Traditional water management practices of Maharashtra

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जाधवराव गढ़ - सासवड (महाराष्ट्र) - छतावरील जलसंचय

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Traditionally, there was restriction on growing sugarcane in irrigated area.

The unique system in the world ensuring equitable water distribution in irrigation is Phad system of Tapi river basin. It is a pacesetter of democracy, participatory irrigation management and so on. It is the oldest and still functional (at few places). Users’ participation lays foundation for sustainability.

Raj tadag at Aurangabad was a large reservoir. It was created during second century B.C. Radhanagari on river Panchganga built around 1910 is another historical example of large reservoir. The tradition of creating large reservoir is quite old.

The tradition of rainwater and roof water harvesting is very old. The fort Devgiri and the beautiful temples across the state / country are the testimony of these ideals.

The irrigation on Khajana well of Beed established a peak in practicing perennial irrigation on groundwater.

The old tanks at Navegaon Bandh and Asolamendha from Vainganga basin established an ideal most example of rehabilitation of dislocated people.
PINNACLES AND IDEALS
(lessons learnt)

❖ The base of rural water supply was Aad i.e. a small well and that of groundwater was recharging through tanks.
❖ Urban water supply schemes were based on zero control and zero maintenance. Water was necessarily transported through a closed conduit.
❖ The tradition of interlinking of rivers, building weirs in series has a place in history.
❖ The urban centers (capitals) were not located on agricultural land.
❖ The first water policy was brought out by the King Shahu Maharaj of Kolhapur princely state in 1908. The first privatization of water was done in Maharashtra (westward diversion by TATA). The concept of public private partnership was practiced right in the early part of 20th century.
❖ The first project on sewage treatment and its reuse for irrigation was commissioned near Pune (Krishna Basin) in 1929 or so.

THANKS.