**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The report deals with analyzing the Irrigation Department of Uttar Pradesh along with the irrigation practices followed in Uttar Pradesh. It then focuses on the scope of improvement and try to suggest some of recommendations which can be fruitful.

Uttar Pradesh has one of the most fertile plains of Northern India. In order to utilize the potential of this area, the government has built irrigation system consisting of canals, minors, branches and outlets. It is managed by the Irrigation Department of Uttar Pradesh.

Irrigation structure of Uttar Pradesh is very old and obsolete and requires urgent attention. The Department of Irrigation follows a bureaucratic structure, with very less I.T. penetration. There is no communication link in between the beneficiaries and the department officials. The budget which is proposed by the department is not fully sanctioned by the state government, which disrupts the functioning of the department. The objective of this report is to focus on the above stated problems and devise some appropriate measures to solve them.

The analysis was done in the following manner. First the literature review of the whole structure was done. It was then followed by field visits to various cities of Uttar Pradesh such as Meerut and Lucknow so as to grasp the ground reality of the problems. Informal surveys were also done with the farmers and Water User Associations (WUAs).

The recommendations proposed include the performance measurement of different employees, more emphasis on involvement of farmers in the management of irrigation system and establishing a communication link between the higher authorities and the beneficiaries. For the same purpose, an external body is also proposed. This report also focuses on various methods of water conservation which can be easily followed by the farmers reducing the dependency of farmers on water supplied by the Irrigation Department.

Below are some of the **key findings** which are encountered during the research work

* The distribution of water is through the approach of area instead of volume. There is less focus on schemes of water conservation, rain water harvesting.
* The gap between IPC(Irrigation Potential Created) and IPU(Irrigation Potential Utilized) is as high as 20%,i.e., 1/5th of the potential goes unutilized. The gap between IPC and IPU is increasing more and more.
* The penetration of I.T. in the irrigation department is also very less, it leads to problem with maintaining the records. There is a lack of transparency and accountability in the system. Because of huge human resource, it is very difficult to manage the whole system.
* The report is able to identify the problems prevailing in the system. The PIM (Participatory Irrigation Management) act passed by Uttar Pradesh in 2009 is the future of irrigation in India. As per this act, the beneficiaries will directly participate in the system of management of irrigation by forming Water User Associations (WUAs). The government of Uttar Pradesh is trying to maximize the role of WUAs.