**Downstream of the Dam**

**Discussion Seminar on the Uses and Meanings of**

**Narmada Water in Gujarat’s Development**

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**Introduction to the Seminar**

In this one-day meeting we aim to explore the development processes triggered by and associated with the Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP), that is, the arrival of Narmada water in the state. The discussions would contribute into the designing of a longer term research project on the uses and meanings of Narmada water. We are interested in both the direct usage of water (agriculture, domestic, urban-industrial, etc.) and the visions and aspirations associated with the SSP and Narmada water. The Downstream of the Dam title suggests that we are focusing on the SSP-command and other areas and uses of water, rather than focusing on the dam building and issues associated with that. We invite all to participate in an open and informal exploration of ideas and questions related to this. We count on your invaluable expertise to shape this research initiative.

The seminar is organised in three sessions each focusing on a major usage of Narmada. In each session, we invite three to four of you to kick-start the deliberations through a five minute contribution (no power point). After these introductions there would be the open session facilitated by one of the organisers. In each session, we hope to explore your ideas to generate relevant insights and questions for shaping the research. In each session, we will also ask the question how the research could practically contribute to transformative change in Gujarat.

We very much look forward to your participation and contribution.

**PROGRAMME**

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| 10:30 am to 10: 45 am | Welcome and Introduction |
| 10: 45 am to 1:00 pm | **Session 1: Agriculture, Energy and Ecology**  |
| 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm | Lunch |
| 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm  | **Session 2: Drinking Water (Rural and Urban)** |
| 3:30 pm to 3:45 pm | Tea/Coffee Break |
| 3:45 pm to 5:15 pm | **Session 3: Urban, Industrial and Regional Development** |
| 5:15 pm to 5:30 pm | Closing Remarks |

Session Details Overleaf

**Session 1: Agriculture, Energy and Ecology**

**(Proposed lead speakers: Ravindra Dholakia, Tushaar Shah, Yogesh Jadeja, Sachin Oza)**

For the agricultural dynamics triggered by the Narmada water the present hypothesis is that it is strongly area/ region specific in relation to the diversity in agro-ecological conditions and rural social relations. Is this a reasonable hypothesis? And, if so, what are the specific dynamics in specific areas /regions?

What is the impact of SSP on groundwater use and how does this connect with other forms of water management for instance watershed and water conservation?

How sustainable is the SSP water provision in energy terms both at system level (large lifts) as well as micro irrigation (tube wells and solar pumping)?

How are the changing rural-urban relations shaping the use of Narmada waters?

**Session 2: Drinking Water (Rural and Urban)**

**(Proposed lead speakers: R K Sama, Subhrangsu Goswami, Keshab Das)**

How is the practice and expectation of drinking water security shaping local development?

How is the pipeline system performing on the ground in terms of coverage, water quality, energy costs, costs recovery and tariff, etc.?

How is the Narmada water combined with local water resources and what are the implications for (local) water resource governance?

**Session 3: Urban, Industrial and Regional Development**

**Proposed lead speakers: Maravia, Neeru Bansal, Niti Metha, Gaurang Jani)**

What are the implications of industrial water use through the pipeline project?

How does urbanisation influence the SSP water use and vice versa?

How does industrialisation influence the SSP water use and vice versa?

How is the SSP design and conceptualization evolving and being adapted in response to changing circumstances and priorities?