In Haryana the problems of water shortage are very acute. Groundwater is depleting very fast and surface water is insufficient to meet the present agricultural and domestic demands. These constraints are leading to various environmental and socio-economic problems. Solutions for these consequences exist in the knowledge of the development and careful insight into management of water harvesting systems prevalent in various parts of world. Rainwater harvesting techniques have been used for agriculture in several parts since ancient times. The infrequent rain if harvested over a large area can yield considerable amount of water. The technique of ancient rainwater harvesting involves water and moisture control at a very simple level. It often consists of rows of rocks placed along the contour of slopes. Runoff captured behind these barriers also allows for the retention of soil, thereby serving as an erosion control measures on gentle slopes. The variety of water harvesting systems spreading all over the country to suit the location specificity, need proper documentations for future planning. Such valuable information may also help restoring the water policy for sustainable development. The successful story of Sukhomajari and other similar projects like Bunga in Ambala and Bajar-Ganiyar in Mahendragarh districts in Haryana have manifested the benefits of resource conservation and management. Moreover, these water harvesting projects have resulted in flood and drought modernisation, groundwater augmentation and improvement in the socio-economic conditions of the people. In addition, rainwater harvesting systems are environmentally sound. It has great potential of improving land and water resources by integrating recent developments with traditional knowledge.
To meet our increasing demand for water, to augment the groundwater storage and to improve the quality of groundwater, rainwater harvesting and its efficient utilisation is of extreme importance. The best option is to harvest rainwater where we get it and store it for the use when necessary. In the study area 80 per cent of the total rain is received in monsoon months. During the rest of the year, the region faces a number of dry spells causing water stress to crops. A substantial amount of runoff, which goes waste in the cultivated land, can be collected in the dugout ponds and other structures. Saved water in this way can be used for various purposes.

The present work is a systematic empirical analysis to find out the possibilities of rainwater harvesting in the overexploited areas of the State. The work portrays the rainfall-runoff relationship in a spatio-temporal manner with the help of maps and diagrams. The study is built on an extensive and comparative data base, made available for three time series: 1971-1981, 1981-1991 and 1991-2001. The work is the first of its kind regarding comprehensive study on rainwater harvesting on regional basis. The research problem conceived in the geographical perspective has strong physical bias. The Study is of great value for planners, researchers and academicians alike.