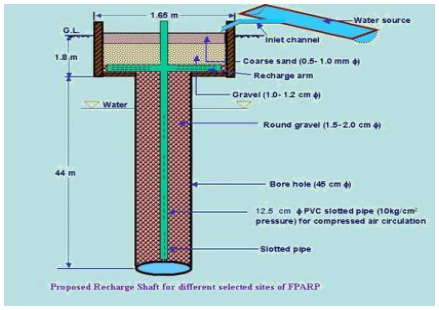
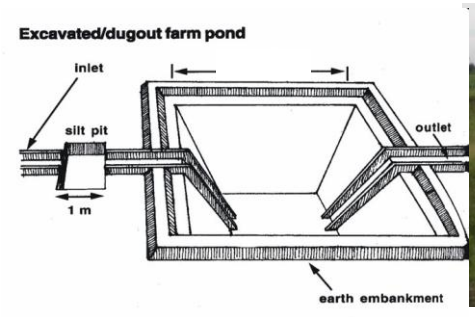
Plan on Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Water Conservation in Erode North Firka, Erode Taluk, Erode District, Tamil Nadu





By

Central Ground Water Board
South Eastern Coastal Region
RajajiBhawan, Besant Nagar
Chennai

Content

AT GLANCE	
Name of Firka	Erode North
Taluk	Erode
District	Erode
State	Tamil Nadu
Total area in Sq.Km	39.861
Total Area Suitable for Recharge in Sq. Km	39.861
Lat. & Lon.	11°21'05"to11°27'42" & 77°38'35"to 77°41' 52".
Rainfall	927 mm
Monsoon	718 mm
Non- Mon soon	209 mm
Geology	Crystalline metamorphic gneiss complex comprising Hornblende gneiss
WATER LEVEL	
Pre – Monsoon (May -2015)	1.65 to 20.07 m bgl.
Post - Monsoon (Jan_2016)	1.00 to 14.90 m bgl.
GROUND WATER RESOURCES ESTIMATION	
Replenish able ground water resources	9.78 MCM
Net ground water available	8.80 MCM
Ground water draft for irrigation	4.98 MCM
Groundwater draft for domestic & industrial water supply	7.14 MCM
Total ground water draft	12.11 MCM
Stage of ground water development (%)	138 %
Uncommitted surface runoff available for the Firka	4.29 MCM
Total volume of weathered zone	4.78 MCM
Total volume available for recharge (considering 12 m depth from 3 m bgl	7.18 MCM
ARTIFICIAL RECHARGE /CONSERVATION MEASURES	
Structures Proposed (tentative) Masonry Check dam Nalla Bund Revival, repair of pond, tanks with recharge shaft Only shafts in Bigger tanks/Canals Farm Pond	 6 21 55 1 30
Improving Water Efficiency/ Saving (Micro irrigation system for 50 ha)	0.35 MCM
Expected recharge	0.513 MCM
Excepted total groundwater recharge/ saving	0.863 MCM
Tentative total cost of the project	2.92 Cr
Expected raise in water level by recharging/saving.	1.42 m

Plan on Artificial Recharge to Groundwater and Water Conservation in Erode North Firka, Erode Taluk, Erode district, Tamil Nadu

1. Introduction

India is the largest user of groundwater in the world. Food grain security of the country is largely dependent on water resources and groundwater resources play major role in irrigation sector. Imprints of Over-Exploitation on groundwater resources are being observed as steep deepening of water levels, drying of shallow groundwater abstraction structures, ingress of salinity in fresh aquifers etc. which signal towards taking necessity of emergent action for artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting by utilizing surplus runoff and maintaining groundwater resources at sustainable stage.

In Tamil Nadu dependency on groundwater has increased many folds during the recent years and the groundwater extraction for irrigation, domestic and industries have resulted in lowering of water levels, long-term water level declining trend and even drying up of wells. In order to regulate the groundwater development, Central Ground Water Board in association with State Ground Water Departments has computed Dynamic Groundwater Resources and categorized blocks as Over Exploited, Critical, Semi Critical and Safe.

Out of 1129 firkas (assessment units) in Tamil Nadu the groundwater situation in 374 firkas overexploited, 48 firkas critical, 235firkas semi-critical, 437 firkas safe and 35 firkas are saline. Various measures such as rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge and water use efficiency are successfully practiced by some NGOs, Central and State govts., which need replication at larger scale in close coordination with State govt. agencies and stakeholders so that capacity building of state implementing agencies and awareness of stakeholders towards artificial recharge and rainwater harvesting can be made.

2. Objectives of the scheme

Objectives of the proposed scheme are

- To upscale recharge activities, supplement additional groundwater resources by harvesting surplus runoff, sustainability of groundwater resources at shallow depths
- Recovery of over-exploited groundwater areas by implementing artificial recharge measures in groundwater stress areas.
- Conservation, development and sustainable management of natural resources including their use.

3. Study area details

3.1 Location

The total area of Erode North firka is 39.861 sq.km and Erode North firka lies between North latitudes 11°21’05“to 11°27’42” and east longitudes 77°38’35”to 77°41’ 52”. Location map of Erode North firka is given in Figure 1.

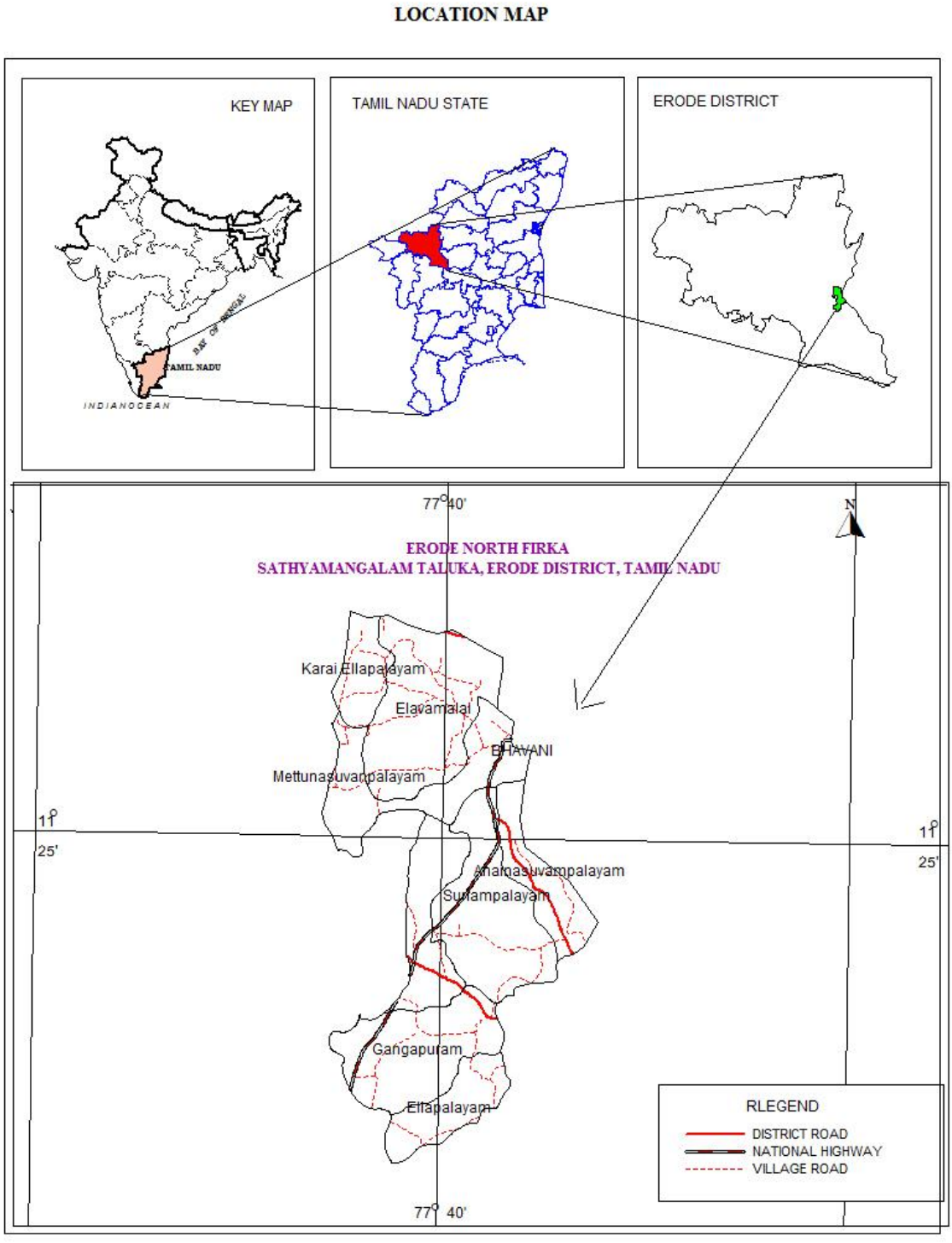


Figure 1. Location map of Erode North firka

3.2 Geomorphological Set up

Geomorphologically, the area consists of dissected/undissected pediment , moderate pediment, shallow pediment and piedmont zone. In plain landforms, Pediplain weathered moderate and shallow occupies major part of the firka. These landforms are influencing the ground water recharge (*Source: IRS, Anna university, Chennai Tamil Nadu). Geomorphological map prepared using IRS- 1D data on 1: 50,000 scale and units are as per NNRMS standard*s. Mostly the firka forms the part of uplands of the district. The various geomorphological units with its % of coverage area are given in table 1. and shown in figure 2.

Table 1. Various geomorphological units with its % of coverage area in Erode North firka

LANDFORMS	% of Area
DISSECTED/UNDISSECTED PEDIMENT	56
MODERATE PEDIMENT	12
PIEDMONT ZONE	1
SHALLOW PEDIMENT	32

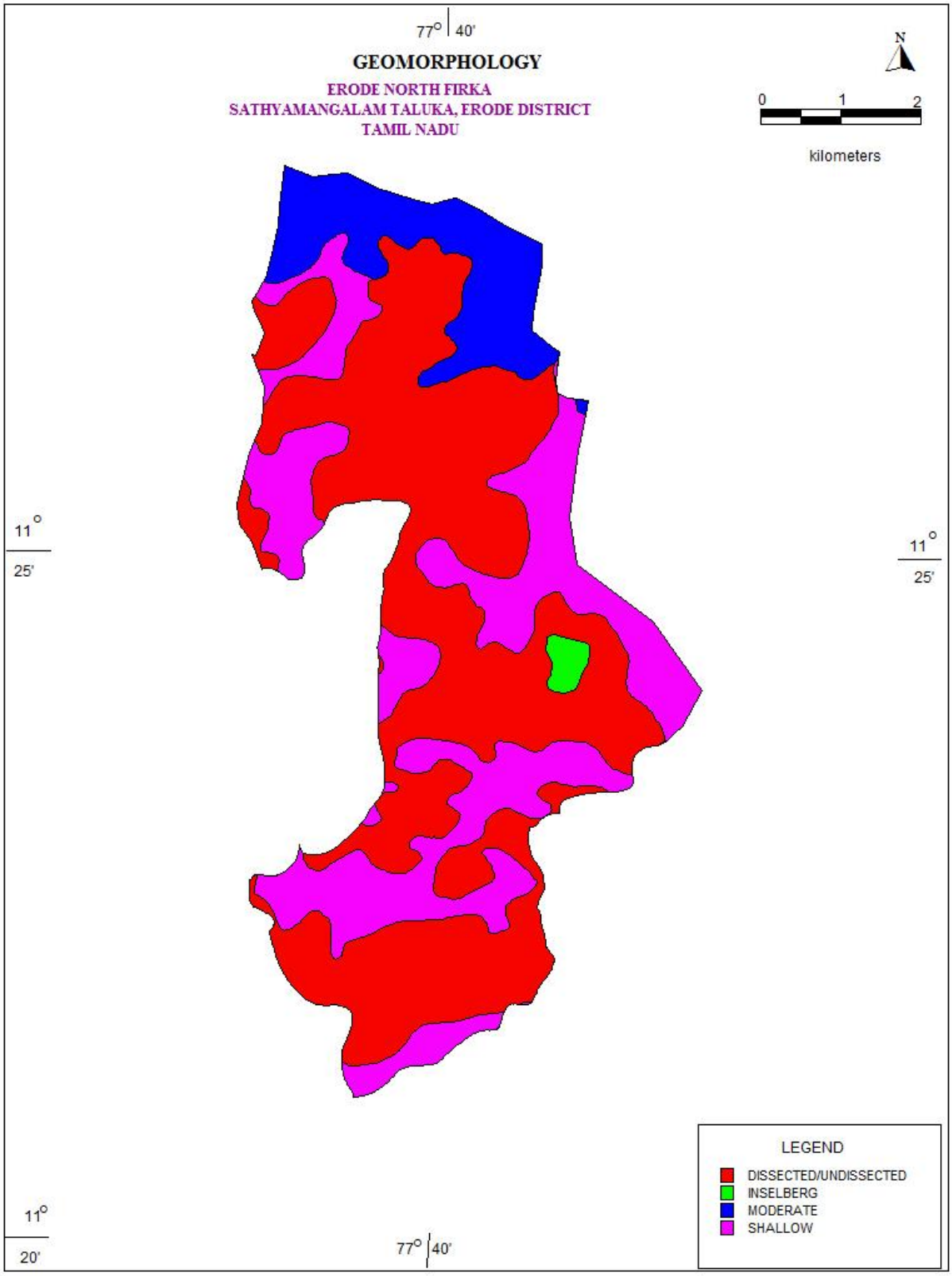


Figure 2. Geomorphology of Erode North Firka

3.3 Land use and soil

The land use pattern of the Erode North Firka is given in figure 3. Predominantly the most of the area is characterised by the wet crop, plantation and dry crop (i.,e agricultural field) and accounts for 74 % of the total area of the firka (Source: IRS, Anna university, Chennai Tamil Nadu). This area is highly suitable for water conservation and recharge. The soil is mainly of Ustorthents type, which covers more than 90% of the firka. The soil map is given in Figure 4.

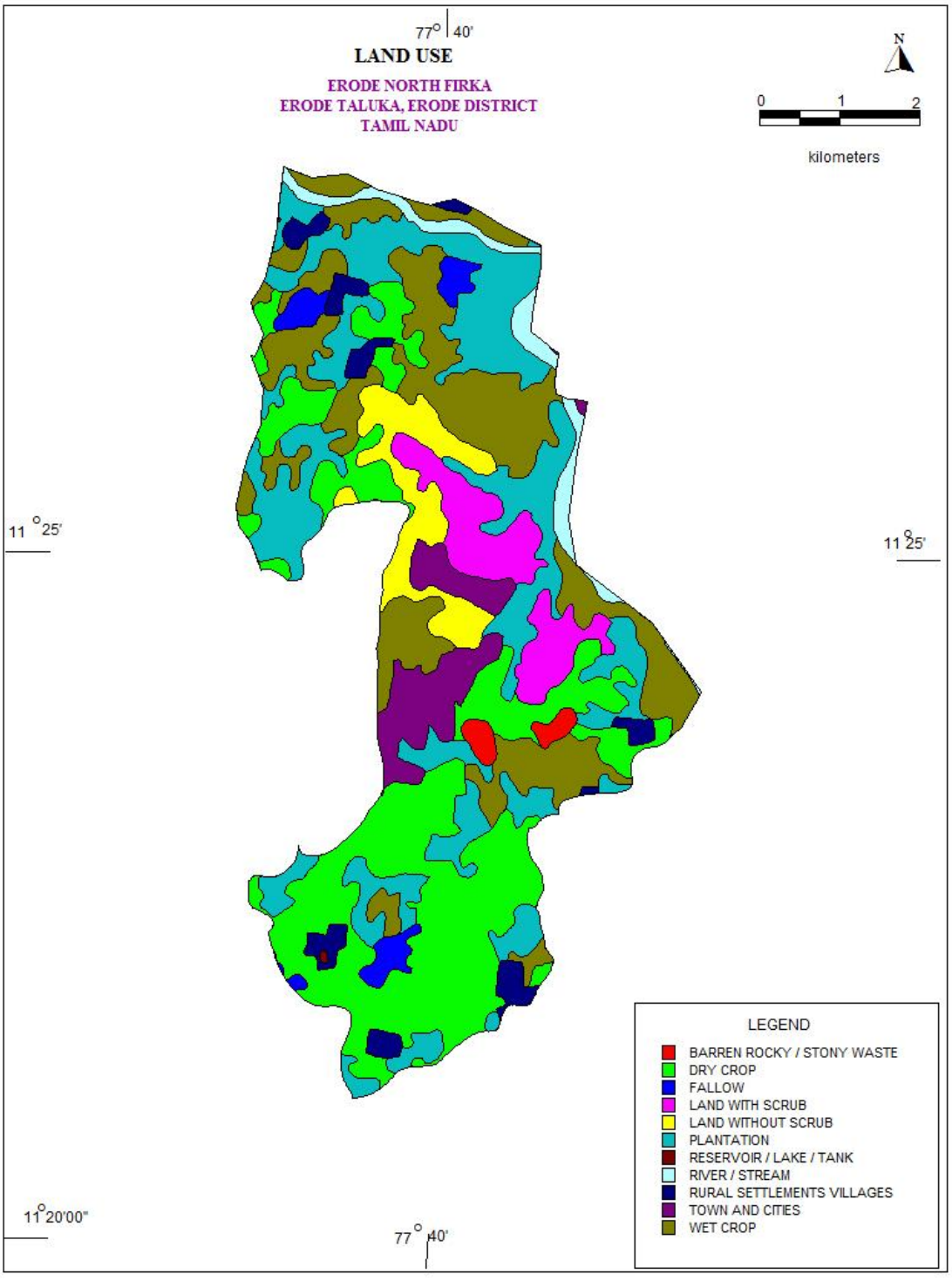


Figure 3.Landuse map of Erode North firka

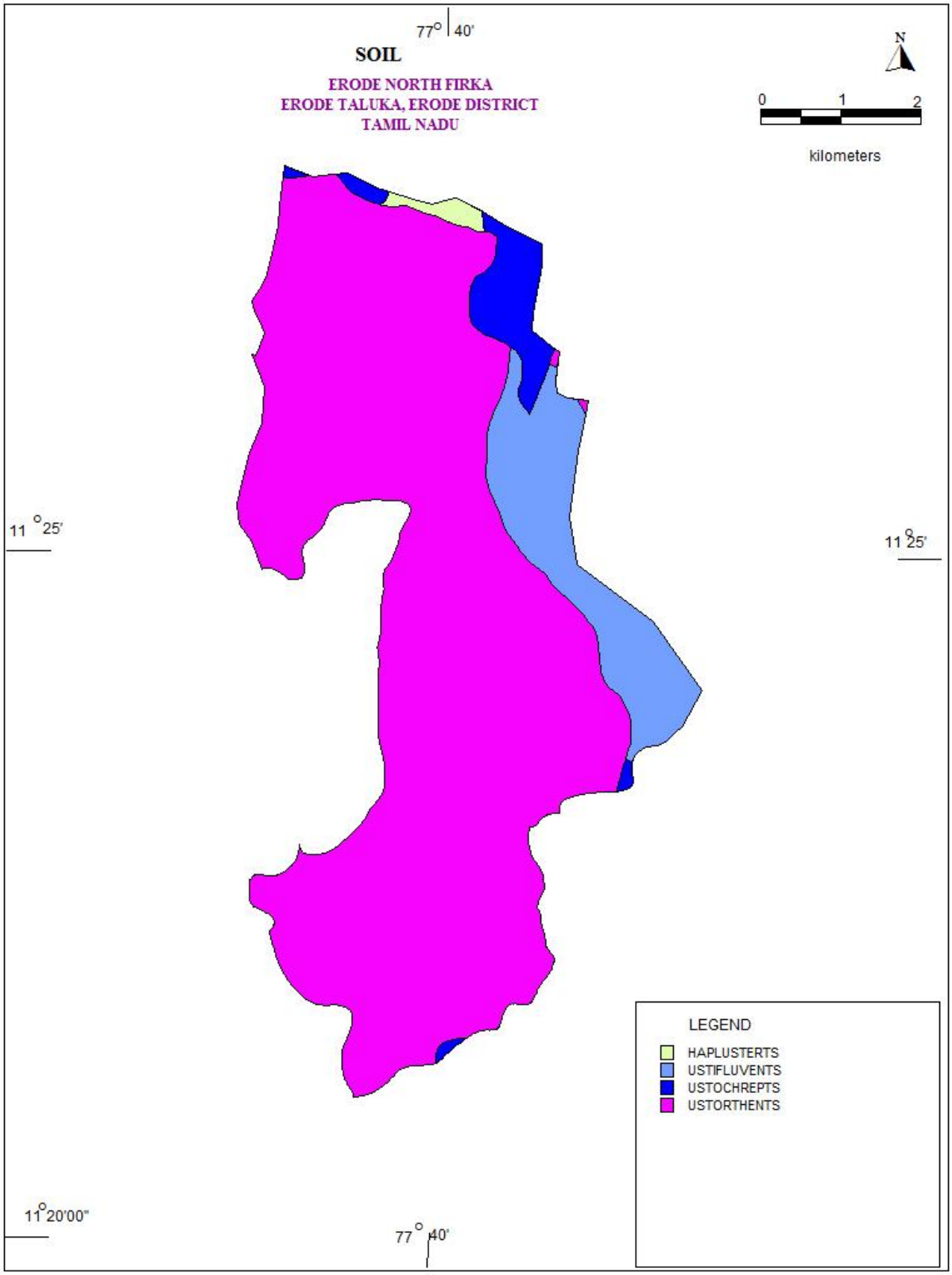


Figure 4.Soil map of Erode North Firka

3.4 Drainage

The entire Firka area falls in the Cauvery river basin. Minor streams are flowing and only seasonal floods inundate the streams. Basin sub soil water is used to irrigate the lands. Tanks and surface water bodies are spread over the entire firka. River Bhavani flows through the firka in the northern fringe. The river is perennial fed mostly by Southwest monsoon and North east monsoon also supplements its water resources. The drainage pattern is the dendritic and sub- dendritic. The drainage map of Erode North firka is given in Fig 5.

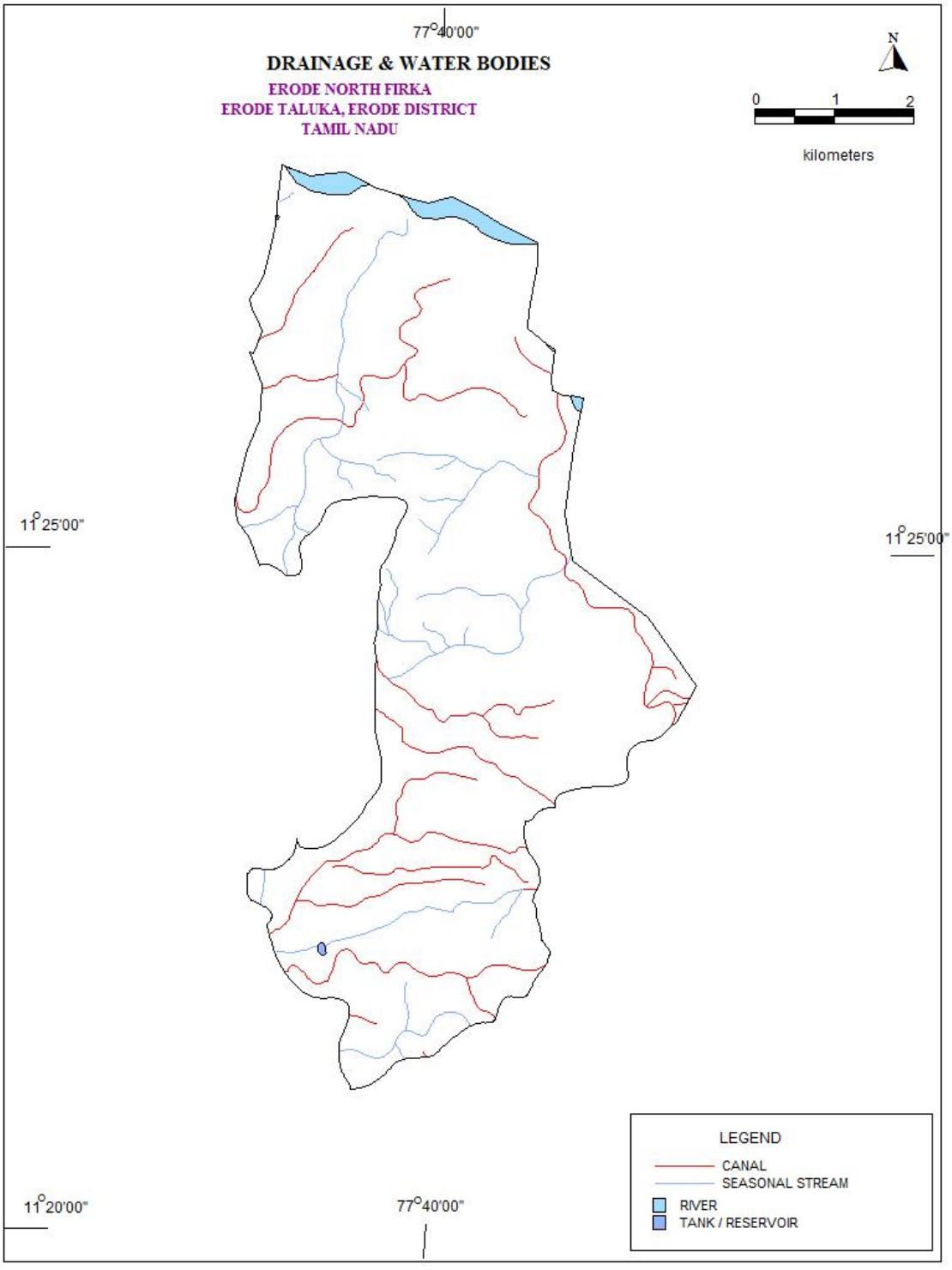


Figure 5.Drainage map of Erode North Firka

3.5 Rainfall

Erode North area falls under tropical climate with temperature in the summer months of March to May. The average temperature varies from 19 to 35° C. The humidity is also high in the order of 70%. The wind speed is high during the months of July and August. The wind speed ranges from 7.4 to 12.6 km/hr, which increases from 100 to 120 km/hr during cyclone period. Erode North Firka receives rainfall from southwest monsoon (June – September), northeast monsoon (October – December) and non-monsoon periods (January – May). The area receives the major rainfall from northeast monsoon. Rainfall is generally heavy during low-pressure depressions and cyclones during the northeast monsoon period. The normal annual rainfall is 927 mm.

Taluk	Name of Firkas	Area in sq.km	Monsoon rainfall (Jun to Dec) In m	Non monsoon rainfall (Jan – May) In m	Total Rainfall In m
Erode	Erode North	39.861	0.718	0.209	0.927

3.6 Hydrogeology

The entire firka is underlain by the crystalline metamorphic gneiss complex consisting Ferruginous Hornblede –Biotite gneiss, Epidote-Hornblede gneiss. Ground water is occurring in phreatic conditions in weathered and fractured gneiss rock formation. The weathering is highly erratic and the depth of abstraction structures is controlled by the intensity of weathering and fracturing.Large diameter dug well is more common ground water abstraction structures in the area. The diameter of the dug well is in the range of 3 to 10 m and depth of dug wells range from 6 to 18 m bgl. The dug wells yield up to 1 lps in summer months and few wells remains dry. The yield is adequate for irrigation for one or two crops in monsoon period.

The depth of wells varies from 6.64 to 17 m bgl. The present water levels in tn the firka is in the range of 1.7 to 14.90 m bgl during pre- monsoon (May 2015) and from 1.00 to 20.07 m bgl during post monsoon (January 2016). The hydro geological map of Erode North firka is given in Figure 6.Decadal mean water level ofpre-monsoon and post monsoon are given in fig 7a & b. The decadal maps reveal that, mean water level during pre-monsoon in majority area is < 10 m bgl likewise during post monsoon majority part is under < 5m ground water level.

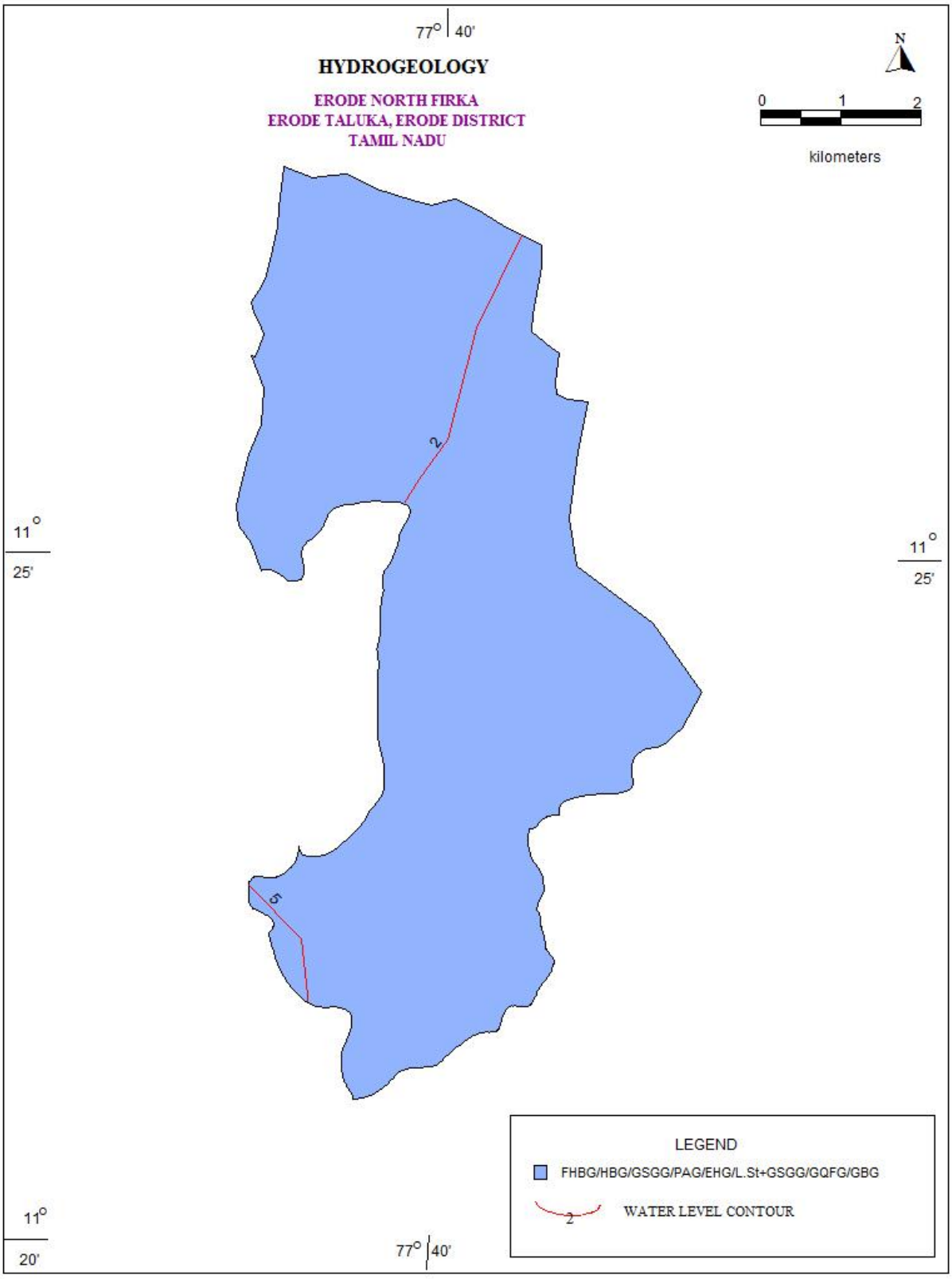


Figure 6 Hydrogeological Map of Erode North firka

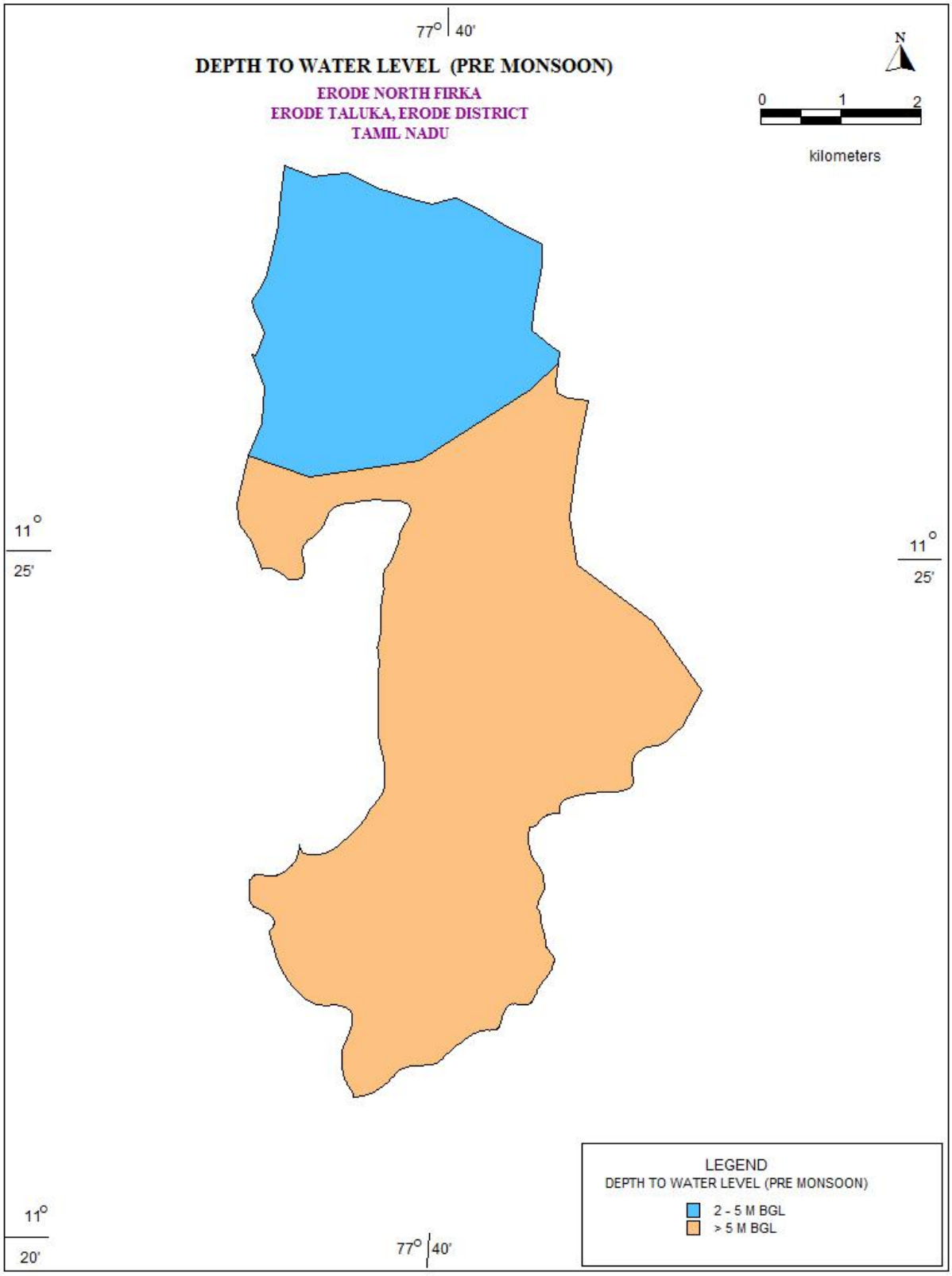


Figure 7a.Pre -monsoon (decadal) water level in Erode North firka

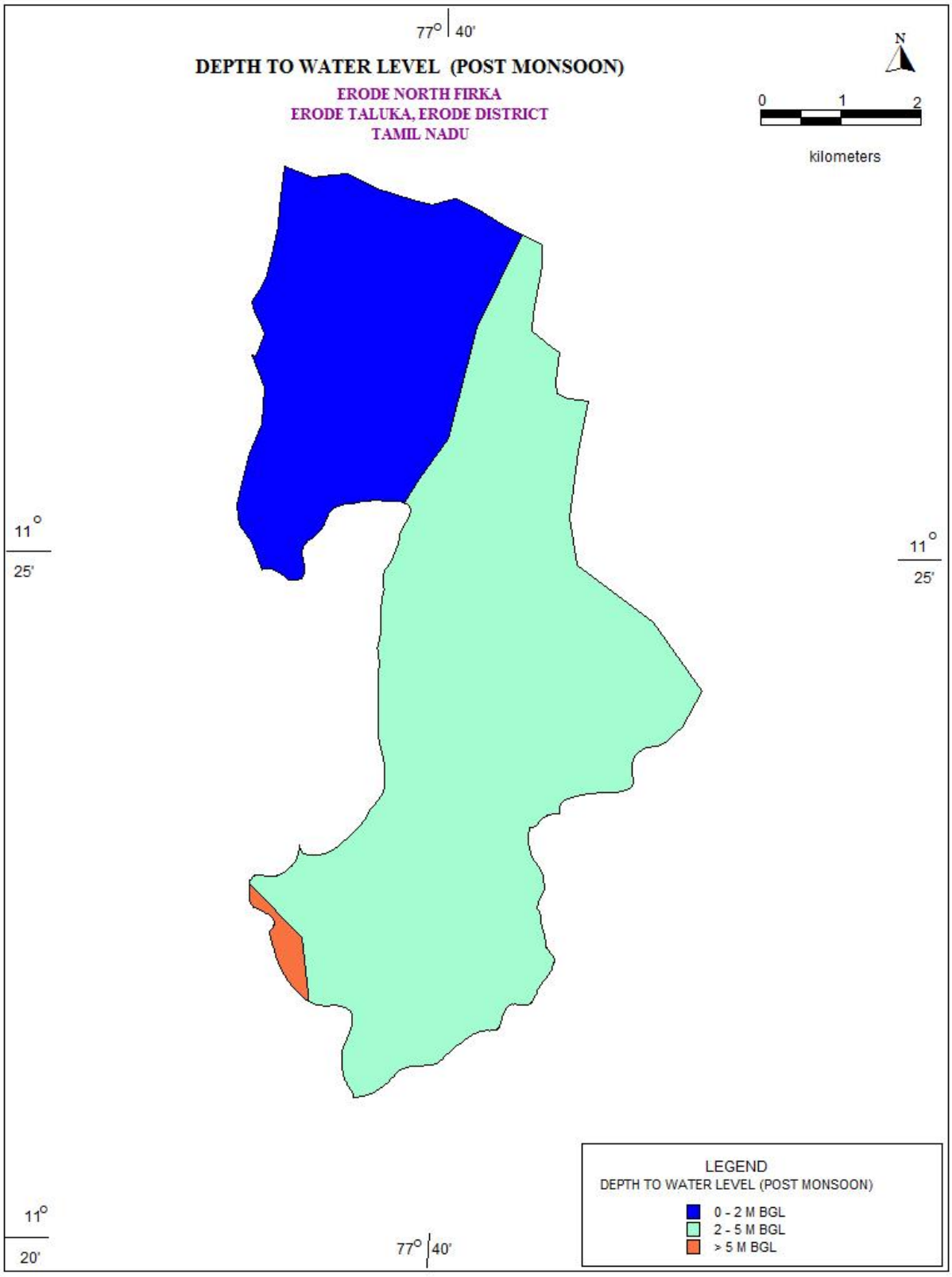


Figure 7b. Post-monsoon (decadal) water level in Erode North firka

3.7 Dynamic Ground water Resources

The ground water resources have been computed jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Resources Data Centre (PWD, WRO, Govt. of Tamil Nadu) as on 31st March 2011. The computation has been done using GEC1997 methodology. The salient features of the computations are furnished in table 2.

Table 2. Dynamic Ground water resources estimation of Erode North firka

Firka	GW WORTHY AREA	REPLENISHABLE GROUND WATER RESOURCES	NET GROUND WATER AVAILABLE	GROUND WATER DRAFT FOR IRRIGATION	GROUNDWATER DRAFT FOR DOMESTIC & INDUSTRIAL WATER SUPPLY	TOTAL GROUND WATER DRAFT	STAGE OF GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT (%)	CATEGORY
	(Sq.Km)	(In MCM)					%	
Erode North	39.861	9.77	8.8	4.97	7.13	12.11	138	OVER EXPLOITED

4. Spatial Data Integration

The potential area for groundwater recharge is highly influenced by Geology, Geomorphology, Land use /land cover, Drainage, Surface Water Body, Weathered Thickness and first fractured Depth in the area. In order to ascertain the suitable area for groundwater recharge in firka, spatial data integration of have been attempted using index overlay model in GIS environ. In this model, above seven layers have been integrated by assigning weightage for the theme having scale of 1-100 and sub-classes of the theme between 1 to 10 scales. The resultant map has been reclassified into four classes(High-low integrated values) indicating the suitable area for artificial recharge and given in fig-7 and described below.

ZONE	% OF AREA COVERAGE	SIGNIFICANCE*
Very high	0	Suitable for all major recharge structures like Percolation pond and stop dam, check dam etc.,
High	18	Suitable for all major recharge structures like stop dam, check dam etc.,
Moderate	66	Suitable for all major recharge structures like earthen check dam, Boulder check dam and Nala bund etc.,
Poor	16	Hilly/Forest /Catchment area

*However, the field verification is required to confirm above potential area for groundwater recharge.

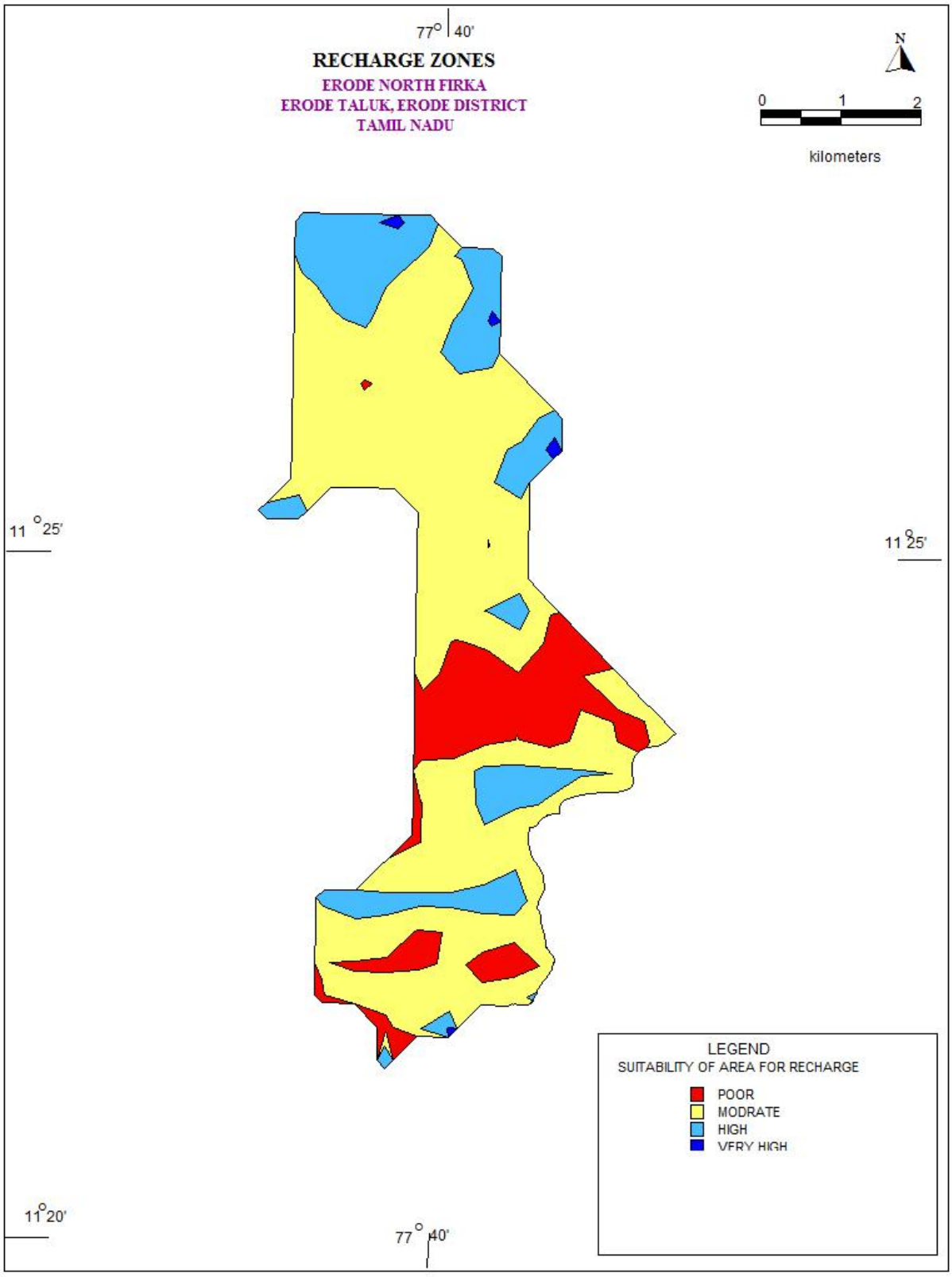


Figure 7 Showing the recharge worthy area Erode North firka

5. Planning for groundwater recharge /conservation

5.1 Justification of the artificial recharge & conservation measures

- The Erode North Firkas is with high stage of groundwater development i.e, 138 % and with sufficient amount of uncommitted surface runoff/flow of 4.29 MCM.
- The total weathered zone available beneath the ground in the firka is 4.78 MCM. Out of these total volume available for recharge considering 12 m depth from 3 m is 7.17 MCM.
- The Erode North Firka consists of few surface water bodies /lakes . Revival and Recharge of these ponds will enhance the sustainability of the ground water abstraction structures.
- However, most of the ground water developments for agricultural purposes are met through dug-cum bore well and bore wells only. Hence, there is sufficient scope of recharge.
- Model generated in the Erode North areas reveals that more than 18 % of areas are suitable for recharge.
- In Erode North firka more than 74 % area is characterised by the agricultural activities, there is sufficient scope for the water conservation measures for enhance the crop production and better ground water development.

5.2 Availability of surplus surface water for artificial recharge or conservation

The uncommitted surface flow for Erode North Firka is estimated as per the norms followed by State Ground & Surface Water Resources data centre, PWD, Taramani, Chennai (Aug 2015). The available of surplus surface water for Erode North Firka is 4.29 MCM.

5.3 Proposed interventions including tentative location of artificial recharge /conservation measures

On basis of above description the following three type of approach have been made to propose artificial recharge or conservation structures.

a. Artificial recharge
b. Water conservation measure
c. Water Efficiency

5.3.1 Artificial recharge

The details of artificial recharge structure proposed along with justification are given below.

5.3.1.1 Check dam/Nala bund

Erode North firka area is covered by the seasonal nallahs/drains which carry heavy discharge during monsoon period. As per the integrated model prediction around 30 % of the firkas areas are suitable for these structures. It is proposed to construct 6 Check dam and 21 Nala bunds. The tentative location of these 27 ARs are given below and shown in Plate 1. The size and location of these structures are tentative and details field survey is essential to ascertain the exact size and location.

Tentative location of proposed 6 Check dam in Erode North firka

S.No.	STRUCTURES	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE
1	CHECK DAM	77.6580	11.4500
2	CHECK DAM	77.6755	11.4267
3	CHECK DAM	77.6780	11.4106
4	CHECK DAM	77.6718	11.4043
5	CHECK DAM	77.6781	11.3748
6	CHECK DAM	77.6661	11.3575

Tentative location of proposed 21 Nalla bund in Erode North firka

S.No.	STRUCTURES	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE
1	NALABUND	77.6708	11.4063
2	NALABUND	77.6667	11.4064
3	NALABUND	77.6615	11.4115
4	NALABUND	77.6598	11.4092
5	NALABUND	77.6676	11.4108
6	NALABUND	77.6622	11.4007
7	NALABUND	77.6656	11.4186
8	NALABUND	77.6661	11.4220
9	NALABUND	77.6480	11.4147
10	NALABUND	77.6500	11.4179
11	NALABUND	77.6449	11.4185
12	NALABUND	77.6559	11.4240
13	NALABUND	77.6591	11.4252
14	NALABUND	77.6614	11.4275
15	NALABUND	77.6665	11.4257
16	NALABUND	77.6565	11.4342
17	NALABUND	77.6512	11.3677
18	NALABUND	77.6462	11.3749
19	NALABUND	77.6686	11.3725
20	NALABUND	77.6749	11.3707
21	NALABUND	77.6639	11.3610

5.3.1.2 Revival, repair of water bodies

The existing ponds and tanks in loose their storage capacity as well as the natural ground water recharge through these water bodies has also become negligible due to siltation and encroachment by farmers for agriculture purposes. There are several such villages where ponds/

tanks are in dilapidated condition. These existing village tanks which are normally silted and damaged can be modified to serve as recharge structure in case these are suitably located to serve as percolation tanks. Through desilting, coupled with providing proper waste weir, the village tanks can be converted into recharge structure. Several such tanks are available in the area which can be modified for enhancing ground water recharge. Studies, however, are needed to ascertain whether the village tanks are suitably located to serve as recharge structures. The location of the only 1 existing pond has been identified with latitude and longitude given below and marked on Plate 1. The above 1 tank could be taken up for the renovation with recharge shaft .

Tentative location of proposed de-siltation of pond/tanks with recharge shaft in Erode North firka.

Sl.NO	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE	STRUCTURE	ACTION
1	77.6537	11.3675	TANK / RESERVOIR	DESILTTAION AND RECHARGE SHAFT

It is also proposed to construct 30 Recharge shafts in the canal beds which could recharge 4179 cu. m of rain water.

Tentative location of proposed recharge shafts in the canal beds in Modakurichi firka

S.No.	STRUCTURES	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE
1	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6682	11.3758
2	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6606	11.3745
3	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6557	11.3723
4	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6640	11.3756
5	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6635	11.3866
6	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6587	11.3770
7	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6729	11.3806
8	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6537	11.3638
9	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6580	11.3666
10	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6623	11.3653
11	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6665	11.3641
12	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6733	11.3650
13	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6720	11.3623
14	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6606	11.3963
15	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6630	11.3936
16	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6679	11.3954
17	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6733	11.3946
18	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6778	11.3937
19	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6753	11.3970
20	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6929	11.4005
21	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6916	11.4063
22	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6874	11.4091
23	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6480	11.4426
24	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6483	11.4365
25	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6635	11.4400
26	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6499	11.4315

27	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6462	11.4270
28	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6648	11.4346
29	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6755	11.4336
30	SHAFT IN CANAL BED	77.6818	11.4312

5.3.2 Water conservation measure

5.3.2.1 Farm Pond

A farm pond is a large dug out in the earth, usually square or rectangular in shape, which harvests rainwater and stores it for future use. It has an inlet to regulate inflow and an outlet to discharge excess water. The pond is surrounded by a small bund, which prevents erosion on the banks of the pond. The size and depth depend on the amount of land available, the type of soil, the farmer's water requirements, the cost of excavation, and the possible uses of the excavated earth. Water from the farm pond is conveyed to the fields manually, by pumping, or by both methods.

Advantages of Farm Ponds

- They provide water to start growing crops, without waiting for rain to fall.
- They provide irrigation water during dry spells between rainfalls. This increases the yield, the number of crops in one year, and the diversity of crops that can be grown.
- Bunds can be used to raise vegetables and fruit trees,thus supplying the farm household with an additional source of income and of nutritious food.
- Farmers are able to apply adequate farm inputs and perform farming operations at the appropriate time, thus increasing their productivity and their confidence in farming.
- They check soil erosion and minimize siltation of waterways and reservoirs.
- They supplies water for domestic purposes and livestock
- They promote fish rearing.
- They recharge the ground water.
- They improve drainage.
- The excavated earth has a very high value and can be used to enrich soil in the fields, levelling land, and constructing farm roads

As per the Landuse classification of the firka, majority of the area is covered by the agricultural field. Hence it is proposed to construct 50 farm ponds as per the specification of AED, Govt. of Tamil Nadu (30 x 30 x 1.5 m).

5.3.2.2. Micro Irrigation System (Sprinkler/ drip/ HDPE pipes)

Micro irrigation is defined as the frequent application of small quantities of water directly above and below the soil surface; usually as discrete drops, continuous drops or tiny streams through emitters placed along a water delivery line

In flood/furrow irrigation method more than 50% of applied water is wasted through seepage to deeper level, localized inundation causes loss through evaporation and it leaches out the nutrients from the plant. While through drip & sprinkler irrigation wastage of irrigational water could be minimized. The studies on different crops, has revealed that irrigation water is saved drastically. The conveyance losses (mainly seepage & evaporation) can be saved up to 25 to 40% through utilization of HDPE pipes. Initially the scheme is proposed to be implemented in worst affected areas showing deepest water levels and significant declining trends.

It is proposed to take up micro irrigation system in 50 ha. The cost estimation for this component has been taken from SOR of Agricultural Engineering Department (AED), Govt. of Tamil Nadu. Tentative locations of proposed micro irrigation are shown in Plate 1.

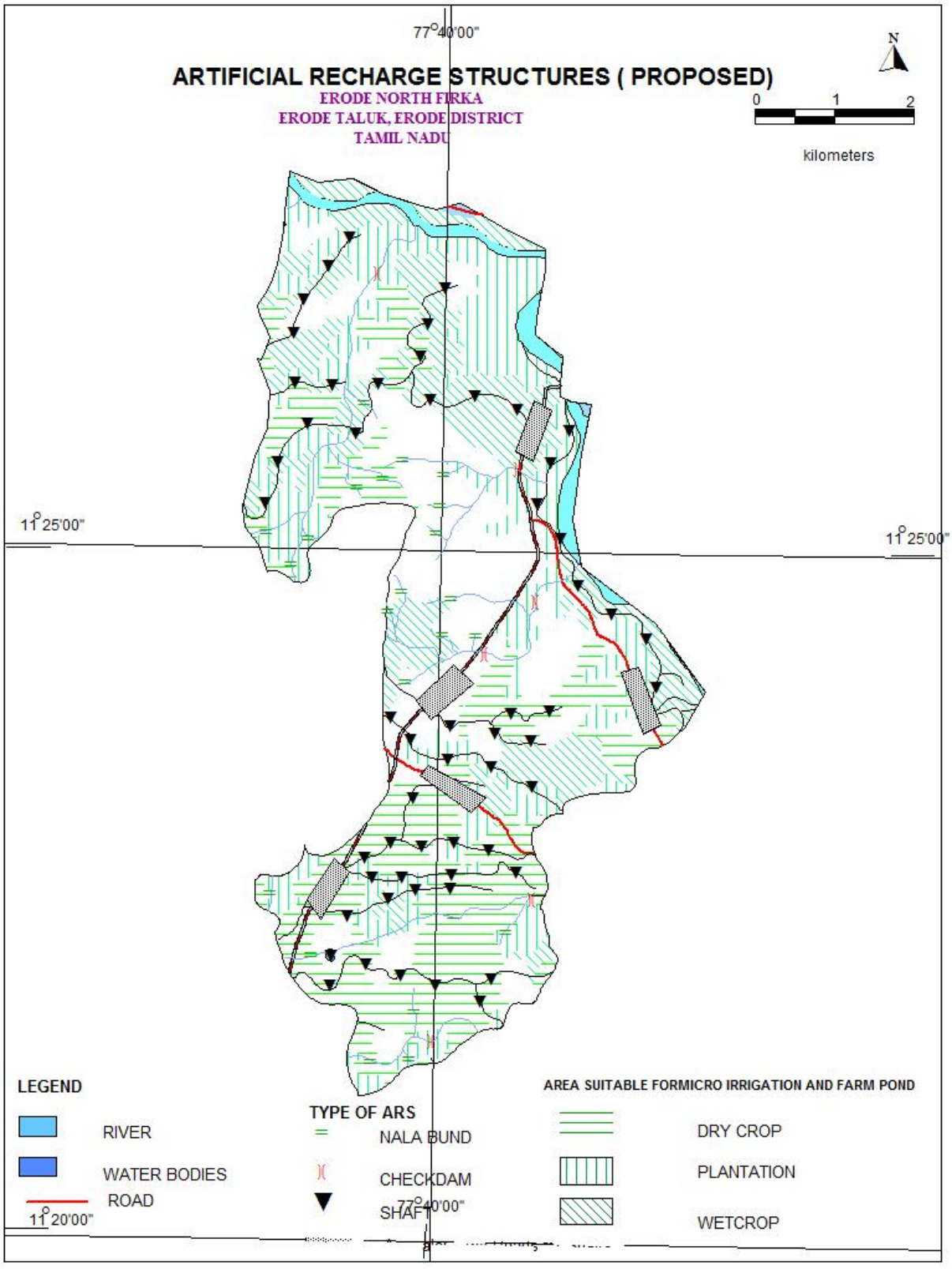


Plate 1. Location map showing the proposed AR Structures in Erode North firka

6. Tentative Cost Estimation

The tentative number of feasible structures, its cost and expected annual groundwater recharge/water saving is given in the table 7. The unit rates are as followed by the PWD, Govt. of Tamilnadu (Sources: Scheduled rates, Govt. of Tamilnadu 2015).

Table 7. Showing the Cost Estimation of proposed Artificial Recharge Structures

Feasible Artificial Recharge & Water Conservation structures/ activities	Tentative Design	quantity (in nos. or area in sq. m)	Total volume (cu.m)	Tentative unit cost (in Rs lakh)	Total tentative cost (in Rs lakh)	Expected Annual GW recharge/ Saving (cu.m))
Recharge Structures/ Activities						
Masonry Check dams (5 Fillings)	Crest- 10 -15 m; Height- 1.0 m to 1 .5 m	6	3400 (80%)	9.0	54	81600
Nala bund/Gab ion (4 fillings)	Width: 5 to 15 m)	21	3000	2.0	42	50400
Revival, repair of water bodies (3 fillings)	(~150 m x150 m x1.5m)	1	33750 (80%)	25.0	25	81000
Recharge shaft within Canals	Shaft = 1.5 m dia x 2m depth with filter media in lower 1 m . Bore dia =10", Casing = 6" Depth = 30 m)	31		2.0	62	
Farm Pond (in ha)(5 filling)	(30 m x 30m x 1.5 m)	50 unit	1200(85%)	1	50	300000
				Sub total	**233**	**513000**
Water Conservation Measure						
Sprinkler/ drip/ HDPE pipes	For 1 ha with 5 m interval HDPE pipe	50 ha		0.6 /ha	30	350000
				Total	**263**	**863000**
Impact assessment and O & M						
Piezometers Up to 50 m bgl – 4 nos. @ 0.6 lakh (Impact assessment to be carried out by the implementing agencies)					**2.4**	
				Total cost of the Project	**265.40**	
O & M - 5 % of total cost of the scheme					**13.27**	
Impact assessment to be carried out by the implementing agencies @ 5% of Total cost					**13.27**	
				TOTAL	**291.94**	

Note:

- The type, number and cost of structure may vary according to site, after the ground truth verification.
- CD, PC- the storage of Check-dams and percolation ponds is also proposed for irrigating the surrounding areas for enhancing the groundwater recharge as well as effective utilization of the artificial recharge structures.

7. Implication modalities

The implementation of the scheme will be done by the line department of the state selected by the respective State authority. Further, it is to add that more than 50 % MGNREGA works related to water conservation/sustainable management,accordingly a convergence guideline has been madebetween National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) (Ministry of Rural Development) & Programmes of Water Resources (MoWR , RD & GR). The district Erode is one among the list of districts identified for Convergence between NREGS and schemes of MoWR. The details of permissible works under convergence are envisaged in the Joint Convergence Guideline.

a.) Time schedule

Steps	1st Quarter	2th Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	5th Quarter	6th Quarter	7th Quarter	8th Quarter
❖ Identification of line department /implementing agency and preparation of DPR								
❖ Approval of scheme and release of sanction of funds								
❖ Implementation of ARS								

Phase = one quarter or 3 months or equivalent to financial quarter

b.) Operation and maintenance

In all projects Impact assessment has to be carried out to ensure that projects is economically viable, socially equitable and environmentally sustainable by inter-related socio-economic, cultural and human-health impacts, both beneficial and adverse. Accordingly it is proposed a have impact assessment at rate of 5 % of the total cost of the project for 5 years from the completion of artificial recharge structures.