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Q15

The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain.

UPSC Civil Services Mains 2016 · GS I · 12 marks · Natural Resources and Industries

Distribution of key natural resources across the world (including South Asia and the Indian sub-continent); factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).

Core demand of the question

- Explain how better land and water management can cut human misery
- Cover drought, flood, hunger, health, and displacement with Indian examples

Revision summary

Rural misery in India is closely tied to lost soil and badly timed water.

Terraces, watersheds, and healthy commons keep land productive.

Tanks, recharge, efficient irrigation, and floodplain rules turn the same monsoon into safety.

Land and water must be managed as one ridge-to-valley unit.

Upkeep and fair sharing matter; unused tanks and unfair dams recreate hardship.

Flow diagram

Soil conserved on slope -> Rain stored in tank aquifer

Rain stored in tank aquifer -> Food fodder drinking water

Food fodder drinking water -> Less drought flood migration

Greedy pumping silted tanks -> Misery returns

Conclusion

- Treat every dry and flood-prone block as a land-water project with farmers as co-managers, and measure success by soil moisture, drinking-water days, and fewer distress migrants.

Effective land and water management holds soil, stores rain, and shares river and groundwater with some fairness. That combination cuts crop failure, flood loss, disease, and distress migration more directly than most later welfare payments.

Facts & figures**IWMP / watershed programmes**

Integrated Watershed Management Programme and earlier drought-prone schemes that treated catchments as the unit of work.

DPAP

Drought Prone Areas Programme, a long-running attempt to use soil and water works against dryland misery.

Warabandi

Roster of canal turns meant to give tail-end farmers a share and cut head-reach monopoly.

Soil Health Card

Scheme to test fields so fertiliser and land use match the plot, supporting land management.

Over-exploited blocks

CGWB category where pumping outruns recharge, a map of water misery in waiting.

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