

Watershed management on the web

The Internet is one of the easiest sources of local and global knowledge on almost every subject. Its relevance for knowledge about watershed management has increased recently as more and more watershed management practitioners across the globe are using web-based services to share knowledge and discuss issues and options in watershed management, education, and training. Not only researchers, development professionals and decision makers, but also grassroot communities use web portals to improve their knowledge and skills in watershed management. In India, e-choupal networks (www.echoupal.com) are being integrated into watershed management initiatives to create rural knowledge hubs where information is provided in regional languages.

A search for watershed management on the google website (www.google.com) renders a whole range of results, but for those who are interested in



watershed management in the Himalayas, the most useful links are the following.

- Watershed Management Discussion Forum at www.fao.org: FAO in collaboration with the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia created this forum under the Watershed Management Initiative of the Mountain Partnership (www.mountainpartnership.org), of which ICIMOD

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and FAO are members. In this forum watershed management practitioners can share information and ideas of successful (and not so successful) approaches based on practical experiences in watershed management.

- World Overview of Conservation Approaches and Technologies (WOCAT: www.wocat.org): this initiative provides information about potential soil and water conservation (SWC) technologies and approaches and links to important institutions and people working in this field.
- HIMCAT extranet (www.extranet.icimod.org.np/himcat): Himalayan Conservation Approaches and Technologies (HIMCAT) extranet is a virtual forum hosted and coordinated by ICIMOD for strengthening cooperation, collaboration, and communication among watershed management and soil and water conservation practitioners in the Himalayas.
- ICIMOD website (www.icimod.org): this is also a useful source of information on watershed management and the information posted about the

People and Resource Dynamics Project (PARDYP: www.pardyp.org) is particularly useful.

Many other global and national level online initiatives offer useful information on watershed management. These include www.wca-infonet.org hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization, and <http://gov.ua.nic.in/wmd/html/UDWDP/udwdp.htm> of the Government of Uttaranchal (India). The Mountain Forum (www.mtnforum.org) and its regional networks (for example the Asia-Pacific Mountain Network) provide an important online forum where people interested in watershed management can participate in online discussions, organise e-conferences, and visit a rich online library to seek out relevant information but also to contribute materials. For those interested in a certificate-level distance learning course in watershed management, <http://www.rmcs.ubc.ca> of the University of British Columbia (Canada) is a useful link.

*For additional watershed management links on the web: please refer to the 2006 FAO publication; **The new generation of watershed management programmes and projects** Rome: FAO Annex: 123-128.*

S.K. Bhuchar, sbhuchar@icimod.org