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“Green Water Infrastructure boosts the economy”

How we are managing our water resources is more critical than any other developmental issues due to continuously shrinking water sources at all levels. Traditional water infrastructure that requires a huge expense to build and maintain will continue to play a role, but it is not enough to sustain and solve the ever growing demand of water. We must think beyond to move from old infrastructure to a better solution of green infrastructure that will meet the needs of the 21st century. India's economic growth and increased urbanization have created a significant demand for expanding and enhancing our water infrastructure based on the principles of sustainability. The existing water infrastructure is in a depleting stage with conventional system and processes which is magnifying the critical and emerging issues of water scarcity, water use efficiency, water quality, non-revenue water, and high energy use in water management systems. India needs to adopt the approach of green water infrastructure that incorporates both the natural environment and engineered systems to provide clean water, protects our ecosystem, restores the natural water cycle and also the need of time for managing water supply system in a holistic way for being effective, economical, and enhances durability and sustainability of system.

Green water infrastructure means planting trees and restoring wetlands, choosing water efficiency rather than building costly new water supply source, treatment plants, pumping stations, long drawn pipelines etc. India can adopt different levels of green water infrastructure solutions, from the household level to much bigger level of area based, city based or state specific or even a national level. At the largest scale, the preservation and restoration of natural landscapes such as rivers, streams, wetlands, floodplains, and forests are critical components of green infrastructure. Not only it restores water bodies, it also boosts the economy, enhance community health and safety, and provide recreation, wildlife, and other benefits. The growing awareness about green water infrastructure has made authorities and companies more conscious about the importance of protecting the environment and sustaining resources for future. Indian cities needs to adopt the green infrastructure solutions faster as many modern cities of the world including New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Singapore, Toronto among others have already started implementing it.