

India's Approach to Watershed Development
Serves as a Model for United States
Watersheds

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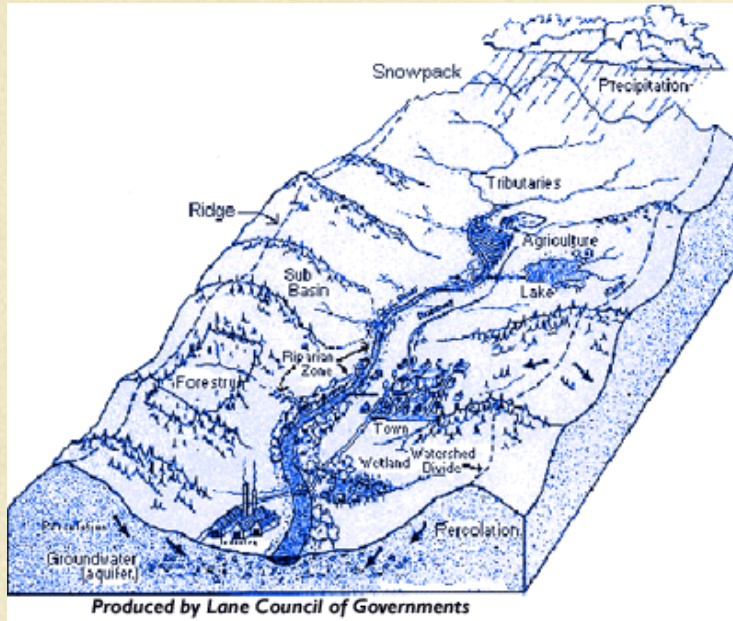
Current Challenges For India

- Lack of natural resources
- Poverty
- Hunger
- Lack of education
- Oppression of women
- Corruption

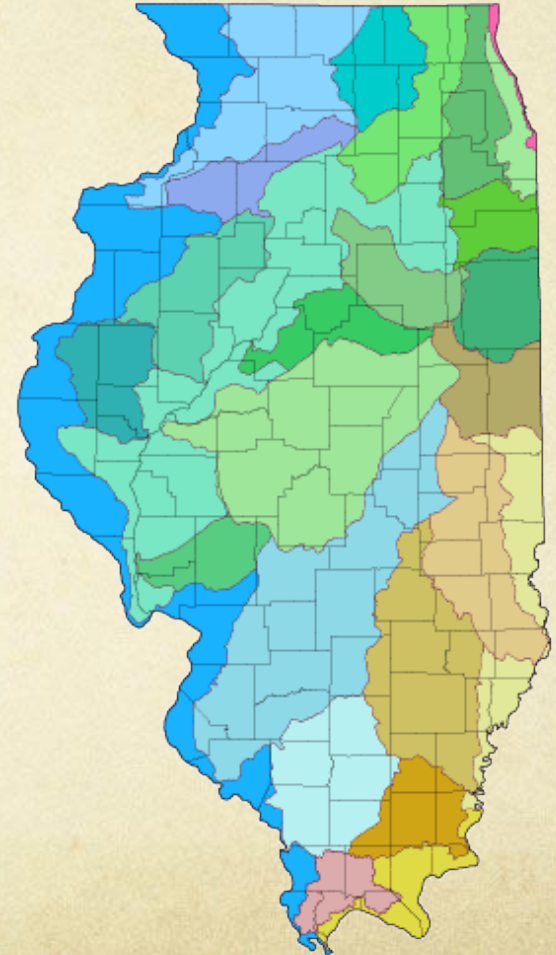


What is a Watershed?

“That area of land, a bounded hydrologic system, within which all living things are inextricably linked by their common water course and where, as humans settled, simple logic demanded that they become part of a community.” - Scientist Wesley Powell



Water.EPA.gov



Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR)

- WOTR's focus tackles water scarcity, rural poverty, and food insecurity in the drylands of India. (WOTR.org)
- Integrated farming (horticulture, livestock, organic farming, etc.)
- Self-help promotion
- Implementation of watershed projects
- Micro-finance
- Training and education
- Policy advocacy

The Key to Poverty Alleviation

- Access to clean drinking water
- Increased social and economic capital
- Community participation for women
- Decrease in disease and illness
- Health and nutritional benefits
- (World Resources Institute, 2005)

Why WOTR Works

- Gaining trust of villagers
- Ownership
- Knowledge and Ecological Awareness
- Establishing Accountability
- (World Resources Institute, 2005)





(WOTR.org)

Advadi and Duhnbar Villages

- Agriculture is a way of life: The most important resource is water. Livelihoods depend on access to water in order to survive.
- Differences in landscape in rural areas, hills, soils, livestock, drought, village composition and populations.
- Selling additional crops for profit increases the likelihood that children will continue education

Advadi Village



Current Challenges for The United States

- Water pollution in urban and rural areas
- Over exploitation of water usage
- Poor soil quality
- Food deserts
- Obesity
- Farm subsidies
- Conventional agriculture

Watersheds in the U.S.

- Preservation, Restoration, Conservation
- Focus on partnerships between local, state, federal, nonprofit agencies.
- Participation of Local Stakeholders
- Diversity of landscapes not a “one-size fits all approach”
- Economic benefits to maintaining water resources

Organic Agriculture

- More cost effective
- Environmentally sustainable
- Health and nutritional benefits
- Economic and social capital



Can the U.S. adopt the WOTR Model?

- Integration of agricultural programs
- Training and education
- Participatory approach
- Farmer ownership and accountability
- Incentives for organic agriculture
- Public support
- Efficiency

Conclusions

- Not a “pie in the sky” idea
- Humanistic movement
- Using Developing countries as model for survival and long-term environmental sustainability

Resources

- D'Souza and Lobo, World Resources 2005, "The Wealth of The Poor, Managing Ecosystems to Fight Poverty" 124-126. Watershed Organizational Trust
- Water.EPA.gov
- WOTR.org