

Careful use of water stressed

► UNB, Dhaka

Water experts at a workshop in Dhaka on Monday stressed the need for careful use of groundwater, particularly in irrigation, so that the country's growing farm outputs are not affected in the future.

They said irrigation is a major input in agriculture and about 80 percent of the country's irrigation water comes from underground sources since farmers are indiscriminately extracting groundwater, putting it at risk.

Australia's national research agency CSIRO and Dhaka-based think tank Institute of Water

Modelling (IWM) jointly arranged the workshop at a city hotel to launch a research project.

CSIRO principal research scientist Dr Mohammed Mainuddin said over 93 percent of agricultural land in the country's northwestern

region is being cultivated with groundwater.

About the need for irrigation water to grow food grains, he said: "Can we stop irrigation? We need food...so we cannot stop irrigation instantly."

IWM executive director Prof Dr M Monowar

Hossain said a huge volume of groundwater is being extracted each year in the country for mainly irrigation and supply to urban areas for industrial use.

He said the volume of surface water is gradually declining in the country.



Managing Director of Dhaka WASA Engineer Taqsem A Khan speaking at a workshop on 'Designing of water supply network by DMA concept at Uttara Model Town (3rd phase)' at Pan Pacific Hotel Sonargaon in the capital yesterday., RAJUK Chairman S M Bazlul Karim Chowdhury, IWM Director M Mahbubur Rahman, RAJUK Member (Dev) Md Abdur Rahman and Engineer Md Akhtaruzzaman also attended the workshop. -AA