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Capacity Building of Pani Panchayats: An Empirical Investigation

Anita Patra, Subrat Dash and Tapas Bantha

Introduction

Tank irrigation is one of the oldest methods of irrigation in Odisha. The state has 28,303 tanks approximately, including tanks of the Government and Private Sector (GoI, Minor Irrigation Census, 2001). About 3,646 of these tanks are relatively large with an irrigation capacity of 5.47 lakh hectares. These 3,646 tanks irrigate between 40 Ha to 2000 Ha of land and the Minor Irrigation Department is the nodal implementing agency. The Government of Odisha in partnership with the Government of India initiated a project to repair and rehabilitate approximately 320 irrigation tanks having a command area of 40 ha to 2000 ha and covering about 61,000 hectares in twelve districts across the state of Odisha with funding from World Bank. The Odisha Community Tank Development and Management Society (OCTDMS) was formed under the Department of Water Resources, Govt. of Odisha which implements the Odisha Community Tank Management Project (OCTMP). The project envisages execution through primary and secondary level institutions, from the State Project Unit (SPU) to the Community Level Groups (CLGs) with facilitation of Support Organization.