

## Moving towards water sustainable agriculture

Hindi Webinar- 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019, 2:30 pm- 3:30 pm;

### Speakers

Neeraj Sharma- Executive Engineer, Haryana Irrigation Department  
Ashish Bhardwaj, India Coordinator, Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)  
Ashutosh Kumar Sinha, Head- Agribusiness, LT Foods  
Dr. Sahdev Singh, Director, International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage

### Participants

We witnessed roughly 50 participants from different sectors around the globe like farmer groups from Uttarakhand and Haryana, India, members from the Non profit/Civil Society sector- Global Agri Business Alliance, Switzerland as well as government, market leaders like Global Phoenix, Dubai and Central Water Board, Chandigarh, India.

### Discussion

The need to move towards a water saving agricultural set-up was a common consensus among the speakers as well as the participants throughout the Webinar. Some pertinent questions raised regarding implementing suggested farming methods were

- Why is the burden of responsibility and change always upon the farmers?
- Is there any monetary advantage for the farmers in sustainable agriculture?
- If need to be, what can be the preemptive steps for this transition?
- What is the larger picture from an ecological point of view in face of these small change of habits?

### Future Course of Actions

- **Water Governance**- Collective water management is required where farmers, market players and others identify, understand, accept and fulfill their duties and roles towards the cause. So, farmers are not the only one, it is shared responsibility.
- **Nudge Behaviour**- Attitude Change is sine qua non for a long term solution. Farmers, regional officers as well as millers on ground need awareness and access to information to modify their way of thinking towards sustainability.
- **Ready Business Model**- As opposed to popular beliefs, market is ready and growing for organic as well as environmentally conscious produce like SRP(Sustainable Rice Platform) rice. So it's a win win situation economically as well as ecologically.
- **Available Infrastructure**- The Government of India supports water conservation through various schemes, subsidies, policies and projects like CADA's solar powered closed channelled Irrigation systems in Karnal, Haryana. There are multiple NGO's working to train farmers and implement water efficient farming techniques like PnP itself. The need is to access and implement them.