

## Prospects of groundwater quality for irrigation in central tracts of Lalitpur region, Uttar Pradesh, India

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### ABSTRACT

The quality of selected bored well and dug well waters from the central tracts of the Lalitpur region in the state of Uttar Pradesh, India, was investigated for irrigation purposes. The study area is situated within the latitudes 24° 35' N and 24° 43' N, and the longitudes 78° 20' 41" E and 78° 30' E in the basin of the Shahzad River, which is a tributary of the Betwa River. Granites and gneisses of Archaean age are exposed in various parts of the area.

The selected groundwater samples were analysed for major cations, anions, trace elements, *pH*, electrical conductivity (*EC*), sodium absorption ratio (*SAR*), residual sodium carbonate (*RSC*), permeability index (*PI*), and sodium per cent (*SP*). The analysed data were plotted on Wilcox and U.S. salinity diagrams to evaluate chemical quality of groundwater for irrigation. The *SAR* values (ranging from 0.47 to 79) are within the permissible limits. A majority of samples (i.e., 57.5%) belong to C<sub>3</sub>-S<sub>1</sub> class whereas remaining samples (42.5%) fall in C<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1</sub> class. Plots of *SP* against *EC* indicate that a large number of samples (67.5%) fall within Excellent to Good type of water whereas remaining samples lie within Good to Permissible type. Hence the water can be used for all types of crop on soils of medium to high permeability.

### INTRODUCTION

In recent years, various irrigation schemes are getting increasing emphasis to yield maximum productivity of agriculture. Many countries in the world are now conducting irrigation development programmes based on groundwater resources. Groundwater quality is one of the important parameters of concern for implementation of such programmes. In this perspective, the paper presents a study on suitability of the groundwater quality in the central tracts of the Lalitpur District, Uttar Pradesh, India.

The study area (Fig. 1) lies within the latitudes 24° 35' N and 24° 43' N, and the longitudes 78° 20' 41" E and 78° 30' E. It falls in the basin of the Shahzad River, a tributary of the Betwa River. The area receives mean rainfall of about 890 mm spreading over 30 to 35 rainy days. December is the coolest month and mean minimum temperature is 6.3° C, whereas May is the hottest month with mean maximum temperature of 43° C.

Granites and gneisses of Archaean age constitute the bedrock. Grey to reddish brown or pink granites are dominantly coarse grained with phenocrysts of feldspar.

The area exhibits pediplains (PP), valley fills (VF), and buried pediplains (BPP). Some lineaments are also observed in NE-SW and NW-SE directions (Fig. 1). The thickness of overburden up to the basement varies from 0 to 35 m (Haldar et al. 1994). The depth of groundwater level varies from 4.15 to 12.9 m during the pre-monsoon time and from 1.75 to 6.8 m during the post monsoon time.

### WATER QUALITY

It is interesting to study the quality of groundwater in this draught-prone area with wide variations in rock and overburden types. The water samples were collected mostly from the bored wells except one, which was from a dug well. They were analysed for major cations, anions, trace elements, *pH*, *EC*, *SAR*, *RSC*, *PI*, and *SP* for a comparative study of its agricultural utility.

The suitability of groundwater for irrigation depends on many factors such as texture and composition of soil type, climate, and irrigational practices. It also depends on chemical quality of groundwater, where important parameters are total salinity of water, *SAR*, *RSC*, *PI*, and *SP*.

Wilcox (1948, 1955) and Richards (1954) studied the water quality for irrigation purposes. On the basis of *SP* values, Wilcox (1948) classified the irrigation water quality into the following classes:

Water Quality	<i>SP</i> Value, %
Excellent	< 20
Good	20 - 40
Permissible	40 - 60
Doubtful	60 - 80
Unsuitable	> 80

In the study area, the *SP* values range from 8.75 to 52.43%. Hence, the water is under the permissible category.

The U. S. salinity diagram ( Fig. 2) takes into account the electrical conductivity as an index of salinity hazard and

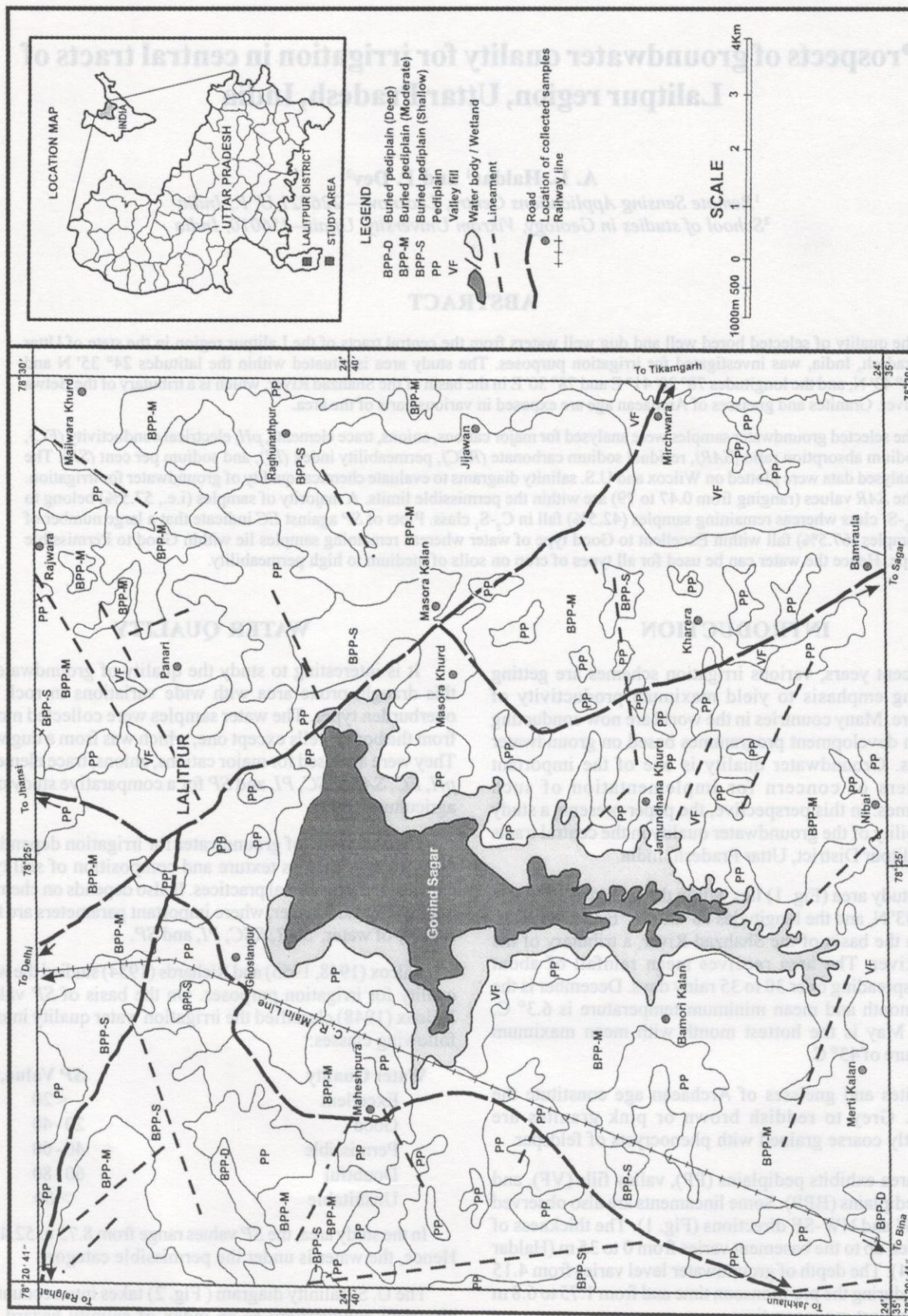


Fig. 1: Geomorphological map of the Lalitpur area, Uttar Pradesh, India

sodium absorption ratio as an index of alkali hazard. *SAR* is defined as:

$$SAR = \frac{Na}{\sqrt{\frac{Ca + Mg}{2}}}$$

where, the concentration of cations is expressed in equivalent per million parts of solution (epm).

*SAR* has a direct relationship with the sodium adsorption by soil. The obtained values of *SAR* range from 0.47 to 3.79 (i.e., they are within the permissible limits) and hence, it is low sodium water. The water can be used for irrigation in almost all soils and all types of crop, except those that are highly sensitive to sodium (such as stone fruit tree and avocado). The *SAR* values (Table 1) are plotted on an arithmetical scale against *EC* on a log scale and different

classes of water were marked in the salinity diagram. The perusal of diagram (Fig. 2) indicates that 42.5 % of water samples fall in *C*<sub>2</sub>-*S*<sub>1</sub> class and remaining 57.5 % of them lie in *C*<sub>3</sub>-*S*<sub>1</sub> class.

Hem (1959) suggested that chlorides below 250 mg/l are harmless for agriculture. The mean values beyond the said limits are hazardous. According to Singh and Chawla (1966), Total Dissolved Solids (*TDS*) in the water for irrigation should be less than 1000 ppm. In view of above, there is only one village (i.e., Bomhari Kalan), where the groundwater is not suitable for irrigation (since the values of *TDS* is 1298 ppm). Rest of the villages are having *TDS* within the permissible limits and the water in those villages is suitable for agricultural development. Also, the water with the values of less than 1000 mg/l can be utilised to grow such semi-tolerant crops as vegetables, wheat, and orchards of mango, guava, orange, and lemon.

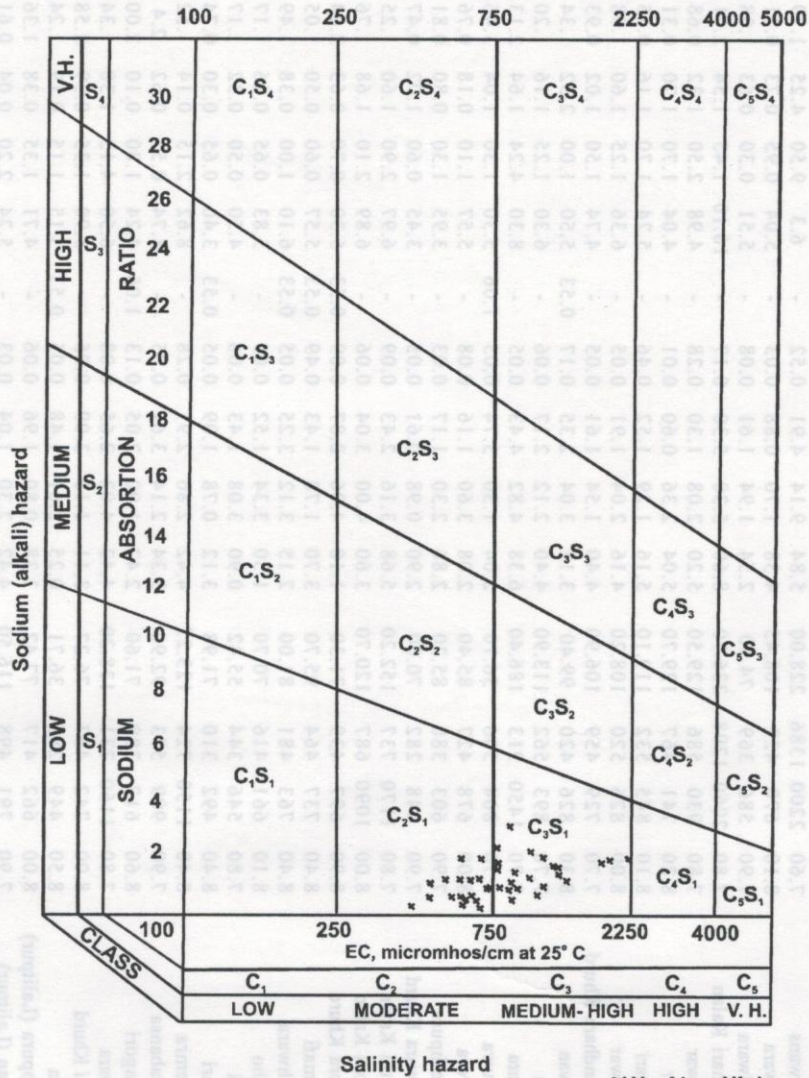


Fig. 2: Data plotted in the U.S. salinity diagram (Richards 1954) for classification of irrigation waters

Table 1: Chemical analysis of groundwater samples from the Lalitpur district, Uttar Pradesh, India

S.N.	Village Name	pH	EC µS/cm	TDS ppm	T	Hardness ppm	Ca <sup>++</sup> meq/l	Mg <sup>++</sup> meq/l	Na <sup>+</sup> meq/l	K <sup>+</sup> meq/l	CO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> meq/l	HCO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> meq/l	Cl <sup>-</sup> meq/l	SO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> meq/l	SAR	Na %	RSC meq/l	PI	NO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> mg/l	PO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-3</sup> mg/l	F <sup>-</sup> mg/l	Zn <sup>++</sup> mg/l	B <sup>+</sup> mg/l	Fe <sup>++</sup> mg/l
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
1	Bhainsai	8.40	1060	668	100.76	1.56	5.72	3.74	0.20	0.53	7.95	1.10	0.70	1.96	35.17	1.77	50.79	0.36	0.47	0.479	0.658	0.271	NIL	
2	Bamrola	7.70	999	629	118.81	2.68	5.36	2.52	0.05	-	5.50	1.70	0.88	1.26	24.22	-0.62	49.64	0.12	0.18	0.216	0.664	0.239	NIL	
3	Satarwans	7.60	2200	1386	228.00	5.84	9.14	4.91	0.52	-	6.3	9.50	4.25	1.79	26.6	-7.71	64.98	0.91	0.18	0.333	0.137	0.289	NIL	
4	Bairwara	8.10	670	422	108.45	4.38	1.70	0.88	0.03	-	5.04	0.95	0.73	0.51	13.16	-1.04	44.89	0.17	0.16	0.382	0.039	0.249	NIL	
5	Bhailwara	7.90	586	369	74.50	2.54	1.94	1.61	0.08	-	5.51	0.30	0.63	1.08	27.39	0.33	62.45	0.33	0.02	0.571	0.041	0.271	NIL	
6	Bambhari Kalan	7.80	2060	1298	236.70	8.60	5.30	5.30	0.17	-	16.10	1.45	1.54	2.01	30.39	2.30	48.50	0.33	0.50	0.369	0.044	0.308	NIL	
7	Burdwar	7.80	930	586	129.50	5.20	2.08	1.30	0.28	-	4.98	2.50	1.32	0.68	17.83	-2.30	41.16	0.36	ND	0.277	0.054	0.328	NIL	
8	Charr	8.20	741	467	129.70	5.04	2.36	0.60	0.01	-	4.04	1.70	1.70	0.31	8.75	-3.36	32.62	0.34	ND	0.199	0.053	0.371	NIL	
9	Gangari	8.10	845	532	119.10	5.16	1.29	1.52	0.46	-	5.24	1.70	1.16	0.85	23.49	-1.21	47.79	0.39	ND	0.199	0.053	0.371	NIL	
10	Ghatwar	8.00	826	520	108.20	4.16	2.04	1.91	0.05	-	6.36	1.25	1.60	1.08	24.02	0.16	55.02	0.36	ND	0.228	0.044	0.321	NIL	
11	Jamundhara Khurd	7.70	729	459	106.90	4.40	1.54	1.61	0.05	-	4.74	1.50	1.02	0.93	21.84	-1.20	50.16	0.37	ND	0.126	0.054	0.261	NIL	
12	Jijiawan	8.30	826	420	99.40	3.12	3.04	2.35	0.17	0.53	5.50	1.00	2.32	1.34	29.03	-0.13	55.17	0.16	ND	0.380	0.103	0.337	NIL	
13	Jiron	7.70	893	562	113.90	4.40	2.12	2.17	0.06	-	6.30	1.25	1.16	1.20	25.49	-0.22	53.85	0.15	0.15	0.609	0.664	0.251	NIL	
14	Juggura	7.70	1450	913	186.40	6.38	4.82	4.43	0.05	-	8.30	4.24	1.64	2.13	28.57	-2.90	46.78	0.36	ND	1.228	0.035	0.314	NIL	
15	Kakruwa	8.70	804	506	56.70	2.04	1.30	3.74	0.05	1.06	5.30	1.30	1.04	3.46	52.43	-0.80	84.15	0.37	ND	0.428	0.054	0.323	NIL	
16	Kharera	8.00	678	427	85.40	2.08	3.60	1.16	0.08	-	5.57	1.10	0.18	0.76	17.92	-0.11	51.46	0.37	ND	0.601	0.053	0.272	NIL	
17	Maheshpura	7.90	603	380	85.20	2.86	2.30	1.17	0.03	-	3.95	1.30	0.80	0.81	18.87	-1.21	49.88	0.37	ND	0.24	0.059	0.341	NIL	
18	Majwara Khurd	7.90	448	282	70.00	2.90	0.98	0.61	0.05	-	3.45	0.60	1.02	0.47	14.54	0.07	61.84	0.23	ND	0.289	0.040	0.215	NIL	
19	Mairthi Kalan	7.80	1170	737	152.20	5.68	3.16	2.43	0.09	-	6.97	2.90	1.60	1.25	22.18	-1.83	44.87	0.12	ND	1.051	0.045	0.307	NIL	
20	Masora Kalan	8.00	1090	687	120.70	3.60	4.00	3.04	0.06	-	6.89	2.10	1.68	1.76	28.97	-0.71	53.24	0.79	0.01	1.153	0.080	0.352	NIL	
21	Masora Khurd	8.90	697	439	71.30	1.10	4.06	2.87	0.09	0.53	5.30	0.70	0.63	2.04	36.45	0.67	64.41	0.29	ND	0.312	0.044	0.307	NIL	
22	Maumafi	8.40	737	464	95.70	3.70	1.78	1.43	0.49	0.53	5.57	0.60	0.50	1.05	25.95	0.62	54.85	0.41	ND	0.614	0.039	0.285	NIL	
23	Mirchwara	8.40	763	481	81.00	2.15	3.12	3.25	0.05	0.53	6.10	1.00	0.38	1.49	30.88	1.36	63.25	0.36	0.07	0.661	0.034	0.297	NIL	
24	Nibaho	8.10	661	416	70.70	1.50	3.34	1.52	0.05	-	5.83	0.65	0.26	1.17	24.49	0.99	61.86	0.18	0.07	0.469	0.036	0.279	NIL	
25	Nibai	7.80	546	344	55.42	0.90	3.08	1.43	0.06	-	4.50	0.50	0.32	1.17	27.24	1.52	80.53	0.11	ND	0.046	0.035	0.277	NIL	
26	Panari	8.40	492	310	71.98	3.12	0.78	1.09	0.05	0.53	3.40	0.65	0.30	0.74	22.62	0.03	58.79	0.22	ND	0.452	0.045	0.359	NIL	
27	Patsmra	8.40	1150	724	123.27	4.42	2.86	2.91	0.28	-	8.62	2.15	0.14	1.52	30.47	1.34	57.37	0.36	ND	1.117	0.047	0.254	NIL	
28	Piprabansa	7.90	909	573	92.90	3.34	2.14	3.61	0.05	-	8.74	0.55	0.62	2.4	40.04	4.36	82.18	0.28	0.05	0.814	0.033	0.289	NIL	
29	Pathagori	8.60	617	389	71.60	2.42	1.90	2.05	0.13	1.06	4.24	1.80	1.10	2.00	33.54	0.98	64.51	0.18	0.42	0.691	0.028	0.372	NIL	
30	Rajwara	7.80	1160	731	138.20	4.42	4.02	2.65	0.08	-	6.50	4.15	1.38	1.34	24.38	-2.00	46.63	0.24	0.01	1.087	0.033	0.283	NIL	
31	Sauni Khurd	8.00	742	467	76.27	3.11	1.15	3.09	0.05	0.53	5.90	1.35	0.39	2.58	42.43	1.64	75.09	0.36	ND	0.520	0.025	0.334	NIL	
32	Surwa	8.50	449	283	36.71	0.25	2.61	1.48	0.05	0.53	3.15	1.15	0.19	1.24	34.85	0.82	74.99	0.36	0.03	ND	0.028	0.203	NIL	
33	Talabpura (Lalitpur)	8.00	662	417	77.42	3.38	0.80	1.96	0.06	-	4.71	1.35	0.38	1.36	32.58	0.53	65.18	0.22	ND	0.497	0.053	0.387	NIL	
34	Sidhan (Lalitpur)	7.90	791	498	116.50	4.42	2.30	1.04	0.03	-	5.24	2.20	0.04	0.61	13.74	-1.48	42.90	0.38	0.05	0.113	0.062	0.282	NIL	
35	Ramnagar (Lalitpur)	7.80	647	408	92.50	3.38	2.04	1.22	0.08	-	4.24	2.00	0.71	0.82	19.49	-1.18	49.38	0.76	0.05	0.221	0.024	0.267	NIL	
36	Azadpura (Lalitpur)	8.40	1510	951	208.70	8.50	3.16	3.96	0.05	0.53	7.96	5.00	1.79	1.97	25.59	-3.70	45.41	0.35	0.56	0.273	0.105	0.189	NIL	
37	Mabesi Bazar(Lalitpur)	7.90	792	499	119.70	5.16	1.34	1.39	0.05	-	4.82	3.15	0.42	0.84	18.14	-1.68	45.44	0.43	ND	0.357	0.026	0.315	NIL	
38	Kailguan Road(Lalitpur)	8.00	568	358	66.05	0.80	4.12	1.17	0.03	-	4.50	0.75	0.74	0.83	19.61	-0.42	54.04	0.36	ND	0.311	0.025	0.315	NIL	
39	Pisnari (Lalitpur)	7.70	610	384	75.25	1.25	4.13	1.04	0.03	-	5.56	0.55	0.76	0.68	16.59	0.18	52.93	0.34	ND	1.350	0.034	0.267	NIL	
40	Ragunathpur	9.00	790	497	130.50	4.28	3.68	0.92	0.06	0.73	4.62	0.50	1.96	0.92	10.96	-3.34	34.57	0.31	0.04	0.310	0.036	0.224	NIL	

Wilcox (1955) proposed another classification scheme for rating the irrigation water on the basis of *EC*, *SP* and boron concentration. *SP* is calculated by the formula:

$$SP = \frac{Na + K}{Ca + Mg + Na + K} \times 100\%$$

The *SP* values were plotted against *EC* values (Table 1) in Fig. 3. The diagram reveals that the water quality of study area belongs to Excellent to Good and Good to Permissible classes.

When carbonate concentration in irrigation water is higher than the alkaline earth metals, the remaining part of  $HCO_3^-$ , which is left after precipitation of alkaline earth carbonates, combines with sodium to form a highly soluble carbonate known as residual sodium carbonate (*RSC*) and is defined as:

$$RSC = (HCO_3 + CO_3) - (Ca + Mg)$$

where, concentrations are expressed in epm.

This is also called Eaton's Index (1950). The water with *RSC* content below 1.25 meq/l is safe, between 1.25 and 2.5 meq/l is marginal, and above 2.5 meq/l is not suitable for irrigation purposes. The excessive *RSC* content causes the soil structure to deteriorate as water and air movement through soil will be restricted. With exception of one village (i.e., Pipriabansa), rest of the villages have the *RSC* content within the permissible limits. Some of the samples in the present study have shown even negative values (Table 1), indicating that the water is quite safe for irrigation.

The soil permeability is affected by long-term use of irrigation water. Sodium, calcium, magnesium, and  $HCO_3^-$ , components of soil also influence it. Doneen (1962) has

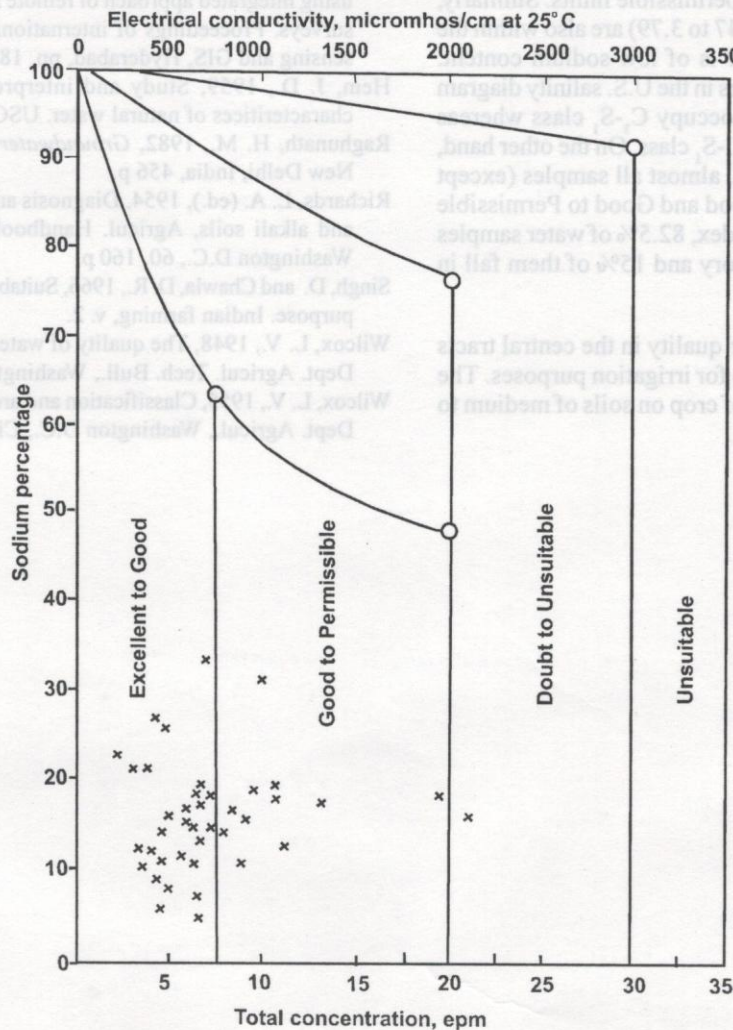


Fig. 3: Data plotted on the diagram (Wilcox 1955) of sodium per cent against *EC* values

evolved a criterion for assessing the suitability of water for irrigation based on permeability index (PI):

$$PI = \frac{(Na + \sqrt{HCO_3})}{(Ca + Mg + Na)} \times 100$$

According to PI values, the groundwater in the entire study area can be designated as Class II (25 to 75%) except at Kakruwa, Nibai, Pipriabansa, and Seuni Khurd. The groundwater of the above four places belongs to Class I (>75%).

As suggested by Raghunath (1982) as well as based on the U.S. salinity diagram and Daneev's chart, the groundwater in the study area in general is suitable for irrigation purposes.

### CONCLUSIONS

The SP values of the irrigation water range from 8.75 to 52.43% and they are within the permissible limits. Similarly, the SAR values (ranging from 0.47 to 3.79) are also within the acceptable limits and the water is of low sodium content. The plots of computed parameters in the U.S. salinity diagram exhibit that 57.5% of samples occupy C<sub>3</sub>-S<sub>1</sub> class whereas 42.5% of water samples fall in C<sub>2</sub>-S<sub>1</sub> class. On the other hand, in the sodium per cent diagram, almost all samples (except one) fall within Excellent to Good and Good to Permissible classes. According to Eaton's Index, 82.5% of water samples belong to absolutely safe category and 15% of them fall in marginally safe category.

In general, the groundwater quality in the central tracts of the Lalitpur region is suitable for irrigation purposes. The water can be used for all types of crop on soils of medium to high permeability.

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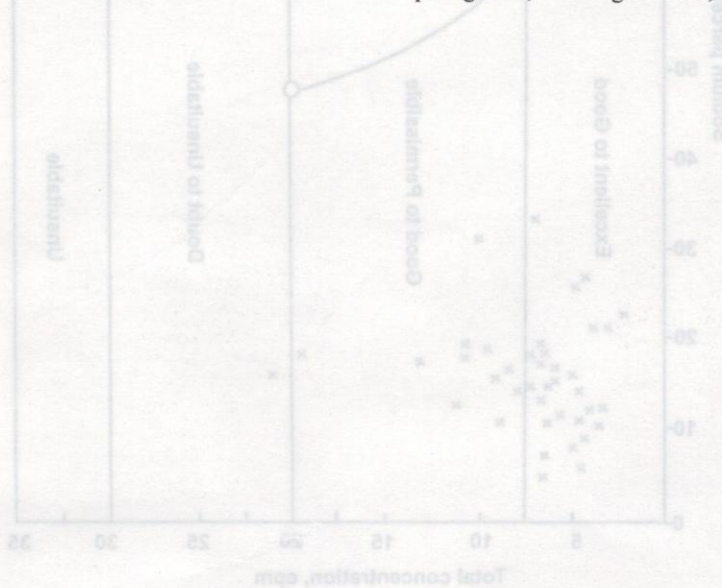


Fig. 3: Data plotted on the diagram (Wilcox 1955) of sodium per cent against EC values