

## **Lifting Water, Lifting Hopes**

### **PMC for Implementation of Mega Lift Projects in Cluster-X of Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar, Odisha**

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The Government of Odisha under its funded scheme is undertaking Implementation of Mega Lift Irrigation Schemes from rivers and reservoirs for providing supplemental kharif irrigation to upland rain fed areas. 174 such lift irrigation schemes have been identified and are being executed in 15 Clusters through Engineering Procurement & Construction Contracts.

In Cluster X (ten), we are working as Project Management Consultant (PMC) responsible for monitoring and supervising for construction, supervision of the EPC Contractor which consists of 13 numbers of Lift Irrigation Schemes of command area 500 Ha to 2000Ha totalling 19,400 Ha. These Lift irrigation Schemes are located in Baitarani, Budhabalang, Gangahar, Khadakhai and Nalua Rivers in the district of Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar.

Apart from this we are also working as PMC in Malkangiri Cluster and DMF cluster in Odisha.

The highlight of the project was the use of SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) software. This technological implementation reduced the manpower requirements for the project and also reduced the operational faults which are caused by manual intervention. The data generated by the SCADA system is also used for further improvement of the system. The features of this system include the ability to monitor and measure the flow of water and maintain the level of water supply according to the demand generated. The opening and closing of the water supply valves are also automated and can be scheduled through the server system.

This project has proved to be beneficial for around 7, 00,000 farmers living in the upland areas of Odisha. This project was able to deliver water more efficiently and quickly. It equipped farmers to cultivate cash crops and allowed them to diversify into other crops, restore the ecological balance. This project has led to an increase in the income of farmers up to threefold. Also, water availability increased from 50 to 100 percent.

This project has showed a path to the upland areas in other states which be irrigated by uplifting water from different river basins. 170 schemes have been indented and shall be implemented in a 5 years period from 2021 to 2026. Due to this expansion target has been set for the creation of an additional irrigation potential of 2, 63,801 ha in the upland areas. This will benefit more farmers and provide them with a steady stream of irrigation water in their areas.