Columbia University’s eye-opening report on north Gujarat

April 04, 2011  DeshGujarat (http://DeshGujarat.Com/author/japan-3/)

Columbia water center’s latest study in one particular region (180 sq.km) of North Gujarat covering areas of Mahesana and Gandhinagar districts is eye-opener.

By Japan K Pathak
Ahmedabad, 4 April, 2011

The report is about 600-800 ft deep underground water level in this agriculture oriented area of north Gujarat. Every year, underground level of water goes nine to twenty ft deeper which compels farmers to purchase extra powerful motor and therefore more electricity consumption with less quality and
quantity both. Over the years this practice will prove unaffordable. According to research study the farmers themselves believe that underground water will last for next six years only. Out of 182 tubewells studied only 9 were found using drip irrigation!

For those who really are concerned about well being of Gujarat, following PDF link is must visit.

-The study region covers a total geographical area of 180 sq. km. It forms a part of two districts: Mehsana and Gandhinagar, and three talukas (counties), Vijapur, Visnagar (in Mehsana district) and Mansa (in Gandhinagar district).

-Agriculture accounts for around 90% of the total water use followed by domestic and industrial water use. More than 80% of the land area is under cultivation. Of the total area under cultivation, around 65 -70% is irrigated. Net area irrigated in the study region is estimated to be around 10,000 hectares. Almost 55 – 60% of the working population is engaged in agriculture and agro related activities.

-The groundwater situation is now so dire that the future of agriculture in North Gujarat is in jeopardy. Farmers are the first to suffer, as they must continually invest in deeper wells and more powerful pumps to irrigate, but nonetheless face a decline in both the quantity and quality of the water they are able to pump.

-Water tables in the study area have been falling steadily over the last 15-20 years, and have reached about 600ft below ground level, risking irreversible salinization of aquifers. The declining trend is seen in observation wells and confirmed by farmers‘ own recollection of water depth. The rate of decline is anywhere between 9 feet per year (based on observation wells) to 20 feet per year (based on farmer recollections).

Furthermore, this steep decline has occurred during a relatively wet period. In the next decadal period of low rainfall this rate could more than double, especially if farmers increase cropping intensity. In much of the study area, water levels are either approaching or already below mean sea level, which increases the risk of intrusion of saline or brackish water, an irreversible transition that could end agriculture in the area. In our sample, 82% of wells reported the appearance of salt in their water over the last 5-15 years. Other changes in water quality include increasing temperature (reported by 52%) fluoride (30%) and dust (30%). 82% of wells reported the appearance of salt in their water over the last 5-15 years.

- Where groundwater drops below sea level, there is a greatly increased chance for saltwater to enter underground aquifers and contaminate wells.

-A water savings of 30% through well established technologies and practices can allow the power utility in North Gujarat (UGVCL) to free up as much as 2.7 billion units of electricity for use in non-agricultural sectors, and would reduce groundwater extractions by a corresponding amount.

-Nearly all respondents expected the water table to continue its decline, and on an average expect water to last for about six years. Once that happens, farmers plan to deepen their wells (30%), migrate (30%) or restrict crop cultivation to the rainy season (20%). More than half of farmers in the area plan to abandon irrigated agriculture.

-only 9 out of 136 wells surveyed make any use of drip irrigation or sprinklers. The main reasons farmers give for lack of adoption are high cost (mentioned by 60% of farmers), land fragmentation (23%) and lack of familiarity (16%).

Full copy of report(PDF) can be accessed on this link (http://water.columbia.edu/sitefiles/file/Uploads/CWC%20Gujarat%20WP.pdf)
Many thanks for showing the facts. The reality is worst than this. At the same time rich industrialists like TATA, karsanbhai, vadilal, reliance and many more wants to purchase farms and convert into industrial zone and do some construction and convert into residential areas and make money. They go in public and speak highly about Modiji in public but everyone knows farmers are suffering and since the land prices are going higher and higher they want to sale thier lands and get out from the villages. Only on some websites and modi media is showing checkdams and khet talavadis and above 10% growth in agricultural industry in gujarat. But simply its all claimed by modi media. There are no farms around ahmedabad or any big cities like rajkot and baroda that one farmer can buy and do grow something. Either land is not available or you can not afford it.

Reply ([2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57877#respond](/2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57877#respond))

2. Hari (गामटियो) says:
Monday, April 4th, 2011 at 7:09 pm

Japanbhai,
This is all good, and perhaps even our government officials are aware of many aspects this fact. To accomplish the remedies we need a stable government, and an accountable administration.
At Vapi to Ankleshwar are facing similar problem. The only potable source of water available is the ground water and so the pumps have to run in full force subsidized by the tax payers money or borrowed money from our purchase currency value.
The industries were not supposed to cross their limits on land usage, nor on natural resources. But by polluting the environment with poison, the industries eat away the entire 100% chunk. be it for water, air, or population. We are paying a heavy price for certain mindless irresponsible industries coming through the corruption channel of goondaaraaj Kangress. To stop this menace we need more and more orgs or committed leadership like the RSS, VHP, or Bharat svabhiman to undertake serious measures for protection and preservation of Mother nature, our Mother rivers. Only then Hinduism will survive. The threat to our culture Hindutva is not from outside but we need to guard our home turf well through a professional approach as seen in various sampradays. Mother Naramada is helping us, however, we have to take serious measures like Kalpasar for long-term availability of water. Every citizens (especially farmers) should either volunteer or provide hundi for these projects that can be all-beneficial. We don’t need infighting as seen at Mahuva. We have all the resources, we need the industries to pay for agriculture, we just need to work together.

जय श्री राम

Reply ([2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57880#respond](/2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57880#respond))

3. great gujarati says:
Monday, April 4th, 2011 at 8:29 pm

This is not a new problem. This happens everywhere only because of the high water consumption by humans. Because land water recharging takes a lot of time compared to water usage, this problem arises. We need to find very effective solutions which can recharge land water faster.


4. himanshu ([http://hims30482.blogspot.com](http://hims30482.blogspot.com)) says:
Monday, April 4th, 2011 at 8:56 pm

I got totally different feedback and report from the ground and Govt official (unofficially)
Actually, I am basically from Gandhinagar and do visit in and around places frequently. My findings from the direct talk with farmers across gozaria, mahesana, prantij, Gandhinagar are as below;

1) Water level is rising, earlier they got water from around 900ft, I am not going into statistics part, but as per local farmers water level is rising
2) According to some farmers they are now removing some columns from their tube well
3) they are now taking more than 2 crops/year easily.

Now some more facts and personally seen things, mainly reason why such thing is happening;

1) Main reason is consistent good rainy season from last 8 years
2) Our Gujarat Govt and specially Modi had vision of SUJLAM SUFLAM scheme, which is running parallel to Narmada canal and specially into prantij, vijapur, mahesana belt.
3) In this canal, they did only digging no concrete

Reply ([2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57883#respond](/2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57883#respond))

5. Acharya says:
Monday, April 4th, 2011 at 9:04 pm

I got totally different feedback and report from the ground and Govt official (unofficially)
Actually, I am basically from Gandhinagar and do visit in and around places frequently. My findings from the direct talk with farmers across gozaria, mahesana, prantij, Gandhinagar are as below;

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1) Main reason is consistent good rainy season from last 8 years
2) Our Gujarat Govt and specially Modi had vision of SUJLAM SUFLAM scheme, which is running parallel to Narmada canal and specially into prantij, vijapur, mahesana belt.
3) In this canal, they did only digging no concrete work anywhere, only one aim maximum ground water recharge
4) under this canal network, all the village lakes are filled up throught the year as this canal can be filled by narmada water also.

Now the main point.

You all know about Jyotigram schme all over the Gujarat, have you ever wondered how Gujarat have 24 Hr power despite of no major increase in electricity production in last 5-6 year.

Because now a days, farmers, specially in this north Gujarat region and banaskantha region uses less electricity compared to previous years.

WHY?? because now a days, they have easily available water from narmada and sujlam suflam canal networks.

So, my request to all readers to have a atleast 2-3 views before making any perception.

Regards,
http://www.hims30482.blogspot.com (http://www.hims30482.blogspot.com)

Reply (2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57885#respond)

6. Hari (गामळळी) says:
Monday, April 4th, 2011 at 10:43 pm

@sachin

I am a farmer, and I know well that farmers are suffering out of their own laziness, or, ego to fail to work in a team in the interest of a balanced Bhaarat. इंटे इंट र सिद्ध ऑफ ऑफ ऑफ कम, स्पुरिन्

No one is entitled to get the highest share of the GDP than a farmer in Bhaarat. The fact that the benefits don’t reach them is a different matter and corporates are NOT to be blamed for it.

Farmers don’t get to pay any taxes on their income and yet get all the infrastructure or export aid.

Farmers get subsidized electricity, water, and equipment, and fertilizers, seeds, and free consulting.

Farmers get support price which are artificially jacked up against the market conditions even if it cost inflation.

In other words, the way our Bhaarat laws are framed, farming is designed to be shielded from the nature or market conditions. They are already entitled to get the biggest chunk from the national GDP. In just about every planning commission, farmers are meant to get the priority since 80% of our population is village based.

Now to the other question: why are they suffering. It is because the benefits for farmers don’t reach them, due to the irresponsible voting for a goondaaraaj party like the Kangress, RJD, SP or the BSP. Now in the advent of progressive Hindutva, we have Narendra Modi who is trying extremely best to correct this situation, to curtail the corruption, plug the black hole going to the Swiss black banks owned by the Italian mafia or NATO industrialists.

Ask yourself a simple question. Without the (tax-contributing) industries, how are we going to foot the massive bill of agricultural subsidies? by heavy external debt borrowing from world bank? Just a (industrialized) Mumbai alone contributes more than 30% of budgetary revenues. In a graphical terms, industries alone pays for sustaining farming in majority of agricultural states that became completely dependent on Government largess. The problem is Mumbai filled with corruption forces like the goondaaraaj Kangress. And I am very optimistic, that Gujarat will overtake Mumbai and provide succor to entire Bhaarat by way for a corrupt free industrious CM. Therefore please support him in his clean, green, and ask campaigns and learn to pay taxes in Gujaratt if you want agriculture to prosper. STOP BLAMING THE SWADESHI PATRIOTS LIKE TATA, AMBANIS, ADANIS, OR BIRLAS. They can easily get a citizenship of other countries like the Wadias, but they are here to help us, and they have proved to be part of our solution, but the goondaaraaj Kangress is hell-bent on becoming a part of the problem for the farmers. The solution lies in Hindutva and Baba Ramdev’s Bhaarat svabhimaan.

जय श्री राम!

Many of the farmers still practice the stupid caste system or the horrible dowry system wrought by the British in the form of land rights, as a result the poor unorganized labours get exploited into illiteracy, drunken madness.

Reply (2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57886#respond)

7. sachin says:
Tuesday, April 5th, 2011 at 12:14 am

@ Hari,

“I am a farmer, and I know well that farmers are suffering out of their own laziness, or, ego to fail to work in a team in the interest of a balanced Bhaarat. इंटे इंट र सिद्ध ऑफ ऑफ ऑफ कम, स्पुरिन्.”
Let me tell you I am also a farmer and I don’t understand how come all farmers became lazy? How come all farmers have their ego to fail to work. Do you see any farmer in this movie who has ego problem?

In India farmers own very small land. 1 vigha to 10 vigha. If they work hard all year long they can make 20,000 Rs. to 100,000 Rs. per year.

I agree congress has already done damage in gujarat and rest of india. But we can not blame congress anymore in gujarat. Because for last 11 years Modiji is ruling. (RJD, BSP and SP) how many seats they have won in last election? Are they ruling party in gujarat?

If they are not ruling than there is no point in blaming them. When ever there is something good we always give credit to Modiji. “Oh modiji you are great”; “Oh modiji we love you”

And when ever something goes wrong we always blame sonia, rahul, congress, RJD.

I don’t want to support them either. But they are not nulling in gujarat.

And we have to be honest about the facts what we see on this vedio by poor farmers. Stop blindly supporting any political leader or party without knowing the facts.

And for you TATA, Birla, Ambanis, BABA Ramdev might be patriots. Not for me. I don’t think there is one single honest industrialist exist in india. And I don’t blame them either they have to deal with all these corrupted politicians including congress and BJP. So don’t get too much emotional or will be fooled one more time by some other politician or a political party in india.

Japan bhai, thanks for the report from Columbia University.

As such, this problem is being discussed since early 1980s in Gujarat. High Level Committees recommended construction of several check dams, recharge tanks and nalas back in 1980s. Out of total recommendation, only 40% is really materialized in Gujarat. Just consider this, there was recommendation to construct 127 Recharge Tanks, out of which only 17 are constructed. Similarly, against the goal of constructing 1,480 recharge wells, only 397 are constructed. This means our efficiency is not even 30%

Now lets look at some of the reasons why Gujarat has failed miserably in reducing salinity. As per latest CAG report, Gujarat claimed Rs 50 crore towards completion of work which wasn’t really completed, meaning either these funds were routed for other projects or went to the contractors. Gujarat government spent Rs 50 lacs in repairing Tidal regulator at Ruknadvati and even after spending this money, the problem wasn’t resolved (any guesses where did that money go?).

Less than 30% of bandharas were built and even the ones that were built were mounted at wrong places due to which they ended up being completely ineffective. I am not sure if it was fault of engineers or lack of training or they deliberately mounted bandharas at wrong place so that they can churn more money later when asked to mount the bandharas at right place. In 2007, GoG undertook a project worth Rs 7 crore to make Bandhara at Rajkot. After spending Rs 4 crore, they realized that they can’t complete the construction since some part of private land is not available.

Further, it is shameful that spreading channels were supposed to be built parallel to the coastline but instead these channels were built perpendicular or at different angle from coastline. Who in his right mind will do this? You don’t even have to be educated to know this simple thing. Certainly something seriously wrong going on there.

Due to all these blunders, salinity has increased significantly and crop productivity has declined in the range of 20% to 50%, meaning the farmers are getting poorer by same extent. Are they going to vote for BJP? I guess not.

All the information provided above is available in Audit Report (Civil),Gujarat For the Year 2009-2010: Chapter_I Performance Audit, as published by Desh Gujarati on their site. Please read it for yourself in details to know the serious challenges we are facing.

Please note that although Modi is doing all the right things for the state, one man can’t correct everything. When people working under him are corrupt and ill trained, they won’t be able to help us or Modi to transform Gujarat in something like South Korea (thats Modi’s vision).
farming failed to do projects, relying only on monsoon, this is not acceptable. This keeps the farmer poor. GOD only helps those who have a firm will for solution. At least Narendra Modi has helped my village immensely, I can see. My only wish is that he can kill the pollution asura before the pollution silent-terrorist kills his government.

Don’t try to generalize the problem faced by a few farmers into an all farmers problem. By and large agriculture in Gujarat has prospered, and farmers like me have benefited without requiring me to become a zamindaar. My village overall have gotten richer with less reasons to migrate out of villages. Currently pollution is a grave problem. But the solution is not to stop industries, but it is in making GPCB at par like an anti-terrorist squad. The poorest of poor has benefited from the stoppage to corruption by the committed Hindutva forces, including my sarpanch who is a devout RSS ideology. It is your ignorance to have not known the contribution of swadeshi patriots like Tatas, Birlas, Ambanis, or Godrej.

Most of the agricultural subsidies and our defence budget comes from the taxes collected from the private corporate industries and its employees, this is because the regulatory authorities and SEBI makes it mandatory for them to be very transparent and infuse accountability in our economy. This automatically breeds productivity, and the efficiency gained from it, helps to keep inflation in check, distribution of fair employees, this is because the regulatory authorities and SEBI makes it mandatory for them to be very transparent and infuse accountability in our economy. This automatically breeds productivity, and the efficiency gained from it, helps to keep inflation in check, distribution of fair.

For this columbia university video, they intently picked a village that was among the most ignorant, plagued with lethargy as seen from video with our economy. This automatically breeds productivity, and the efficiency gained from it, helps to keep inflation in check, distribution of fair practices, prompts innovation and creativity in our lifestyle, thus sustaining our Hindutva with freedom and liberty as witnessed in my village or Gujarat.

Reply (2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57899#respond)

10. BAPTY.S says:
Tuesday, April 5th, 2011 at 11:31 am

My friends good article & nice comments. Why not ask Columbia University to solve problems instead of pointing fingers.

1. Guj is having highest agri growth in india,no question about that.,& it is growing further.
2. Modiji idea is to have 33% agri, 33% industry & 33% services. This is good idea to spread income & growth.,instead of concentration in one sector.
3. modiji cant tackle all natures problems, so gujaratis must understand & work with local panchayand ,modi govt & jointly solve problem. Use less resources ,land, water, power etc & improve productivity. for this ask modi govt to give all help.
4. india needs every vocation,agri,industry,services . & medical & academics.So lets not blame industrialists, since they also contribute hugely to economy&amp; employment & knowledge.
5. if industry pollutes land ,rivers & sea certainly strike ,stop industry & talk to management. but learn to co-operate , find solutions jointly ,afterall this is our gujart,our india,we are all indians.
6. In cricket Sachin alone is not responsible for winning,or losing,or winning world cup. it is full team of 16 players & coach & other staff. also some credit to selectors.
7. So always compare guj with other states & see your progress. Mistakes if any by modiji or non performance discuss with c.m.
8. MODIJI IS IN CORRUPTIBLE, BUT MAY BE SOME DEPTS & SOME STAFF ARE CORRUPT, THIS YOU GUJARATIS MUST EXPOSE.& ASISST NAMOJI. SEE CORRUPTION IN SO MANY STATES, SEE CORRUPTION & SCANDALS & SCAMS IN CENTRAL GOVT HEADED BY CONGRESS.

SO MY FRIENDS EXPAND & GROW GUJ JOINTLY, MANY OTHER STATES ARE COPYING YOUR MODEL. NOTHING IS PERFECT, MAY BE INCLUDING NATURE, SO WE HAVE TO KEEP IMPROVING EVERYDAY. GOOD LUCK.

Reply (2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57904#respond)

11. Hari (ग्रामरिया) says:
Tuesday, April 5th, 2011 at 11:08 pm

@BAPTY
really well said. While we invite students to visit Bhaarat and study our village, (our backbone, & our hallmark of freedom), many universities abuse this privilege given to them by indulging in problem pointing. There was a American delegation recently to visit Ahmedabad to study several development projects. How can you expect these Americans to show the positive side of Gujarat when they carry envious bitterness against the liberty, freedom, and progress of Hindutva Bhaarat.

For this columbia university video, they intently picked a village that was among the most ignorant, plagued with lethargy as seen from video with people sleeping at the temple during day time! not even bothering to stand up to speak, utterly lazy people, disgusting.

Another problem with this study is the Columbia university purposely picks some villages that have serious ego problems as you can clearly see in the video of how the villagers refusing to work as a team, one farmer is pumping out water to the hilt, while not sharing his wasted water with the farmer next to him who ends up relying only on monsoon. These so-called farmers in the video are unknowingly killing the profession of farming. Now you only tell me, how can Narendra Modi team help these people when they want everything available on their plate and not work hard for betterment of themselves, their village, and their country. Even if these village people can match the hard work of at least 20% of productivity as found in industries, they will get rich easily given the corrupt-free and knowledge-filled environment created by NaMo as compared to the past.

But if people refuse to come out the past from the clutches of goondaaraj Kangress Italian mafia, how can anybody help them? And the some
foreign hostile people are bound to take advantage of them in defaming our rich bhumi of Bhaarat and our all-beneficial culture of Hindutva.

None of the villagers in the video had shown any awareness about the drip irrigation system which was the main impetus of Narendra Modi Government subsidies to the farmers. None of them showed any indication of visit to their nearest Krushi seminars held during a month long Krushi mahotsav all over Gujarat. From the positive happenings of Hindutva and Bhaarat Swabhimaan endeavors, it is clear that Where this is a will, there is a way, and my village (as well as Gujarat and entire BHaarat) will always be on the path of prosperity.

जय श्री राम

Reply (2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57917#respond)

12. Hari (गामकडयो) says:
   Tuesday, April 5th, 2011 at 11:21 pm

Using some paid Director of columbia water department, these AMerican video is hell-bent on furthering their hate-filled agenda against the positive happenings in majority of Gujarat from the great achievement of availability of water to the remotest village of Gujarat from the Maa Narmada सुजलम् सुफलाम project.

To curtail the reality of benefits from ध rise of all-spiritual, all-democratic, all-encompassing Hindutva, they are out to prey on ignorant people who have not yet taken advantage of the increase in available resources for the common man provided by स्वागत & an able CM.

जय श्री राम

Reply (2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57918#respond)

13. Eternal says:
   Wednesday, April 6th, 2011 at 12:17 pm

Guys, its not just Columbia University, the issue has been pointed out in CAG for long. Please read the report and you will know for yourself.

How would you like the world to remember Modi – a leader who helped Gujarat’s GDP grow at 10% or as a transformational leader who not only transformed the lives of Gujaratis for good but also inspired other states to do so? If you like the later, then please don’t shoot the messenger.

Rather than accepting that Gujarat has failed in dealing with increase in salinity issue, if we reject it altogether and live in state of denial, in a longer run we are bound to fail in this front.

Reply (2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57925#respond)

14. BAPTY.S says:
   Wednesday, April 6th, 2011 at 2:24 pm

MR HARI THANKS YOUR APPRECIATION. JUST AS GIVING “SOIL CARD” TO FARMERS, GUJ COULD BECOME THE FIRST STATE TO PROHIBIT FARMERS FROM ARCHAIC FARMING PRACTICES( THOUGH THIS IS A POLITICAL ISSUE), THAT IS IN DESIGNATED AREAS WITH WITH VERY LOW WATER TABLE STATE SHLD NOT PROVIDE POWER FOR PUMPING, & CAN DEVISE ALTERNATIVE FARMING TECHNIQUES OR COMPENSATE FARMER IN DIFF WAY. STOP AGRICULTURE IN THOSE AREAS,

OF COURSE THIS IS EASY TO COMMENT, BUT THE STATE SHLD SPECIFY AREAS FOR FARMING, & PERHAPS PROVIDE ALTERNATES LIKE SMALL INDUSTRY, COTTAGE INDUSTRY ETC.

Reply (2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57930#respond)

15. great gujarati says:
   Wednesday, April 6th, 2011 at 4:56 pm

@Eternal

Thank god you are not asking Mr Modi to go every home and feed people by his bare hands and if by chance somebody dies, the blame is to be on Mr Modi.

Anyway, people are welcome to read this. Nasa’s worry on Northern India’s vanishing water table
http://www.nasa.gov/topics/earth/features/india_water.html

Reply (2011/04/04/columbia-universitys-eye-opening-report-on-north-gujarat/?replytocom=57934#respond)

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