

Irrigation in Drought Prone Areas

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Investment in irrigation forms a major part of the strategy of increased agricultural production and rural development in the successive five year plans. This calls for greater efforts on preparation of basinwise regional plans for optimum development of water and related resources, within the national policy framework. There is a greater need for laying stress on economic efficiency in planning, implementation and management of irrigation projects so that the projected benefits to the farmers are achieved. Irrigation planning and management pose problems which are extremely complex. It needs a comprehensive interdisciplinary approach drawing insights and skills from many fields to tackle these complex problems.

1.2 Besides, there is also a need for the development of irrigation technology for the future and for systematic approach to modernisation of irrigation projects which would be serving the needs up to the year 2000 A.D. and beyond. It is against this background that the Steering Committee appointed by the Government of India decided to carry out specific studies into the problem areas in the existing irrigation projects in operation. The study of the Mula Irrigation Project in Maharashtra was entrusted to the Water and Land Management Institute (WALMI), Aurangabad. The study entrusted is in the nature of an evaluation study envisaged to identify the problems of irrigation management and to suggest solutions thereof. Performance evaluation and diagnostic analysis of the project is expected to be useful to assess the practice adopted in planning, design construction and maintenance of the project. Performance evaluation has two aspects; one is the technical and technological aspects of irrigation development and the other is the socio-economic aspect of such a development. The present study, then termed as, Socio-Economic Evaluation