

Webinar on Drought Preparedness and Response in Gujarat

Through Zoom Platform

30th June, 2022 (Time: 15:00 to 17:30 Hrs.)

Concept Note:

Drought is an extreme climatic condition that results from a deficiency of precipitation from expected or “normal” that, when extended over a season or longer period, is insufficient to meet the demands of human activities and the environment.

Drought is widely recognized as a creeping natural hazard that occurs due to the natural climatic variability. Droughts occur with varying frequency in all climatic regimes. Droughts may be increasing in frequency, intensity, and duration as a result of climate change. Likewise, the impacts associated with droughts are increasing because of changing societal vulnerabilities.

Large parts of northwest India including the state of Gujarat fall under hyper-arid, arid and semi-arid regions. It is a major drought-prone area, which witnesses droughts every three to four years. Gujarat possesses an arid to semi-arid climate, and frequently suffers from drought due to the failure of monsoon and the occurrence of heat-waves. Drought-prone zones are widespread throughout the state covering 99 administrative blocks and more than 60% of its area. The trend for the last 35 years shows that drought occurs almost every 3 years, and leads to severe water scarcity in many parts of Gujarat. In Gujarat, rainfall is uncertain, unprecedented, unequal spatially and temporally, and the regions of Saurashtra, Kutch, and northern parts of the state face scarcity every third year. Gujarat is one of the chronic drought-prone states of India, with an average annual rainfall of about only 700 mm with more than half of the district, sub-divisions of Gujarat receiving rainfall within the range of 200–400 mm. Substantial portions of the state are arid to semi-arid. With large parts of northern Gujarat and Saurashtra have no source of alternate irrigation, over-extraction of the limited groundwater resource thus resulted in the decline of the water table, which in turn has added stress on cultivated crops and water supplies. As per Census 2011, about 3.47 crores people of the state live in rural areas forming about 57.4% of its total population (GoI, 2011). Agriculture continues to be the primary occupation for the majority of rural people in the state.

Agriculture in drought-prone areas has been found highly unstable. Therefore, the majority of the rural population in Gujarat is severely affected by intense and recurrent droughts leading to huge financial loss, loss of jobs, mass migration, prostitution, and suicide.

The efficient, accessible, and effective preparedness and response mechanism may be an operative way to combat drought. For this very purpose, National Guidelines, Manual & Preparedness plans are implemented.

In the current scenario of rainfall deficit, the awareness program on Drought Preparedness and Response will brush up the understanding of probable drought scenarios and required preparedness and response measures.

In this relation, GIDM is planning to organize a Webinar on “Drought Preparedness and Response in Gujarat”.

Objectives:

- A. To introduce basics of Disaster Risk Management
- B. Introduction about Drought, Application of Technology in Drought Preparedness & Response
- C. Addressing gaps and challenges about the need for drought preparedness & response

Target Audience

Sr. No.	Department Name	Designation of Participants
1.	Agriculture, Farmers Welfare & Cooperation Department	Agriculture Extension Officer, Agri. Supervisor, Agri. Assistant, Block Technology Managers, Assistant Technology Managers & Farmers Friend
2.	Forest & Environment Department	Range Forest Officer, Beat Officer
3.	Narmada Water Resources, Water Supply and Kalpsar Department	Asst. Engineer & Add. Asst. Engineer

The webinar will be broadcasted live on YouTube channel (15:00 to 17:30 Hrs.).

Resource Persons:

1. Dr. Sandeep Pandey, Asso. Prof., GIDM
2. Dr. Bimal Bhattacharya, SAC (ISRO), Ahmedabad
3. Dr. Manoj Lunagariya, Anand Agri. University, Anand
4. Dr. Yogesh Jadeja, Director (AC&T), Kachchh