

## **ECONOMIC AND EFFICIENT USE OF GROUNDWATER IN AGRICULTURE: CHALLENGES AND STRATEGIES**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Farming accounts for around 70 per cent of water used in the world. In India agriculture is a major user of water resources. With growing water scarcity and increasing competition across water-using sectors, the need for water savings and more efficient water use in agriculture has increased in importance in water resources management. Against this backdrop, in this paper an attempt is made to study the challenges and outline ways for economic and efficient agriculture water use in India. The analysis shows the intensive use of groundwater for irrigation in Tamil Nadu leads to the lowering of water tables, and the urgent need for adopting alternative and sustainable method of efficient use of groundwater.*

**KEYWORDS:** *Well Irrigation, Cropping Pattern, Challenges and Barriers, Groundwater Management*