

**PROPER WATER MANAGEMENT FOR PADDY: A KEY TO INCREASE
IRRIGATION EFFICIENCY**

DR. S.B. VARADE

Water and Land Management Institute, Aurangabad,
Maharashtra, India - 431 005

ABSTRACT

Screening of literature clearly indicates that there occurs considerable loss of irrigation water due to deep percolation in submerged paddy fields. Lot of efforts have been made for finding out solution to save water and there by increase irrigation efficiency. Intermittent water supply in relation to crop growth phase has been shown to save water without sacrificing yield. The results obtained in micro plots have rarely been practised in large irrigation projects. Little efforts is usually made into managerial aspects, even though investment in hardware are minimum and potential in water savings are higher.

The proper discussions result of experience of managerial interventions that can save water to a large extent in different areas of India. It is obvious that proper monitoring of irrigation in paddy fields can reduce percolation, and increase water use efficiency, particularly, with intermittent irrigation deep percolation losses in fine textured and slowly permeable soils are insignificant and seepage losses get considerably reduced in major systems of irrigation. The largest water saving is expected from systems having light texture soils which should not be used for paddy production as a matter of principle. Water losses from paddy fields are not fully lost to agriculture, if reused downstream. Case studies are discussed.