Poroelastic responses to terrestrial water loading in the Bengal Aquifer System provide high-resolution, in-situ measurements for comparison with GRACE



# The Bengal Basin



## The Bengal Aquifer System: fluvio-deltaic sand, silt and clay



Burgess et al 2010 Nature Geoscience 3, 83-87

## BWDB national 'water table' monitoring network



## BAS - deep groundwater conditions are uncertain



Burgess et al. 2010

## BAS 'nested' piezometers - ca 100, 200, 300 m depth



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## BAS heads respond to mechanical loading by tides



## BAS 'nested' piezometers - ca 100, 200, 300 m depth





## BAS heads at an inland site, distant from pumping



## BAS heads at an inland site, distant from pumping



## BAS heads respond to mechanical loading by monsoon inundation, as daily rainfall events



# BAS heads respond to mechanical loading by inundation over a monsoon season



Natural Resources Research , Vol. 9, No. 2. 2000

Natural Geological Weighing Lysimeters: Calibration Tools for Satellite and Ground Surface Gravity Monitoring of Subsurface Water-Mass Change

W. E. Bardsley<sup>1,2</sup> and D. I. Campbell<sup>1</sup>

"Alluvial plains in monsoonal climates may serve a calibration role here, with possible candidate regions being the Ganges River basin and the plains of northern China. In the US, the State of Illinois also has been suggested as a possible calibration region (Rodell and Famiglietti, 1999b). Geological weighing lysimeters ... could be set up for local verification of estimated water-mass changes at .... representative sites."



#### M. Hoque 2010 UCL PhD thesis

Models for managing the deep aquifer in Bangladesh



## Michael & Voss 2008 PNAS Sustainability of deep groundwater pumping



## Hoque & Burgess 2010 *Jour. Hydrology* <sup>14</sup>C dating of deep groundwater in BAS .... aquifer anisotropy





BAS heads respond to mechanical loading by monsoon inundation

 $\frac{\partial h}{\partial t} =$ 

 $\frac{\partial \sigma_T}{\partial t}$ 

## compression, mechanical

## BAS - 'nested' piezometers - 100, 200, 300 m depth



#### **BAS** heads increase over a monsoon period as the terrestrial water mass, $\Delta TWS_m$ accumulates



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CTG Anwara

weeks, from 17 Feb 2012



#### Monsoon season $\Delta TWS_m$ accumulation (m): 2012, 2013



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ΔTWS<sub>m</sub> 2012, 2013
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Accumulated flooding depth May-Sept 2007



Shamsudduha et al 2011

 $\Delta TWS_{m}$ 

## EGSIEM.eu 0.51 m (2013)

Shamsudduha et al. Steckler et al. 0.49 – 0.75 m (2003 – 2007)



## Geo-lysimetry maps $\Delta TWS_m$ within a GRACE footprint:



## GRACE – lysimetry apparent discrepency

- accuracy of the geolysimetry analyses of ΔTWS ?
- representative lysimetry sites?
- spatial variation of ΔTWS across the basin ?
- spatial distribution of ΔTWS affects GRACE interpretation ?
- systematic under-representation of ΔTWS by GRACE ?

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