

- and in India too, where .....

### IRRIGATION WATER REQUIREMENTS HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY FOUR-FIFTHS

Following a business trip to India at the end of last year, N/L panel member Russell Ashley-Smith visited an exhibition by the Indian Government's Central Water Commission with Mr H S Chadda, FIAGR. He writes:-

In parts of India there is concern at the speed at which the subterranean water table is falling because of ecological factors and the rate of extraction. Drip and buried irrigation systems are claimed to need as little as 20% of the volume of water, compared to other systems, plus appreciable savings in labour and fertiliser costs. The buried biwall system can also utilise saline and brackish water (provided it is adequately filtered).



A technical point is explained to Russell Ashley-Smith at the exhibition in Delhi. Mr H S Chadda is pictured right.

Jain Irrigation Systems of Jalgaon, near Bombay, the company with which Mr Chadda is associated, were exhibiting their drip and buried Hardie Biwall systems of irrigation which they distribute and install in India. They have completed over a thousand installations covering some 5000 acres - mainly sugar cane, bananas, grapes, citrus plants and vegetables. Up to 75% of the cost of installations can be covered by national and state subsidies, and the pay-back period for new system - which in Indian conditions can be expected to have a life of up to 10 years - is between 2 and 3 years. Crop yields are increased by a factor of 2 to 2.5.

Jain Irrigation Systems expect to commence manufacturing the biwall pipes in India in mid-89 which will reduce installation costs by up to one-third - currently about Rs7000 (£250) for one acre, Rs25,000 (£900) for 5 acres.

Russell Ashley-Smith

*RENAULT AGRICULTURE have launched a farmwise package to help finance high usage tractors. Further details from authorized Renault dealers.*