



Water
Resources
Programme

Groundwater Management in Ethiopia

In semi-arid to arid eastern and southern Ethiopia, groundwater is the primary source of freshwater. A comprehensive assessment of groundwater in Ethiopia prevents optimum use of the resource in most parts of the country. In the vicinity of Dira Dawe town, isotope data helped delineate two distinct freshwater aquifers. One aquifer contains groundwater that is recharged at higher elevations away from the populated region. The second is recharged locally from precipitation and is, therefore, polluted from domestic and agricultural runoff. This information allowed the non-locally recharged aquifer to be targeted for development.

The IAEA is now assisting the Ethiopian Ministry of Water Resources to develop and use a comprehensive database of groundwater information for improved resource management. The Ethiopian National Groundwater Database (ENGDA) has been developed in collaboration with the USGS, and staff from various user organizations have been trained in its operation.

Awareness workshop of the ENGDA Database

