



POLICY & PRACTICE BRIEF

The multiple roles of water for uplifting Rural Giyani JUST ADD WATER!

Discover the importance of water in wellbeing, where water isn't just a resource but a starting block for economic growth and income generation. Discover the many uses of water, from traditional rituals to modern income generation, and how the availability influences communities development and wellbeing.

Have you ever thought about the important role of water and how it can uplift communities? We share here how water becomes a catalyst for transforming people's lives and improving livelihoods when they have access even to the smallest volumes.

In literature, we frequently see the terms: "productive use of water" and "beneficial water use." Productive use of water means using water to promote economic growth and enhance livelihoods, such as irrigating food crops, sustaining livestock and manufacturing items such as bricks. Beneficial water use, on the other hand, may not directly contribute to economic growth but significantly improves people's quality of life, including using water for cleaning and hygiene as well as traditional, cultural, or ritual purposes.

Within this context, water, when it is available can be used for both productive and beneficial water use. Water is therefore a powerful ingredient for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and an enriched quality of life. Imagine a rural water system that includes backyard food gardens, small livestock units, brick making, car wash, water for spiritual use, and a local small scale irrigation scheme—all working together to elevate a community's well-being.

It's crucial to distinguish between the various scales of these multiple water use systems. Additionally, a distinction must be made between water consumption for commercial practices and that for small-scale ventures. While there's no national definition for small-scale economic growth, for this document's purposes,

"A community water management committee comes into play, entrusted with the responsible stewardship of the project."

Small Scale Use is defined as water use by economically disadvantaged individuals to reduce poverty, stimulate economic growth (through produce sales and service provision), and support sustainable livelihoods. Importantly, small scale use doesn't exclude households from engaging in commercial activities; instead, it encourages them to harness water for economic advancement.

Large-scale water consumption for commercial purposes requires a licence under the National Water Act (Act 36 of 1998) and is beyond the scope of this document.



The Giyani Local Scale Climate Resilience Programme (GLSCR) is an innovative initiative aimed at enhancing water utilization, building community resilience, and promoting sustainable economic growth in the Giyani region. Through collaborative partnerships, innovative solutions, community engagement, and rigorous monitoring, the program strives to address the challenges posed by climate change and ensure a more resilient and prosperous future for local communities.

By adopting a holistic and inclusive approach, the GLSCR serves as a model for other regions grappling with climate-related water challenges, contributing to broader global efforts toward a sustainable and climate-resilient future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Water for small scale multiple use systems should focus on the following:

Empower Communities

Encourage communities to adopt Small Scale Multiple Use Systems (SSMUS) to improve their economic status and quality of life.

Scale Awareness

Raise awareness about the importance of distinguishing between small-scale and large-scale water usage and all the possibilities in between.

Inclusive Livestock Farming

Promote small-scale livestock farming within defined limits, emphasising the benefits of water for income and livelihoods.

Cultural Significance

Highlight the cultural and beneficial aspects of water use, recognizing its role in preserving traditions and rituals.

Government Support

Advocate for government support and policies that enable economically disadvantaged individuals to access and benefit from water availability.

Livelihood Enhancement

Empower households to use water as a tool for poverty reduction, economic growth, and sustainable livelihoods.

Water for small scale systems represent a pathway to prosperity, enriching lives and communities through the wise use of water. By adopting a small-scale multiple use approach, individuals and households can tap into water's incredible potential to drive economic growth and elevate their quality of life.



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