

## Summaries of the Gokhale Institute Studies

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### **Evaluation of Drip Irrigation System in Maharashtra** by A.Narayanamoorthy, Mimeograph Series No.42, March 1996, pp. viii+114.

#### **Abstract**

Experience of the countries which use drip irrigation extensively indicates that the method of drip irrigation enhances the yield of crop, reduces the consumption of water as well as the cost of cultivation. Results of the different research stations in India have also confirmed the importance of drip irrigation in increasing the productivity of the crops and reducing the consumption of water. In India, this method of irrigation was introduced in the early eighties through Government's schemes. Measures have been introduced in the recent years to promote this water saving technology on a large scale. In the Eighth Plan period a centrally sponsored scheme namely "Use of Plastics in Agriculture" has been launched for promotion of various plasticulture techniques like drip irrigation, mulching and green houses with the objectives of achieving higher productivity with optimum utilisation of water resources. Maharashtra is one of the leading States in using drip irrigation. Large number of farmers have taken benefit of the State and Central schemes of drip irrigation. Present study is undertaken to evaluate the performance of drip irrigation system provided under the Government's schemes in Maharashtra.

#### **Objectives and Methodology**

The study is taken up with the following objectives.

1. To evaluate the impact of drip irrigation technology on production and productivity of the horticultural crops.
2. Performance evaluation of drip irrigation system at farmer's field in respect of awareness of the technology operation and maintenance of the system.
3. Evaluation of the possible remedies in respect of problems encountered by the farmers in adopting the technology.

Two districts in Maharashtra where drip irrigation is being extensively used for crop cultivation have been selected to evaluate the performance of drip irrigation at field level from the district-wise data of drip irrigation supplied by the drip irrigation cell, Commissionerate of Agriculture, Government of Maharashtra, Pune. The two selected