

was chaired by C V Patil and D R Veeranna Prof PL Patil presented land suitability evaluation for sustainable crop production Prof G S Dasog dealt with conjunctive use and optimal crop pattern in tank command A R Khan described the role of financial institutions in the watershed development and resurgence of rural economy Y Lingaraju apprised the delegates about potentials of surface water bodies in recharging groundwater in Kolar and Gadag districts of Karnataka Rajarajan narrated the use of remote sensing and GIS in planning artificial recharge and land use L G Hiregoudar spoke about drought proofing technologies, initiatives of Self Help Groups and Jal Biradari, and Shramdan movement of Vivek Patha in Ichalahalla watershed (Gadag) which are shining examples of mass mobilization in water shed development

Pollution is a major threat to the sustainability of drinking water On 30th April 2008 the third technical Session on drinking water was chaired by T M Hunse and Smt Shashirekha Shashirekha described the groundwater quality in different parts of Karnataka Prasad Raju presented BYRRAJU Foundation's innovative 4P Model of Quality drinking

water in villages involving community managed water purification system S C Puranik and J T Gudagur discussed about fluoride pollution in Gadag district and its remediation

In the Farmers interactive training session on 29th April 2008, Ayyappa Masagi, L G Hiregoudar, N H Bhandi and V D Vaikunthe delivered illuminating talks on rainwater harvesting, alternate land use systems, and in situ moisture conservation in dry land areas The lectures were followed by intensive interactions with the farmer delegates

The Plenary session on 30th April 2008 was chaired by Prof G K Veeresh Ms Bharti Patel addressed the gathering explaining the SVARAJ Matrix of community management of water with the goal of equity, efficiency and environmental integrity Prafulla Chandra, Ayyappa Masagi and Shri Bhagwan (Journalist) also spoke on the occasion Prof Veeresh informed that although water is a key input in agriculture, land morphology, soil conditions and crop pattern, too, play significant role in water management and conservation

The deliberations in the seminar successfully brought out integrated

management of rainwater, surface water and groundwater along with crop water planning as key to food and drinking water security The seminar concluded with a set of recommendations which emphasized (1) water conservation and augmentation through rainwater harvesting, rejuvenation of community tanks, watershed treatment, artificial recharge, as also sprinkler and drip irrigation, (2) replication of Byrraju Foundation's SWEET Project of quality drinking water in villages, (3) adoption of sanitation technologies like dry toilets and biotoilets, (4) water literacy campaigns through print and electronic media, mass rallies, workshops etc, (5) community participation in water management, and (6) need for Special Agricultural zones, to start with in Gadag district as model, for all round agricultural development and rural prosperity

The water shed experience in Ichalahalla (Gadag taluka) is a potential solution to the challenges in other semi and hard rock areas The seminar sent out a strong message of "self help" to the rural community in solving their water woes, and transforming rural poverty to prosperity

SUBHAYOTI DAS

ANNOUNCEMENT

XXV CONVENTION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS AND NATIONAL SEMINAR

The Department of Geology, M S University of Baroda will be organising the XXV Convention of Indian Association of Sedimentologists and National Seminar on "Sedimentary Basins of India – Their Geological Significance and Economic Prospects" between 26th and 28th December, 2008 All correspondence in this regard may be addressed to Dr A V Joshi, Convener, XXV Convention of IAS, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, M S University of Baroda, Vadodara – 390 002 (Gujarat) Phone 0265-2785560 (O) Mobile 09427602928, Email joshi_geol@yahoo.com