

CSIR 800 COORDINATION CENTRE

During the 12 months from April 2013-March 2014, the CSIR-800 team focused efforts in program implementation, and coordinated field visits.

Progress in Karnataka TECHVIL

Water being the major issue at Raichur, the CSIR-800 team in collaboration with the State Water shed development board organized a preliminary survey and awareness program on Water shed management among the villagers.



A team from CSIR-NGRI visited Palakanmardi village and conducted Electrical Resistivity Survey; ERT survey was carried along five profiles in and around Palkanmardi village in order to locate suitable sites for construction of artificial recharge structures to recharge groundwater and dilute arsenic contamination. In all the profiles, the horizontal weathered mantle was seen only up to a depth of 20 to 25 m, below which very high resistivity hard rocks, possibly representing gneisses, are present. It is inferred based on high resistivity that these rocks hardly contain any fracture suitable for storing groundwater. Therefore, the water bearing zone in this area is expected to be confined only up to 25 m depth below ground level.

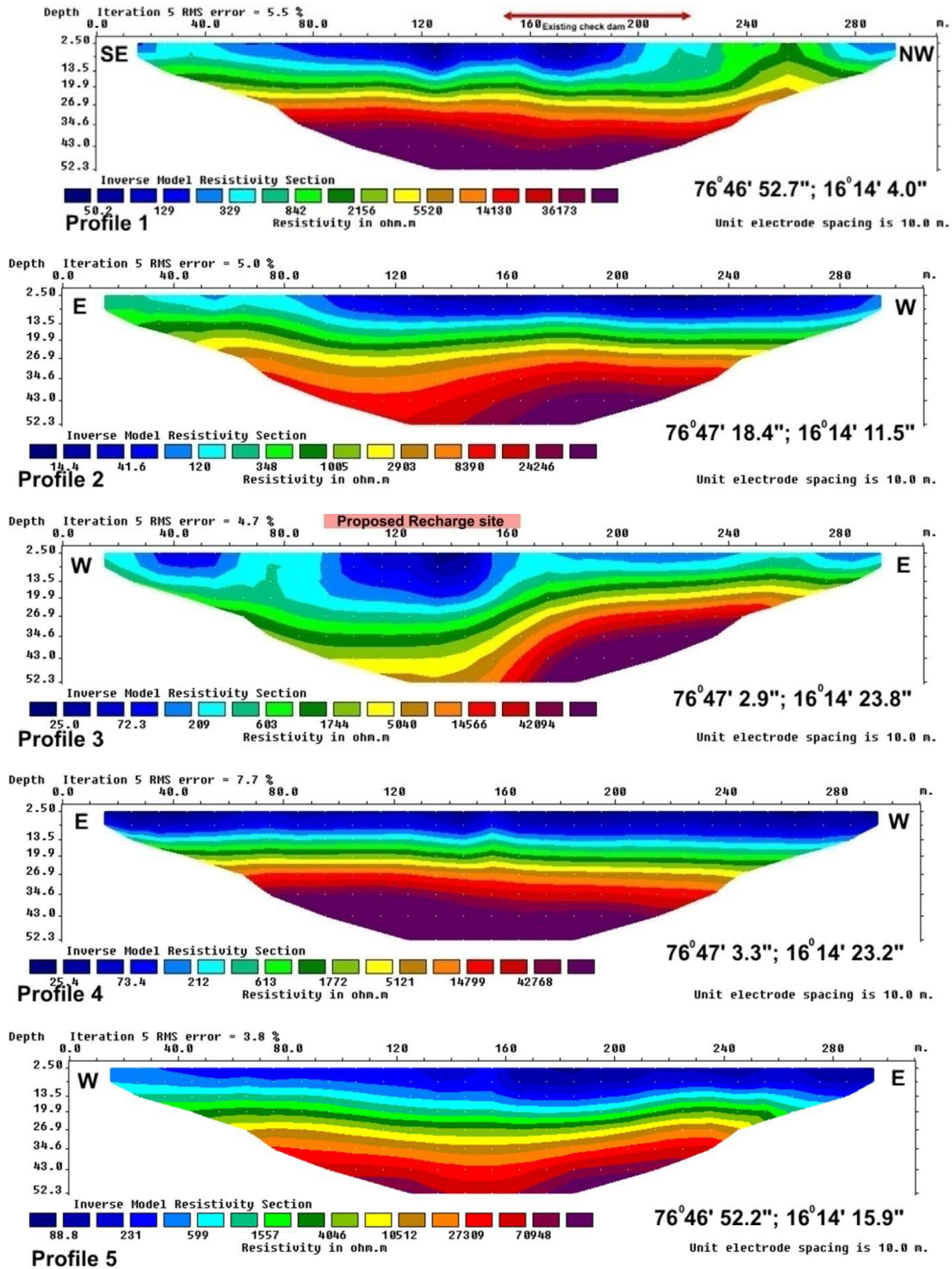


Figure 7.1 Comparing the results of all the profiles, the low resistivity pocket at the profile location between 90-170m of profile 3 is better and may be considered for construction of check dam.

Field Visits

CSIR-800 implementation is in the 400+ villages that make up the 28 TECHVIL clusters, so familiarity with field conditions is important as a monitoring mechanism of technology opportunities and effectiveness. Successful field visits were made to Bogalur TECHVIL in Tamil Nadu, Nalgonda, Jakaram and Prathipadu TECHVIL in Andhra Pradesh Ambiste TECHVIL in Maharashtra, Unnao and Barabanki TECHVIL in Uttar Pradesh, and Palakanmardi TECHVIL in Karnataka

GVK Design Competitions

CSIR-CECRI, CSIR-IHBT and CSIR-IMMT announced a competition among the local architectural colleges and Engineering colleges to design the Gram Vigyan Kutir (GVK) for their respective TECHVILS and awarded prizes to the best design from the entries received.

In particular, CSIR – Bogalur received and reviewed nine entries. Prof Ravindran, Gandhigram University chaired the meeting, and shortlisted 3 entries for ranking by DG. DG, CSIR ranked the three entries through Skype.

Program Visibility

Building Inauguration

CSIR-800 team moved to the CSIR-800 Coordination centre on 4th February 2013. The building was inaugurated by DG CSIR on 2nd September 2013.

CSIR-800 Website

CSIR-800 Program's website is now functional under the domain www.csir800.org. This portal is being used to advertise Design challenges and broadcast success stories.

Collaborations with Various Institutes

CSIR-800 collaborated with the National Institute of Design, Bangalore to attract designers to design rural technologies for the CSIR-800 TECHVIL. There was great enthusiasm among the students and the faculty of the institute.

One of the major goals of the CSIR-800 is to avail smokeless cooking systems in the villages, in this regard Indian Institute of Science, University of Agricultural Sciences and Pointec Pvt Ltd was approached for collaboration. Prof Mukunda and his team extended their support by willing to share and test the Smokeless chulha's designed by them. UAS and Pointec Pvt Ltd were interested in testing the BIOCHAR generated from the chulha as an organic fertilizer substitute.

Status Review Meet

CSIR-800 program status review was organized on 31 July 2013 and 1 Aug 2013 at the CSIR HQ. All implementing labs of CSIR-800 program presented the progress to the DG, CSIR. Some of the main outcomes of the review meeting are listed below,

1. Coordinators, AcSIR and CSIR-800, would list thematic titles for students to address in TECHVILS. DG suggested students from different labs could group together and address the same project titles.
2. DG interacted with Directors of CFTRI, IHBT, NBRI & CIMAP, CLRI, CGCRI, NEERI, NEIST and PG Rao to fast forward their TECHVILS.
3. DG suggested:
 - Setting up a charitable fund account for CSIR-800 activities, inviting donations that carried tax benefits;
 - Fitting out freight containers as a temporary solution until the GVK was built.