

# **के न्द्रीय भूमि जल बोर्ड**

जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग, जल शक्ति मंत्रालय

# भारत सरकार **Central Ground Water Board**

Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti Government of India

# **AQUIFER MAPPING AND MANAGEMENT OF GROUND WATER RESOURCES**

**for Kallar Aquifer System Tamil Nadu**

दवक्षण पूिी तटीय क्षेत्र**,** चेन्नई South Eastern Coastal Region, Chennai

सरकारीउपयोगके लिए



#### **REPORT ON AQUIFER MAPPING AND AQUIFER MANAGEMENTPLAN FOR THE KALLAR AQUIFER SYSTEM,TAMIL NADU**





**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**<br>R DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA **R DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION TRAL GROUND WATER BOARD TH EASTERN COASTAL REGION CHENNAI**

## **Foreword**

Groundwater is the major source of freshwater that caters the demand of ever growing domestic, agricultural and industrial sectors of the country. This renewable resource has been indiscriminately exploited in some parts of the country by several users as it is easily available and reliable. Intensive and unregulated groundwater pumping in many areas has caused rapid and widespread groundwater decline. Out of 6607 groundwater assessment units (Blocks/ mandals / taluks/ firkas etc.), 1071 units are over-exploited (groundwater withdrawal is more than recharge) and 914 units are critical (groundwater withdrawal is 90 % of recharge.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has taken up the largest Aquifer mapping endeavor in the world, targeting total mapable area of country  $\sim$  23.25 lakh sq. km with a vertical extent of 300 m in soft rock area and 200 m in hard rock area. The extent of aquifer, their potential, resource availability, chemical quality, its sustainable management options will be addressed by National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM). The NAQUIM program will also facilitate participatory management of groundwater to provide longterm sustenance for the benefit of farmers. Currently, focus is on groundwater stressed areas of eight states comprising 5.25 lakh sq.km *viz*., Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh.

South Eastern Coastal Region, Central Ground Water Board, Chennai, under NAQUIM has been envisaged with the Mapping of an area of 70,102 sq.km during 2012-17 (erstwhile XII five year plan) in Tamil Nadu and UT of Puducherry. This report deals with the Aquifer mapping studies carried out in Kallar aquifer system covering an area of 1691 sq.km occupying 33% of Thoothukudy district. This aquifer system covers 19 firkas of which Parivalikottaifirka falls under critical category calling for management interventions to work out long term sustainable grundwater resources. The major issues in the basin include declining groundwater levels, sustainability of wells, low yielding aquifers, threat of seawater intrusion. Aquifer units have been deciphered firka wise and regions of high yielding zone and low yielding have been demarcated in the Kallar aquifer system. In hard rock regions two aquifer units *viz.,* Aquifer Unit -I (weathered) and Aquifer Unit –II (fractured/jointed zone) are identified. In soft rock formations three aquifer units *viz.,* Aquifer Unit-I (alluvium, sandstone), Aquifer Unit-II (The Tertiaries) and Aquifer Unit III (Cretaceous)are identified. In order to arrest the declining groundwater levels and increase the sustainability of wells, groundwater management plans in supply and demand sides have been formulated firka wise.

I hope this report will be useful for the district administrators, water managers, stakeholders including farmers in knowing the aquifer and managing the resources effectively in the Kallar aquifer system.

> **(Dr A Asokan) Regonal Director**

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Detailed hydrogeological studies were conducted pertaining to the Kallar Aquifer system through an integrated approach involving data assemblage of geology, geophysics, hydrology and hydrochemistrywhich wereanalysed, interpreted and formulated management plans which formed the key elements of this report. The report is a documentation of the aquifer disposition, whereinthe lateral and vertical extent of the aquifers are brought out, also the aquifer properties of the study area are discerned through systematic studies which are considered to be the gauges in quantifying the resources. Keeping these parameters in view a sustainable management plan has been suggested through which the groundwater needs can be fulfilled in a reasonable way.

The Kallar aquifer system covering an area of 1691 sq. km falls entirely in Thoothukudy district occupying 33% of area**.** Thestudy area experiences semi-arid climate with 656 mm average rainfall which is lower than the state average of 965 mm. The low rainfall is an indicator to the constraints in proposing management plans. The major tributaries of Kallar river are*Othanatham, Chakarakudi, Kilachakarakudi and Perurani*. Thothukudy is the corporation and the major town in the Kallar aquifer system.

Kallar Aquifer system area is divided into the hard rock and sedimentary region. The hard rock region occupies almost 85% of the basin area comprising predominantly of Gneisses with patchy occurrence of Charnockites. The south eastern portion of the basin is flanked by the sedimentaries anchored on a Precambrian basement. The sedimentaries mainly comprise of the alluvium (coastal) grading down to the Cuddalore and the creataceous sandstone on the Precambrian basement.

The hard rock aquifer system is further subdivided into two units -The weathered zone at the top followed by a discrete anisotropic fractured/fissured zone at the bottom

The sedimentaries: Quaternary sediments are found in the southeastern part of Kallar aquifer system all along the coast and river courses. Coastal alluviums are underlain by Cuddalore formation of Mio-Pliocene age. This is followed by cretaceous sandstone with intervening clay layers. The maximum depth of the sedimentary sequence is around 65 m bgl with the alluviumextending to a depth of 20 m below which the underlying sandstone layers occur in varying depths ranging from  $10 - 60$  mbgl. The marine deposits extend all along the coast of Thoothukudy district. Aeolian sands are also found inisolated pockets in the coastal areas

The predominant water levels are in the range of 2 to 25 m bgl during pre-monsoon season and 0 to 10 mbgl during post-monsoon season of 2019. The net annual groundwater availability is 162 MCM and the gross groundwater draft is 62MCM and the stage of groundwater development is of 38% for the basin.

The major issues in the region are overexploitation and declining groundwater levels, massive crystalline formation and in-situ salinity and threat of Sea water intrusion along the coast and reported groundwater Pollution from industraial effluents.

In hard rock regions aquifer systemsthe thickness of the weathered zone extends down to a depth of 18 m with average thickness of 9 m and fractured zones between 15 and 130 m bgl. The weathered zone is disintegrated from the bed rock and partially/semi weathered in the lower part with transmissivity varying between 3 and  $18m^2$ /day and specific yield of  $1 - 1.5\%$ . The fractured zone is fractured gneiss or Charnockite andthe yield varies from 0.5 to 11 lps and the transmissivity of this zone varies between 1 and 53  $m^2$ /day and storativity varies from 0.00002 to 0.00001. In alluvial regions the first aquifer unit comprising of sand, clayey sand has thickness ranging from 10 to 55 m with yields ranging from 1 to 10lps and transmissivity values ranging from 245 to 770 m<sup>2</sup>/day. The Tertiaries and the Upper Cretaceous formations underlie the alluvial formation and have yields ranging from 3 to 10 lps with transmissivity values ranging from 138 to 770  $m^2$ /day.

Based on the water level monitoring in different seasons across the basin, as well as after having better understanding of the disposition and extent of the aquifer system through exploratory drilling, pumping tests etc. the volume of unsaturated zone available for recharge (upto 3m bgl) is 108MCM. The annual uncommitted runoff is 45 MCM and 60 % of water from uncommitted runoff is required to fill the available void space of aquifer-I. Artificial recharge and Water conservation plan is prepared firka wise in the basin to harness 13 MCM. The suggested artificial recharge structures are mainly Nala bunds, Check Dams and Recharge Shafts in addition to removal of silt in the surface tanks.

A total number of 31 check dams, 49 Nala bunds and 94 recharge shafts are proposed in the groundwater stressed firkas of the basin. A total number of 235 Recharge Rejuvenation Ponds are selected for desilting followed by construction of recharge shafts within the tanks. The expected recharge through these artificial recharge structures is 13 MCM. The expected outcomes of these interventions are to mitigate declining groundwater levels, increase the pumping hours and most importantly increasing the sustainability of groundwater resources.

Complementary demand side management interventions are proposed for the desired benefits through peoples participation. A change in conventional irrigation practices to a water efficient technique is proposed to level down the counterbenefits of excess development.

The existing regulatory measures may be modified suitably for optimal utilization of groundwater as well as for sustainable development of rural agricultural based economy. To achieve this goal, opinion pool has to be obtained from more user groups and valid suggestions may be incorporated in the regulatory acts.

#### **REPORT ON**

#### **AQUIFER MAPPING AND AQUIFER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE KALLAR AQUIFER SYSTEM, TAMIL NADU**

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# AQUIFER MAPPING AND AQUIFER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE KALLAR AQUIFER SYSTEM, TAMIL NADU

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#### **AQUIFER MAPPING AND AQUIFER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE KALLAR AQUIFER SYSTEM, TAMILNADU**

#### <span id="page-9-0"></span>**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Comprehensive and integrated multidisciplinary approach calls for precise checks and balances of the groundwater resources translating to focused site specific management interventions. Mapping the geometric attributes of the aquifer, their potential, resource availability, chemical quality, its sustainable management options are the key activities of Aquifer Mapping. A roadmap ensuring the sustainability of the groundwater and strategies for facing future challenges are developed aided through the outcomes of NAQUIM.

This extended exercise of defining the aquifer attributes and potential of the basins of Tamil Nadu under NAQUIM has come up with promising results, sustainable management of the finite groundwater resources being the key derivative among them. Such studies were carried out in Kallar river basin to define the aquifer disposition.

Groundwater is the most dependable source of supply to meet the demands of domestic, irrigation and industrial sectors of the country. Heavy dependence on groundwater, years of deficient rains and disporportinate demand for waterdue to rapid populationn increase, urbanization and industrialization have put considerable stress on water management. The development activities over the years have adversely affected the groundwater regime in many parts of the country. Hence, there is a need for scientific planning in development of ground water under different hydrogeological situations and to evolve effective management practices with involvement of community for better ground water governance.

Aquifer Mapping has been taken up in **KallarAquiferSystem**whichfalls in one of the major river basins in Tamil Nadu, and is that portion of Thoothukudy district lying within NorthLatitude8°41'00"–9°10'30",EastLongitude77°48'00"–78°15'00"in a view to formulate strategies for sustainable management plan for the aquifer system in accordance with the nature of the aquifer, the stress on the groundwater resource and prevailing groundwater quality will help in drinking water security and improved irrigation facility. It will also result in better management of the vulnerable areas.

#### <span id="page-9-1"></span>**1.1 Objective**

The objectives of the aquifer mapping in Kallar aquifer system is

- 1. To define the aquifer geometry, type of aquifers, aquifer units within, their lateral and vertical extents,
- 2. To bring out the groundwater regime scenario in comparison with the present.
- 3. To determine the hydrogeochemical characteristics of the aquifer units
- 4. Two Dimenstional (2D) and Three Dimesnional (3-D) disposition of the aquifer units.
- 5. To estimate the availability of groundwater resources in the aquifer system
- 6. To develop a decisive Aquifer management plan for efficient management of groundwater resources of the Kallar aquifer system

#### <span id="page-10-0"></span>**1.2 Scope of the Study**

The important aspect of the aquifer mapping programme is the synthesis of the large volume of data already generated during specific studies carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and various Government organizations that broadly describe the aquifer system. The available generated data are assembled, analysed, examined, synthesized and interpreted from available sources. These sources are predominantly non-computerized data, which is to be converted into computer based GIS data sets.

Data gaps have been identified after proper synthesis and analysis of the available data collected from different state organisations like; Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board (TWAD Board), Public Works Department (PWD), Agricultural Engineering Department (AED). In order to bridge the data gap, data generation programme has been formulated in an organised way in the basin. Exploration work has been carried out in different segments of the regions and aquifer parameters have been estimated. Groundwater monitoring regime has been strengthened by establishing additional monitoring wells.

#### <span id="page-10-1"></span>**1.3 Issues**

The major concerns **(Figure 1)** that have been addressed in the Kallar Aquifer System are

- ❖ Poor Yielding aquifers
- $\triangle$  Drying up of shallow wells
- $\triangle$  Decrease in yield of borewells affecting the sustainability of abstraction structures
- ❖ Insitu Salinity
- Limited scope for Artificial Recharge Schemes in the saline tracts of the basin
- Limited freshwater availability in sedimentary areas occuring as floating lenses makes the coastal tract vulnerable for water quality changes
- ❖ Pollution of groundwater due to industrial effluents

#### <span id="page-10-2"></span>**1.4. Approach & Methodology**

Integrated multi-disciplinary approach involving geological, geophysical, hydrological and hydrogeological and hydrogeochemical components were taken up in 1:50000 scale to meet the objectives of study. Geological map of the basin has been generated based on the GSI maps, geophysical data has been generated through vertical electrical soundings and geoelectrical layers with different resistivities have been interpreted in corroboration with the litho stratigraphy of the observation wells and exploratory wells down to depths of 200 m bgl and 300 m bgl for hard rocks & soft rocks respectively. Hydrological and Hydrometerological data have been collected from state





<span id="page-11-0"></span>PWD and IMD departments. Drainage, soil and geomorphology of the basin were prepared based on the IRS –IC data, obtained from Institute of Remote Sensing, Anna University, Chennai.

Based on the data gap analysis data generation process has been scheduled through establishing key observation wells, pinpointing exploratory sites for drilling through in-house and outsourcing, collecting water samples in order to study groundwater regime, geometry of the aquifer and aquifer parameters, and quality of the groundwater respectively. Groundwater recharge and draft have been computed through different methods and resources of the basin estimated through groundwater balance method.

Based on the above studies, management strategies both on the supply side through augmentation of groundwater through artificial recharge and water conservation and on demand side through change in irrigation pattern have been formulated for sustainable management of the groundwater resource.

#### <span id="page-12-0"></span>**1.5. Study area**

The Kallar aquifer system covering an area of 1691 sq. km and lies in the eastern part of Thoothukudy district. This basin is surrounded byVaippar basin on the north, Tamiraparani basin on the west and south and the Gulf of Mannar on theeast.There are two rivers in this basin, the*Kallarriver* in the northern part and *Korampallamaru* in the southern part.

Thoothukudy constitutes the municipal corporation is the largest city lying in the Kallar aquifer system and other major towns lying in the Kallar aquifer system are Theni, Andippatty, Chozhavandhan, Edaikkaattur, Mana Madurai, Paramakkudi, and Ramanathapuram.

This aquifer system covers 19firkas of which the Parivalikottaifirka falls under the stressed category, Critical .Other stressed firkasincludeNallathimputhur, Kammanaickanpatty, Kadambur, Pasuvanthanai and Ottapidaram. The hard rock formations in these areas are poor aquifers with limited groundwater prospects. The administrative map of the Kallar aquifer system is presented as **Figure 2.**

#### <span id="page-12-1"></span>**1.6. Data availability**

During the aquifer mapping period, existingdataof CGWB i.e.exploration, depth to water level, water quality, geophysical logging and groundwater resource data have been collected and compiled. In addition to this, borewell data, water quality & water level data have been collected from Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage Board. Cropping pattern and soil data have been collected from Agricultural Department. Groundwater level and groundwater exploration data have been collected from Public Works Department. Thematic layers such as geology (GSI), soils, landuse&landcover,geomorphology, etc., from various State Government agencies has been collected, compiled and used in this study.

#### <span id="page-12-2"></span>**1.7. Data adequacy**

Exploratory well data is available for 52 wells drilled by CGWB (19 Nos.) and State Departments (33 Nos.). Water level (32 Nos.) and water quality monitoring data (30 Nos.) data are available for a long period i.e., more than ten years. Seventyfourvertical electrical sounding (VES) data are available. 19 VES from inhouse and 55 carried out by WAPCOS. Cropping pattern and soil data have been collected from Agricultural and Statistics Department. After plotting the available historical data on 1:50,000 scale maps, data gaps were identified and data generation process was taken up in those gap areas to generate the Aquifer map on the desired resolution of 1:50,000 toposheets.

#### <span id="page-12-3"></span>**1.8. Data Gap Analysis & Data Generation**

Dug wells 35 Nos. have been established to monitor the first phreatic aquifer and 6 bore wells drilled down to a depth of 200 m bgl to know the aquifer characters of semi-confined aquifer system. It is also proposed to carryout quality monitoring through 35 Nos. of established dug wells for the first phreatic aquifer and through 12 Nos. of irrigation/domestic bore wells for the second semi-confined aquifer in order to assess the groundwater quality for drinking and irrigation purposes.

#### <span id="page-13-0"></span>**1.9 Climate and Rainfall**

The Kallar aquifer system experiences a [hot semi-arid climatec](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hot_semi-arid_climate)haracterised by sweltering summers, hot winters and occasional heavy rain during the northeast monsoon. Summer extends from March to June when the climate is very humid. The Basin receives adequate rainfall only during the months of October and November. The area receives around 444 mm rainfall from the [Northeast monsoon,](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Northeast_monsoon) 117.7 mm during summer, 74.6 mm during winter and 63.1 mm during the [South-west monsoon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South-west_monsoon) season. The coolest month is January and the hottest months are from May to June. As the monsoon period brings heavy rainfall it improves the recharging of groundwater and storage of surface water. Hence, the monsoon period is hydrologically significant for water resources analysis.Average annual rainfall for the Kallar aquifer system is 698mm which is the lowest recorded in the state when compared to the State average of 987 mm.

#### <span id="page-13-1"></span>**1.10 Physiography and Drainage**

The Kallar basin lies in the eastern parts of the Thoothukudi district and covers an area of 1691sq.km. The rivers namely *Kallar* (Malattarodai), *Korampallamaru* (Upparodai) and *Chalikulamaru*form the Kallar river basin**(Figure 3).** The topography of the Kallar basin is plain with gentle slope towardssoutheast. The slope is interrupted by the presence of local outcrops or low-ridged hills, rocky knobs,bouldersandstonywaste.

There are two big tanks in the basin viz., Eppothumventran tank located in Kallar (Malattarodai)sub basin and Korampallam tank which received water from Tamiraparaniriver, from North maincanalofSrivaikundamAnicut.

Coastal plain extends from Panaiyur and Kallurani villages in the north to Kuliankarisal andPullivadi village in the south and this area is mainly covered by fairly dense scrub, open dense scruband saltpans. Two major salt factories are located in Kallar basin, one is Veppalodai in the north andthe otherisTuticorinsaltfactoryinthe south.Theotherimportantsaltfactoriesare Arasadi,AlankaratettuandPullivadi.

The maximum elevationis 253m at the southern part of Kurumalai, hillock, south of Kovilpatti and Kurumalai reserve forest at thenorth western part of basin, the entire remaining part is gradually sloping from west to east with anelevationof 100to20mMSL.

Two rivers namely *Kallar* (or Malattar) and*Korampallamaru* (Uppodai) are the main riversdraining in this basin. Besides, a small stream Chalikulamaru also drains in the middle portion ofKallarbasini.e.betweenKallarandKorampallamaru.



**Figure 2: Administrative setup of the Kallar Aquifer system**

Season wise 75 % dependable surface water potential for Kallar River Basin is given in the **Table** below



#### **Dependable Surface Water Potential for the Kallar Basin**

Source : PWD report

#### **The Existing SurfaceWaterSupply Systems**

In the Kallar Basin, the surface water is drawn for usage from tanks. The tanks are classified as System tanks and Nonsystem tanks.

The non-system tanks use surface water of the direct runoff from their own catchment. Whereas the system tanks are filled from the canal flow diverted by the anicuts acrossthe river apart from the direct runoff from their own catchment.

#### **Anicuts Details**

There are eight anicuts in the Kallar subbasin, namely Ketchilapuram, Sivanthipatti,T.Duraiyoor, Athikinar, KattabommanrightandKattabomman left, Pattinamaruthur and Melaarasadi.TheKorampallam Aru subbasin has four anicuts namely Araikulam I, AraikulamII,Peruraniand Alantha.

#### **Tanks**

There are about 199 tanks in this basin including the isolated tanks by which 4146 ha are beingirrigated. Out of the above, 15 are system tanks and 184 are non-system tanks. The total storage capacityof these tanks is 43.41 Mcum. In KorampallamAru sub basin, the Korampallam tank is the last tankhaving an ayacut of 578.51 ha.

In addition to the drainage from its own catchment, it receives water from the adjacent basin from the perennial river Tamiraparani through North Main Channel of Srivaikundam anicut. The 50% of the requirement of water for this ayacut can be assumed as met through this diversion which works out to 6.59 Mcum at 44% irrigation efficiency. Details provided in the table below:





#### **Interbasin transfer of water**

Water is diverted from Tamiraparani Basin through North Main Channel taking off fromSrivaikundam Anicut, the last anicut across Tamiraparani river for thermal power generation etc. and thequantityof waterdivertedis10.78MCM. The water also finds use in irrigating the lower riparian stretches of the basin.

#### <span id="page-17-0"></span>**1.11Geomorphology**

The geomorphology of an area is the external appearance of landforms, which gives a reliable picture of the underground strata and its physio-chemical condition. The different formations and the layer confirm and cogent to its geomorphology. Geomorphologically, the area has been delineated into

The prominent geomorphic units identified in the Basin are 1) Fluvial, 2) Marine, 3) Fluviomarine, 4) Aeolian and 5) Erosional landforms depending on the environment of formation. Taruvaikulam- Tuticorin surface, Kulattur surface, Vaippar surface, Nagalapuram-Vedanattham surface and Volinokkam-Vembar surface are some of the erosional geomorphic units in the northern part of the Basin. Karamaniyar surface, Tambraparni surface, Tiruchendur-Kayapattinam surface and Vallanadu surface are the geomorphic units in the southern part of the Basin. The number of red sandy tracts formed of the sand dunes locally known as Teri sand complex are the important feature in the coast. These Teri sands extend in width from 6 to 8 km from the coast. Adaippanvilai Teri, Kudiraimozhiteri and Vaippar-Vembar Teri are some of the important Teri areas, which are having elevation in the range of 15 to 62m above MSL. The sand flat is another feature of the coast comprising of clays and silts, often inundated by seawater and encrusted with salt.

About 75% of the region is covered by pediment and pediment zone, and is represented in **Figure 4.** These are evidenced from the dendritic pattern of drainage. Sedimentary high ground and Alluvial plain are seen in the south eastern part of the area. Flood plains consisting of sand and clay are found along the boundaries of Kallarriver in the South eastern part. **Figure 4** and **Figure 5** illustrates the level I classification of geomorphological features of the Kallar aquifer system.

#### <span id="page-17-1"></span>**1.12 Landuse and Landcover**

The utilization of land for a particular purpose is governed by a host of factors including topography, type and thickness of soil, rainfall pattern etc.

Agricultural land occupies nearly, 66 % of the Kallar aquifer system area and spread throughout the study area. Built up/urban area, Barren and water bodies, occupy 18 %, 14 %and 2 % of the area respectively. Landuse and land cover is represented in **Figure 6 & 6a.**



<span id="page-18-0"></span>**Figure 3: Drainage map of the Kallar aquifer system**



**Figure 4: Geomorphology map of the Kallar aquifer system**

<span id="page-19-0"></span>

<span id="page-19-1"></span>**Figure 5: Level I classification of geomorphology of the Kallar aquifer system**



<span id="page-20-0"></span>**Figure 6: Level 3 Landuse /Land cover map of the Kallar aquifer system**



<span id="page-20-1"></span>**Figure 6a: Level 1 Landuse/Land analysis diagram of the Kallar aquifer system**

#### <span id="page-21-0"></span>**1.13Soils**

Soils play a major role in hydrologic control of the infiltrating water. Soils are generally classified by taking their color, texture, fertilities and chemical combinations encompassingsalts, minerals and the solution effect over them. The major soil types are Entisols, Hill Soil, Inceptisol, and Vertisols (**Figure 7**)



**Figure 7: Soil map of Kallar aquifer system**

#### <span id="page-21-2"></span><span id="page-21-1"></span>**1.14 Cropping Pattern**

Agriculture is the main stay of the rural population in the entire study area. Main water intensive crops irrigated are paddy, sugarcane and banana covering about 1488 sq. km **(Figure 8**).The less water intensive crops irrigated are maize, tomato, groundnut and chilly. The other crops include cotton, ragi, etc., and other minor crops are turmeric, flowers and vegetables. The total cultivated area is about 1050 Sq. Km

Climate, type and characteristics of soils and irrigation facilities available are the major factors controlling the cropping pattern in the district. The salient details of area irrigated and cultivated under wet and dry crops are furnished in **Table 1**

<b>District</b>	Firka			Area irrigated as % of	
			Area	Area	Area
		Area irrigated	cultivated	irrigated	cultivated
Thoothukudi	Kalugumalai	85.885	10050	0.847336	0.854577
Thoothukudi	Nallathinputhur	248.3	5247	4.518407	4.732228
Thoothukudi	Ettayapuram	99	6493	1.50182	1.524719
Thoothukudi	Kammanaickanpatti	203.5	6631	2.97754	3.068919
Thoothukudi	Kadambur	570.025	7922	6.712474	7.195468
Thoothukudi	Parivalikotatti	354	8096	4.189349	4.37253
Thoothukudi	Cholapuram	180.64	3734	4.614473	4.837708
Thoothukudi	Sivagnanapuram	$\overline{2}$	10136	0.019728	0.019732
Thoothukudi	Pasuvanthanai	235	6878	3.30381	3.416691
Thoothukudi	Eppodumvendram	15	7038	0.212675	0.213129
Thoothukudi	Maniyachi	52.23	5682	0.910846	0.919219
Thoothukudi	Ottapidaram	367	48.7	88.28482	753.5934
Thoothukudi	Vedanatham	51	3100	1.618534	1.645161
Thoothukudi	Vallanad	696	4084	14.56067	17.04212
Thoothukudi	Keelathataparai	56.73	1472	3.710923	3.85394
Thoothukudi	Deivasayalpuram	131.94	3249	3.902465	4.060942
Thoothukudi	Mudivaithanandal	299	1178	20.24374	25.382
Thoothukudi	Pudukottai	128.4	978	11.60521	13.12883
<b>Basin Total</b>		3775.65	92016.7		

<span id="page-22-0"></span>**Table 1: Details of area irrigated and cultivated under wet and dry crops (Kallar Basin)**



**Figure 8: Crop wise distribution in the Kallar aquifer system**

#### <span id="page-23-1"></span><span id="page-23-0"></span>**1.15. Irrigation**

Augmentation of agricultural production is the principal purpose of irrigation in the basin. Wells, canals and tanks are the major sources of irrigation in the basin. Paddy is the main water intensive crop in the study area. About 98% of the groundwater is used for irrigation.

The data available indicate that an area of about 5006 ha of the basin is under irrigated agriculture. The details of area under various sources are furnished in the **Table2** below

<span id="page-23-2"></span>

Sl <sub>No.</sub>	Source of <b>Irrigation</b>	(ha)	Table2: Net area irrigated by different sources in Kallar basin Area irrigated as Area irrigated  % of total area irrigated	Area irrigated as % of total cropped Irrigation area	intensity
	Canals	405	8.07	0.40	1.03
$\overline{2}$	Tanks	1064	21.26	1.06	1.54
3	Tube wells	150	3.00	0.15	1.02
$\overline{4}$	Dug wells	3387	67.67	3.36	1.15
		5006	100.00	4.97	

**Table2: Net area irrigated by different sources in Kallar basin**

#### *Source : Dept. of Economics & Statistics, Govt of Tamil Nadu*

The data indicate that wells are the major source of water for irrigation in the basin, accounting for about 67 % of the total area irrigated in the basin. Other sources are of minor importance in comparison. The source wise irrigation intensity computed as the ratio of gross area irrigated to net area irrigated ranges from 1.54 for tanks to 2.17 percent for wells. Tha average intensity of irrigation for the basin for the year 2016-17 works out at 1.03 %.

#### <span id="page-24-0"></span>**1.16 Geology**

Major parts of Kallar basin area is traversed by Garnetiferous biotite gneiss. Besides, charnockite occupies a small pocket in and around Ottapidaram. Narrow linear bands of quartzite and pink granitetrending N-S direction find a place amidst the country rock.Lime stones of calc granulite as linear patchesalso found on the eastand northern partsof Ottapidaram. This rock occurs as xenoliths within the country rock.**(Figure 9)**

In the coastal tracts, dunes of white sand and red 'teri' sands of recent origin parallel to the coast are found. The red coloured 'teri' sands form small dunes rising to an average height of 15m from the adjoining plains. The sand also occurs as a thin capping over the Sub-Recent (Quaternary) sandstone and limestone at places.The alluvium is confined to a very narrow belt on the bank of the rivers of Kallar river &Korampallamaru. This consists of brownish black to reddish brown sandy clay with a small proportion of silt.The geology with lineament map is shown below. The frequency of lineaments is more in the area covering in between Ettaiyapuram, Veppaolodai, Mel Arasadi and Ottapidaram. The NW-SE and NNW-SSE trending lineaments are predominantly traversing in these areas.East-West trending lineaments are cutting across the above two sets of lineaments and developed more number of lineament intersection points. The geology and lineament map generated in the GIS environ show positive ways todevelopgroundwaterinthissemi-ariddrybeltofKallar.**(Figure 9a)**

More number of lineaments is noticed in pink granite patches; swarms of calcgranite and quartzite are concentrated in this highly disturbed zone. The depth of the fractured zone extendupto 50m but in four isolated portion the fractured zone is touched at a depth of 50m. In Maniyachi, Ottainattam, Tottanpattai, Pungavarnattam, Arnikkulam, Tattaparai and further down uptoMelvagaikulam, the fractured zones may be encountered upto a depth of 50m.

Western part of Ottapidaram and Ettaiyapuram is showing N-S, EW and ENE-WSW trending lineaments. These lineaments are less in numbers and displaced. North –South trending lineaments areshowing parallelism to the linear pink granite occurring in the middle part of basin area. The intersections of lineaments with pink granites and quartzites, geological contact with lineament intersection points are very good ground water potential zones. But in such zones the quality varying good to saline in the easternpart and coastal areas. The garnetiferous biotite gneiss is covering 83% of the total area of the basin and 97% total area of the hard rock. 15% of the total area of the basin is underlain by the sedimentaries bordering the South eastern portion of the basin adjoining the Bay of Bengal. Wherever the calc granite /crystalline limestone and quartzite formations are contacting the garnetiferous gneiss, such contacts zone can be taken for groundwater exploration in the first order of priority.

Lineament –drainage course: major river courses are controlled by the NW-SE, E-W and WNW-ESElineaments. These streams are filling the secondary aquifers and recharge groundwater.



<span id="page-25-0"></span>**Figure9: Geological map of the KallarAquifer system**



<span id="page-26-0"></span>**Figure9a: Geological map of the KallarAquifer system**

#### <span id="page-27-0"></span>**2.0 DATA COLLECTION AND GENERATION**

Periodical data pertaining to groundwater levels, quality, pumping tests and slug tests were collected during aquifer mapping studies apart from water sample collection to assess the groundwater quality. In addition Geophysical data has been generated through conducting Geo electrical soundings after evaluation of data gap analysis.

#### <span id="page-27-1"></span>**2.1. Hydrogeological data:**

The periodical monitoring of groundwater level reflects the groundwater recharge and discharge (natural and manmade) occurring in the aquifer systems. It also reveals the interaction between surface and sub-surface water systems. In Kallar Aquifer system area, 99 groundwater monitoring wells (which included 12 CGWB monitoring wells &68 State department wells) and 19 piezometers of CGWB are monitored periodically. The locations of monitoring wells are presented as **Figure 10.** 

#### <span id="page-27-2"></span>**2.2. Hydrochemical data:**

The groundwater quality of the Kallar Aquifer System was studied by analysing available water quality data i.e CGWB monitoring open wells 9 numbers and State government monitoring wells 68 numbers. Long term record was available only for 52 numbers of open wells. The sample locations in the Kallar aquifer system is presented in **Figure 11**.

#### <span id="page-27-3"></span>**2.3. Geophysical data:**

The geophysical survey was conducted in the study area consisting of Vertical Electrical Soundings (VES) by employing Schlumberger configuration with maximum half current electrode separation of 300m. The objective of the study is to decipher the sub surface conditions such as weathered and fractured layer resistivities, thicknesses and massive formations up to the depth of 200 m bgl. A total number of 19 VES were carried out and geo electric layers inferred through interpretation of the results obtained. 55 VES were conducted through outsourcing during the NAQUIM studies to have an even understanding of the subsurface disposition of the aquifer systems. The adoption of this non invasive technology has been useful for successful interpretation of the aquifer disposition with an added advantage of economical benefit over the exploratory wells. The locations of the VES are presented in **Figure 12.**

#### <span id="page-27-4"></span>**2.4 Groundwater Exploration data:**

Data of 52 Nos. of exploratory wells were drilled in the Kallar aquifer system (19 Nos. CGWB and 33 Nos. State department wells) prior to National Aquifer Mapping project was compiled and analysed (**Figure 13**). These wells were plotted on the 1:50,000 scale topographical map and as per the NAQUIM guidelines for the hard rock& soft rocks, data requirements were identified on the plotted topographical map. Based on the data requirements, 8 Nos. of exploratory wells have been recommended for drilling through outsourcing activity as part of the data generation.The wells have been drilled at the proposed sites. The data such as lithology, fracture depth, yield, water level, aquifer properties were generated and utilised to depict the prevailing aquifer systems of the basin (Annexure-1).Similarly wells drilled by state department, 33Nos. wells drilled upto to the depth of 60 m bgl was used for deciphering the first aquifer.



<span id="page-28-0"></span>**Figure 10. The locations of monitoring wells of the Kallar aquifer system.**



<span id="page-29-0"></span>**Figure 11. Locations of Groundwater quality Monitoring Wells ofKallar Aquifer System**



<span id="page-30-0"></span>**Figure 12. Locations of Vertical Electrical Soundings (VES) of Kallar Aquifer System**



**Figure 13. Locations of all Exploratory WellsofKallar Aquifer System**

#### <span id="page-31-2"></span><span id="page-31-0"></span>**3.0 DATA INTERPRETATION, INTEGRATION AND AQUIFER MAPPING**

#### <span id="page-31-1"></span>**3.1 Hydrogeological Data Interpretation and aquifer disposition**

Kallar Aquifer system area predominantly comprises of the Precambrian crystallines, granite gneisses being the major rock type. Also minor occurrences of sedimentaries flank the south eastern part of the basin. The hard rock aquifer system is futher subdivided into two units the weathered and the fissured/ fractured units. The sedimentaries are the multi layered aquifer

system with formations ranging from Recent to Cretaceous formations (Alluvium, Tertiary and cretaceous sandstone)

#### **3.1.1. Hydrogeology of hard rock region**

Hard rock region comprising of Gneissic rocks is spread in almost the entire basin except along the soutnern flanks which is occupied by the sedimetaries (15% area of the basin) andpatchy occurrence of Charnockite rocks(B)(3% of the hard rock area) found in the central portion of the Kallar aquifer system. Hard rock regions cover an area of 1490sq, km. The gneissic formation covering an area of 1452 sq.km encompasses 15firkas**(Table 3).**The Charnockite formation covers an area of39sq.km and is found in 1firka. The gneissic formation and Charnockite formation form two aquifer units namely the weathered and fracture/jointed aquifer unit.

#### **3.1.1.1. Aquifer Unit I – Weathered**

#### **Gneiss rock area.**

The weathered aquifer unit occurs from the ground level and has a minimum thickness of 4.1 m and maximum thickness of 31 m with average thickness of 14.6m. 2D disposition along southwest to Northeast clearly shows the vertical and lateral spread of the Gneiss formation. Yield of this weathered aquifer unit ranges from 0.72 to9m<sup>3</sup>/hr with discharge of <3.6 m<sup>3</sup>/hr. During monsoon period the wells tapping this aquifer unit sustains for 2 to 4 hrs/dayof pumping, while during non-monsoon period (May to July) wells sustain pumping for less than 1 hour/day of pumping.Groundwater occurs in unconfined condition.Weathered thickness of Aquifer unit-I, Kallar Aquifer System is shown in **Figure 14.**

<span id="page-32-0"></span>

**Table3: Firkasalong the various geological formations across Kallar aquifer system.**

S.No.	<b>Parameter</b>	Minimumvalue	<b>Maximumvalue</b>
1.	<b>SpecificCapacity</b>	1.201pm/mdrawdown	118lpm/mdrawdown
	Transmissivity(T) value	$0.45 \text{ m}^2/\text{day}$	$338m^2$ /day
3.	$Storativity(S)$ value	$2.60x10^{-5}$	$3.60 \times 10^{-5}$
4.	Yield	$60.00$ lpm	180lpm

Aquifer parameters in Hard rock area

#### **Charnockite rock area**

In the area covered by charnockites the weathered aquifer unit occurs from the ground level and has a minimum thickness of 4.0 m and maximum thickness of 36 m with average thickness of 17.5 m. 2D disposition along Northwest to Southeast clearly shows the vertical and lateral spread of the Gneissic formation. Yield of this weathered aquifer unit ranges from Nil to 15  $m<sup>3</sup>/hr$  with an average discharge of 1 to  $\langle 3.6 \text{ m}^3/\text{hr}$ . During monsoon period the wells tapping this aquifer unit sustains for 2 to 4 hrs/day of pumping, while during non-monsoon period (May to July) wells sustain for less than 1 to 2 hour/day of pumping. Groundwater occurs in unconfined condition. The aquifer parameter such as transmissivity in this aquifer unit ranges from 0.2 to 253 m<sup>2</sup>/day. The Specific yield of this aquifer unit ranges from 1 to 1.5% with highly potable groundwater quality. The general EC of this aquifer unit ranges from 480 to 2350µS/cm.

#### **3.1.1.2. Aquifer Unit II (Fractured/Jointed)**

#### **Gneissic rock area**

This aquifer unit comprises of fractured and jointed Gneiss formed due to tectonic activity. Thickness of this aquifer unit is from 13 to 143 m bgl. In general3 to 4 set of fractures exists and even nil at some places). Based on the analysis of the 156 exploratory well data and 72 VES data it is observed that there is a possibility of occurrence of 3 to 4 Fractures/joints exists up to 197 m bgl in the gneissic region. The distribution of the fractures with depth is given in **Table 4.** The yield of this aquifer unit II ranges from 0.05 to 25  $\text{m}^3/\text{hr}$ . During monsoon period the wells tapping this aquifer unit sustains for 1 to 6 hrs /day of pumping, while during non-monsoon period (May to July) sustains for 1 to 3 hour/day of pumping. Transmissivity of this aquifer unit ranges from 3 to 296 m<sup>2</sup>/day **.** The general EC of this aquifer unit ranges from 370 to 2010 µS/cm.

#### **Charnockite rock area**

This aquifer unit comprises of fractured and jointed Charnockite formed due to tectonic activity. Thicknessof this aquifer unit is from 46 to 189m bgl (In general 3 to 4 set of fractures exists and even nil at some places). Based on the analysis of the 156 exploratory well data and 72 VES data it is observed that there is a possibility of occurrence of 3 to 4 Fractures/joints up to 195 m bgl in the charnockitic region**.** The distribution of the fractures with depth is given in **Table 5.**The yield of this aquifer unit II ranges from 5 to 43  $m^3$ /hr. During monsoon period the wells tapping this

aquifer unit sustains for 2 to 6 hrs /day of pumping, while during non-monsoon period (May to July) sustains for 1 to 2 hour/day of pumping.Transmissivity of this aquifer unit ranges from 010 to 442 m 2 /day **(Table 5).** The general EC of this aquifer unit ranges from 440 to 3800µS/cm.

<span id="page-34-0"></span>

#### **Table 4: Distribution of fractures in the hard rock formation**



<span id="page-34-1"></span>

#### 3.1.2. Hydrogeology of Sedimentary area of the aquifer system

Sedimentary rock region comprising of alluvium and Tertiary formations occupy the South eastern part of the aquifer system.It covers an area of 268 sq.km. sedimentary area (Alluvium, Tertiary formation& Cretaceous formation) encompasses 3firkas**(Table 6)**Alluvium and the unconfined layers of Cuddalore formations form phreatic aquifer- Aquifer unit-I, Tertiary formation is the confined aquifer unit (Cuddalore sandstone and the creataceoussandstones )defining aquifer unit II **(Table 8)**

#### **3.1.2.1 Aquifer Unit – I (Alluvium and Cuddalore Sandstone)**

The top most aquifer is the Aquifer Unit –I and it is a phreatic aquifer or Water table aquifer. This aquifer unit composed of recent river alluvium, Coastal alluvium,Cuddalore sandstone and laterite formations. The thickness of the Aquifer Unit-I varies from 6 to 10 m in the area covered

by river alluvium, about 15 to 20 m thick in the area covered by coastal alluvium and it is about 10 to 20m in areas where the Cuddalore sandstone are exposed to the surface. The thickness of the aquifer unit Iis less in the western portion and gradually increases towards east near the coast. The groundwater abstraction from the aquifer is mostly by dugwells and shallow tubewells. The diameter of the dugwells ranges from 1 to 4 m and the depth ranges from 3 to 25 m below ground level (mbgl). The dugwells are energized mostly by electric pumps and the groundwater extracted is mainly used for irrigation and domestic purposes. The depth to the water level of the phreatic aquifer ranges between 1 and 18 mbgl and yield varies in different formation. Yield of the aquifer unit in the alluvium varies from  $15$  to  $25 \text{ m}^3/\text{hr}$ . and the yield varies from 10 to 15 m 3 /hr in the phreatic unit of Cuddalore sandstone formation**.**

The transmissivity of alluvial formation ranges between  $25$  and  $150 \text{ m}^2/\text{day}$  and the specific yield ranges between 12 and 18 %. Where as the transmissivity of Cuddalore sandstone formation ranges between  $100 - 250$  m<sup>2</sup>/day and its specific yield ranges between 8 to 13%.

The waters are generally alkaline with pH ranging from  $7.0 - 8.15$ . The chemicalquality of ground water in general is good and potable except in the coastal part of the Kallar aquifer system.i.e. in coastal part of Thoothukudy district (Thoothukudy and Vedanathamfirka) the groundwater is saline. The quality deteriorates in eastern and south-eastern coastal part of the aquifer system. The Electrical conductivity map has been prepared and presented below. Aperusal of the iso-conductivity map reveals that phreatic Aquifers have EC concentrations within the permissible limit generally ranging rangingbetween 250-1000 μsiemens/cm except pockets in SE and NE swaths of the basin. For Deeper Aquifer groundwater is not potable at locations Ottapidaram, Pasuvadanai, Vedanatham, Pudukottai, Kilathattaparai and Kovilpatti.

The chloride in water is also having essentially the same distribution as that ofElectrical Conductance in the area. Chloride concentration exceeding permissiblelimit of 1000 mg/l are seen in Ottapidaram, Pasuvadanai, Vedanatham, Pudukottai, Kilathattaparai and Kovilpatti.

This may be due to the washing of salt from the upstream and also due to the insitu salinity of the formation.

#### **3.1.2.2. Aquifer Unit II : Tertiary sandstone**

Tertiary sandstone of the Kallar aquifer system consistsof Cuddalore formation and Eocene formation.

#### **Cuddalore Sandstone**

Cuddalore Sandstone comprises of argillaceous sandstone, pebble bearing sandstone, ferruginous sandstone, grits and clay beds and are whitish, pinkish, reddish in colour which are friable in nature. The sands and sandstones of Cuddalore formations of Mio-Pliocene age comprise of fine to very coarse grained and are sub-angular to sub-round in shape, occasionally with rounded pebbles of quartz with diameters even upto 3 m. The Cuddalore sandstones occur beneath the alluvium formation and in place where alluvium formations are absent; they are exposed on the surface. The sandstone formation which lies below the unconfined unit ofCuddalore formation forms the aquifer unit II which is confined in nature.The clay layers separating the unconfined and confined unit of the Cuddalore sandstone are discontinuous at many places. The depth of occurrence of aquifer unit II is between 20 and 60m bgl with thickness varying from 68 to  $>300$ m. The thickness is less in the western portion and gradually increases towards east. Clay occurs as intercalations within the sandstones at some locations The transmissivity ranges between 100
and 750 m<sup>2</sup>/day andstorativity between 1.2 x 10<sup>-3</sup> and 4.1 x 10<sup>-4</sup> respectively. The chemical quality of groundwater from the Cuddalore sandstone aquifers is of the sodium-chloride type. The degree of mineralization of waters is very high in this aquifer unit. Quality data of groundwater exploration of Cuddalore sandstone aquifers reveals that the EC. values range from 5000 to as high as 103670 micro seimens/cm. The mineralization of groundwater in the aquifer unit progressively gets concentrated from west to east in the boreholes. Groundwater in the western part of the basin is of Na-Cl-HCO<sub>3</sub> type.

The depth to weathered thickness of Aquifer I is presented in **Figure 14** and Aquifer II in **Figure 15.** 

### **Table 6: Salient features of the aquifer units in Sedimentary rock region of Kallar Aquifer System**





**Figure 14: Weathered thickness of Aquifer-I, Kallar Aquifer System**

# **ISOPACH**

**HARD ROCK** 

**Thickness of Aquifer – I Weathered crystalline and Alluvium forms Aquifer – I (Phreatic aquifer). In hardrock areas the thickness ranges from 5- 40mbgl. Depth of weathering increases towards East;** 

#### **SEDIMENTARY**

**Aquifer I in the sedimentary area : 0- 22 mbgl Max thickness observed along the southern portion**



**Figure 15: Depth of occurrence of Aquifer-II of Kallar Aquifer System**

Hard rocks





# **3.2.Groundwater Level**

During Aquifer Mapping studies in Kallar aquifer system 37groundwater monitoring wells have been established and monitored in different formations in order to know the behavior of the groundwater regime**.**Apart from this historic water level data monitored by CGWB were analyzed for both Premonsoon and Postmonsoon periods. The water levels monitored from May 2010 to January 2020 (four times in a year) is taken for the analysis. The depth of dug well ranged from 4.00 to 40.00mbgl. The Hydrogeological detail of the basin is reprented in **Figure 16.** 

### **3.2.1. Premonsoon depth to water level for Aquifer I (May2018)**

The water level data pertaining to the period of May 2018 (pre monsoon) was used for the preparation of depth to water level map of the basin. The depth to water level during May 2019 varied from 0.85 to 26.83 mbgl. Major part of the basin shows water level in the range of 5 to 10 mbgl. Patches recorded water level in the range of 10 to 20mbgl and found in north eastern portion of the basin. Water levels ranging 5 to 10mbgl are observed in the whole of western part, central part &northern part of the basin.

### **3.2.2. Postmonsoon depth to water level for aquifer I (Jan-2019)**

To prepare the depth to water level map for the period of January 2019, based on GWMW data collected from the basin area are used. The depth to water level during Jan 2019 varied from 0.92 to 9.4 mbgl.Water levels in the range of 2 to 5 mbgl found in eastern portion of the basin. Water levels ranging 5 to 10mbgl are observed in the rest of the region.

Depth to water level (Aquifer-I) - Premonsoon of the Kallar Aquifer System presented as **Figure 17**. Depth to water level (Aquifer-I) - Postmonsoonpresented as **Figure 18**.

The yield of Aquifer I range from 1 to greater than 4 lps**(Figure 19).** The yield of Aquifer II ranges from <1 to more than 10 lps**(Figure 20).**

- % of wells yield  $>$  3lps : 20%
- High discharge wells located along NW-SE trendinglineament
- Yield of bore wells : Highest discharge of 12 lps at Melamadom, 4 lps at Umarikottai,
- Major part having yield  $\langle 0.5 \rangle$  lps (75 % of wells)

In sedimentary areas

• Discharge ranging between 6 to 22 lps. High TDS of  $>10000$  mg/l making the formation water brine



**Figure 16. Hydrogeology map of the Kallar aquifer system**



**Figure 17: Depth to water level (Aquifer-I) Pre-monsoon of the Kallar aquifer system**



**Figure 18. Depth to water level (Aquifer-I): Post-monsoon of the Kallar aquifer system**



**Figure 19: Yield of Aquifer I- Kallar aquifer system**

#### **YIELD POTENTIAL HARD ROCK**

**Yield of Dug wells is 20 m3/hr in major swaths of SE and Central portion of the basin NW flanks of the basin have lower yield ranging from 10-15 m3/hr**

#### **SEDIMENTARY**

**Yield > 20 m3/hr**



#### **Figure 20. Yield of Aquifer II- Kallar aquifer system**

### **Hard rock**



 $: 20%$ 

- High discharge wells located along NW-SE trending lineament
- . Yield of bore wells : Highest discharge of 12 lps at Melamadom, 4 lps at Umarikottai,
- Major part having yield <0.5 lps (75 % of wells)

# **Sedimentary**

.Discharge ranging between 6 to 22 lps. High TDS of >10000

mg/l making the formation water brine

### **3.3 Groundwater quality**

Evaluation of ground water quality is as important as its quantity for assessment of ground water resources. Ground water is never pure and contains varying amounts of dissolved solids, the type and concentration of which depends on its source, surface and sub-surface environment and rate of ground water movement. The chemical quality of ground water is a function of the quality of the recharge water and the reactions that occur along its flow path, particularly between the moving fluid and the geologic materials. The concentrations of various chemical constituents in ground water depend on the solubility of minerals present, the residence time and the amount of dissolved carbon dioxide. In addition to the natural changes, anthropogenic activities such as sewage disposal, agricultural practices, industrial pollution etc. also contribute significantly to changes in ground water quality.

Water samples have been collected from the study area in different aquifers (Aquifer-I  $\&$ Aquifers-II) to assess the groundwater quality for drinking and irrigation purpose. The range of various chemical constituents of ground water and the general water quality of groundwater in different aquifers in Kallar basin, Tamil Nadu. Some of the important parameters have been illustrated by distribution map of Electrical conductivity, Chloride, Nitrate and fluoride. The drinking water suitability has been assessed based on Bureau of Indian Standard (IS 10500:2012

### **3.3.1. Electrical Conductivity (EC)**

Electrical conductivity is the indicator of the total mineral content of water and hence it indicates the total dissolved solids (TDS) present in water. TDS of water determines its usefulness to various purposes. Generally water having TDS <500 mg/L is good for drinking and other domestic uses. However, in the absence of alternative sources TDS up to 2000 mg/L may be used for drinking purposes. The distribution of EC in different aquifers unit I is givenin**Figure 21.** 

Phreatic Aquifers have EC concentrations within the permissible limit generally ranging between 250-1000 μsiemens/cm except pockets in SE and NE swaths of the basin.

For Deeper Aquifer

Not potable at locations

- Ottapidaram
- Pasuvadanai and Vedanatham
- Pudukottai, Kilathattaparai and Kovilpatti





### **Sodium Adsorption Ratio And Soil Infiltration**

The sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) is a measure of the amount of sodium relative to calcium and magnesium in water. It is the ratio of the Na concentration divided by the square root of one half

of the Ca+ Mg concentration. It indicates the suitability of water for use in agricultural irrigation. High levels of sodium ions in water affect the permeability of soil and can lead to wataer



**Figure 21: USSl diagram and Spatial distribution of SAR values**

infiltration issues. From the figure it is evident that the areas of Ottapidaram, Pasuvadanai, Vedanatham, Pudukottai, Kilathattaparai and Kottudankadhave high SAR values and thus counter to any efforts of artificial recharge to augment the resources. Also the groundwater in these areas are unfit for irrigation purposes**.** Further the soil infiltrations test carried out at Kottudankad, the coastal area shows that the infiltration rate is quite low to the tune of 2.6 cm/hr which underlines the inference that the high SAR values observed are impediments to recharge of groundwater. **(Figures 21&22).** 



**Figure 22 : Soil Infiltration tests in Kallar basin**

# **3.3.2. Chloride**

Chloride is one of the major anion in groundwater. The high mobility of the ion and the high solubility of chloride salts make the chloride ions present in waters. Moreover, chloride ions do not take part in any of the geochemical (or) biochemical reactions, hence it can be used as a good indicator of ground water pollution. Over 500 mg/L it imports saline taste to drinking water. BIS specified 250 mg/L as the desirable and 1000 mg/L as the permissible limit in the absence of alternate sources for drinking water.

About 81% of the groundwater samples of phreatic aquifer has the chloride concentration 250 to1000 mg/l. The distribution of chloride concentration in Aquifer-I is presented in **Figure 23**

# **3.3.3. Fluoride**

The important fluorine-bearing minerals are fluorite (Calcium fluoride), apatite (Complex fluoride- bearing silicate), certain amphiboles and micas. The concentration of fluoride in groundwater is limited due to the low solubility of most fluoride in groundwater. The solubility of fluoride in pure water at  $25^{\circ}$ C is only 8.7 ppm of fluoride. The analytical results indicate that the groundwater in the basin falls generally within the permissible limit of 1.5 mg/l. The Kallar aquifer system have the phreatic unit with groundwater having fluoride concentrations between 0.3 to 0.8 mg/l. For the deeper aquifers the general range is between 0.35 to 1.33 mg/l. The hotspots in chloride concentration are found at two sites in Ottapidramfirka, 6 sites at Vedanathamfirka, keelathaparai and Sevanthakulam. **(Figure 24**).

### **3.3.3. Uranium**

Dissolved uranium in groundwater at high concentrations is an emerging global threat to human and ecological health due to its relative radioactivity and chemical toxicity. Uranium can enter groundwater by geochemical reactions, natural deposition from minerals, mining, uranium ore processing, and spent fueldisposal. The analytical data of the groundwater samples of the Kallar Aquifer System indicate that the phreatic unit has uranium concentrations within the permissible limit ranging between 1.1 to 2.8 ppb. However hotspots are observed at Ottapidaram at 3 sites with concentration of 72, 73 and 75 ppb.

### **(Figure 25 )**



**Figure 23: Distribution of EC in Aquifer I of the Kallar Aquifer system.**



**Figure 24: Distribution of chloride in Aquifer I of the Kallar Aquifer system.**



**Figure 25: Distribution of Flouride in Aquifer I of the Kallar Aquifer system.**



**Figure 26: Distribution of Uranium in Aquifer I of the Kallar Aquifer system.**

#### **HYDROCHEMICAL FACIES OF GROUNDWATER**

The geochemical evolution of groundwater can be understood by plotting the concentration of major cations and anion in the Piper's Trilinear diagram (Piper 1944). The plots of groundwater samples in the shallow aquifers of Kallar basin, TamilNaduis shown in **Figure27.** Plotting positions of samples in the two triangles signify the characteristics of cations and anions whereas the overall characteristics of the water are presented in the diamond-shaped field by projecting the position of plots in the triangular field. Generally, in the recharge areas, ground water would be relatively fresh which is indicated by the presence of bicarbonate type of water. As water moves through the aquifer, it is enriched with minerals, and ultimately it attains the seawater composition (NaCl type water). In shallow aquifer, about 47% of the groundwater samples are Sodium chloridetype, and 35% samples are calcium magnesiumchloride type. The spatial distributin of the hydrochemical facies shows that the Na cl type of water is evenly distributed throughout the basin indicating evapo crystallization process and introduction of marine aerosols into the groundwater system along the coastal area.



**Figure 27: Groundwater facies distribution inthe Kallar Aquifer system.**

### **Insitu salinity in the coastal aquifers**

Salinity is a term used to describe the amount of salt present in a given water sample. It usually is referred to in terms of total dissolved solids measured in terms of milligrams of salts per liter (mg/L). Ground Water with a TDS concentration less than 1000 mg/L is considered as Fresh water. The somewhat arbitrary upper limit of fresh water is based on the suitability of water for human consumption. Ground water with TDS greater than 1000 mg/L is also used for domestic purpose in areas where water of lower TDS content is not available.

Generally ground water is classified as Fresh, Brackish, Saline and Brine depends on the TDS content of ground water. The Residium after fractional crystallization of NaCl  $(>\frac{35}{9}Be)$  is called as Bitrine.



### **Classification of Ground water**

The Brine content of Ground water is generally expressed in terms of degree Baumine (°Be) and measured with hygrometer. The chemical composition of brine water in the coastal aquifers of Kallare Aquifer System and the brine concentrations are furnished in Tables below.



### **Chemical Composition of Brine water – Tuticorin District**

Sl No	Location	District	Depth range (mbgl)	<b>Brine</b> concentration $(^{\circ}Be)$	Remarks
	Mullakadu	Tuticorin	$0 - 30$		<b>Brine</b>
	Mullakadu	Tuticorin	$30 - 40$		concentration
	Mullakadu	Tuticorin	$40 - 60$		increases with
	Veppolodai	Tuticorin	$22 - 45$	13.5	depth

**Brine concentrations of groundwater samples in the exploratory wells**



### **3.4. Aquifer Maps**

### **3.5.1. 2D&3D models showing Aquifer Disposition**

Aquifer Disposition (Vertical & Lateral) is generated based on the inputs of data collected through geological, geophysical, hydrogeological, and hydrochemical studies. In particular the aquifer disposition and aquifer characterization has been brought mainly by analyzing the data collected from different groundwater agencies such as 41lithologs and 137 Nos. of VES data. 2D & 3D aquifer disposition models of the aquifer system have been deciphered by using ROCKWORKS software and generate numbers of 2D cross section along different directions of

the Kallar aquifer system. All such 2D cross sections were verified and the model was calibrated to bring out the 3D aquifer disposition of the aquifer system. The type cross sections generated in different direction of the aquifer system is given in **Figures 28, 29** & the 3D aquifer disposition is shown in **Figure 30.**The exploratory wells details of CGWB wells are given in **Table 7**and the stratigraphic sequence is shown in **Table 8.** 



### **Table7 :Exploratory wells details in Kallar Aquifer System**

**Table 8: The stratigraphic sequence of the exploratory wells in Kallar basin**

EW name	Depth 1	Depth 2	Formation
Kovilpatti	0	0	Alluvium
Kovilpatti	0	0	<b>Tertiary SST</b>
Kovilpatti	0	0	Cretaceous Lst
Kovilpatti	0	98	Weathered
Kovilpatti	98	141	Fracture
Kovilpatti	141	200	Massive
Tittankulam	0	0	Alluvium
Tittankulam	0	0	<b>Tertiary SST</b>
Tittankulam	0	0	Cretaceous Lst







#### **Aquifer Mapping and Aquifer Management Plan for the Kallar Aquifer System, Tamil Nadu (AAP 2019-20)**



**Figure 28: 2D Aquifer Disposition along A-A' (NE-SW direction in Hard rock terrain of the Kallar Aquifer system).**



**Figure 29: 2D Aquifer Disposition along D-D' (NW-SE direction of the Kallar Aquifer system).**



**Figure 30: 3D Aquifer Disposition of the Kallar Aquifer system.**

#### **4.0. GROUNDWATER RESOURCES:**

The dynamic groundwater resources have been estimated as on 2020 based on the methodology suggested by Ground Water Estimation Committee (GEC) 2015.

The groundwater recharge is calculated both by groundwater fluctuation-specific yield method and by rainfall infiltration method. The annual replenishablegroundwater recharge is the summation of four components viz.

- i) Monsoon recharge due to rainfall
- ii) Monsoon recharge from other sources
- iii) Non-monsoon recharge due to rainfall
- iv) Non-monsoon recharge due to other sources

Firka-wise dynamic groundwater resources have been taken from the approved resources estimation done as on March 2020, jointly by State PWD of Tamil Nadu and CGWB, to arrive at the total resources available in the study basin. A total of 19Firkas are falling in the study area.

### **4.1. Annual Extractable Groundwater Resources:**

The annual extractable groundwater resources availability refers to the available annual recharge after allowing for natural discharge in the monsoon season in terms of base flow and subsurface inflow/outflow. This annual extractable groundwater resources includes the existing groundwater withdrawal, natural discharge due to base flow and subsurface inflow/ outflow in the monsoon season and availability for future development. As the groundwater development progresses the natural discharge gets suitably modified and comes down to negligible quantities due to interception by different groundwater structures. Hence, natural discharges in the monsoon season may not be considered and the total annual groundwater recharge may be taken as annual extractable groundwater resources.The annual extractable groundwater resources of the basin for the year 2020 is arrived at 16214 Ham.

### **4.2. Annual Groundwater Extraction**

The gross annual groundwater extraction has been assessed by using Unit draft method for irrigation draft component and by adopting formula suggested by GEC 2015 for domestic and industrial draft components. The existing annual groundwater extraction of the basin for the year 2020 is arrived at 6190Ham, and the stage of groundwater extraction is worked out at 38%.**(Figure 31).**

### **4.3. Stage of Groundwater Extraction and Categorization:**

The stage of groundwater extraction is defined by

Stage of groundwater extraction  $(\%)$  = (Existing gross annual groundwater extraction/ Annual extractable groundwater resources) x 100

Based on the stage of groundwater extraction four categories i.e.**a) Safe, b) Semi-critical, c) Critical and d) Over-exploited** have been suggested by GEC-2015.

The stage of groundwater extraction is calculated for all the 19 firkas of the aquifer system and arrived at 35%.





**Figure 31. Categorisation of assessment units in Kallar aquifer system**

### **Identification of Recharge Zones aided through Geophysical Studies, Lineaments and fractures**

Structural features in hard rocks, such as faults, dykes, contacts of zones of deep weathering are often recognized on the surface from remote sensing data as lineaments, ie linear differences in soil tone, vegetation, topographic relief linear components of drainage systems or a combination of these. Lineament studies have their gretest application for locating vertical and near vertical zones of fracturing in consolidated rocks with low primary porosity.

A number of lineaments have been identified from the satellite imagery, which have been digitized. The major linear features identified from the imagery are shown in **Figure 32.**

VES data of 70 locations in the basin have been interpreted to verify the existence of structurally weak zones and to decipher the depth of weathered rocks. The average values of apparent resistivities and the correspondingly high thicknesses of subsurface lithounits shown in most of the cases are indicators of structurally weak zones, which are important from the point of view of ground water development/ recharge.

Salient interpretations made through the analysis of data **(Table 9)** are detailed

- 3 high yielding wells located along the NW-SE trending lineaments namelyMelamadom (43.2 m3/hr), Ummarikotai (14.4 m3/hr) and Pasuvandanai (10.8  $m3/hr$
- The high yielding wellshave more sets of fractures as observed from the drilling data
- Lineament density high in this area indicating structural disturbance
- Low resistivity values ranging from 200 to 300 ohm m at 100 m depth.
- Potential shallow fractures within a depth of 50 mtrs yield above 10 lps
- Stressedfirkas along this zone indicating high groundwater development
- Deep water levels
- Low resistivity values are indicators of structurally weak zones
- NW-SE trending lineaments potential in nature
- Sustainable groundwater yields at depths ranging between 100 150 m Shallow fractures, dense lineaments, deep water levels, high yields indicative of recharge zone.

The potential groundwater zones identified through this method will aid in focused interventions addressing groundwater sustainability.



**Figure 32. Groundwater potential zones in Kallar aquifer system**

Village	Aquifer 1_Top_m bgl	Aquifer 1 Botto m_mbgl	Aquifer_1_ Thickness m	Aquife $r_2$ To p_mbg I.	Aquifer_2_Bo ttom_mbgl	Aquif $er_2$ <b>Thick</b> ness m	<b>Potential zone</b> /Granular zone/Fracture zone 1 From (mbgl)	<b>Potential zone</b> /Granular zone/Fracture zone 1 To (mbgl)	Q lpm
Eppodumve	0	17.5	18						
nran (GHSS) EW				17.5	72.5	55	72	72.5	30
KALANKARI YANPATTI EW	0	21	21	21	35	14	34	35	$\mathbf{1}$
KAMANAYA	0	6	6						
KKANPATTI				6	37	31			15
KARISALKUL AM EW	0	16.2	16	16.2	137	120	136	136.5	30
<b>KURUKKUS</b> ALAI	0	23	23	23	34	11	32.36	34	11
MELAERAL	0	12	12	12	139.04	127	138.04	139.04	30
<b>OTTANATH</b> AM EW	0	14	14	14	40	26	38.98	39.9	72
SEKKARAKU DI	0	6	6	6	61	55	55	61	26
SILLANGUL AM	0	$\overline{7}$	$\overline{7}$						
SIVAGNANA PURAM (G.	0	6	6						
HS. S) OW				6	27.74	21.7	26.74	27.74	201
SIVAGNANA PURAM EW	0	5.5	6	5.5	42.98	37.4	41.98	42.98	5
Kailaspura m (Kilakottai) <b>OW</b>	0	8	8						
M.Pudur (A.Thiyakuri chi) EW	0	17	17						
Meignanap uram EW	0	37	37	37	47.5	10.5	47	47.5	12
Parivilikotta j. (Malaipatti) EW	0	9	9						
Pudukottai (Panchalam kurichi A/C)	0	17	17						
EW				17	90.5	73.5	90	90.5	8
Thimmaraja puram EW	$\pmb{0}$	17	17	$17\,$	83.5	66.5	83	83.5	12

**Table9 : Exploratory well analysed to interpret groundwater potential zones**

### **5.0. GROUNDWATER RELATED ISSUES:**

The Kallar aquifer system is predominantly occupied by hard rocks which warrants cautious groundwater development strategy because of the below mentioned issues

- Poor Yielding aquifers
- $\triangle$  Drying up of shallow wells
- Decrease in yield of borewells affecting the sustainability of abstraction structures
- Insitu Salinity
- Limited scope for Artificial Recharge Schemes in the saline tracts of the basin
- $\triangle$  Limited freshwater availability in sedimentary areas occuring as floating lenses makes the coastal tract vulnerable for water quality changes
- Pollution of groundwater due to industrial effluents

Groundwater is extensively utilized for irrigation in the entire basin area for the past two decades, especially in Parivallikottai ,Kadambur , Ottapidaram, Nallathimpudur, Kamananpatti, Kovilpattiand Thoothukudifirkas - out of the 19firkas of the study area. The aquifer system is also stressed due to the insitu salinity observed all along the southern flanks of the basin which further is a major impediment to the availability of sustainable groundwater resources.

## **5.1.Geographical distribution & Resource Availability:**

In the study area northern and northwestern part is reeling under over development. Over all out of 19firkas of the study areas, Parivallikotaifirka is categorized under critical stage.Alsofirkas which are under groundwater stressed conditions owing to geological constraint are Kadambur, Ottapidaram, Nallathimpudur, Kammanaickanpatti and Pasuvanthanai. These areas have low groundwater potential and hence have minimal development. Groundwater extraction is to the tune of 62, 65, 51, 55 and 48%.

Based on the out put of the aquifer mapping studies a management plan is chalked out for the further management of resources available in the aquifer system.

### **5.2. Massive formation and Poor Aquifer:**

Fracture analysis of the borewells drilled in the study area reveals that the almost entire area is covered under hard rock terrain represented by the Gneiss group of rock with marginal occurrence of Charnockite and sedimentaries distribute along the centre and southern part of the basin respectively. Fractures in the gneissic terrain occur within 40-60 m bgl and the frequency of occurrence of fractures is promising in this depth zone. In some area the fracture system existupto the depth of 197 m bgl, but the frequency of occurrence of fractures in these depth ranges is low. Comparatively Charnockite are more massive than granitic gneiss and it occupies only around 3% of the study basin. The interesting inference made after the analysis of the yields from bore well is that the high yield wells are located along these geologic divide ie the gneiss and the charnockite divide.

### **5.3. Future Demand Scenario and Stress on Aquifer system**:

Future groundwater demand projected for domestic utilization upto the year 2025 is calculated as  $24$  MCM. This will have minimal additional stress on the aquifer system compared to the existing groundwater draft. However, draft can be regulated through increasing the water efficiency practices in irrigation sector. Already the dependency on groundwater for domestic and drinking needs is decreasing in groundwater contaminated areas as the alternative surface/ river sources are being harnessed.

# **6.0 AQUIFER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

### **Management Strategies**

Both supply side and demand side interventions are required for efficient management of groundwater resources within the Kallar aquifer system. Kallar Aquifer Systemhas only one firka, Parivalikottaifirka which is categorised as critical. The Net availability of the resource is 162.14 MCM. The total ground water demand for the basin is 62 MCM. Based on the supply of groundwater resources, the stage of groundwater development of the basin is 38.18%. The stage of groundwater development for the critical firka, Parivalikottai is 95.55% (based on 2020). To bring safe groundwater development, 25% of groundwater development should be added to the groundwater system in the stressefirka also customized management strategies are adopted in the safe firkas wherein the stage of development is 50% and above to have a long term sustainability of the groundwater resources. Therefore, supply side intervention is proposed in the basin through groundwater augmentation plan as sufficient uncommitted surplus runoff of 182ha m is available in the basin. The most acceptable method for augmentation plan is artificial recharge to groundwater.

## **6.1 Supply side intervention**

Based on the water level monitoring in different seasons across the basin, as well as after having better understanding of the disposition and extent of the aquifer system through exploratory drilling, pumping tests etc. the volume of unsaturated zone available for recharge (upto 3m bgl) is 132 ha m.. The annual uncommitted runoff is 182 ha m and73% of water from uncommitted runoff is required to fill the available void space of aquifer-I. Artificial recharge and Water conservation plan is prepared firka wise in the basin to harness  $\frac{8}{8}$  MCM of water. The suggested artificial recharge structures are mainly Nala bunds, Check Dams and Recharge Shafts in addition to removal of silt in the surface tanks.

A total number of 31 check dams, 49 Nala bunds and 94 recharge shafts are proposed in the stressedfirkas of the basin. A total number of 234 Recharge Rejuvenation Ponds are selected for desilting followed by construction of recharge shafts within the tanks. The expected recharge through these artificial recharge structures is 13 MCM. The stage of groundwater development would reduce and this increase in resources would translate to enhanced irrigation potential.

## **Water Conservation Plan**

A total number of 234 recharge ponds covering an area of 20.4 sq km is proposed which will act as storage tanks in farm as well as augment groundwater recharge and the expected annual groundwater recharge through these ponds are in the order of 10 MCM. The deatails provided in the table below



### **6.2 Demand side Management Plan**

Demand side management can be accomplished through modification in the irrigation practice. It is recommended to modify the conventional practices in irrigation for paddy, Sugarcane and Banana crops. The general practice for paddy irrigation is by flooding method. It is recommended for ridge and furrow method instead of flooding method and this would save 2.08 MCM of water annually if the practice is adopted for 30%f irrigated area and the water saved will be (**Figure 33**).3.5 MCM if the practice is adopted in 50% of the irrigated area.

#### Table





**Groundwater augmentation + Change in irrigation pattern area way forward for ensuring sustainabilityof groundwater resources of the basin.** 



# **AQUIFER MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR KALLAR BASIN**










#### **Development and management of Coastal Aquifers in the Kallar Aquifer Syatem**

The coastal aquifers of Tuticorin area needs careful management practices in view of the vulnerable sea water instruction problems and limited scope for artificial recharge schemes in saline tracts.

Necessary measures for regulating the exploitation of ground water may be implemented particularly in Teri sand aquifer area and fresh water bearing Tertiary sandstone areas along the coast has to be notified.

Modeling of coastal aquifers is needed for varies stress conditions in view of brine and fresh water development is very high in the region.

Intensive monitoring of ground water levels and water quality is to be taken up to monitor the movement of fresh and saline water interface.



### **Annexure I: Details of Artificial Recharge Structures Proposed in Kallar Aquifer system**













**CD: Check Dam, NB: Nala Bund, RS: Recharge shaft, RRR: recharge shaft with revival**



# **Annexure2 : Details of the Artificial recharge structures implemented by the State Groundwater Department**

























# **Annexure III: Groundwater Resources of KallarAquifer System**





# **Annexure V: Exploratory well details in Kallar Basin**





