



## **UNDERGROUND TAMING OF FLOODS FOR IRRIGATION: GENDERED IMPACTS OF INTERVENTION**

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Underground Taming of Flood Water for Irrigation (UTFI) is a new technology that is being piloted in Jiwai Jadid village of Ramganga sub-basin in Uttar Pradesh. This new technology involves diverting high water flows from rivers or canals when prone to flood risk and recharging the groundwater via village ponds or small dams that are modified for this purpose. By design the technology is gender neutral and is expected to benefit both men and women by offering them greater convenience, better health and enhanced socio-economic opportunities through improved water facilities. But the extent to which the communities benefit from such interventions and aid in its sustainability remains sensitive to the socio-cultural context and the institutional frameworks under which they are executed. The present research study which explores the gender and social dimensions of the technology reveals that there is a perceived benefit of the intervention by both men and women in terms of improved water availability for both domestic and agricultural purposes. However, despite the perceived benefits, keeping the interest of the community, and especially of the women folk in operating and maintaining the structures is a challenge. They primarily believe that the technology is the preserve of the male members of the community and that the ownership of the structures should rest with the Panchayat. The men also reinforced such stereotypical beliefs that women will not be in a position to maintain the structures. Such perceptions of the community which is shaped by deeply-held beliefs about gender roles has only added dynamics to a technology that is designed to tackle the dual challenges of floods and ground water depletion, and calls for a greater participation by all stakeholders to ensure its sustainability.