

Springer Hydrogeology

Dipankar Saha
Sanjay Marwaha
Arunangshu Mukherjee *Editors*

Clean and Sustainable Groundwater in India

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Editors

Clean and Sustainable Groundwater in India

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ISSN 2364-6454

ISSN 2364-6462 (electronic)

Springer Hydrogeology

ISBN 978-981-10-4551-6

ISBN 978-981-10-4552-3 (eBook)

<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-10-4552-3>

Library of Congress Control Number: 2017937522

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Printed on acid-free paper

This Springer imprint is published by Springer Nature

The registered company is Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd.

The registered company address is: 152 Beach Road, #21-01/04 Gateway East, Singapore 189721, Singapore

The chapters included in the book were presented in
Bhujal Manthan-2015.

Foreword by Dr. Amarjit Singh

Ensuring clean and sustainable groundwater development in a sustainable manner would be one of the most challenging tasks for the professionals, policy makers, researchers and other stakeholders. The beginning of Green Revolution during the 1970s brought in a significant increase in groundwater extraction, which has continued and increased rapidly ever since, with consequent manifestations of adverse environmental impact in the form of declining water levels, dwindling well yields and reduction in sustainability of irrigation wells. Besides, groundwater in several pockets of the country has become unfit for drinking due to contamination, attributed to both natural and anthropogenic causes.

In order to evolve strategies for better groundwater governance and management through wider consultations among various stakeholders, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has initiated a National Dialogue “*Bhujal Manthan*”. In the first year in 2015, this was organized at Kurukshetra University, Haryana, and was inaugurated by Honourable Minister Sushree Uma Bharati. It was aimed primarily at emphasizing the need for a collective interaction among various stakeholders engaged in groundwater resource development and management to attain synergy and harmony with the ecology for ensuring the long-term sustainability of this precious resource. The themes deliberated during the *Bhujal Manthan* were geogenic groundwater pollution—special reference to arsenic and fluoride; anthropogenic groundwater pollution—mitigation measures; groundwater stressed areas—management interventions for sustainable use; groundwater mapping and application of recent techniques; water conservation and conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in an efficient manner; groundwater system response to climate change and strategies; efficient use of groundwater and peoples’ participation for its sustainable management. A total of 20 papers bringing out the finer nuances of the key issues around groundwater were presented during the technical sessions.

The present compilation is an outcome of selected papers from wide spectrum of disciplines. The editors have undertaken painstaking efforts and have carried out a wonderful task to edit and compile the papers. The fragrance of the interdisciplinary fusion can be felt as one goes through this enriching volume. I am sure that this

book will help in understanding and tackling emerging issues related to governance of groundwater so as to facilitate effective management of the competing demands and efficient use of this invaluable resource.

Dr. Amarjit Singh
Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources
River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation
Government of India

Foreword by Dr. Mihir Shah

Groundwater is arguably India's single most important natural resource. It is the foundation of the livelihood security of millions of Indian farmers and the main source of drinking water for a vast majority of Indians in rural and urban India. The prospects of continued high rates of growth of the Indian economy will depend critically on how judiciously we are able to manage groundwater in the years to come.

Over the past three decades, India has emerged as by far the single largest consumer of groundwater in the world. Even as groundwater has made the country self-sufficient in food, we are now faced with a crisis of depleting water tables and water quality. The deep drilling by tube wells that was once part of the solution to the problem of water shortage now threatens to become a part of the problem itself. We, therefore, need to pay urgent attention to the sustainable and equitable management of groundwater.

In this context, it is heartening to note the renewed emphasis being placed on groundwater management by the Government of India. The National Aquifer Management Programme (NAQUIM) is the most ambitious such programme ever launched in human history. The commitment by the Government towards a participatory approach to groundwater management is most welcome. **Bhujal Manthan** is a landmark initiative in the direction of deepening dialogue across a wide spectrum of stakeholders who urgently need to come together to make groundwater management a success in India. I was delighted to browse through the papers put together in this volume, which will carry much further our understanding of the issues involved in and the approaches necessary for making groundwater management a people's movement in our country.

I congratulate the editors of the book, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Central Ground Water Board for bringing out this volume.

Dr. Mihir Shah
Distinguished Visiting Professor, Shiv Nadar University

Contents

Groundwater Resources and Sustainable Management Issues in India	1
Dipankar Saha, Sanjay Marwaha and Arunangshu Mukherjee	
Fluoride Contamination in Groundwater: A Pilot Study on Dug Well Recharge System for In situ Mitigation.	13
L. Elango and G. Jagadeshan	
Deciphering Freshwater/Saline Water Interface in and Around Northern Chennai Region, Southern India	25
M. Senthilkumar, D. Gnanasundar and E. Sampath Kumar	
Geogenic Fluoride Contamination in Two Diverse Geological Settings in West Bengal	39
S. Brahma	
Petro-Geochemical Analysis and Their Correlation for Genesis of Fluoride Contamination in Groundwater of District Sonbhadra, U.P., India.	61
H.K. Pandey, S.K. Srivastava and Prashant Pandey	
Hydrochemical Evaluation of Fluoride-Rich Groundwater in Cherlapalli Watershed, a Fluorosis Endemic Area, Nalgonda District, Telangana State.	81
Pandith Madhure, P.N. Rao, K.M. Prasad, A.D. Rao and J.S. Kumar	
Uranium Contamination of Groundwater in Southwest Parts of Punjab State, India, with Special Reference to Role of Basement Granite	95
K. P. Singh, Naval Kishore, Naresh Tuli, R. S. Loyal, Mandeep Kaur and Jasbir Kaur Taak	

Conjunctive Use of Surface and Groundwater in Efficient Manner	107
D.K. Chadha	
Efficient Conjunctive Use of Surface and Groundwater Can Prevent Seasonal Death of Non-Glacial Linked Rivers in Groundwater Stressed Areas	117
Shashank Shekhar, Suman Kumar, Rajiv Sinha, Sanjeev Gupta, Alexander Densmore, S.P. Rai, Manoranjan Kumar, Ajit Singh, Wout Van Dijk, Sunil Joshi, Philipa Mason and Dewashish Kumar	
Specific Yield of Unconfined Aquifers in Revisiting Efficiency of Groundwater Usage in Agricultural Systems	125
Himanshu Kulkarni, Uma Aslekar and Dhaval Joshi	
Toward a Managed Aquifer Recharge Strategy for Gujarat, India: An Economist’s Dialogue with Hydro-geologists	139
Tushaar Shah	
Co-solving Groundwater Depletion and Seasonal Flooding Through an Innovative Managed Aquifer Recharge Approach: Converting Pilot to a Regional Solution in the Ram Ganga Sub-basin	173
Prasun K. Gangopadhyay, Bharat R. Sharma and Paul Pavelic	
Impact Assessment of Demonstrative Project on Artificial Recharge to Groundwater in Gangavalli Block, Salem District, Tamil Nadu	191
A. Subburaj, E. Sampath Kumar, S. Suresh, V. Elanchelian and K. Rajarajan	
Soil Infiltration Test in Hard Rock Areas—A Case Study	203
S.S. Vittala, G.R.C. Reddy, K.R. Sooryanarayana and G. Sudarshan	
Peoples’ Participation for Sustainable Groundwater Management	215
Bishwadeep Ghose, Harshvardhan Dhawan, Himanshu Kulkarni, Uma Aslekar, Siddharth Patil, M.V. Ramachandrudu, Bakkareddy Cheela, Yogesh Jadeja, Brijen Thankar, Ravi Chopra, Anil Gautam and Eklavya Prasad	
Geospatial Analysis of Recharge of Groundwater and Irrigation Draft from Different Aquifer Systems of Rajasthan, India	235
Bidyut Kumar Bhadra, Rakesh Paliwal and S. Srinivasa Rao	
Evaluation of Water Level Behavior in Coal-Mining Area, Adjacent Township, and District Areas of Jharkhand State, India	261
Prasoon Kumar Singh, Ashwani Kumar Tiwari and Poornima Verma	

Modelling the Potential Impact of Small-Scale Pumping Near Future Water Supply Wells in a Stressed Aquifer in South Western Bengal Basin on Groundwater Flow 279
P.K. Sikdar and Paulami Sahu

Hydrodynamics of Groundwater Flow in the Arsenic-Affected Areas of the Gangetic West Bengal, India 301
Abhijit Mukherjee

Recording High Natural Gamma Radiations in Fluoride-Prone Area of Shivpuri District, Madhya Pradesh 321
Subhash C. Singh, Rakesh Singh and Parvinder Singh

Author Index 333

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Dipankar Saha is presently working as a member in Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India. He is coordinating the ambitious National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme taken up by Government of India to cover the entire country. He has more than 30 years experience in the domain of groundwater investigation, monitoring and assessment. He has obtained Ph.D. on *Groundwater Management* from ISM IIT, Dhanbad. He has authored number of state and national reports and over 35 publications in peer-reviewed international journals. He is professionally trained on *Applied Quaternary Geology* by Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok and on *Integrated Water Resources Management*, by JICA, Tokyo. He has presented many keynote addresses at national and international level conferences including World Water Week—Stockholm. He is recipient of *National Geoscience Award—2011* on *Groundwater Exploration* and Groundwater Excellence Award in 2014, conferred by Government of India and International Association of Hydrogeologist—India Chapter, respectively.

Sanjay Marwaha is working as Regional Director with Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India. He has done his post-graduation from Panjab University, Chandigarh, and was awarded university medals for standing first class first both in under graduation and post-graduation. He had taken courses on groundwater management, geographic information system and remote sensing at ITC, Netherlands, and was adjudged best trainee. During past 30 years, he is credited with number of studies related to various facets of groundwater, especially managed aquifer recharge in parts of semiarid areas of country. He has been associated with compilation of five volumes issued by Government of India on various topics such as groundwater recharge—techniques, perspective plan of groundwater resources of India, master plan for artificial recharge in India, Punjab water Quality—Issues and

Challenges. He has also authored more than 40 publications in national and international forums on various aspects of hydrogeology. Currently, he is associated with one of the most ambitious projects ever taken for mapping of aquifers of India.

Arunangshu Mukherjee has obtained his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees from Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur in geology. A hydrogeologist by profession, he has worked for Central Ground Water Board for 24 years. At present he is working as Professor in Civil Engineering Dept., Manav Rachna International University (MRIU), Faridabad, India. He is actively engaged in research and teaching of applied groundwater aspects. He gained experience in management and implementation aspects of groundwater including application of computer models in scientific evaluation of hydrogeologic systems, groundwater resources development and protection. He has published over 70 research papers in international and national journals, and conference proceedings, authored many books and written more than 35 project reports. He is currently associated with arsenic research, spatial distribution of As pollution in groundwater of hard rock areas. He is the recipient of “*M P Young Scientist Award*” 1990 and INC-IAH Award of Excellence in “*Ground Water Implementation and Management*” 2015. He is member of International Association of Hydrogeologist and National Cave Research and Protection Organization.

Groundwater Resources and Sustainable Management Issues in India

Dipankar Saha, Sanjay Marwaha and Arunangshu Mukherjee

Abstract Groundwater is a critical component for socioeconomic development in India. The country exhibits wide spectrum on geology, climatic condition, and terrain, which is reflected in considerable variation in groundwater occurrence and movement. In addition, excessive withdrawal, in comparison with its annual replenishment, has created overexploitation of this precious natural resource, obliterating natural groundwater regime in large areas of the country. Besides, in many parts, the groundwater is contaminated both geogenically and anthropogenically. India as a country has established himself as the largest groundwater extractor in the world. The looming issues of overexploitation and deteriorating quality call for sustainable management of groundwater resource in long-term perspective. With the preamble on the review of the hydrogeology of the country, this paper summarizes 20 contributions that have been included in this volume. The papers are rich in their content and present a wide array of groundwater issues of the country, ranging from quality, conjunctive use of surface and groundwater, artificial recharge, community participation in its management, urban hydrogeology, coastal aquifer dynamics, mining hydrogeology, and application of state-of-the-art investigation techniques in groundwater survey and management. The aroma of the volume will enrich which are directly or indirectly linked with groundwater resource management of the country.

Keywords Groundwater · Sustainable management · India · Aquifer · Water level · Quality

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1 Introduction

Groundwater is extremely important for drinking water and food security, besides rendering a significant service toward human health and ecosystem (Gleeson et al. 2016). At many places, aquifers are the only source of available water for drinking and irrigation, rendering groundwater as the most abstracted raw material on the Earth (NGWA 2016). In the changing climate scenario, the role of groundwater is significant, due to its relative stability in terms of both quality and quantity. India, as a country, is tilted toward groundwater for its societal needs. With 243 km³ extraction annually, India is the largest consumer of groundwater in the world, consuming more than the cumulative draft of second and third highest consumers, i.e., Republic of China and USA, respectively (NGWA 2016). Nearly 85% of rural drinking need, 62% of irrigation need, and more than 50% of urban water demand of the country are met up from aquifers.

India's groundwater story is unique and interwoven in its journey toward achieving food security. The country has witnessed atomistic groundwater development, through private participation, where the million of landowners drilled their own wells. At present, the number of wells used for irrigation in the country is pegged to be more than 25 million. Besides providing irrigation, the wells boast rural economy and employments.

Growing population, urbanization, industrialization, and overall development of infrastructural facilities with improved lifestyle have put water in a competitive sectoral demand more than other parts of the world. There is a radical reduction of per capita annual availability from 5177 to 1545 m³ since India's independence. All global prediction say large part of India is going to be water scarce by the year 2030. Aquifers, being comparatively safer source of potable water and being distributed in all types of terrain and in agroclimatic zones, the pressure from increasing water demand will be mainly focus on groundwater development and management. Central Ground Water Board being the apex organization under Govt of India in the domain of groundwater exploration, monitoring, and management has a stupendous task in fostering sustainable development of this precious natural resource involving the stakeholders, planners, researchers, and implementing agencies in state level.

2 Groundwater Occurrence

India is a vast country having geographical area over 32.87 lakh km² and can be divided into three broad geomorphic divisions, the Peninsular India, the Indo-Ganga-Brahmaputra Plain, and the Extra Peninsular India. The Peninsular India and Extra Peninsular India predominantly represent hilly and undulating topography, interspersed with alluvial deposits of rivers. These two units are predominantly characterized by hardwork aquifers, where groundwater occurs within

the top weathered zones (generally <30 m thick) and underlying fracture/joints generally confined within 200 m below ground. The fractured aquifers are highly heterogeneous and largely local to subregional in extent. In these areas, the recharge is mainly through point to local recharge. Groundwater remains in phreatic condition in the weathered zone, whereas groundwater remains semi-confined to confined in the fractures below. The groundwater in this hard rock terrain is comparatively younger in age. Indicating recharge in annual cycle (Saha et al. 2013). Whereas the Indo-Ganga-Brahmaputra Plain is underlain by thick unconsolidated deposits of Quaternary age holding some of the most potential aquifer systems in the world (Mukherjee et al. 2015b).

Beside the Indo-Ganga-Brahmaputra Plains, the wide costal tract in Bangal deltaic regions and along the East Coast is largely occupied by pile of thick unconsolidated sediments mainly of Quaternary age. In total, the unconsolidated deposits roughly occupy one-third of geographical area of the country. They are characterized by multilayered aquifers of regional to subregional extent which are reported down to several hundreds of meter below ground. These aquifers dominantly pose primary granular porosity, rendering substantial yield potential to the wells. The recharge is both through local or regional flows. Groundwater remains under varied condition, ranging from phreatic to semi-confined in shallow and middle depth (up to 100–120 m below ground in general), while under confined in deeper levels. The shallow and middle depth aquifers get modern recharge from rainfall, while deeper aquifers may contain relatively older water even up to several thousand years old (Saha et al. 2011).

2.1 Groundwater Regime

Groundwater levels in India vary considerably in response to various geologic, terrain, and climatic conditions and anthropogenic interventions. A simplified groundwater level map of premonsoon phreatic groundwater level data (CGWB 2016) shows four broad zones running across SE to NW of India (Fig. 1a). The trans-Himalayan foothill zone and the East Coast have nearly continuous band of <5 m depth to water level, apart from few isolated patches largely concentrated in the eastern half of India and in parts of Maharashtra coast. 5–10 m below ground level (bgl) occurs in large part of India, except in northwest states of Rajasthan and Punjab. This is followed by deeper levels of 10–20 mbgl, largely spotted by small pockets concentrated in the western part of the country. The deeper levels are recorded in arid parts of Rajasthan and central part of Punjab where levels are varying from 20 to 40 mbgl and even deeper. Apart from this, patches of deeper levels are also observed in parts of Gujarat, Haryana, Telangana, and Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The perennial shallow groundwater levels (2–5 mbgl) are largely the regional discharge zones, either along the foothills of Himalaya or along the East Coast. Similarly, the deepest groundwater level zones are areas of negligible groundwater recharge in the arid parts of India.

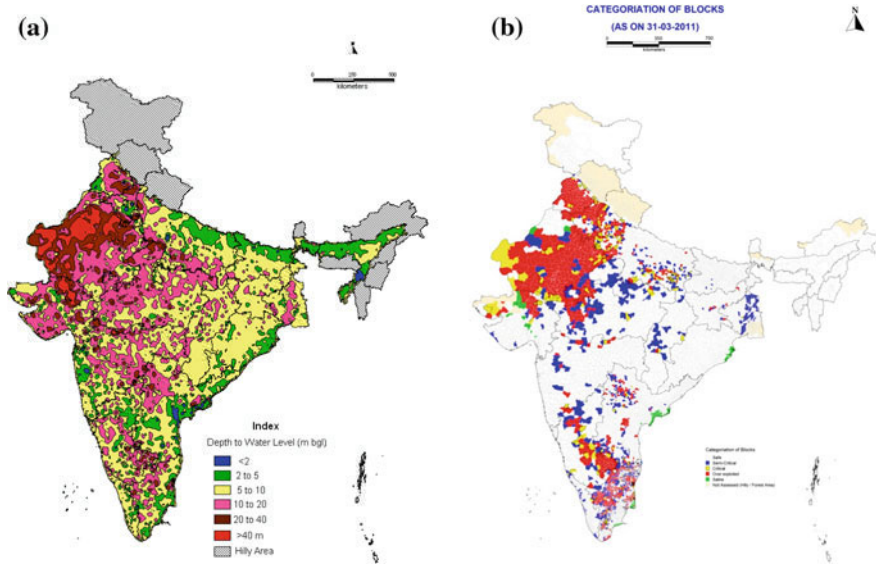


Fig. 1 a Depth to water level map of premonsoon 2016. b Categorization of assessment units based on SOD. Colors represent as (Red = OE, Yellow = Critical, Blue = Semi-critical, Green = Saline and White = Safe). Source CGWB

2.2 Level of Groundwater Extraction

The rainfall is the main source of recharge to aquifers in India. The ratio of groundwater recharge to draft in an annual scale provides the stage of groundwater development (SOD). SOD is considered in India as an earmark to assess the stress on the dynamic groundwater resource. The latest estimation of dynamic groundwater resources (CGWB 2016) has indicated the overall SOD of the country as 62%. The assessment unit, i.e., blocks (talukas, firkas in some states) are categorized based on their SOD as- “safe” (SOD < 70%), “semi-critical” (SOD 70–90%), “critical” (SOD 90–100%), and “overexploited” (SOD > 100%). The SOD is not uniform throughout the country due to obvious reasons that govern the aquifer potential, recharge capability, and extent of groundwater exploitation. Groundwater overexploitation is confined in 1071 units of the country and in another 914 significantly where level of exploitation has exceeded 70%. All these units are largely concentrated in the NW parts, as well as deep in Penninsular India. These areas are also characterized by deeper groundwater levels (Fig. 1b).

Groundwater overextraction has resulted in decline in water levels, dwindling well yields and drying up of dug wells. Besides, there is an overall increase of background salinity in groundwater. This is apart from the known ambient higher values of EC in arid regions of India, as well as in coastal tract. This has prompted to conclude that groundwater overextraction is deteriorating the ambient quality of

groundwater also (Mukherjee et al. 2015b). Shift to drinking water abstraction from deeper zones might have triggered certain pollutants to enter into aquifer-based drinking water cycle (Saha et al. 2009; Mukherjee et al. 2015a).

The India's groundwater resource management is at crossroad, because of accelerated pace and skewed extraction leading to significant decline in groundwater level on the one hand and expanding areas under waterlogging and deteriorating water quality resulting in considerable reduction in availability of fresh and potable water. Strategies for better groundwater governance and management need to be developed through wide consultation among various stakeholders, academia, researchers, and state departments dealing with groundwater. To achieve this Central Ground Water Board, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has organized a one-day thread-bearing discussions 'Bhujal Manthan' on August 21, 2015, at Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra, Haryana. This volume derives some of the best papers presenting and deliberating in the workshop. The volume contains 22 papers which are grouped into the following four subthemes.

3 Layout of the Book

The articles selected from the Bhujal Manthan-2015 are broadly grouped into following four themes (i) groundwater quality, (ii) conjunctive use of surface and groundwater, (iii) management intervention for sustainable water, and (iv) groundwater problem and application of techniques.

3.1 *Groundwater Quality*

Qualitatively, groundwater is considered as a safer source in comparison with surface water. Mineralization of groundwater up to certain extent is considered to be good for human health and crops. By and large, the ambient quality of groundwater in India is still good and requires no external treatment before drinking, irrigation, and industrial uses. The quality of groundwater in the operational zone of open dug wells was found potable since ages. But due to various anthropogenic reasons, slowly this zone became contaminated with fecal colliers, forced shifting of abstraction from deeper zones through mechanized wells, and hand pumps for drinking needs. Deeper zones hold groundwater with relatively more mineralization that under reducing condition may produce toxicity. Apart from geogenic contamination such as arsenic and fluoride, seawater intrusion in the costal tract, agricultural practice, urban wastewater and land fields, and liquid and solid disposed from industries and mines are the main source of contamination of groundwater (Banerjee et al. 2012).

During the recent years, much of the emphasis in groundwater for drinking use has shifted from problem of availability to issues of quality. The quality problems are broadly grouped into two: 'geogenic' and 'anthropogenic.' Geogenic pollution refers to naturally occurring elevated concentration of certain constituents in groundwater having adverse health effects. In India, contamination of fluoride and arsenic is geogenic in nature and affecting several parts of the country and has become major health concern and poses challenge for safe water supply (Bajerjee et al. 2012). Besides these, elevated levels of salinity, iron, manganese, uranium, radon, chromium selenium, and other traced elements reported at places may also be of geogenic origin. In India, approximately 40 million people are residing within the risk zone of arsenic contamination (Saha and Sahu 2015). The states from which arsenic contamination has been reported are West Bengal, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Assam, Manipur, Punjab, Haryana, Chhattisgarh, and Karnataka. However, the elevated concentration is mostly confined in the Indo-Gangetic Plains (Saha 2009) CGWB has been advocating exploitation of arsenic safe deeper aquifers in the Indo-Gangetic Plains under regulated pumping. The other remedial measures include removing arsenic from groundwater after it is extracted and reducing the level within the aquifer itself through in situ treatment and through dilution of the contaminants by artificial recharge. Fluoride concentration has pan-India presence. Its concentration above maximum permissible limit of 1.5 mg/L has been reported in groundwater from parts of many states of India, namely Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. Fluoride-contaminated areas are mostly characterized by the presence of crystalline basement, and volcanic and sedimentary rock areas particularly characterized by arid and semiarid climatic conditions. Dissolution and weathering of F-bearing minerals, pulled by calcite precipitation, are considered to be the dominant mechanism responsible for groundwater fluoride (F⁻) contamination. Long-term solution involves providing alternate source of potable water by construction of wells tapping fluoride-free aquifers, installation of community-based de-fluoridation plants, and surface water-based supply, wherever available.

Six papers have been incorporated under this theme and amply signify the importance of this issue. Out of that four papers discussed, the issues are related to elevated levels of fluoride and its mitigation and one deals with uranium contamination. The remaining paper discusses on deteriorating groundwater quality because of saline water ingress in East Coast area. Prof. **L. Elango and Jagadeshan** in their paper are of opinion that managed aquifer recharge can be an effective mean for dilution of fluoride concentration in groundwater. Through their experiment by dug well recharge, they have able to obtain desired results in a contaminated phreatic aquifer in hard rock areas of Dharmapuri district in Tamil Nadu state. **Dr. Santhil Kumar** and their co-authors in their study had shown the example of seawater ingress and deterioration of groundwater quality due to excessive pumping driven by urbanization in coastal Chennai area of Tamil Nadu state. Bromide has been used as an indicator to delineate the seawater-freshwater

interface. **Sh. Supriya Bramha** has discussed the level of fluoride concentration in different aquifers and related issues in varied hydrogeological setup represented by hard rock and older alluvium in West Bengal. **Prof. H.K. Pandey** and co-authors discussed the petro-mineralogical and geochemical significance of fluoride contamination and its release mechanism in groundwater of hard rock aquifer from Sunbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh. In another study made by **Dr. P. Madhure** and co-authors, the evolution of fluoride-rich groundwater has been dealt in detail in Cherlapalli water shed in Nalgonda district of Telangana state represented by hard rock aquifer. They are of opinion that fluoride enrichment is related to Ca^{+2} removal during rock–water interaction.

Uranium contamination of groundwater in southwest part of Punjab has been discussed by **Prof. K.P. Singh** along with his co-authors. They have opined that the genesis of uranium is not related to basement granite or the phosphate fertilizer. They have found uranium concentration in sediments of the area which may be one of the sources for its elevated concentration at places in groundwater.

3.2 Conjunctive Use of Surface and Groundwater

To improve the overall efficiency of water resource development and management, ‘conjunctive use’ has been considered as an affective tool. It is defined by Foster et al. (2010) as a situation where both groundwater and surface water are developed (or coexist and can be developed) to supply a given irrigation canal command—although not necessarily using both sources continuously over time nor providing each individual water user from both sources. Alternatively, FAO (1995) described conjunctive use as ‘use of surface water and groundwater consists of harmoniously combining the use of both sources of water in order to minimize the undesirable physical, environmental and economical effects of each solution and to optimize the water demand/supply balance.’ Because different stakeholders are involved in the conjunctive use of surface and groundwater resources, a conflict-resolution technique should be employed to resolve cross-interests. A major issue related to conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in efficient manner is to have some form of institutional arrangement and a supportive regulatory framework. The number of studies has been undertaken by institutions and government departments for establishing feasibility of conjunctive use in India. The studies have established that the isolated use of surface water ignoring groundwater in irrigation command area has resulted in various environmental problems such as waterlogging and salinity. Further, it is also felt that there is a need to adopt groundwater management which incorporates a groundwater simulation model as constraint in the management model which can be efficiently used in planning the conjunctive use of water. Such planning will need to be supported by a national policy and to occur within a framework that ensures sustainable use of the resources. This will require significant technical inputs, especially within the context of the need to assess the available consumptive pool.

Dr. D.K. Chadha, former Chairman, CGWB, in his contribution pointed toward decadal efforts being made toward the conjunctive use of surface and groundwater in the country and suggested means and ways of efficient conjunctive use. He strongly advocated implementation of its use in the areas where such studies have already been completed. **Prof. Shasank Shekhar** and co-authors advocated that the conjunctive use practice can prevent the rivers from getting dried up because of depleted contribution from aquifers. They have advocated that conjunctive use can provide the requisite environmental sustainability to the river ecosystem.

3.3 Management Interventions for Sustainable Use

Globally, irrigated agriculture is the largest consumer of groundwater resources. However, in many arid and semiarid areas, recharge from rainfall is limited and unconstrained use is causing serious aquifer depletion and environmental degradation. The interactions between irrigation, surface water, and groundwater resources are often very close, such that active cross-sector dialogue and integrated vision are needed to promote sustainable land and water management. Clear policy guidance and focused local action involving communities are required to make efficient use of groundwater in view of drought mitigation and climate change adaptation. Policies must be tailored to local hydrogeological settings and agro-economic realities, and their implementation will require active involvement of the farming community.

Dr. Himanshu Kulkarni and co-authors in their paper discussed alternative way of calculating efficiency of groundwater in agriculture system. They presented an interesting case of groundwater efficiency assessment involving the inherent aquifer characteristics like specific yield which are often ignored. The paper illustrates two examples from the Deccan basalt aquifer system in western Maharashtra state, where use of specific yield parameter has helped in a robust understanding of groundwater use efficiency for its better management.,

Prof. Tushar Shah, Chairman of Task Force of Managed Aquifer Recharge Project of Gujarat State, from his experience and expertise has sketched the impact of groundwater overexploitation and possibilities of artificial recharge for water-stressed areas of Gujarat. He has opined that apart from hydrogeologists, water experts, economist, and social scientist can also made important contribution to water strategy formulation. **Dr. P.K. Gangopadhyay** and co-authors in their interesting article presented a case study of co-solving groundwater level depletion as well as flooding problem using managed aquifer recharge in the Ram Ganga subbasin of the Gangetic Plain through participatory mode. They use the terminology UTFI (underground taming of floodwater through irrigation) where floodwater is diverted into the de-saturated part of the aquifer below. This has double benefit of reducing the flood risk and enhancing the groundwater resource of the area.

The impact of artificial recharge on groundwater is presented by **Sh. Subburaj** and co-authors in the hard rock aquifer of Salem district of Tamil Nadu. They have

shown the increase of sustainability of groundwater due to implementation of artificial recharge projects. The pumping hours by the farmers have increased, and also, there is rise in water level in the area. **Dr. S.S. Vittala** and co-authors presented the result of soil infiltration studies carried out in Ankasandra water shed in Tumkur district of Karnataka state. They found that lowest infiltration rate is noted at tank belts. Infiltration rate is an extremely important component for estimating the recharge. **Dr. B. Ghosh** and co-authors presented interesting case studies of participatory groundwater management and self-regulation in varied hydrogeological typologies in India. They argued that decentralized groundwater management can offer better solution for its long-term sustainability and social equity. **Dr. Bidyut Kumar Bhadra** and co-authors have presented interesting case study of groundwater recharge in arid region of Rajasthan. The study was carried out at three places of Rajasthan underlain by different aquifer systems. All the areas exhibits decline in groundwater level at various rates. They have opined for adopting preventive measures for increasing the recharge and efficient use of groundwater. **Prof. P.K. Singh** and others presented a case study of groundwater regime in coal mining area. The mining activity is impacting the water level and flow regime in the surrounding areas. In case studies around Jharia, East Bocaro and West Bocaro cold field of Jharkhand State detailed behavior of water level are discussed.

3.4 Groundwater Mapping and Application of Recent Techniques

Groundwater mapping involves multidisciplinary techniques to understand, map and assess various issues like, delineating the aquifers, hydraulic parameters of aquifers, well sustainability, assessing the resource availability, quality variation—both specially and vertically, groundwater pollution etc. As the groundwater resources are becoming scarce and its social and economic importance is increasing rapidly, there is a spurt in application of new technique. In the domain of groundwater lot of researches are going on to understand science and developing new technologies on accurately delineating the aquifers and characterizing them through various geophysical techniques and applications of isotope and tracers. Challenges are particularly to delineate deeper fractures which are water bearing and have good yield potential in hard rock terrain. Significant innovations are taking place for automatic water level measurement and quality monitoring through telemetry. Though groundwater modeling is being applied to understand the flow regime, wider applications are needed for predicting the future scenario under various stress conditions and pollution studies through solute transport modeling. Researches are also required for comprehensive understanding on impact of various climate change scenario and extreme rainfall event on groundwater regime. Besides, lot of technological development is taking place for analysis of harmful consequent in water even in nanogram level. Application of remotely sensed data

for groundwater mapping is well established, but the new domains are emerging with an advent of gravity satellite which is being applied in assessing groundwater resource and its depletion.

Prof. P.K. Sikader and P. Sahu highlighted the stress on urban aquifer system of Kolkata and its impacts on natural recharge pattern using groundwater modeling. They provoked for using groundwater modeling as decision-making tool for better management of the confined aquifer surrounding Kolkata urban area. The recommendation can be replicated in other urban areas with similar hydrogeology setting.

Prof. Abhijit Mukherjee discussed the hydrodynamics of groundwater flow using arsenic as tool for modeling. A regional hydrostratigraphic model has been developed in the Gangetic Plain of West Bengal to indicate that groundwater flow is dependent on the amount and timing of precipitation and is controlled by the topography and alignments of major streams, which can be heavily distorted in case the region experiences over pumping. **Dr. Subhash Singh** and co-authors have used gama logging in a very effective manner to detect the radio activity in fluoride-contaminated aquifer of Shivepuri district of Madhya Pradesh state to understand the extent of contamination.

4 Conclusion

Groundwater is rendering a yeomen service in India by providing significant contribution to water supply for drinking, irrigation, and industrial sector. The dependence on this resource is increasing day by day because of its three unique characteristics: (i) special distribution and use as a common pool resource, (ii) its availability in all agroclimatic region and terrain condition, and (iii) drought—proofing character of groundwater and its relative immunity to extreme events under climate change scenario.

In view of its over-exploitation in large parts of the country, quality deterioration even in areas where they are available in plenty and rapidly increasing dependence on this resource for food and drinking security has thrown open serious challenges to all its stakeholders—the management of this resource in a sustainable manner. Sustainable management of this hidden resource is only possible when we have a comprehensive understanding of the system, both on a sound scientific understanding and social-economic prospective. The selected 21 papers from the Bhujal Manthan-2015, the largest groundwater discussion platform in India, organized by CGWB, embodies the groundwater issues of India. The papers extend valuable thoughts which would be useful for laying the road map for sustainable management of this resource. This volume will immensely benefit the researcher, policy makers, academia, and the stakeholders in understanding the various facts of this resource.

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Fluoride Contamination in Groundwater: A Pilot Study on Dug Well Recharge System for In situ Mitigation

L. Elango and G. Jagadeshan

Abstract Dissolved ions concentration in groundwater beyond the recommended limits is a major problem as they make the water unsuitable for drinking purpose. Fluorine commonly found in certain rocks is released into groundwater due to the processes of rock–water interaction. This leads to increase in the concentration of fluoride in groundwater which is a major problem in several parts of the world including India. Presence of fluoride beyond the prescribed limits causes health problems to humans due to prolonged consumption of water, which is common in many parts of India. Dental and skeletal fluorosis is observed due to prolonged drinking of water with fluoride concentration above 1.5 mg/l. The objective of the study is to know how fluoride get released from the host rock and spot out suitable location for installing a dug well recharge system to decrease the fluoride concentration in groundwater. Several methodologies exist for in situ or exsitu removal of fluoride from groundwater. Exsitu methods can be enforced at community level or even at household level for the reduction of fluoride before its consumption, through ion exchange, reverse osmosis, adsorption, electrodialysis, coagulation, Nalgonda technique, electrodialysis, coagulation, precipitation, etc. Even artificial recharging structures can also be built in suitable location for diluting fluorite concentration in groundwater. Rainwater harvesting is also found effective to reduce the fluoride concentration of groundwater in existing wells. A pilot study was carried out by construction of a dug well recharge system in Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu, India. The study successfully demonstrated the applicability of dug well recharge system at a carefully selected site based on the systematic long-term hydrogeochemical studies to solve the problem of fluoride contamination affecting millions of rural people.

Keywords Groundwater · Fluoride contamination · Rainwater harvesting
Hard rock aquifers · Geogenic contamination

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© Springer Nature Singapore Pte Ltd. 2018
D. Saha et al. (eds.), *Clean and Sustainable Groundwater in India*,
Springer Hydrogeology, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-10-4552-3_2

1 Introduction

Geogenic and anthropogenic contamination may make groundwater unsuitable for various uses including its use as drinking water. Consumption of such water may cause many health problems. Presence of fluoride, arsenic, and iron above recommended limits is found in groundwater due to geogenic contamination in many parts of India and world (Mukherjee et al. 2015). Release of arsenic from arseno-pyrite minerals is responsible for higher concentration of arsenic in groundwater of Bengal basin (Farooq et al. 2011; Saha 2009). As about 80% of rural population of India depends on the use of groundwater for domestic use, the water needs to be treated before it is used for drinking purpose. The initial concentration of fluoride, occurrence and removal of co-contaminants, and disposal of sludge, etc., decide treatment methods of water to be treated (Brindha et al. 2016). Bhagavan and Raghu (2005) studied the effect of increase in recharge by check dams, and Pettanati et al. (2014) highlighted the use of percolation ponds in regions with fluoride problem in groundwater. Some studies have also indicated an increase in fluoride concentration in groundwater during the process of recharge when check dams are constructed (Bhagavan and Raghu 2005). Thus, contradicting findings are also observed from recharge for in situ mitigation of fluoride concentration (Brindha et al. 2016). Hence, it is essential to reveal the release mechanism of fluoride during the process of recharge based on a long-term temporal variation in fluoride concentration and in the level of groundwater in the area. The objective of this study is to understand the release processes of fluoride and identify a suitable location for construction of dug well recharge system in the area for reducing the concentration of fluoride in groundwater to an acceptable level. This pilot study was carried out in Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu (Fig. 1), where about 72,000 out of about 190,000 school students were found having dental fluorosis (UNICEF 2009).

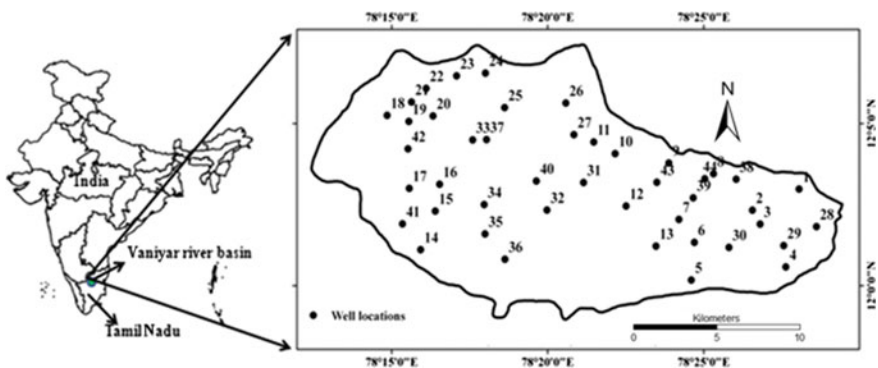


Fig. 1 Location map of study area and sampling wells

2 Methodology

Systematic investigation during June 2011 helped in identifying 44 key monitoring well to represent the area (Fig. 1). These key wells were used to collect bimonthly groundwater level and water sample between June 2011 and August 2014. Largely, the key wells are >30 m in depth and are utilized for obtaining drinking and agricultural water. Water level indicators (Solinst) were used to collect water level data. Pre-washed and treated 1000-ml capacity clean polyethylene bottles were used to collect groundwater samples after rinsed with sample. Merck 0.22- μm filter paper (Merck 755004722) were used to filter the samples before collection. To know the in situ temperature, EC and pH of the groundwater in field portable digital meter (YSI 556MPS) were used. Total dissolved solids (TDS) were obtained using $\text{EC} = \text{TDS}/0.64$ (Carroll 1962). Aquamerck (1.11109.0001) test kit was used to measure CO_3^{2-} and HCO_3^{-} in the field itself. Ion chromatograph (Metrohm 861) was used for measuring the concentrations of Na^+ , K^+ , Ca^{2+} , Mg^{2+} , Cl^- , F^- , NO_3^- , and SO_4^{2-} of samples in the laboratory. The concentration of silica was determined by using spectrophotometer (Systronics 201) for the groundwater samples collects in August 2014. Batch test experiment's results were obtained to know the fluoride release processes from the rocks/soil, at laboratory.

3 Sources of Fluoride in Groundwater

Fluoride-bearing minerals are common in nature; therefore, contamination of fluorite is vast. Sometime it is intensive and became alarming in many places. The permissible range for fluoride in drinking water as per the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS 2012) is from 0.6 to 1.5 mg/l. A desired concentration of fluoride in drinking water is favorable to determine the physiological activities in human bodies, whereas the consumption of fluoride above or below the permissible limits may cause health problems such as fluorosis of dental and skeletal structure. In India, northwestern and southern states are severely affected with fluorosis (Agarwal et al. 1997; Ali et al. 2016). Weathering of rocks rich in fluoride is the common natural cause for the fluoride in groundwater. The marine sediments and sediments of foothill areas (WHO 2002; Fawell et al. 2006), as well as marginal alluvial terrain of the Gangetic Plains (Saha et al. 2008; Saha and Alam 2014), are more vulnerable for water with high concentration of fluoride. Fluorine occurs naturally in igneous and sedimentary rocks. Common fluoride minerals are sellaite, fluorite or fluorspar, cryolite, fluorapatite, apatite, topaz, phlogopite, biotite, epidote, tremolite and hornblende, mica, clays, villuanite, and phosphorite (Brindha and Elango 2011; Haidouti 1991; Gaumat et al. 1992; Gaciri and Davies 1993; Kundu et al. 2001). Nalgonda district, Andhra Pradesh, known for its fluorite

contamination is due to the inherent fluoride-rich granitic rocks. The fluoride content in granitic rocks in Nalgonda district varies from 325 to 3200 mg/kg with a mean of 1440 mg/kg. Thus, the Nalgonda granites having higher fluoride content than world granite, where it occurs average 810 mg/kg (Brindha and Elango 2011), whereas in Hyderabad granites, it is estimated 910 mg/kg (Brindha and Elango 2011; Ramamohana Rao et al. 1993). However, groundwater in northeastern districts of Tamil Nadu has high fluoride because of their fluoride-rich mineral such as epidote, hornblende, biotite, apatite, carbonatite, mica, and fluorapatite (Jagadeshan 2015; Jagadeshan et al. 2015a, b; Brindha et al. 2016). Jagadeshan et al. (2015b) carried out a study of rocks of Vaniyar river basin in Dharmapuri district, Tamil Nadu, to understand the mineralogical composition. He made thin sections of the charnockite and epidote hornblende biotite gneiss rocks (Fig. 2), where plagioclase, hypersthene, biotite, quartz, hornblende, orthoclase, and muscovite opaque (probably iron oxide) were the major minerals. Biotite which consists of fluorine was also identified in charnockite rock.

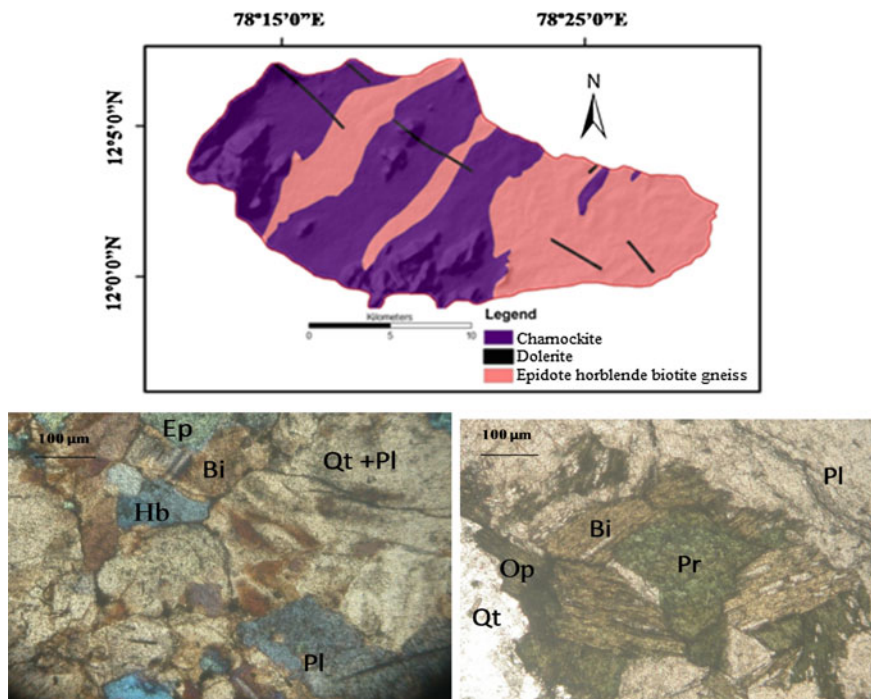


Fig. 2 Geological map of the study area and thin section photographs (X5 magnification, field of view 2500 μm wide, plan polarized illumination) showing quartz (*Qt*), plagioclase (*Pl*), epidote (*Ep*), biotite (*Bi*), hypersthene (*Op*), hornblende (*Hb*), pyroxene, and other opaque minerals (*Op*) in epidote hornblende gneiss (*left*) and charnockite (*right*)

4 Geochemical Analysis of Groundwater

Largely, the elevated amount of fluorite in groundwater is due to its release from host rock. The climatic conditions, pH, host rock mineralogy, and hydrogeological condition of an area are generally governing the release of fluoride into groundwater (Shan et al. 2013; Raju et al. 2009). The phosphatic fertilizers use may also lead to rise in fluoride concentration in groundwater anthropogenically.

Utilization of fertilizers and industrial activities such as brick kilning are some of the other causes for elevated fluoride concentration in groundwater (Selvam 2015). The weathering of these rocks results in increased fluoride content in groundwater. Longer residence time in aquifers with fractured fluoride-rich rocks enhances fluoride levels in the groundwater. Granite and granitic gneisses in Nalgonda, India, contain fluoride-rich minerals such as fluorite (0–3.3%), biotite (0.1–1.7%), and

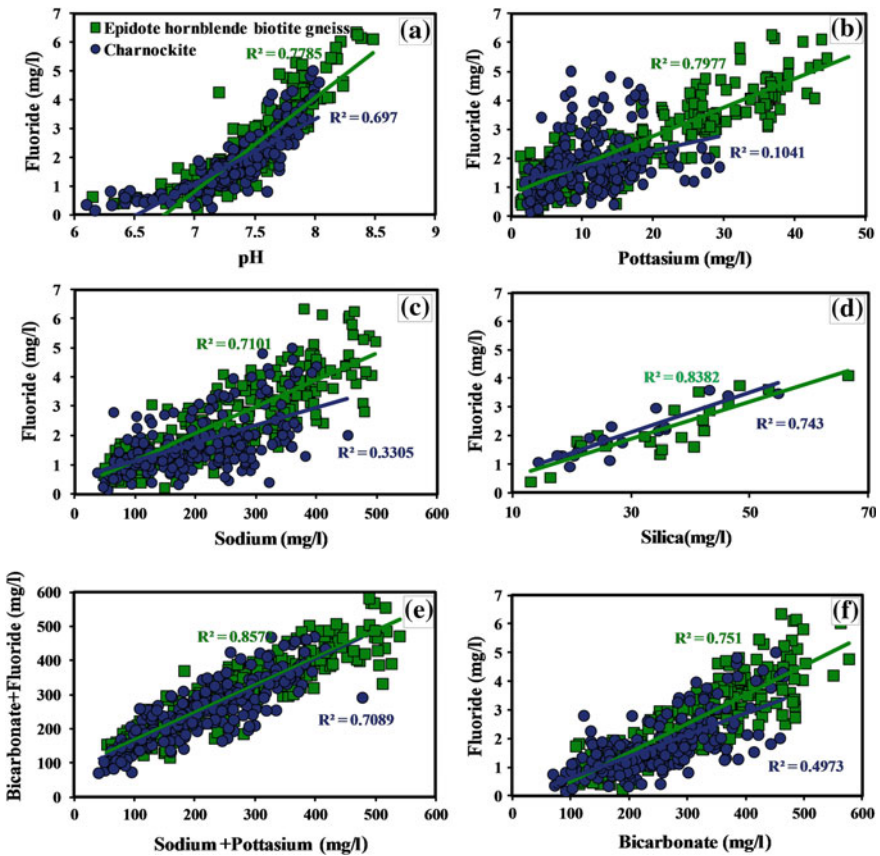


Fig. 3 Bivariate diagram of fluoride versus pH (a), potassium (b), sodium (c), silica (d), bicarbonate + fluoride versus sodium + potassium (e), and bicarbonate versus fluoride (f)