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## PREFACE FOR READERS OF THIS DRAFT:

This is a draft report being submitted to the Government of India for review and discussion. The report is the product of a year of intensive work by Bank staff and an eminent group of Indian consultants. The draft Report benefited greatly from formal reviews and comments from external reviewers (Suresh Prabhu, Peter Rogers, Ramaswamy Iyer, George Verghese, Tushaar Shah, Maria Saleth, Vijay Vyas, Ramesh Bhatia, Ravinder Malik and Nirmal Mohanty) and World Bank staff: (Sumir Lal, Sanjay Pahuja, Sunil Khosla, RS Pathak, Prabir Joardar, Grant Milne, Connie Bernard, Martien van Nieuwkop, Gajan Pathmanathan, Dina Umali-Deining, Manuel Contijoch, Karin Kemper, Javier Zuleta, Srinivas Rajagopalan, Harshadeep Rao, Keith Pitman and Alain Locussol). IWMI graciously helped with the production of the basin maps.

As usual, not all reviewers agreed with all that is written in the report (nor did the authors agree with all that was suggested by the reviewers!) The product is entirely the responsibility of the authors and should not be attributed to the reviewers.

The draft report has been reviewed in detail by World Bank management and the revised version endorsed by management. It is now being submitted for formal comment by the Government of India. Once these comments have been received the Bank will hold a final consultation with the multi-stakeholder group, including those who advised during the early stages of this work.

Finally a word to the reader. This report should be read as a “near final” report which reflects the results of intensive work and consultation and which has been assessed and endorsed by Bank management. That said, it will be obvious to the reader that the report needs a thorough copy editing, checking of references, obtaining of copyrights and proof read. This will be done, but only after the final substantive touches are made following the consultations with Government and the stakeholder group.

Following that the Report and the background papers will be published and disseminated.