

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: India

Project/Initiative Title: Gujarat PIM - Formation and Performance of Water Users Association

Scale: 6 pilot areas

Nos. farmers: 6230 households

Hectares: 3000

Agro-Ecological Zone: I

Improvement types

1x	2	3	4	5x	6	7	8	9
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B. Types of Sustainable Agriculture Improvements

Type 1: Better use of available renewable natural capital

Type 2: Intensification of single sub-component of farm system

Type 3: Diversify by adding new productive natural capital and regenerative components

Type 4: Better use of non-renewable inputs and technologies

Type 5: Social and participatory processes leading to group action for making better use of natural capital

Type 6: Human capital building through training-learning programmes

Type 7: Access to Finance

Type 8: Add value by processing to reduce losses and increase returns

Type 9: Add value by direct or organised marketing of produce to consumers

	Yes/No	Narrative
Type 1	x	Improved irrigation practices
Type 2		
Type 3		
Type 4		
Type 5	x	Water Users' Association (WUA)
Type 6		
Type 7		
Type 8		
Type 9		

C. Key Lessons: Success, Spread and Constraints

C1 – Key Lessons Learned

- ?? "Learning by Doing," concept emerged during the process of implementation of the PIM.
- ?? Peoples' participation grew gradually in the WUA, though the goal of equity of making women and the under-privileged participate suffered.
- ?? The higher (than government) water charges levied by the WUA underwent a series of negotiations proving empowerment of people, and at the same time water pricing to be dynamic and difficult process. The lesson is a pointer to the government as to how to go about increasing the abysmally low water charges.

- ?? The importance of motivation in a participatory programme, and the NGO's role in this.
- ?? Phasing strategies of the process of implementation of the programme provided invaluable lessons for replication.
- ?? The importance of taking in to account the dynamics of caste, class, inter and intra-village differences in the society while implementing a
- ?? programme, and,
- ?? The important and crucial role of documenting the process of implementation by a researcher. In short, a parallel research effort was found to helpful in introducing mid-course corrections in the implementation of the programme

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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E. Project Narrative

In July 1995, the government of Gujarat adopted a resolution announcing the participatory irrigation management (PIM) programme. It envisages a complete turnover of operation and maintenance of canals to water users associations (WUA). While the canals remain government property and major repairs continue to be the responsibility of the irrigation department, the responsibility of the day-to-day functioning of the system is of the WUA. Planning of crops, allocation of water available for irrigation, fixing the water rates, collecting the water demand forms and water charges from the individual members and disciplining the defaulters are the other responsibilities of the WUA under the PIM. After carrying out repair and rehabilitation, works on the canal network the management is to be "turned over" to the WUAs. In the pilot phase of the PIM programme, thirteen projects were selected to experiment and learn from the new approach. This programme has different components, namely, formation of user cooperatives, gender focus and equity, and also has different actors, such as participant farmers, non-government organisations (NGO) and the government. The NGOs are to mobilize and organize farmers to set up a WUA and guide it during its formation and through subsequent stages. However, technical help, cooperation and guidance from the department remains an important link. The participating farmers form and manage the Association, they also make a fixed contribution toward the initial expenses of repair and rehabilitation of the system. It is generally understood and appreciated that the NGOs have been particularly adept in inculcating cooperative spirit among the participants and are able to put up users organisations for the schemes they implement.

(Source: R. Parthasarathy)

Data for this project is in hard copy format and is not currently available electronically. If you would like further information please contact R. Parthasarathy at the above address.

