IWMI International Water Management Institute

IWMI-TATA Water Policy Program

TATA TRUSTS

भाकृअनुप ICAR

IWMI-Tata Partners' Meet 2025

Water and Livelihoods in Viksit Bharat 2047

Celebrating 25 Years of Policy Research

04-06 Dec. 2025 | NDDB Campus, Anand, India

IWMI-Tata Team

Program Schedule

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Session Partners

Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AgriPV	Agrivoltaics
AI/ML	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
AKF	Aga Khan Foundation
AO	Associate Organisation
API	Application Programming Interface
ATREE	Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment
BAIF	BAIF Development Research Foundation
CCARI	Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute
CInI	Collectives for Integrated Livelihood Initiatives
CmF	Centre for MicroFinance
CPR	Common Property Resource
CSE	Centre for Science and Environment
CSPC	Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
DPI	Digital Public Infrastructure
DRE	Decentralised Renewable Energy
EKW	East Kolkata Wetlands
ESR	Energy Sustenance in Rural India
FES	Foundation for Ecological Security
FLS	Feeder Level Solarisation
FPO	Farmers Producer Organisation
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GRA	Global River Aquashaft
ICAR	Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Government of India
ICRIER	Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations
IRMA	Institute of Rural Management, Anand
IRRI	International Rice Research Institute
ITP	IWMI-Tata Water Policy Program
IWMI	International Water Management Institute
M-CADWM	Modernisation of Command Area Development and Water Management
MANAGE	National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management
MSKVY	Mukhyamantri Saur Krushi Vahini Yojana (Maharashtra)
NDDB	National Dairy Development Board
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
PiC	People in Centre Consulting
PINS	Pressurized Irrigation Network Systems
PM-KUSUM	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan
PMKSY	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana
SFPF	Small Farmer Prosperous Farmer
SHG	Self Help Group
SKY	Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (Gujarat)
TRI	Transform Rural India
UGPL	Underground Pipeline Irrigation Systems
UP	Uttar Pradesh
VRTI	Vivekanand Research and Training Institute, Kachchh
WoTR	Watershed Organisation Trust

Water and Livelihoods in *Viksit Bharat* 2047

Thematic Tracks

SMALLHOLDER PROSPERITY

SOLARIZATION OF AGRICULTURE

FUTURE OF AGRICULTURE

WATER FOR LIFE AND ECOSYSTEMS

Resilient Dairy Systems Water, Institutions, and Adaptation	**DRE Applications in Agriculture** Drivers and Limits	**Future of Canal Irrigation** Adapting to Modern Challenges	**Himalayan Ecosystems, Aquifers, and Livelihoods** Himalayan Water Partnership
	Solarizing Agri. Feeders Hits and Misses	**Digital Tools** Fad or Future?	
Aquaculture-led Prosperity	**Farmer-centric Agrivoltaics** AgriPV, not PVAgri	**Groundwater Recharge** Experiences and Opportunities	**Urban Waters** Testing Solutions
SFPF Initiative From Research to Field Action	**Off-Grid Solar** Beyond the First Million Pumps	**Improved Groundwater Management** An Action Agenda for Gujarat	**Rural Water Security** Concept and Practice
Coastal Resilience Agenda for ITP-CSPC Collaboration	**Scaling Solar** ITP's Wishlist for PM-KUSUM 2.0		**Digital Innovations** Delivering Security

Water and Livelihoods in *Viksit Bharat* 2047

DAY-01 | 04-December 2025

08:30	09:00				
09:00	09:30				
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14:00	14:30				
VENUE		**Training Room 01**	**Training Room 03**	**Training Room 04**	**Training Room 07**
14:30	15:00				
15:00	15:30				
15:30	16:00				
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21:00	21:30				

Water and Livelihoods in *Viksit Bharat* 2047

DAY-02 | 05-December 2025

08:30	09:00				
09:00	09:30		P-03 | ITP-Synergos Impact Investors' Dialogue | Water, Climate and Community Resilience Prabhakar L.: ITC's Vision for Water and Livelihoods in 2047		
09:30	10:00				
10:00	10:30				
10:30	11:00				
VENUE		**Training Room 01**	**Training Room 03**	**Training Room 04**	**Training Room 07**
11:00	11:30	07. Aquaculture-led Prosperity **Philip Kuriachen**	08. Farmer-centric Agrivoltaics AgriPV, or PVAgri **Nikunj Usadadia**	09. Groundwater Recharge Experiences and Opportunities **Vidya Mandave**	10. Urban Waters Testing Solutions **Deepa MPM**
11:30	12 :00				
12:00	12:30				
12:30	13:00				
13:00	13:30				
13:30	14:00	Lunch Break			
14:00	14:30				
14:30	15:00	11. ITP's SFPF Initiative Research to Action **Suchiradipta B.**	12. Off-Grid Solar Beyond the First Million Solar Pumps **Philip Kuriachen**	14. Improved Groundwater Management An Action Agenda for Gujarat **Oorna Raut**	15. Rural Water Security Concept and Practice **Sangram Mane**
15:00	15:30				
15:30	16:00				
16:00	16:30	Tea Break			Tea Break
16:30	17:00	16. Coastal Resilience Agenda for ITP-CSPC Colaboration **Vidya M. | Amitanshu C.**	17. Scaling Solar ITP's Wishlist for PM-KUSUM 2.0 **Shilp Verma**		18. Digital Innovations Delivering Water Security **S. Mane | Gurudutt R.**
17:00	17:30				
17:30	18:00				
18:00	18:30				
18:30	19:00				
19:00	19:30				
19:30	20:00				
20:00	20:30	Networking Dinner Venue: Madhubhan Resorts, Anand			
20:30	21:00				
21:00	21:30				

Water and Livelihoods in *Viksit Bharat* 2047

DAY-03 | 06-December 2025

08:30	09:00				
09:00	09:30				
09:30	10:00				
10:00	10:30				
10:30	11:00				
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14:00	14:30				
14:30	15:00				

| P-04 \| Looking Ahead: ITP's Vision for 2030 \|

Opportunities for South-South Co-Learning

Apoorva Oza: Co-learning Water, Energy and Livelihoods

Tea Break

Closing Plenary | Moderator: Shilp Verma

Synthesis and Feedback

Smallholder Prosperity	Water-Energy-Livelihoods Nexus	Future of Agriculture	Water for Life and Ecosystems
Philip Kuriachen	**Nikunj Usadadia**	**Sangram Mane**	**Deepa MPM**

Lunch and Departures...

P-1

ITP@25: Reflections...

Celebrating 25 Years of Policy Research

Date: 04th December 2025	**Venue: T. K. Patel Auditorium**	**Time: 10:00 – 11:45**
Custodian: Shilp Verma	**Chair: Johan Gély**	**Rapporteur: Suchiradipta B.**

The IWMI-Tata Water Policy Program – a unique collaboration between an international research-for-development organization, IWMI and India's oldest and largest philanthropic foundation, Tata Trusts – is completing 25 years.

Over this time, the IWMI-Tata Partners' Meet has become a key event in India's water, energy, agriculture, climate and rural livelihoods space, as a curator of bold, new, practical ideas that deserve to be field tested. The program's collaborative research and action research portfolio has been driven by the needs of implementing, grassroots organizations and backed by strong field evidence and insights.

As we gather once again to celebrate this milestone, let us spend some time reflecting on what ITP has achieved, where it has fallen short, and what shape the program could take in the coming years.

From	To	Title	People
10:00	10:15	Welcome	IWMI | Tata Trusts
10:15	11:00	ITP@25 | Fire Side Chat The ITP Model of Policy Research	Tushaar Shah
11:00	11:15	Conference Overview Water and Livelihoods in Viksit Bharat 2047	Shilp Verma
11:15	11:45	High Level Panel Welcome Remarks and Reflections	Apoorva Oza, AKF Veena S., WELL Labs Ravinderjit S. Tata Trusts Johan Gély, IWMI

Partners in Focus:

P-2 Water and Climate Resilient Livelihoods

Vision for Viksit Bharat 2047

Date: 04th December 2025	Venue: T. K. Patel Auditorium	Time: 11:45 – 13:30
Custodian: Shilp Verma	Chair: Johan Gély	Rapporteur: Suchiradipta B.

India's water economy is going through a massive change, thanks to some macro trends. Even as per the 2011 census figures, more than 50 urban centers had become home to more than a million people. Not surprisingly, this is putting municipal infrastructure and corporations under stress. Economic growth is driving up consumtption and this means the stress will keep growing and demands on urban ecosystems will keep rising.

India's rural half is changing too; with two distinct segments emerging. While digital tools and state-of-the-art technologies are helping farmers convert agricultural systems into ambitious enterprises, small farmers continue to face increasingly adverse terms of trade, have to live with poor infrastructure, and remain susceptible to climate change.

In this session, ITP invites two refreshing takes: Sunita Narain talks about reinventing water and wastewater management, while Veena Srinivasan reflects on making 'Water Credits' work for farmers.

From	To	Title	People
11:45	12:00	Setting the Context	IWMI-Tata Program
12:00	13:00	Invited Keynote Reinventing Water and Wastewater Management	Sunita Narain
13:00	13:30	Invited Keynote Making Water Credits work for farmers	Veena Srinivasan

Partners in Focus:

01 Resilient Dairy Systems

Water, Institutions and Adaptation

Date: 04th December 2025	**Venue: Training Room #1**	**Time: 14:30 – 18:00**
Custodian: Sneha SB | Ajay B.	**Chair: Sriram Singh**	**Rapporteur: Philip Kuriachen**

Dairying remains a cornerstone of rural livelihoods in India, especially in drought-prone and water-stressed regions. As climate variability deepens, the sector holds promise not only as a source of income diversification but also for climate resilience.

This session explores how dairy systems can become more water- and climate-sensitive through innovations in both production and institutional models. The first part examines the Milk–Water Nexus in Gujarat, drawing on research on milk water footprint and feed optimization to enhance water use efficiency. The second delves into ITP's 'Dung to Dollars' field pilot in SaatOrdi, and the challenges in developing dung value chains. The final part focuses on institutional models for drought-resilient dairying, and discusses how Fodder FPOs, Milk Producer Companies, and cooperative frameworks can improve feed security, inclusion, and resilience. Together, these discussions aim to generate actionable insights for sustainable, water-efficient, and climate-smart dairy systems.

From	To	Title	People
14:30	14:40	Milk-Water Nexus in Gujarat: Water Footprint Analysis	Sneha S. B.
14:40	14:50	Water-optimized ration balancing	Niraj Garg
14:50	15:30	Moderated Panel Discussion: Sneha S.B. **Water Sensitive Dairy Development** Smitha Sirohi | O. P. Singh | Smruti Smita Mohapatra	
15:30	15:40	Godhan Nyay Yojana: Chhattisgarh's bold experiment	Sneha Pandey
15:40	15:45	ITP's learnings from action research pilot in SaatOrdi	Ajay Barad
15:45	15:50	Experience of SHG Member of SaatOrdi Pilot	Rekha Gohel
15:50	16:30	Moderated Panel Discussion: Ajay Barad **Mitigating Environmental Footprint of Dairy** Birbal Ram | C.K. Dakhole | Dhananjay Abhang | Sneha Pandey	
17:00	17:10	Enhancing climate resilience through MPCs	Philip Kuriachen
17:10	17:50	Moderated Panel Discussion: Philip Kuriachen **Institutional Models for Dairy Development** T. Shah | Aishwarya S. | Sikander M. | Manvir Singh | Alok K. Gupta | Vinay Patel	
17:50	18:00	Session Chair's Reflections	Sriram Singh

Partners in Focus:

02 DRE Solutions for Agriculture

Drivers and Limits

Date: 04th December 2025	**Venue: Training Room #3**	**Time: 14:30 – 16:00**
Custodian: Nikunj Usadadia	**Chair: Manas Satpathy**	**Rapporteur: Ishira Pandey**

Energy is an essential and increasingly important input across the agricultural value chain — from irrigation and mechanization, to cultivation, processing, and storage — yet many small and marginal farmers are forced to rely on costly, highly poluting, or unreliable energy sources.

Integrating clean and renewable energy solutions in agriculture not only enhances productivity and reduces drudgery, it also lowers carbon emissions and builds climate resilience. Aligning energy access with agricultural needs creates opportunities for inclusive growth, empowerment, and a just transition in food systems.

This session will showcase clean energy solutions within the agriculture sector that enhance productivity, reduce costs, and minimize drudgery for small and marginal farmers. Participants will share and discuss innovative models and technologies and approaches that are currently being tested on the ground.

From	To	Title	People
14:30	14:40	DRE Interventions in Agriculture	Sneha Gokhale
14:40	14:50	Energy Explorer Tool Demo	Abdul Khalid
14:50	15:00	ESR Framework and Methodology	Bigsna Gill
15:00	15:10	Democratisation through Decentralisation	Simran Grover
15:10	15:50	Moderated Panel Discussion: Nikunj Usadadia **Programming DRE for Scale** Meenakshi Singh I Prerna Sharma I Vimal Panjwani I Prodyut Mukherjee	
15:50	16:00	Reflections and Closing Remarks	Manas Satpathy

Partners in Focus:

03 Future of Canal Irrigation

Adapting Canal Systems to Modern Challenges

Date: 04th December 2025	Venue: Training Room #4	Time: 14:30 – 16:00
Custodian: Vidya Mandave	Chair: Alok K. Sikka	Rapporteur: Sangram Mane

India's canal systems are at a crossroad. The systems are not obsolete, but they are undoubtedly misaligned with contemporary developmental needs. Recognizing the urgency for reforms, the government is actively supporting Modernisation of Command Area Development and Water Management (M-CADWM) as part of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

Building on the 2024 session on Rejuvenating Public Irrigation Systems, ITP has been facilitating critical discussions on the future of canal irrigation through the Canal Consultations. Building on this momentum, this session aims to delve deeper into the real-world challenges and advancements on the ground. In particular, the session will discuss experiences with Underground Pipeline Irrigation Systems (UGPL), Pressurized Irrigation Networks (PINs) and other innovations in canal irrigation system. The session will discuss field insights from work on piped delivery of canal water as well as a proposal for some recently started work in UP.

From	To	Title	People
14.30	14.35	Introduction	Vidya Mandave
14.35	14.55	Pipelining in Canals: Technological Innovation for Governance Reforms?	Peter P Mollinga
15.55	15.05	Opportunities and Constraints of Piped Irrigation Network	Sachin Tiwale
15.05	15.15	Recent Changes in Canal Irrigation and it's Impacts	Shivendra Srivastava
15.15	15.25	Restoring Canal Irrigation in Uttar Pradesh: A Proposal	Shikha Pandey Vishwa Ballabh
15.25	15.50	Moderated Panel Discussion: Vidya Mandave From Traditional Canals to Modern Solutions Ashima Chaudhary | Indranil De | A. Khan	
15.50	16.00	Reflections and Concluding Remarks	Alok K. Sikka

Partners in Focus:

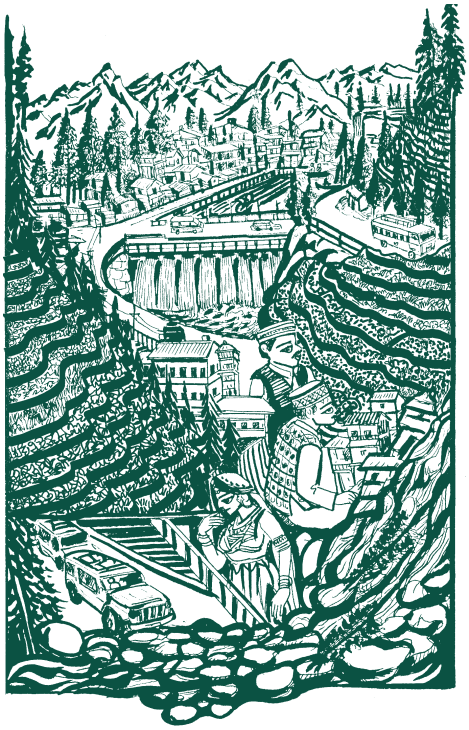
04 Himalayan Ecosystems, Aquifers, and Livelihoods

Himalayan Water Partnership

Date: 04th December 2025	Venue: Training Room #7	Time: 14:30- 16:00
Custodian: Priyanka G.	Chair: D. Waghela, B. Ghose	Rapporteur: Deepa MPM

The Himalayan region faces increasing challenges as monsoonal climates create dry seasons, making mountain aquifers critical yet rapidly depleting, with many springs drying up. The Himalayan Water Partnership, a consortium of leading actors in the region, will take a comprehensive approach to addressing the unique challenges in the region by studying hydrological differences, rural-periurban-urban dynamics, and ecosystem service dependencies. The Partnership will focus on sharing best practices, developing hydrology-based livelihood models, and creating water storage solutions to enhance water security and livelihoods across the Himalayan region.

The first half of this session will focus on the Himalayan Research Consortium, featuring a discussion on a detailed proposal and framework. The second half will include presentations on recent research, insights from a series of webinars co-hosted by ITP, and field studies covering water storage, ecosystem services, spring monitoring, and urban water challenges. The expected outcome is a shared understanding on key issues and a plan for taking the ideas into field action.



From	To	Title	People
14:30	14:40	Context Setting	Priyanka G.
14:40	15:00	Himalayan Research Consortium: Proposal and Framework	Rajesh Thadani
15:00	16:00	Open Discussion Roadmap for Collaborative Action and Future Directions Shilp Verma | Divyang Waghela | Bishwadeep Ghose | Prabhakar L.	
16:30	16:40	Water Storage Solutions for Dryland Agriculture	Arun Pandhi
16:40	16:50	Land Use Changes and Ecosystem Services	F.A. Shaheen
16:50	17:00	Data Gathering and Spring Monitoring	Vinod Kothari
17:00	17:10	Urban Water Constraints	Rajesh Thadani
17:10	17:50	Moderated Panel Discussion: Rajesh Thadani Building on Key Insights and Emerging Priorities Anuj Kumar Dimri | Amenu Richa | Abhishek Likam | R. Chandra | M. Patil | D. Sen	
17:50	18:00	Concluding Remarks	Session Chairs

Partners in Focus:

CEDAR CENTRE FOR ECOLOGY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH · CHIRAG · PSI · HIMMOTHAN · water for people INDIA TRUST · NEIDA · ACWADAM

05 Solarizing Agricultural Feeders

Hits and Misses

Date: 04th December 2025	Venue: Training Room #3	Time: 10:00 – 12:00
Custodian: Nikunj Usadadia	Chair: S.A. Prathapar	Rapporteur: Hemakshi Malik

Solarizing electric irrigation pumps can either be done individually or by solarizing the entire agricultural feeder. FLS (Feeder Level Solarization) component of PM-KUSUM, Maharashtra's Mukhyamantri Saur Krushi Vahini Yojana (MSKVY) scheme attempts the latter, and at scale - but there have been other attempts too. Earlier this year, ITP commissioned a field-based study of MSKVY, specially focused on the experience of farmers. Parallel to this, ADB has been assessing a large loan to Maharashtra aimed at scaling up MSKVY and feeder solarization.

This session will discuss India's experiences with solarization of agri. feeders through two different approaches: Suryashakti Kisan Yojana (SKY) in Gujarat and MSKVY in Maharashtra. The deliberations will paricularly reflect on the likely impacts beyond the energy sector - on farming as well as on groundwater aquifers. The objective is to draw lessons and reflect on the future of feeder-level solarization in the context of PM-KUSUM 2.0.

From	To	Title	People
16:30	16:45	AgFeeder Solarization and Groundwater in Maharashtra	S. A. Prathapar
16:45	16:55	ITP Keynote MSKVY: Stakeholders' views on FLS in Maharashtra	Ajit Kanitkar
16:55	17:05	Water pricing through solar irrigation: SKY experience	Praharsh Patel
17:05	17:15	Solarizing Irrigation Sustainably	Ashwitha Thunga
17:15	17:50	Moderated Panel Discussion: Nikunj Usadadia Solarizing Feeders: Impacts and Outcomes Prodyut Mukherjee I Marie Charlotte I Ashwitha Thunga	
17:50	18:00	Reflections and Closing Remarks	S. A. Prathapar

Partners in Focus:

06 Digital Tools for Improved Livelihoods

Date: 04th December 2025	Venue: Training Room #4	Time: 16:30 – 18:00
Custodian: Suchiradipta B.	Chair: Saravanan Raj	Rapporteur: Vidya Mandave

Digital tools in agriculture and water are rapidly expanding but unevenly adopted, thanks partly to India's socio-economic diversity. High-tech apps, sensor systems, and data platforms work well where smartphones, connectivity, and digital ecosystems are strong, but language and literacy barriers, and access issues can limit uptake. Meanwhile, simpler channels such as community radio, WhatsApp groups, IVR helplines continue to anchor trust. Experience suggests that context-specific, human-supported, locally delivered information drives better decisions.

This session traces the evolution of digital solutions from complex tools toward simpler, more intuitive, and scalable forms. It examines models ranging from influencer advisories and moderated WhatsApp groups to AI/ML-enabled diagnostics, highlighting risks around consent, privacy, and inclusion. We will explore if these will remain a niche offering or will the sector evolve to offer tailored solutions for each segment?

From	To	Title	People
16:30	16:35	Introduction to the session	Suchiradipta B
16:35	17:00	**Idea Fest: Developers' Perspective**	
		AI4Water: Framework for Strengthening Water Governance	Kumar Ranjan
		PaddyMitra: A WhatsApp chatbot for farmers	Preeti Bharti
		Water Data Exchange: A strategy for global water security	Kangkanika Neog
		SukhaRakshak AI: Drought protection advisories	Dhyey Bhatpuria
17:00	17:45	Moderated Panel Discussion: Suchiradipta B. **Technological Advances and Implications** Surajit Ghosh | Arnab Paul Choudhury | Swapnil Agarwal | Giresh Mohan	
17:45	18:00	Evolution of Digital Technologies for Livelihoods	Saravanan Raj

Partners in Focus:

P-3

Water, Climate and Community Resilience

Stories behind the scenes

Date: 05th December 2025	Venue: T. K. Patel Auditorium	Time: 09:00 – 10:30
Custodian: S. Verma | Manisha S.	Chair: Mark Smith	Rapporteur: Suchiradipta B.

India's water sector has seen significant contributions from impact investors – philanthropic foundations, high net-worth individuals, and corporate CSR initiatives. While some of these investments are focused on specific geographies and sub-sectors, a growing number of such investments are now aimed at scaling, system-level changes, knowledge creation, policy engagement, data systems and so on. ITP itself is an example of one such investment that spanned work across geographies and sub-sectors.

Encouraged by the 'Water and Philanthropy' dialogue last year, ITP and Synergos are convening the 'Impact Investors' Dialogue' to map where investments are being made; to highlight what's working (and what is not); to identify gaps and systemic barriers; and finally, to present opportunities for collaborative research, action-research and field action. The dialogue aims to seed a longer-term engagement with ITP and Synergos – but also among the impact investors – for catalyzing cross-learning, co-designing for complementarities, and maximizing the social returns of India's impact investments.

Chaired by IWMI Director General, Mark Smith, the session will include a keynote on 'ITC's Vision for Water and Rural Livelihoods in 2047' and a moderated panel discussion with philanthropy and CSR leaders on 'Water, Climate and Community Resilience: Stories behind the scenes'.

From	To	Title	People
09:00	09:10	Welcome, Recap from Day 1 and Context Setting	IWMI-Tata Program
09:10	09:30	Invited Keynote ITC's Vision for Rural Livelioods in 2047	Prabhakar L.
09:30	10:20	Impact Investors' Dialogue | Manisha Shah Water, Climate and Community Resilience	Apoorva Oza Sangeeta Mamgain Ravinderjit Singh Stephanie Miranda
10:20	10:30	Reflections and Concluding Remarks	Mark Smith

Partners in Focus:

ITC Limited · Synergos · Hinduja Foundation · Piramal Foundation

07 Aquaculture-led Smallholder Prosperity

Reservoirs | Wetlands | Flood Plains | Village Ponds

Date: 05h December 2025	**Venue: Training Room #1**	**Time: 11:00 – 13:30**
Custodian: Philip Kuriachen	**Chair: V. V. Sugunan**	**Rapporteur: Ajay Barad**

Common property resources (CPRs) are crucial for inland fisheries in the global South, providing livelihoods, food security, and nutrition for rural communities. However, they also face major challenges including overexploitation, weak governance, pollution, habitat degradation, and conflicts over access rights. In recent years, aquaculture has expanded within CPRs to enhance fish production and incomes, but this has raised concerns about equity, environmental impacts, and exclusion of traditional fishers.

This session attempts to tap in learnings from the extensive body of work by CGIAR centers, notably WorldFish and IWMI, on sustainable aquaculture enterprises and best practices in commons to develop a framework for small-holder prosperity through aquaculture.

From	To	Title	People
11:00	11:10	Institutional arrangement and governance in fisheries management in Indian reservoirs and wetlands	Ganesh Chandra
11:10	12:00	Ignite Talks **Best Practices in Inland Fisheries** A. Paddiyar | N. Ingole | Marie-Charlotte Buisson | S.K. Dubey | S. Ebenezer | A.K. Dubey	
12:00	12:10	Pathways for aquaculture-based livelihoods in EKW	Pallavi Rajkhowa
12:10	13:20	Moderated Panel Discussion: Philip Kuriachen **Business Models for Aquaculture in CPRs** Neelkanth Mishra | Shakti R. Panigrahy | Nandkishore Ingole | Debantu Barman	
13:20	13:30	Session Chair's Reflections	V.V. Sugunan

Partners in Focus:

Jaljeevika WorldFish CGIAR SUSTAINABLE ANIMAL AND AQUATIC FOODS

08 Farmer-centric Agrivoltaics in India

AgriPV, not PVAgri

Date: 05th December 2025	**Venue: Training Room #3**	**Time: 11:00 – 13:30**
Custodian: Nikunj Usadadia	**Chair: Mark Smith**	**Rapporteur: Ashwitha Thunga**

India's agrivoltaics landscape is rapidly evolving through a spectrum of experimental pilots and strong policy interest. The solar industry too is responding enthusiastically, as are relevant actors in academia and civil society. Large farmers view agrivoltaics as an opportunity to diversify incomes as energy production entails much lower production risks and stable market. The open quesion that hangs is whether small farmers will play an active role in agrivoltaics, or will their involvement remain limited to rental income and farm management jobs.

This session will highlight the learnings from different agrivoltaics interventions, including new models being implemented by civil society partners in partnership with smallholder farmers. The session will also introduce innovative pilots being co-developed by ITP and partners, in Gujarat, UP, and Jharkhand. The focus will be on experience sharing and charting a pathway for farmer-centric agrivoltaics expansion in India.

From	To	Title	People
11:00	11:15	ITP Keynote The Investment Case for Farmer-centric Agrivoltaics in India	Nikunj Usadadia
11:15	12:00	Moderated Panel Discussion: Nikunj Usadadia Experience sharing on Pilots Ashok Kumar I Waman Kulkarni I Sushant Rauthan I Nawaz Alam	
12:00	12:10	The case of Grazing PV in India	Aishwarya S.
12:10	12:20	Experiences from JAU's Agrivoltaics Plant	Mahendra Dulawat
12:20	13:15	Moderated Panel Discussion: Nikunj Usadadia Agrivoltaics for Smallholder Prosperity Subhodeep Basu I Mahendra Dulawat I Siddharth Gahoi I Hemakshi Malik	
13:20	13:30	Reflections and Closing Remarks	Mark Smith

Partners in Focus:

09 Groundwater Recharge

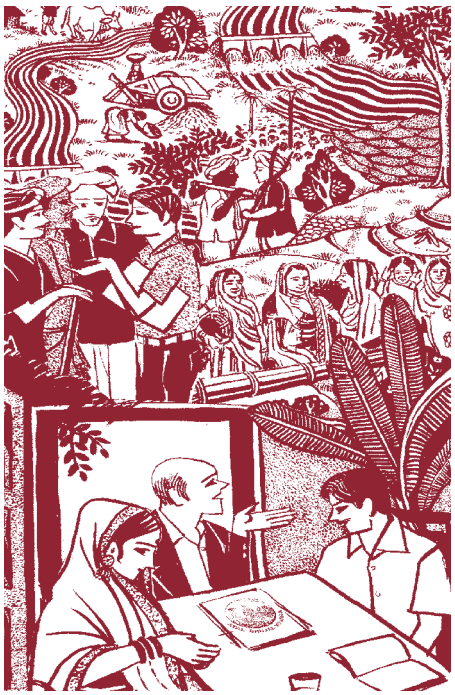
Experiences and Opportunities

Date: 05th December 2025	Venue: Training Room #4	Time: 11:00 – 13:30
Custodian: Vidya Mandave	Chair: D. Saha | Veena Srinivasan	Rapporteur: Sangram Mane

India's groundwater crisis is neither uniform nor straightforward. With accelerating water stress the urgency to address groundwater depletion has never been more. India has served as a testing ground for a wide range of recharge techniques, ranging from traditional systems such as kundis in Rajasthan to modern methods like, check dams, percolation tanks and recharge shafts. While each region faces distinct challenges, they have also pioneered unique methods for recharge.

What works in one region may not necessarily be applicable in another due to variations in geography, culture, and local water demands. It is therefore crucial to explore how scalable, low-cost, and area-specific techniques can be effectively implemented.

This session will serve as a platform to share diverse, actionable solutions, with an emphasis on scalability, adaptability, and local relevance. By bringing together experts and practitioners, it will foster the exchange of best practices, cutting-edge technologies, and lessons learned.



From	To	Title	People
11.00	11.10	ITP Keynote Beneath the surface: Recharge for a sustainable future	Vidya Mandave
11.10	11.25	Global River Aquashaft (GRA): A Scalable, Cost-Efficient Groundwater Rejuvenation Model	Shyam Pammi
11.25	11.40	Enhancing Recharge through 'Ridge to Vally' Approach	W. Kulkarni, R. Kote
11.40	11.55	Strategies and technologies for Groundwater Management	Kamalendu Bhakat
11.55	12.10	Desilting and Tank Rehabilitationfor Groundwater and Farms	Vidhya K.
12.10	12.25	Integrating Science, Technologies, and Local Knowledge	E. Kale and N. Ghodke
12.25	12.40	Silt for Sustainable Farmland Enrichment	Stephanie Miranda
12.40	13.15	Moderated Panel Discussion: Vidya Mandave Architecture of a Natioanal Groundwater Recharge Program Pinakin Vyas | Manas Satpathy | Rakesh Singh | Ishita Jalan	
13:15	13:30	Chairs' Reflections and Conclusion	Veena Srinivasan Dipankar Saha

Partners in Focus:

10 Urban Water Management

Practical Solutions

Date: 05h December 2025	**Venue: Training Room #7**	**Time: 11:00 – 13:30**
Custodian: Deepa MPM	**Chair: S. Vishwanath**	**Rapporteur: Priyanka G.**

India's pace of urbanization is putting enormous stress on physical as well as institutional infrastructure. Urban water woes, in particular, get highlighted because of the urgency with which they need to be addressed. Urban flooding is one such issue, a problem that is partly driven by climate change and partly by poor urban planning and management. While metros can garner resources - at least, financial resources - to deal with such issues, it is often tier-2 and tier-3 towns that struggle the most with such issues. Often at the immediate periphery of agriculture, the water troubles of these towns also intersect with rural water challenges.

This session discusses three themes in the context of rapidly growing urban India - flooding, management of wastewater, and the issue of metering and water pricing. The focus will be on practical solutions that can be implemented now!

From	To	Title	People
11:00	11:15	Adapting Flood Management Practices to Urban Diversity.	Deepa MPM
11:15	12:00	Moderated Panel Discussion: Vishwanath S Actionable Interventions for Urban Flood Management Victor Shinde | Anushri Tiwari | Mukesh Patil	
12:00	12:15	Movie: Business models for agricultural wastewater reuse	Alka Palrecha
12:15	12:45	Moderated Panel Discussion: Juhi Desai Advancing Economic Reuse of Municipal Wastewater Sishir Srivastav | Avinash K. | Shweta Lokhande | Bishwadeep Ghose	
12:45	12:50	Contextual Overview of Household Water Pricing	Praharsh Patel
12:50	13:00	Behavioural changes induced by household water pricing	Utsav Pandya
13:00	13:20	Moderated Open Discussion: Praharsh Patel Water Pricing: Feasibility, Acceptance and Policy Challenges	
13:20	13:30	Unveiling Insights: Interactive Reflections on Urban Water	S. Vishwanath

Partners in Focus:

biome Environmental | people in centre

11

ITP's SFPF Initiative

From Research to Action

Date: 05h December 2025	Venue: Training Room #1	Time: 14:30 – 16:00
Custodian: Suchiradipta B.	Chair: Apoorva Oza | Ravinderjit Singh	Rapporteur: Laxmi Sharma

Development programs have been largely successful in achieving their intended objectives: poverty reduction, food security, and incremental income growth. However, achieving genuine smallholder prosperity where farmers are able to break out of subsistence and in to wealth creation requires a fundamental shift in design thinking. This session doesn't come with pre-packaged answers; rather, it is an invitation to question how we design interventions for prosperity.

Over the last 12 years, and through the analysis of over 30 case studies, ITP has identified specific 'deviations' — approaches that cohorts of successful, prosperous small farmers adopt, which often differ significantly from standard development program designs. These findings challenge conventional wisdom and present us with difficult trade-offs. However, these are neither universal truths nor critiques of current work; rather, they are hypotheses for a new approach.

Through this session, we are asking: If we were to design a program strictly for prosperity today, would we do it differently, and how? The objective is to move from research to action and initiate a conversation around translating findings into programs.

From	To	Title	People
14:30	14:40	Smallholder Prosperity: Design Pulse Check	Mentimeter
14:40	14:55	ITP Keynote Rethinking Smallholder Farming: Moving beyond 'safety'	Suchiradipta B., Sanjiv Phansalkar
14:55	15:00	Open Discussion | Rapid Reflection	
15:00	15:45	SFPF World Cafe From Hypothesis to Implementation	
15:45	15:50	Rethinking design assumptions and principles	Mentimeter
15:50	16:00	Reflections and Closing Remarks	Apoorva Oza Ravinderjit Singh

Partners in Focus:

TATA TRUSTS

12

Off-grid Solar

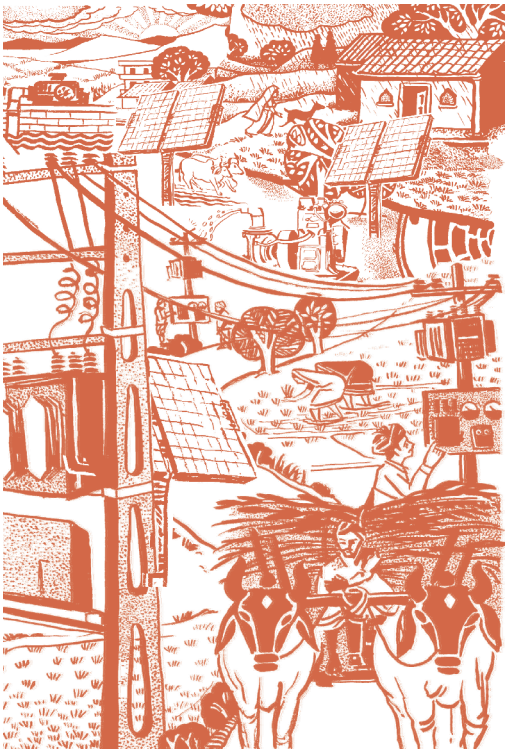
Beyond the First Million Pumps

Date: 05h December 2025	Venue: Traning Room #3	Time: 14:30 – 16:00
Custodian: Philip Kuriachen	Chair: Prerna Sharma	Rapporteur: Subhodeep Basu

India is by far the global front runner in deployment of solar pumps. With over a million pumps already on the ground, India can act as a light-house for off-grid solar expansion across the world.

Despite rapid expansion, solar irrigation remains plagued by several challenges like low-capacity utilization, elite capture, lack of attractive and accesible financing mechanisms and poor after-sales services. Mapping the growth of off-grid solar pumps also shows that these have expanded substantially in groundwater-stressed regions but less so in relatively groundwater safe regions.

This session will explore alternative business model for solar pump expansion as well as the strategies for sustainably and equitably scaling off-grid solar pumps in India.



From	To	Title	People
14:30	14:40	ITP Keynote Future of Off-grid Solar Pumps in India	Philip Kuriachen
14:40	15:10	Voices from the Field Audrey Fillon | Ashok Kumar | Sirshendu Paul | Shisher Sreshtha	
15:10	15:20	Implications of solar pumping on groundwater use	Neha Bhave
15:10	15:50	Moderated Panel Discussion: Philip Kuriachen Scaling off-grid pumps: Opportunities and Challenges S.K. Srivastava | Veena Sreenivasan | Dinesh Kumar	
15:50	16:00	Closing Remarks	Prerna Sharma

Partners in Focus:

14 Improved Groundwater Management

An Action Agenda for Gujarat

Date: 05h December 2025	Venue: Training Room #4	Time: 14:30 – 16:00
Custodian: Oorna Raut	Chair: Pinakin Vyas | Tushaar Shah	Rapporteur: Priyanka G.

Managing groundwater has posed a persistent challenge across the world. In India, groundwater has fuelled agricultural growth as the primary source of water for irrigation, especially since the 1970s. Yet, it remains largely unregulated and poorly managed. Repeated government efforts have been frustrated by high transaction costs, poor enforcement capacity, but most of all, shrill farmer resistance.

Gujarat – with its diverse topography, hydrogeological conditions, cropping patterns and social institutions – has been uniquely dynamic in its approach to groundwater management. The state initiated large-scale investments in decentralized aquifer recharge, coupled with institutional innovations such as Jyotirgram Yojana, have helped in a big way. Gujarat has also seen enthusiastic contributions from civil society to inspire and strengthen public action. More recently, national programmes like the Atal Bhujal Yojana have sought to strengthen community-led water budgeting and convergence across departments.

This session will bring together various stakeholders to reflect on Gujarat's groundwater experiments, experiences, and consider pathways for improvements in groundwater governance.

From	To	Title	People
14:30	14:40	Groundwater management: Gujarat and Beyond	Oorna Raut
14:40	14:50	Building informed and scalable water security solutions	Sachin Oza
14:50	15:00	Formulating effective policy for sustainable GW use	P. K. Singh
15:00	15:45	Moderated Open Discussion: Oorna Raut Effective Groundwater Management in Gujarat Discussants: Sonal Bhatt | Dipankar Saha	
15:45	16:00	Reflections and Remarks	P. Vyas, T. Shah
16:30	16:45	Recent developments towards governing groundwater in Pakistan	S.A. Prathapar
16:45	17:00	Groundwater pricing experience(s) from Bangladesh	Ujjayant C.
17:00	17:15	Groundwater management efforts in Madhesh privince, Nepal	K.C. Sumitra
17:15	17:30	Payments for GW conservation: Experiment in Saurashtra	Nick Hagerty
17:30	17:45	Policy-People-Science-Partnerships in Mahesana	Mohan Sharma
17:45	18:00	Concluding remarks, Key takeaways and next steps	Pinakin Vyas

Partners in Focus:

15 Rural Water Security

Concept and Practice

Date: 05h December 2025	**Venue: Training Room #7**	**Time: 14:30 – 16:00**
Custodian: Sangram Mane	**Chair: Divyang Waghela**	**Rapporteur: Deepa MPM**

Rural water security extends far beyond household tap connections. It requires reliable year-round access to safe drinking, domestic, and livelihood water, supported by empowered local institutions, sustainable aquifer management, program convergence, and planning grounded in hydrological realities. Despite gains under Jal Jeevan Mission, long-term sustainability and community ownership often lag behind infrastructure rollout.

This session frames water security as a continuum from basic access to reliability across seasons, water quality assurance, equitable allocation, and strong local governance. It begins with field initiatives showing how communities across India are reclaiming stewardship of water cycles and using tools to measure and plan for security. These insights will support the proposal of a conceptual framework integrating governance, equity, ecology, and livelihoods. The session will also surface persistent challenges in O&M, financing, and scaling. The goal is to co-create a practical, context-specific roadmap for building truly water-secure villages.

From	To	Title	People
14:30	14:45	Rural Water Security: A Conceptual Framework	Sangram Mane
14:45	15:50	Moderated Panel Discussion: Divyang Waghela Making Sense of Rural Water Security: What Fits, What Fails Liby Johnson | Eshwar Kale | Manas Satpathy | S. Krishnan | Indira Khurana	
15:50	16:00	Reflections and Closing Remarks	Divyang Waghela

Partners in Focus:

16 Coastal Resilience

Framing the agenda for ITP-CSPC Collaboration

Date: 05th December 2025	**Venue: Training Room #1**	**Time: 16:30- 18:00**
Custodian: Vidya M. | Amitanshu C.	**Chair: Parveen Kumar**	**Rapporteur: Suchiradipta B.**

Coastal communities are increasingly facing a range of challenges including erosion, sea-level rise, cyclones, salinity intrusion and the degradation of vital ecosystems. Building resilience is essential to protect the environment as well as the livelihoods of those who depend on it. Strengthening the capacity of coastal ecosystems and communities to adapt, recover, and thrive in the face of these challenges is crucial for safeguarding agriculture, preserving biodiversity and ensuring long-term economic stability.

Last year, ITP and CSPC came together to undertake an assessment of structural measures along Gujarat's coastline in Saurashtra. This year, CSPC invited ITP to undertake joint work and co-design the next phase of CSPC's interventions. This session will discuss CSPC's ongoing initiatives, and the plan for enhancing coastal resilience in Kutch. We will also explore opportunities for collaboration with the Central Coastal Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-CCARI) and others to build a portfolio around coastal agriculture and resilience.

From	To	Title	People
16.30	16.35	Introduction and Context Setting	Vidya Mandave
16.35	16.50	People, Practice, and Policy: A Unified Approach to Resilience	Amitanshu C.
16.50	17.40	Moderated Panel Discussion: Apoorva Oza **Shaping Resilient Coastal Futures: Protection in an Era of Change** Ritesh Chauhan | Somnath B. | Praharsh Patel | Alka Palrecha | Shailendra Gupta	
17.40	17.50	Key Takeaways and Next Steps	Aproova Oza
17.50	18.00	Session Chair's Reflections	Parveen Kumar

Partners in Focus:

CSPC Coastal Salinity Prevention Cell
AN INITIATIVE OF TATA TRUSTS, AKRSP(I) AND ACF

17

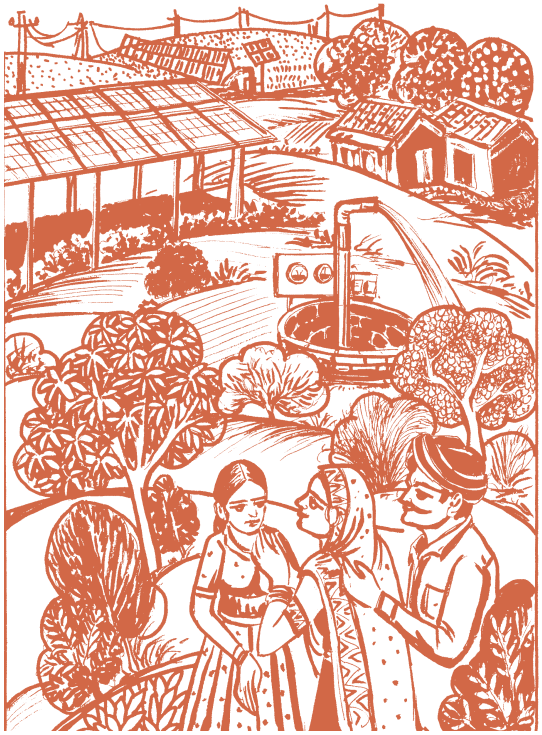
Scaling Solar

ITP's Wishlist for PM-KUSUM 2.0

Date: 05h December 2025	**Venue: Traning Room #3**	**Time: 16:30 – 18:00**
Custodian: Shilp Verma	**Chair: Tushaar Shah**	**Rapporteur: Nikunj Usadadia**

PM-KUSUM represents one of the earliest and certainly the world's most ambitious campaigns for solarization of agriculture. The campaign has had several wins, including the successful deployment of nearly a million off-grid solar pumps and another million pumps connected to solar feeders. Even so, when compared to the potential of solar in India's agriculture, around 150 GW, these achievements are rather small. One key challenge has been convergence across stakeholders from different sectors. Acquisition of land for deployment of solar has been another challenge. Low, and reducing, feed-in-tariffs has also limted adoption.

In this session, based on all the work that has been done by ITP, ITP will present a wishlist for PM-KUSUM 2.0. The remainder of the session will brainstorm on ITP's recommendations and come up with a concrete plan for making 2.0 even more ambitious and definitely more effective than the existing campaign.



From	To	Title	People
16:30	16:45	ITP Keynote ITP's Wishlist for PM-KUSUM 2.0	S. Verma, N. Usadadia, Philip Kuriachen
16:45	17:15	Moderated Open Discussion: Nikunj Usadadia | Shraddha Zende PM-KUSUM 2.0: Lessons so far, and Outlook	
17:45	18:00	Summary and Reflections	Tushaar Shah

Partners in Focus:

18 Digital Innovations

Enabling Rural Drinking Water Security

Date: 05h December 2025	**Venue: Traning Room #7**	**Time: 16:30 – 18:00**
Custodian: S. Mane | Gurudutt R.	**Chair: Dipankar Saha**	**Rapporteur: Deepa MPM**

Jal Jeevan Mission represents the world's largest rural drinking water initiative. Ensuring the long-term success of this monumental effort requires not just infrastructure expansion but sustained service delivery at scale. Digital innovations are emerging as essential enablers from monitoring scheme functionality and water quality to supporting frontline workers and engaging communities.

This session showcases grounded examples of digital tools addressing key challenges along the service-delivery chain, while noting that many operate in silos. The panel discussion will bring to the fore the thinking of Digital Public Infrastructure for Drinking water consisting of foundational & core registries, and well-defined standards and APIs. The discussion will introduce the audience of how the DPI approach can enable siloed solutions to interact and interoperate, bring collective intelligence, unlock the innovation ecosystem and help fulfil the promise of sustainable rural drinking water security.

From	To	Title	People
16:30	16:40	Background and Context Setting	Anuj Sharma
16:40	17:40	Moderated Panel Discussion: Gurudutt R. From Siloed Digital Tools to An Interconnected Digital Ecosystem S. Krishnan | Bishwadeep Ghose | Arnav Baruah | J. Tulsi Devi	
17:40	17:50	Summary and Road Ahead	Anuj Sharma
17:50	18:00	Session Chair's Reflections	Dipankar Saha

Partners in Focus:

Arghyam Safe, sustainable water for all | water for people INDIA TRUST | INREM Foundation India Natural Resource Economics and Management | FES Foundation for Ecological Security

P-4 Opportunities for South-South Co-Learning

Looking Ahead: ITP's Vision for 2030

Date: 06th December 2025	Venue: T. K. Patel Auditorium	Time: 09:00 – 13:30
Custodian: Shilp Verma	Chair: Apoorva Oza	Rapporteur: Suchiradipta B.

As the current phase of ITP nears conclusion, the team is synthesizing learnings from ongoing work but also developing the portfolio for the next phase.

In this session we first explore how a component devoted to South-South co-learning can be incorporated in the future work of ITP. We also discuss track syntheses from each of the four thematic tracks. Each synthesis presentation ends with an outlook for ITP's work in the coming years.

The session will also invite feedback and suggestions from selected partners and experts on each of the thematic areas. These inputs will share ITP's work, not only in the immediate months, but also its outlook for 2030.

From	To	Title	People
09:00	09:15	Recap of Day 1, Day 2: Where we stand	IWMI-Tata Program
09:15	10:30	Invited Keynote Co-learning Water, Energy and Livelihoods: Opportunities for South-South Cooperation	Apoorva Oza
11:00	13:00	Synthesis and Feedback Smallholder Prosperity **Philip Kuriachen** / Water-Energy-Livelihoods Nexus **Nikunj Usadadia** / Future of Agriculture **Sangram Mane** / Water for Life and Ecosystems **Deepa M.P.M.**	
13:00	13:30	Conclusion and Vote of Thanks	IWMI-Tata Program

Partner in Focus:

NOTES

IWMI
International Water Management Institute

IWMI-TATA
Water Policy Program

About IWMI-Tata Program

Established in late-2000 as a co-equal partnership between the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Colombo and Sir Ratan Rata Trust (SRTT), Mumbai, the IWMI-Tata Water Policy Research Program (ITP) brings together the scientific expertise and international experience of IWMI with strong field presence, action orientation, and growing investments in NRM-based livelihoods of the Tata Trusts' ecosystem.

Over the past two decades, ITP has become a recognised brand in India's water-agriculture-energy-environment-livelihood domain. ITP has established itself as a strong knowledge partner and resource for the Tata Trusts as well as a thought leader, advisor and influencer for key development and impact investments.

ITP's work has directly influenced development investments worth 1000-times the investment that IWMI and Tata Trusts have put into the program.

In its current phase, ITP's mandate includes evidence-based field research, technical advisory and seeding innovative field experiments, training and capacity building – all aimed at informing, influencing and inspiring program design and policy formulation.

The ITP Partners' Meet is a flagship event to share ongoing work and receive inputs, feedback and identify promising opportunities for collaborative policy research, action research and field experimentation.

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