

Water Resources in Udaipur:

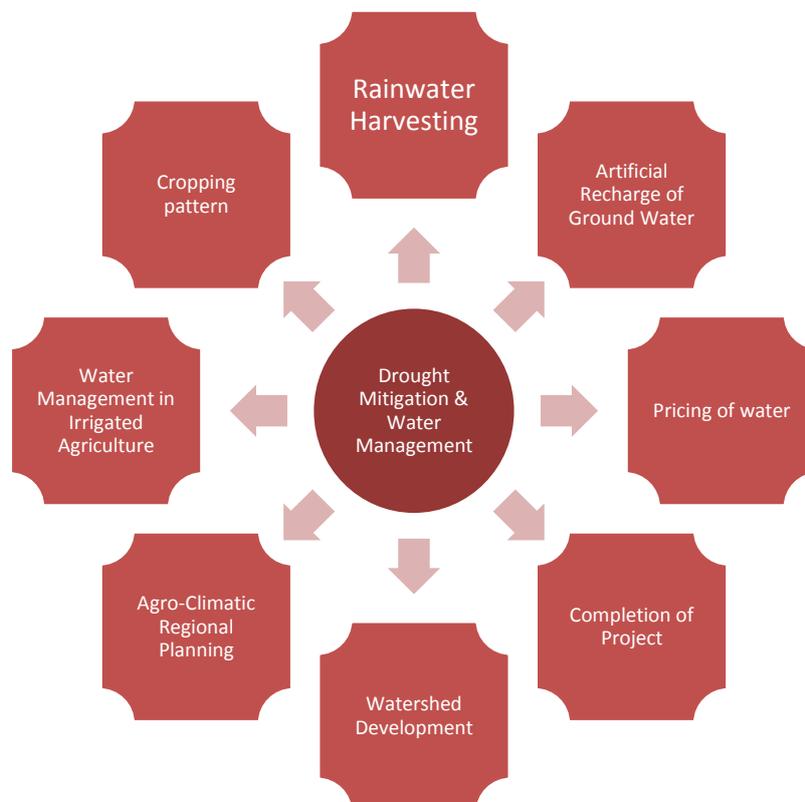
The main sources of households' water in the region are wells and hand pumps but majority of them are in a dysfunctional state. Government water supply is completely absent, Ground water level going down due to over digging of rock phosphate mines. Surface water resources of the area are represented by the streams and Small River, which dried since last 4-5 year due to severe drought.⁸

Drought Mitigation Strategy:

Special emphasis on Water Management Strategy:

- Rainwater harvesting and Watershed Management
- Artificial recharge of ground water
- Pricing of water
- Early completion of ongoing projects
- Watershed development
- Strategy based on Agro-Climatic Regional Planning
- Water Management in Irrigated Agriculture
- Cropping pattern

5. Source: Integrating Social Perspectives in Drought Monitoring – Practices in State of Rajasthan by Disaster Management & Relief Department Government of Rajasthan



Preparedness for drought monitoring, drought mitigation and development of early warning system:

1. The state of Rajasthan is known for its traditional water harvesting practices like khadins, tankas, bawris, johads, village pond, nadis, baoris, kundis, naada, paar

system etc. However there is a need to further mainstream these practices and carry out mass drive for renovating these traditional water storage structures as they are important source of water in period's drought and have a strong significance in the lives and livelihoods of drought prone regions.

2. Conducting feasibility studies for in-situ water and soil moisture conservation practices like contour furrowing, contour bounding, vegetative barriers, and percolation ponds/trenches in drought prone areas to reduce evaporation losses from soil. Also, evaporation accounts for over two third of water losses from surface water bodies in hot arid regions. In order to reduce evaporation losses from water bodies adopting measures like reducing surface area by increasing storage depth; by storing the water in a compartmented reservoir and pumping the water from one compartment to another as the water is used, so that there are some full compartments and some empty, instead of a single shallow sheet when the reservoir is partly used; planting shelter-belts of suitable tree species around water bodies or by artificially shading of water surfaces.
3. Developing a drought management and mitigation policy for the state which would integrate climate change concerns like increased frequency of drought events and have elements like pre-positioning of relief resources to ensure timely response for drought vulnerable populations; allocating of irrigation water on a volumetric basis, with a focus on generating a contingency quota for withdrawal during droughts; actively engaging communities in management and use of water resources; action on restoring the traditional rain water harvesting structures in the state.