

Theme	Water stewardship
Title	Impact Assessment of ITC-NABARD Watershed Development Programme
State	Maharashtra
District	Akola
Implementing Agency	Manav Vikas Sansthan and Nirman
Evaluation Agency	Action for Food Production (AFPRO)
Date of Submission	August 2014

Executive Summary

Objectives: Assessment of the watershed development programme, done in collaboration with NABARD, in terms of natural resources generation and conservation, agricultural productivity, livelihood support and improving income levels of the farming community.

Key Findings:

- Visible impacts were seen in the regeneration of natural resources and stabilization of land based livelihoods for landless and marginal farmers.
- Data reveals reduction in land under rain fed conditions and, at the same time, increase in seasonal irrigated area in both watersheds. Improved water availability was seen in the observation wells for project areas especially during summers.
- The project interventions were also able to increase the area under horticulture and in reducing the area of wasteland. Increase in number of bore wells and dug wells helped in increasing the cultivation area through seasonal and perennial irrigation.
- A host of factors like high yield varieties of seeds, technology adoption, better farm management practices in addition to enriched soil and enhanced water availability improved crop yields. Productivity of cotton has increased by 45% and Soya bean by 24%. The yield results were higher as compared to control villages.
- After the watershed intervention 87% of the total income is account agriculture compared to the 76% in the pre-project scenario. Increase in income is mainly attributed to the improved crop productivity and more agricultural activities.

Areas for Improvement:

The following specific suggestions were made to promote scientific planning as well as for maximizing the benefits of the watershed measures.

- Soil testing is recommended before the start of the programme to compare the impact of soil health parameters before and after.
- To ensure equitable and just access to the natural resources, it is recommended to have written guidelines for community based self-regulation of water resources and entrust the Village Watershed Committee (VWCs) for its implementation.
- The capacity building program, particularly for community members and CBOs, needs to be standardized. Also there is need to integrate Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) in the program as a one of the key institution for post implementation operation and maintenance of the project

Please write to us at: itcmsk@itc.in for the full study