



## **IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (IAI) recommends strong IT backed JAM Trinity solution for leapfrogging the growth of Micro Irrigation in India**

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Irrigation Association of India (IAI), the apex body of Irrigation Industry in India with the help of its knowledge partner Grant Thornton (GT) and in association with FICCI, prepared a Strategy Paper and recommended 9 'Game Changing Solutions' to put high-tech Micro Irrigation (MI), which is considered to be the most economic and efficient method, on the fast forward for accelerating growth of Indian Agriculture.

Major challenges for Indian Agriculture today are "Water scarcity" and "feeding an ever growing population". To overcome this Government of India task-force on MI (2004) estimated a total potential of 69.5Mn Hectares (27MH Drip Irrigation and 42.5 MH Sprinkler Irrigation). Over the last decade the total penetration of MI, however, has been below double digit figure. The Strategy Paper estimates that with current penetration of only 0.5MH per annum, it will take 100 years to cover the entire MI potential of the country. Hence IAI recommends strong IT backed 'game changing solutions' to achieve full penetration during the next decade.

Shri Primal Oswal, President (IAI) led the IAI delegation along with GT to Krishi Bhavan, Delhi to meet Hon'ble Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India and other senior bureaucrats of the Ministry and opened the meeting by contextualizing the need to conduct & publish the Study and setting the agenda for deliberations to take place on the recommendations made in the Strategy Paper, post unveiling of the same by the Hon'be Agriculture Secretary. Shri Randhir Chauhan, IAI past president and Shri Shrikant Goenka,

Senior IAI member, explained the 'game changing solutions' being recommended by IAI to put MI on fast track

Shri S.K. Pattanayak, Hon'ble Secretary Department of Agriculture, while launching the Strategy Paper, highly appreciated the initiatives of IAI and its recommendations. He observed that all these suggestions made by IAI are in line with Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of "Achhe Din" for farmers with "Har Khet Ko Pani" and "Per Drop More Crop" and are extremely valuable. He said some of these plans have already been put into action mode and other recommendations will be studied in detail and implemented, wherever possible. He suggested that IAI should interact with his Secretariat frequently and to have follow-up meetings like this at regular intervals to jointly review the progress of execution and bottlenecks at the ground level to fulfil the desired goals.

About IAI:

The Irrigation Association of India is a voluntary, non-profit organization formed to promote and develop proper usage and acceptance of irrigation equipment for a range of applications, to promote Water and soil conservation and economical crop production through efficient use of irrigation, to conserve energy through efficient design and operation of irrigation systems.