

BOOK REVIEW

Politics, Policy and People: Irrigation Governance in a South Indian State

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This book give both an overview of irrigation governance and also detailed insights in the realities of irrigation management reforms in an Indian state once at the forefront of international support and attention on participatory irrigation management policies. It is one of the few books that study the politics of irrigation reforms working at and across different levels of the irrigation bureaucracy, frontline workers and new irrigation user organizations, particularly at irrigation system level, at the very time of these reforms. It shows in particular the differences between policy ideals and actual realities of change, and how different actors tried to broker debates on success and steer and contest transformations in everyday management - particularly in control of irrigation works and revenue collection and sharing. It is an important resource for those studying public administration and bureaucracy in India in general and irrigation management in particular, also for students looking to research the everyday workings of large-scale irrigation systems in India.

Review provided by Linden Vincent, Emeritus Professor of Irrigation and Water Engineering, Environmental Sciences Group, Wageningen University