

Theme	Water Stewardship
Title	Natural Resource Management and Conservation: Leveraging MGNREGA Partnership
State (s)	Rajasthan
District (s)	6 blocks of Jhalawar, Bhilwara and Pratapgarh districts covering 51 villages.
Evaluation Agency	NR Management Consultants India Pvt. Ltd.
Period of Study	January – April 2016

Executive Summary

Objective(s):

Assessment of quality of ecological restoration activities by leveraging the opportunities in the MGNREGA and the extent of success in strengthening of systems for collective management and governance over land and water.

Key Findings:

1. The PPCP is unique in the sense that a formal, institutional space has been created where participation has been formalised and is recognized by other stakeholders such as PRIs, district and block administrations and state governments.
2. The number of job cards issued, increase in the average days of employment, reduction in delay of wage payment, improvement in ground water recharge, etc. are some of the direct indicators of enhanced conditions in sample panchayats when compared to the control.
3. The project also played an important role in building awareness and knowledge about the program amongst the villagers thus ensuring their greater participation in planning, decision making and implementation of activities.

Areas of Improvement

1. Lack of coordination between the project monitoring committees and government departments was observed as they did not meet very frequently, which made it difficult to discuss problems or identify bottlenecks on time, thus delaying the implementation of work. Such matters should be taken up at the beginning of the project by involving relevant departments.
2. Sustainability of assets created is usually an area of concern in MGNREGA. There is a need to focus on building sustainable community institutional strengths to ensure long term sustainable management of these resources on their own without external support. Also a fixed percentage, from the sanctioned budget may be kept aside for the upkeep of assets.
3. There is a need to increase women involvement in micro-planning, monitoring and well as in social auditing. The SHGs can play a direct role in spreading awareness, organizing work, accessing entitlements, assistance in door to door survey and ensuring social accountability.
4. There is a lack of technical expertise at Panchayat level to guide and provide technical assistance to the project. It also affects the decision making process, monitoring and management of the project. Thus capacity building, and strengthening of institutions is another activity that should be taken up as part of the project to realize the goals of MGNREGA. Capacity building of PRIs is also required for

both planning and execution by training village based community resource persons, who can help people in planning and generating works.

In case you would like to know more on the study please write to us at: itcmsk@itc.in