

**A Presentation  
on  
“Delineating the coastal saline water intrusion zones  
using Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT)”**



Prarabdh Tiwari, Rupesh, S. P. Sharma  
Department of Geology & Geophysics,  
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, India

# Outline

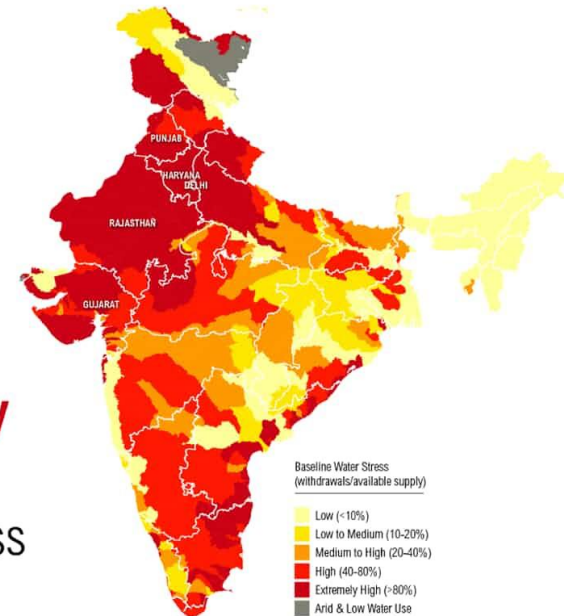
- Motivation
- Objective
- Study area: *A Coastal Environment*
- Geophysical Study: Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT)
- Results & Conclusion
- Scope of future work

## Indian Groundwater Scenario

1. **Groundwater Crisis:** The UNESCO world Water Development Report states that India is the largest extractor of groundwater in the world, thus an **ALARMING SITUATION**.

2. Massive withdrawal of groundwater resources due to population growth and rapid industrialization has led to **Seawater intrusion** into the coastal aquifers across the globe.

**54%**  
of India  
Faces  
**High to  
Extremely  
High**  
Water Stress



[www.indiawatertool.in](http://www.indiawatertool.in)

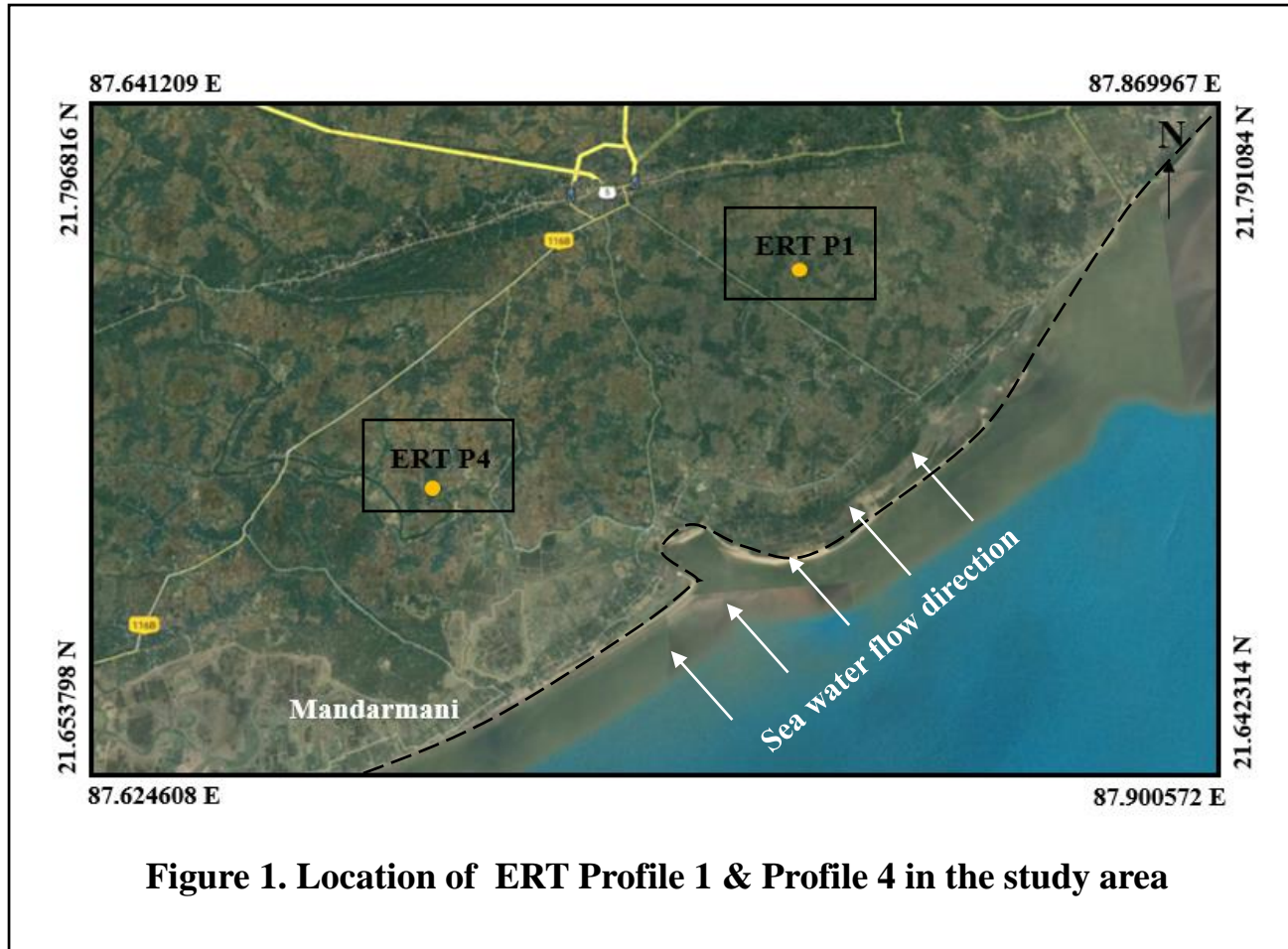
 WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE

**Is there any efficient COASTAL  
GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT System present?**

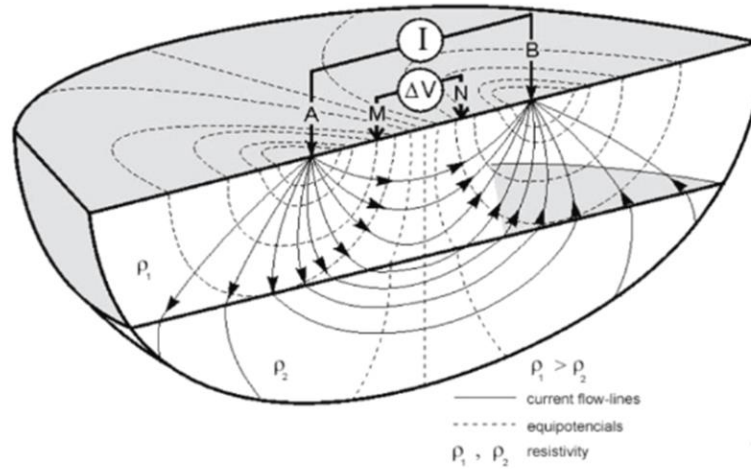
# Objective

- **Near surface Geophysical studies for mapping the saline water intrusion zones in coastal region:**  
*Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT) (Initial Phase study)*
- **Assessment of spatial & temporal variation of salinity in the study area.**
- **Investigation of probable causes of Seawater Intrusion in the study area.**

# Study area: A coastal environment



# Methodology: ERT Survey

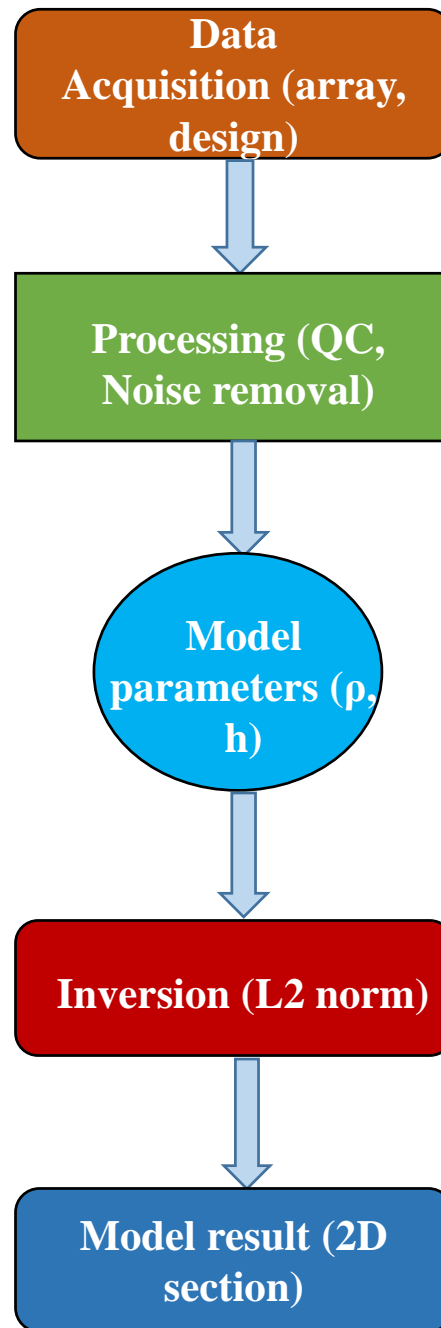


**Figure 2. Basic Principle of Electrical Resistivity method  
(After Seidel and Lange,2007)**



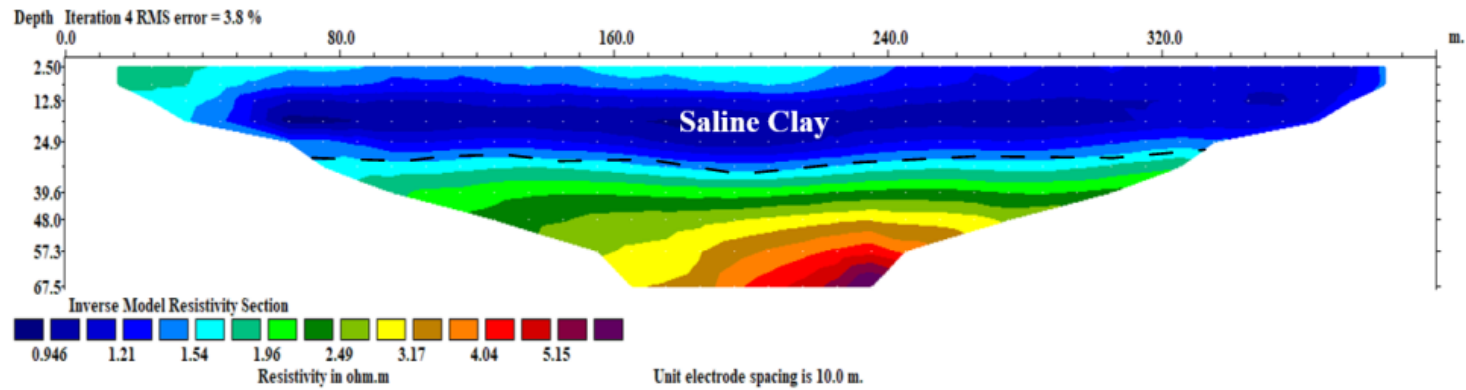
**Field Photograph: Resistivity meter setup**

**ERT  
Flowchart**

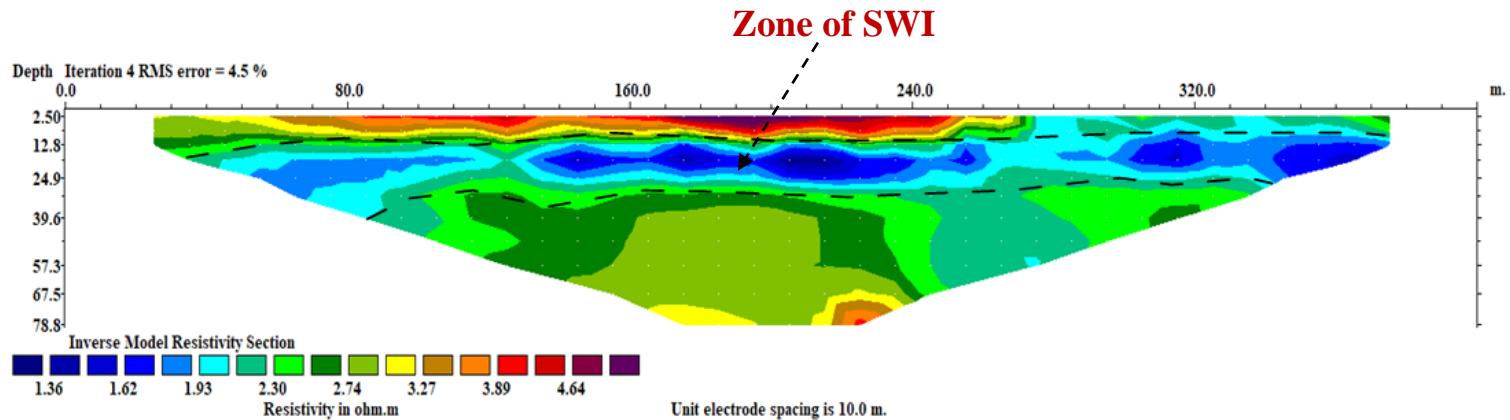


# Results

## ERT Profile 1: Wenner array



## ERT Profile 4: Gradient array





## Key Findings:

1. Due to the over-extraction of groundwater, shallow aquifers (30m bgl) are affected mainly by salinity problems.
2. The primary cause of the SWI problem in this area is due to Salt pan industries, Fish Farming, recent cyclone effect (Amphan).
3. In recent time, due to traditional paddy crop cultivation, the no. of boreholes are increased to meet the water demand.



**Field Photograph**

# Scope of future work

1. A time-lapse 3D ERT Survey needs to be planned for complete monitoring of Saline water flow.
2. A Machine learning algorithm can be developed for the predictive relation of salinity vs resistivity.



**Solution????**

**ERT is a efficient tool for investigating subsurface flow condition which can be very helpful in monitoring salinity problem. Joint Inversion of ERT with Time domain EM can provide a better understanding of coastal aquifers.**

## References:

1. Acharya, T., Kumbhakar, S., Prasad, R., Mondal, S., & Biswas, A. (2019). Delineation of potential groundwater recharge zones in the coastal area of north-eastern India using geoinformatics. *Sustainable Water Resources Management*, 5(2), 533–540.
2. CGWB. (2015). Technical Report, Ground water year book of West Bengal & Andaman & Nicobar islands (2015-2016) Eastern region, Kolkata, Govt. of India, 190p
3. Loke, M. H. (2001). Electrical imaging surveys for environmental and engineering studies. A practical guide to 2-D and 3-D surveys. RES2DINV manual.
4. Seidel, K., Lange, G. (2007). Direct Current Resistivity Methods. In: *Environmental Geology*. Springer, Berlin, Heidelberg. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-74671-3\\_8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-540-74671-3_8)



