bodies in the lower part exhibits bipolar herringbone cross-bedding, sigmoidal bedding with double mudstone drapes, tidal bundles and polymodal palaeocurrents. These structures suggest intertidal bars and tidal channels dominated by microtidal activity towards an estuary mouth beyond the zone of turbidity maxima. Appreciable wave effect and wave induced currents were instrumental for sedimentation too.

The lecturer was well attended and discussed. Many interesting question arose regarding allogenic control and sequence stratigraphy of continental systems. The lecture was concluded with vote of thanks given by Prof. Jai Krishna, Head of the Department of Geology.

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NATIONAL SEMINAR ON DRINKING WATER AND FOOD SECURITY IN HARD ROCK AREAS WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO GADAG DISTRICT, KARNATAKA

Drinking water and food security is vital for rural prosperity. But reportedly two third population of the country is food starved or suffering from severe drinking water shortage. Water scarcity is at the root of this crisis, more so in rain deficient areas. In this context the two day national seminar on Drinking water and Food security through optimum use of groundwater, rainwater harvesting and crop-water planning held at K.H. Patil Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hulkoti in Gadag district, Karnataka on 29-30th April, 2008, assumes significance. The seminar was organized by the Geological Society of India in collaboration with Karnataka Jal Biradari, Karnataka Mines and Geology Department and Central Ground Water Board. It focused on all issues of water management in hard rock areas, innovative and indigenous water harvesting techniques, and aimed at transfer of knowledge to grass root levels. The unique feature of the seminar was Farmers Interactive Training Session, and invited talks from eminent scientists and experts. It was a pioneering endeavour of the Society to organize this interdisciplinary seminar on such a crucial issue bringing together hydrogeologists, agronomists, agricultural engineers, hydrologists, economists, planners, journalists and farmers. The seminar was attended by 82 enlightened farmers, and 100 other delegates including NGOs and Self Help Groups.

The inaugural session on 29th April 2008 was presided over by S.V. Srikantia, Vice President of the Geological Society. Welcoming the delegates R.H. Sawkar, Secretary, Geological Society of India, informed that the seminar was part of the ongoing Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Society. One of the objectives of the Society has been to promote research in geosciences including hydrogeology. After the ceremonial lighting of the lamp inaugurating the seminar, Chiranjeevi Singh, formerly Additional Chief Secretary of Karnataka, released a Souvenir brought out on the occasion by the Society. In his address Singh affirmed that food security means access to food and drinking water for all people at all time. This needs optimal utilization of groundwater and rainwater in the drought prone hard rock areas like Gadag district suffering from endemic water and food shortage. Singh mooted the idea of Model Special Agricultural Zone in Gadag district dealing with all schemes relating to water, seed, food, horticulture etc, in an integrated manner for all round development. Prof. G.K. Veeresh, formerly Vice Chancellor, and Chief Guest, discussed about protective irrigation in rain-fed areas, and national watershed development program emphasizing ecofriendly organic farming. S.V. Srikantia reminded all of the traditional water harvesting systems which only can diminish intensity of drought.

Sri Chiranjeevi Singh inaugurates the seminar

The inaugural session was followed by the first technical session on Groundwater Resource and Monitoring chaired by S. Das and K.M. Najeeb. Shakeel Ahmed spoke about designing of groundwater monitoring network for surveillance of groundwater regime. T.M. Hunse presented the groundwater management scenario in Karnataka. Srikanta Murthy illustrated the critical situation in Gadag district through time series analysis of groundwater levels.

In rain short areas like Gadag district surface water is scarce and groundwater is over exploited. Only conjunctive use of rainwater, surface water and groundwater along with judicious crop planning can ensure sustainable food production and drinking water availability. The post lunch session on land, soil and water management,

was chaired by C V Patil and D R Veeranna Prof P L Patil presented land suitability evaluation for sustainable crop production Prof G S Dasog dealt with conjunctive use and optimal crop pattern in tank command A R Khan described the role of financial institutions in the watershed development and resurgence of rural economy Y Lingaraju apprised the delegates about potentials of surface water bodies in recharging groundwater in Kolar and Gadag districts of Karnataka Rajarajan narrated the use of remote sensing and GIS in planning artificial recharge and land use L G Hiregoudar spoke about drought proofing technologies, initiatives of Self Help Groups and Jal Biradari, and Shramdan movement of Vivek Patha in Ichalahalla watershed (Gadag) which are shining examples of mass mobilization in water shed development

Pollution is a major threat to the sustainability of drinking water On 30th April 2008 the third technical Session on drinking water was chaired by T M Hunse and Smt Shashirekha Shashirekha described the groundwater quality in different parts of Karnataka Prasad Raju presented BYRRAJU Foundation's innovative 4P Model of Quality drinking water in villages involving community managed water purification system S C Puranik and J T Gudagur discussed about fluoride pollution in Gadag district and its remediation

In the Farmers interactive training session on 29th April 2008, Ayyappa Masagi, L G Hiregoudar, N H Bhandi and V D Vatkunthe delivered illuminating talks on rainwater harvesting, alternate land use systems, and in situ moisture conservation in dry land areas The lectures were followed by intensive interactions with the farmer delegates

The Plenary session on 30th April 2008 was chaired by Prof G K Veeresh Ms Bharti Patel addressed the gathering explaining the SVARAJ Matrix of community management of water with the goal of equity, efficiency and environmental integrity Prafulla Chandra, Ayyappa Masagi and Shri Bhagwan (Journalist) also spoke on the occassion Prof Veeresh informed that although water is a key input in agriculture, land morphology, soil conditions and crop pattern, too, play significant role in water management and conservation

The deliberations in the seminar successfully brought out integrated management of rainwater, surface water and groundwater along with crop water planning as key to food and drinking water security The seminar concluded with a set of recommendations which emphasized (1) water conservation and augmentation through rainwater harvesting, rejuvenation of community tanks, watershed treatment, artificial recharge, as also sprinkler and drip irrigation, (2) replication of Byrraju Foundation's SWEET Project of quality drinking water in villages, (3) adoption of sanitation technologies like dry toilets and biotoilets, (4) water literacy campaigns through print and electronic media, mass rallies, workshops etc, (5) community participation in water management, and (6) need for Special Agricultural zones, to start with in Gadag district as model, for all round agricultural development and rural prosperity

The water shed experience in Ichalahalla (Gadag taluka) is a potential solution to the challenges in other semi and hard rock areas The seminar sent out a strong message of "self help" to the rural community in solving their water woes, and transforming rural poverty to prosperity

SUBHAJYOTI DAS

ANNOUNCEMENT

XXV CONVENTION OF INDIAN ASSOCIATION OF SEDIMENTOLOGISTS AND NATIONAL SEMINAR

The Department of Geology, M S University of Baroda will be organising the XXV Convention of Indian Association of Sedimentologists and National Seminar on "Sedimentary Basins of India – Their Geological Significance and Economic Prospects" between 26th and 28th December, 2008 All correspondence in this regard may be addressed to Dr A V Joshi, Convenor, XXV Convention of IAS, Department of Geology, Faculty of Science, M S University of Baroda, Vadodara – 390 002 (Gujarat) Phone 0265-2785560 (O) Mobile 09427602928, Email joshi_geol@yahoo com