields

## IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE

### **CONJUNCTIVE USE FOR IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE** current reality on alluvial plains of developing world

- widely practised on spontaneous basis in response to inadequate irrigation canal-water availability both spatially and temporally
- usually implemented unplanned and often in `crisis mode' – in response to surface water drought in order to mitigate crop-losses
- results in groundwater providing a large proportion of total water-supply even in major irrigation canal commands – but with little management investment
- need to move from 'spontaneous conjunctive use' to 'sustainable conjunctive management' – especially to combat problems of increasing salinisation and as climate-change adaptation strategy
- institutional reform often needed to achieve transformation

## **CONJUNCTIVE USE FOR IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE**

managed evolution from spontaneous to planned development





**CONJUNCTIVE USE FOR IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE common impediments to planned conjunctive use** 

- socio-political sensitivity and unwillingness to reduce surface-water use and rights in head-water sections
- inadequate understanding of conjunctive use benefits by local irrigation engineers and academic centres
- some state water agencies tend to 'mirror' historical irrigation realities and perpetuate status quo
- large cost differential (x 10-20) to irrigation users between canal water and groundwater

## GANGETIC PLAIN OF UTTAR PRADESH-INDIA modification of hydrogeological regime



### CONJUNCTIVE USE OFSURFACE WATER & GROUNDWATER approach in Uttar Pradesh

- engineering and management measures to
  - reduce 'upstream' canal-water losses and over-irrigation
  - improve canal-water distribution and 'downstream' irrigation service levels
- farmer education and financial investment for sodic-land mitigation (including stimulus for increased groundwater use in 'upstream areas')
- reducing groundwater extraction in 'downstream' areas with improved canal-water availability
- crop diversification to improve water productivity

## GROUNDWATER SYSTEM SALINISATION factors entering into aquifer salt balances in arid areas



## CONJUNCTIVE USE FOR IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE Mendoza Oases - Argentina

**Central Oasis** (Montecaseros)

**Carrizal Valley** 

#### **ARGENTINA-MENDOZA VITICULTURE PRODUCTION** locally threatened by increasing groundwater salinity



#### **CARRIZAL AQUIFER**

- mobilisation of salinity from vadose zone in areas cleared of desert vegetation for irrigated agriculture
- salt fractionation during irrigation-water cycling
- some zones now only suitable for onion and garlic cultivation

#### **PAKISTAN PUNJAB**

## growing groundwater dependence for staple crop production but continuing long-run battle with the 'salinity dragon'



Increasingly saline groundwater at depth

arid zone with fresh groundwater recharge primarily from riverbed and irrigation canal seepage – but freshwater salinity increasing due to salt fractionation in irrigated soils, extensive phreatic evaporation and use of deep irrigation waterwells

#### 50 % OF TOTAL IRRIGATION WATER-SUPPLY FROM WATERWELLS



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www.worldbank.org/gwmate

www.gwpforum.org

www.iah.org





## GANGETIC PLAIN OF UTTAR PRADESH-INDIA Soil Water-Logging & Salinisation





linked soil-water/groundwater/surface-water modeling now possible at range of scales, but still a major challenge to apply results in practical water management at field level



**CONJUNCTIVE USE FOR IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE approach in Mendoza – Carrizal Aquifer** 

- declare 'areas of restriction' to prevent further growth in numbers of irrigation waterwells
- constrain spatial transfer of groundwater use rights from 'down-gradient' areas to 'terrenos chacra'
- augment riverbed recharge and divert excess riverflows to valley to reduce groundwater pumping
- intensify monitoring of groundwater levels, use and salinity – as basis to ensure continued aquifer drainage
- caution about cumulative effects of improving irrigation efficiency (widespread adoption of 'drip technology') since total groundwater resource consumption increasing (even if licensed abstraction fixed)

# ARGENTINA-MENDOZA : VITICULTURE PRODUCTION locally threatened by increasing groundwater salinity



#### PAKISTAN PUNJAB

growing groundwater dependence for staple crop production

ANO

+ASHMIP

but continuing long-run battle with the 'salinity dragon'

LEGEND

Canals/Links Branch/Disty Roads

TT RANGE

50 % OF TOTAL IRRIGATION WATER-SUPPLY FROM WATERWELLS

semi-arid zone with diffuse groundwater recharge from annual monsoonal rainfall

arid zone with fresh groundwater recharge primarily from riverbed and irrigation canal seepage – but freshwater salinity increasing due to salt fractionation in irrigated soils, extensive phreatic evaporation and use of deep irrigation waterwells