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The News Clippings on Water Resources Development and allied subjects are enclosed for perusal of the Chairman, CWC, and Member (WP&P/D&R/RM), Central Water Commission. The soft copies of clippings have also been uploaded on the CWC website.

  
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# Micro irrigation helps Haryana farmers

## Drip method leads to more paddy yield than traditional flood irrigation

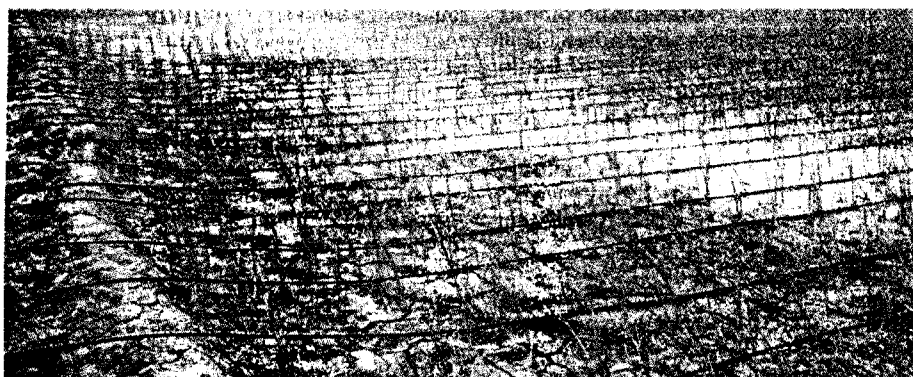
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THE NEWSPAPER, 19 OCTOBER

A first of its kind solar-power run micro irrigation project set up in Haryana's Pehowa subdivision has not only helped farmers to successfully raise paddy crop through drip irrigation but also helped in achieving more yield in comparison to the traditional way flood irrigation generally used for paddy cultivation.

In the recent experiment carried out by the farmers engaged in this project at Jumbhala Garhu Dera Fateh Singh village in Kurukshetra, it has been found that paddy cultivated through drip irrigation has yielded more produce.

A senior official from the Gramin Area Development Authority (CADA) said they asked the farmers to experiment with paddy cultivation in three different farm lands using the traditional flood irrigation, drip irrigation and sprinkle irrigation. The farmers were surprised when they got maximum production



of paddy in land irrigated through drip method.

Speaking to The Statesman, a farmer Karan Chatha said, "Three methods were used for cultivation of PR-126 variety of paddy. We were surprised when drip methods came out the best as we got 26 quintals per acre paddy production from drip method while paddy cultivation through flood irrigation and sprinkle irrigation ended with 24 quintals per acre and 22 quintals per acre respectively.

"Now we have planned that we will experiment with

drip irrigation on more land while sowing the wheat crop. The drip method to irrigate crops appears more beneficial as it needs less water while at the same use of fertilisers and pesticides has also been found more effective through drip system," he added.

Chatha said the groundwater level in their area has gone down and it is depleting every year at such a rate that in coming years either they will have to quit paddy cultivation or opt for other irrigation methods.

The CADA official said the

recent experiment has also proved wrong all those who believe that only flood irrigation is possible.

In view of the depleting groundwater every year, farmers in Haryana especially the rice belt comprising Ambala, Kurukshetra, Yamunanagar, Kaithal, Karnal and Panipat would have to shift to micro irrigation instead of the traditional flood irrigation method that consume more water.

He said Haryana has no single full-time river and underground water in most parts of the state is saline. Thus, micro

irrigation is the only answer to this problem, he added.

Data shows that paddy production in Haryana has reached 61.79 metric tonnes (MT) during 2015-16 from 36.48 MT in 1998-99 while the groundwater levels in the state have fluctuated more than 50 per cent in the past four decades.

As a result, nearly 71 blocks in 17 districts have been reported over exploited, 15 blocks in 11 districts fall under the critical category while seven are semi-critical.

In view of this grave situation, the CADA has taken up a pilot project for installation of community-based solar or grid powered micro irrigation infrastructure in existing canal commands in various districts of Haryana on turnkey basis. The financial outlay of the project is Rs 24.65 crore.

The unique solar power-run micro irrigation pilot project was inaugurated at Pehowa in July this year under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna (PMKSY).