

# Scoping study to assess constraints and opportunities for sustaining the tank irrigation ecosystems and smallholder livelihoods in East India and Nepal



## Key details

### Location

India, Nepal

### Duration

Start May 2012

End Feb 2013

### Budget

AUD 149,998

### Commissioned organisation

International Water Management Institute

### Partners

Indian Council of Agricultural Research;  
International Water Management Institute; Tamil  
Nadu Agricultural University; Vidyasagar  
University

### Project Leader

K Palanisami - International Water Management  
Institute

### Program

Water

### Project code

LWR/2011/074

The primary objective of this 10-month scoping study was to investigate the characteristics of tanks and tank irrigation in East Indian states (West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa) and the terai (plains) of Nepal. The constraints identified and opportunities envisaged assisted in the development of a 3-year ACIAR research proposal.

## Outcomes

This scoping study resulted in the larger project "Improving dry season agriculture for marginal and tenant farmers in the Eastern Gangetic Plains through conjunctive use of pond and groundwater resources".

No final report has been published.



## Overview

In eastern India and Nepal tanks (small reservoirs) are still used for irrigation, livestock and domestic purposes, but fisheries are emerging as their primary usage. Competition between irrigation and fisheries often creates a rift within communities, resulting in management issues that directly contribute to poor tank maintenance.