



Water Resilient Agriculture

How can the dependence of Indian agriculture on groundwater be reduced?



Hosted by



Track Partner



The SKI Annual Summit will bring together eminent and diverse voices from the impact ecosystem to examine and chart pathways for bringing about some ambitious shifts in Agriculture, Education, Livelihoods, Digital Public Goods, Climate Change, Health, and Impact Capital. Facilitating action-focused conversations among 100+ leaders from corporates, government, philanthropic and civil society organisations in an interactive workshop format, this convening will be a catalyst in identifying gaps and co-creating knowledge that will guide paradigm-shifting decisions for impact.

The problem



Agriculture is responsible for **70% of global freshwater withdrawals** and **90% of groundwater utilisation**.



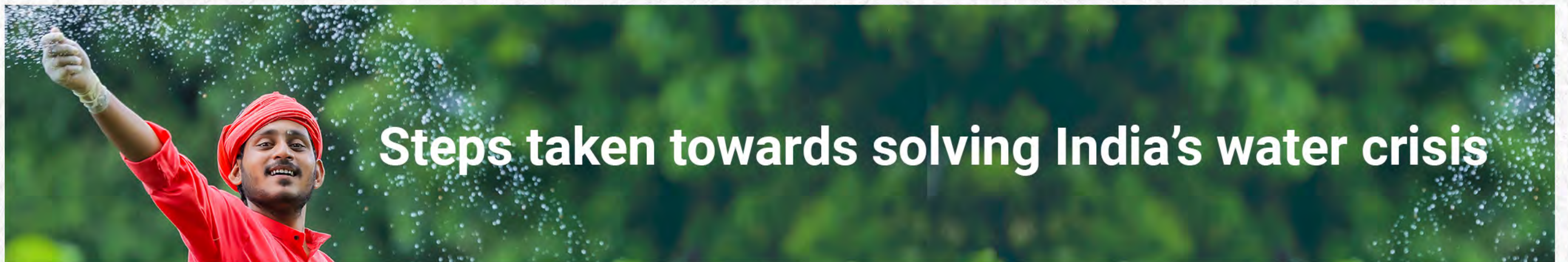
The projected aggregate demand for water in agriculture is expected to reach **1200 billion cubic metres by 2030**.



The Water Resources Group warns of a **50% water supply deficit by 2030**.



According to the latest Central Ground Water Board report, **Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan (primary agricultural states) fall in the 'over-exploited' range**.



Growth in Market Size

India's water and wastewater management sector is witnessing a substantial surge in public sector interest and commitment, with the budget for FY24 allocating ₹1.07 lakh crore towards water-related infrastructure. Additionally, projections indicate that the market for wastewater treatment plants will reach ₹430 crore by 2025.

Corporate Intervention

Major corporations such as Bayer, Corteva, Olam, Cargill, ADM, Bunge, ITC, PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, and HUL actively engage in community-based water management, policy advocacy, and climate-resilient agriculture through CSR projects and industry collaborations.

Acknowledgement by Foundations

Additionally, this problem is acknowledged by top international as well as domestic foundations, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Tata Trusts, Azim Premji Foundation, Infosys Foundation, and Reliance Foundation. Tapping into the potential of philanthropic capital can enhance these plans, driving them toward more successful and meaningful results.

Devising impactful and scalable solutions to address the dependency on groundwater in agriculture goes beyond relying solely on policies. It requires the strategic formulation of concrete plans for the businesses, involving private capital, which are committed to addressing water challenges and promoting sustainability.

Workshop Objectives

1 Validate the key big ideas to build on-farm water use efficiency in rice and sugarcane cultivation through scaled adoption of water-efficient technologies and practices.

2 Identify frameworks outlining stakeholders (focusing on industry and philanthropy) implementing the recommendations and their key roles.

3 Take the top validated ecosystem ideas to action by identifying opportunities such as design pilots, collaborative infrastructure, and public goods.

Who will participate in the workshop?

The workshop will bring together a group of 25 leaders across philanthropy and non-profits.