Krishi Netra
ISSN : 3048-5207

Preserving the Lifeblood of Earth: Observing World Water Day. Water Conservation for a Sustainable Future: The Importance of World Water Day

Jambamma[1], Yata Praveen Kumar[2] and k. Shireesha[3]

[1] Dept of Agricultural Engineering , Agricultural College Aswaraopet,

[2] Department of Chemistry, University Post Graduate College Narsapur, Osmania University Hyderabad.

[3] Dept of Agricultural Extension, Agricultural College Aswaraopet,

Manuscript No: KN-V3-04/001

World Water Day, celebrated every year on March 22nd, serves as a reminder of the crucial role water plays in sustaining life on Earth. This global event aims to raise awareness about the importance of water conservation, highlight the challenges of water scarcity, and emphasize the need for sustainable water management. The observance of World Water Day was established by the United Nations in 1993, with the goal of bringing attention to the pressing issues surrounding water availability and quality.

Water is a vital resource that supports all forms of life, from human beings to ecosystems. However, the world is facing a growing water crisis due to factors such as climate change, pollution, population growth, and the unsustainable use of water. With over two billion people living in water-scarce regions, and millions more facing the consequences of polluted water, it is imperative that the global community come together to address these challenges.

Each year, World Water Day focuses on a specific theme related to water, providing an opportunity for individuals, communities, governments, and organizations to engage in dialogue and action towards securing clean water for all. The theme for 2025 calls for renewed efforts in water conservation and highlights the urgent need to ensure that every living being has access to safe, clean, and sufficient water for survival.

Conservation: Ensuring Sustainable Life and Future Generations

Every drop of water must be held in high regard; it is only through effective water distribution and minimizing wastage that the survival of all living beings can be ensured. Human civilization began where water was available, and once, water could be easily accessed. But now, in the name of development, we are polluting and misusing water resources. We are using water excessively beyond our needs, leading to wastage. At the same time, unseasonal rains, floods, climate change, changes in rainfall patterns, increasing population, urbanization, shrinking agricultural land, and the rise of crops that are not suited to population growth are severely impacting future water availability.

Glacial rivers are the lifeblood of ecosystems, providing drinking water, irrigation, industrial water needs, power generation, and promoting healthy environmental systems. However, the rapid decline in these rivers due to climate change and human intervention poses a serious threat. There is a possibility that water scarcity could worsen in the future, creating significant challenges for the biodiversity that exists on Earth. Nearly 200 million people depend on the water from glacial rivers for their livelihoods. Water is the foundation of life, and to ensure adequate water availability for all living beings, global efforts must be focused on water conservation and securing food for future generations.

World Water Day, celebrated annually on March 22 since 1993, aims to raise awareness on the importance of water conservation. The United Nations encourages nations to promote peace through water management and to reduce disputes over water sharing. Water is a natural resource, and over 50% of the human body is made up of water. Approximately 70% of the human body is composed of water. Water is not only necessary for

Krishi Netra
ISSN : 3048-5207

drinking but is also essential for daily activities such as agriculture, industrial processes, cooking, and other needs. Despite covering around 70% of the Earth's surface, only 2.5% of the water is freshwater. Of this, 75.2% is locked in glaciers, while another 22.6% exists as groundwater.

Globally, 72% of freshwater is used for agricultural purposes. However, with the growing population, urbanization, industrialization, deforestation, pollution, excessive water usage, and climate change, freshwater resources have declined by an average of 20% per person over the last decade, which is a matter of serious concern. We are rapidly approaching a situation where we may not be able to recover valuable water resources. Today, over 2 billion people worldwide are facing water scarcity, leading to significant pressure on water resources. This is resulting in increased competition for water, especially in sectors like fisheries, where around 60 million people rely on fish, shrimp, and other aquatic resources for their livelihoods.

Water pollution, unsustainable practices, and climate change are aggravating these issues. Looking at agricultural productivity in Telangana, for the 2023-24 period, around 25.67 million metric tons of crops, such as rice, were harvested, with 67% recovery. Other crops like maize, pulses, and oilseeds were produced, demonstrating the importance of water-efficient crops.

Water conservation is an urgent priority. As water resources become increasingly scarce, the production of domestic oilseeds has decreased, resulting in a sharp rise in cooking oil prices. To address this, both central and state governments are encouraging farmers to shift towards growing oilseeds like soybean, sunflower, and groundnut. In our state, farmers are also diversifying crops, and there is a need to increase the cultivation of oilseeds for better water management and enhanced profitability.

Furthermore, immediate actions must be taken to adopt water usage management techniques and ensure that we protect ourselves from future water crises. The global population must strive for self-sufficiency in food production, focusing on nutrient-dense crops like millets and pulses that require less water. Crop diversification is essential, and farming techniques that consume less water should be promoted.

Conclusion:
Water conservation, water management practices, crop diversification, micro-irrigation, and sustainable agricultural practices are necessary to prevent water scarcity. Now is the time to act to ensure the survival of all living beings on Earth, and it is crucial that we all take steps toward preserving this vital resource.