

Theme	Water Stewardship
Title	ITC-NABARD promoted Community led Soil and Moisture Conservation programme
State	Rajasthan
District	Jhalawar
Implementing Agency	IIRD
Evaluation Agency	Society for Promotion of Wastelands Development (SPWD)
Date of Submission	February 2015

Executive Summary

Objectives: Assessment of the watershed development programme, implemented in collaboration with NABARD, in terms of improving soil and moisture regime, enhancing agricultural productivity and building strong and vibrant community based institutions.

Key Findings:

- The quality of physical infrastructure works is commendable.
- An average increase of ground water level by 24% in summer and 68% in post-monsoon period was observed.
- Increased availability of biomass through re-vegetation of the common lands and increased availability of surface & groundwater through soil and moisture conservation works are testimony to the successful implementation of the programme.
- Construction of farm bunds was a major component which resulted in improving moisture content in soil and in improving agricultural productivity. This is further substantiated by 38% increase in soya bean yield in project area.
- The pasture land development works in Dev Dungari has shown good results in terms of regeneration, productivity enhancement, community management, benefit sharing and linkage with government programmes. This model is worth scaling-up and replicating in similar geographical contexts.
- Due to availability of watershed works and allied agricultural activities, the project villages witnessed 20% points downfall in migration, post intervention period.
- Village communities benefited as they got wages on their own fields and watershed activities created a durable asset to protect their fields. The programme gained success due to its contributory model wherein beneficiaries agreed to provide 20% contribution.

Areas for Improvement:

- Larger thrust on effectively integrating agriculture, natural resources management, regulating the demand for biomass and water through rules, regulations and mechanisms evolved by community institutions at village and inter-village levels.
- Greater focus to be on institutional strengthening for better governance, capacity building and awareness on modern developments in the field of land-based livelihood as well to improve their skill level.
- Agricultural based production system of the area is strong. Within this, the focus should be on post harvesting. Even though the district occupies prime position in production of soya-bean, orange and coriander, agro processing industry in the district has failed to pick up.

- The need for irrigation water took a back seat as the focus of the programme was on 'land development'. The need for water harvesting structures or support for development/ revival of wells was spelt out by most of the survey respondents. The immediate need of the farmers was more felt in irrigation water and storage structures, rather than land development.

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