BOOK REVIEW

WATER RESOURCES OF ANDHRA PRADESH by Sanjay Gupte, Anne Chappuis and Satya Prakash Tucker. Published by Tata Water Supply Program (ITP), International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Visual Information Systems for Action (VISTa), 2011, 305p.

This excellent colourful presentation on the Water Resources of Andhra Pradesh is the outcome of a few years of effort by a team, mostly of engineers and some specialized in cartography and remote sensing. There are 21 chapters in 4 parts titled Andhra Pradesh in India (I, pp.2 to 16), Andhra Pradesh Water (2 to 5, pp.19 to 116), Water Usages (6 to 8, pp.119 to 166) and Farmer-centric Water Management and Irrigation Projects (9 to 21, pp. 171 to 302). Briefly, they contain data collected mostly from the websites (listed on p.302) of various organizations – State and Central. The representation of data is through multi-coloured maps, histograms, graphs, tables etc. In the Introduction the authors have clearly spelled out the philosophy behind this attempt to prepare this Atlas, the sources and methods of presentation adopted, using available technology.

Particular mention must be made of the very detailed data presentation on land use, water resources – surface and ground water, and floods and droughts in the state. Irrigated areas and irrigated agriculture are dealt with under Water Usages. The largest part deals with Farmer-centric water management and irrigation projects under canals in inland and deltaic areas.

What is praiseworthy is that the team has collected, presented and analyzed different data indicating possible ways of conservation and use of resources and methods being adopted and that can be improved upon. It also deals with cases of damage due to natural or anthropogenic causes affecting them (for example, floods and droughts, increasing demand on finite resources due to increasing population etc.) and how this can be minimized by better management.

This Atlas is bound to be of immense use by organizations right from the state level down to Panchayat level for the information available (mostly for the years from

2004 to 2009, though a few going back to decades) to be used for any further planning they choose to do in the case of water resources and land use planning. This should find a place in every organization in the state dealing with this resource.

Inclusion of a Geology map from the Geological Survey of India, Kolkata, a Geomorphic map from the National Remote Sensing Centre, Hyderabad, a Soil map from the All India Soil Survey and Land use Mapping, New Delhi, and a Non-Agricultural Natural Vegetation map from the French Institute, Pondicherry of the state of Andhra Pradesh as a whole, similar to the one given of the Physiography of the state (3.1, p.28) would have been welcome additions. It looks a little odd that most of the agro-climatic zones of the state are shown under a group of administrative districts (3.2, p.29), whereas, in actuality they would transcend these boundaries. The maps are oriented towards north and the scales are also given and perhaps the latitude and longitude co-ordinates are omitted for security reasons, though this is not likely to affect the usage.

On the whole this is a very laudable effort on the part of the team to have brought about this Atlas and they richly deserve the gratitude of the population of the state. Perhaps some of the other states in the country, where, such a data collection and presentation has not been done so far, can profitably emulate this example. The publication is not priced and it is mentioned in the Introduction that it will be made freely available, hopefully to deserving bona fide users in the professional and academic fields interested in this resource.

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