

SAFE-World Project/Initiative Summary

Country: India

Project/Initiative Title: Indo-German watershed Development Programme Maharashtra state

Nos. farmers: 20,000 Hectares: 92,000 ha

Agro-Ecological Zone: II

Improvement types

1x	2x	3	4	5x	6x	7x	8	9
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A. Key Impacts

A1 – Productivity

	Before/Without	After/With	% change
Irrigated sorghum	1250 kg/ha	2200 kg/ha	76
Dryland sorghum	200kg/ha	700 kg/ha	250

A2 – Impacts on natural capital

- ?? Wells with more water
- ?? Increase in irrigated area
- ?? Milk production for the village is up 500-1400 litres a day
- ?? In Mendhwan village in Ahmednagar district prior to 1993 tankers of drinking water were brought twice daily to the village from April to August. In June 1996 despite 3 consecutive years of drought (rainfall of 170-200 mm) drinking water was still available in the village and no tankers were required

A3 – Impacts on local community (social capital)

- ?? As Ratanbai of Donagon relates “Formerly half of the population would migrate by the month of December. This is now stopped because watershed development work is available throughout the year. Even the harvesting of grass provides employment opportunities. Now people do not migrate”.
- ?? Community more united

A4 – Impacts on households and individuals (human capital)

- ?? Increase in food security (grain and milk)
- ?? Increased labour
- ?? More active role of women – Wage-supported watershed measures enable women to acquire their own funds. The regular cash income earned enhances their status in their own eyes as well as within the family and society. It gives them a sense of security. This has an impact on gender relationships. It has been observed that women gradually gain self-confidence and self-respect.
- ?? The production of a second crop may mean that women’s input into agricultural work increases by three months a year.

- ?? Pimpaldhara is a tribal hamlet of the Bhojdari Watershed consisting of about 25 families. Three years ago, prior to the initiation of the project, not a single child registered in the village school. Today 15 children (about 50% of the total) regularly attend primary school.
- ?? In Khodpakhindi, a tribal village in Yavatmal District, prior to WSD average family's diet consisted of mainly millet and could only afford meat once a month or on feast days. Two and a half years later diet has improved – wheat vegetables and oil are regularly consumed and meat is eaten at least once a week

A5 – Key changes in farm / regional system

- ?? Household grain production up 42% for rainfed farms and 100% for those with irrigation
- ?? increased local employment – 9 months work for landless rather than 3 months
- ?? reversed migration for some families
- ?? In Khodpakhindi, a tribal village in Yavatmal District in the second year of the project enough grass was harvested and stored to meet the fodder needs of every family of the village for the entire summer season
- ?? IN the third year of the project Dongaon village of Nanded district harvested 250,000 bundles of grass. The village has now taken out bank loans and purchased 35 cross bred cows

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	
Type 2	x	
Type 3		
Type 4		
Type 5	x	
Type 6	x	
Type 7	x	In Nandkheda village of Jalna District 60 women had been encouraged savings and credit groups by January 1996. The number of women in the savings groups has increased and total savings amounted to Rs. 13,600 as of 1 st March 1997
Type 8		
Type 9		

D. Contact Point for Project/Initiative

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E. Project Narrative

India: Indo-German Watershed Development Programme, Maharashtra State

The IGWDP is an integrated environmental regeneration programme implemented by village self-help groups in the state of Maharashtra. It is assisted by the German development agency GTZ and development bank KfW, and administered by NABARD (the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) and the locally Watershed Organisation Trust (Lobo and Korchendorfer-Lucius, 1998; IGWDP, 1998). The programme works in drought-prone areas, and seeks to make improvements in a wide range of aspects of farm and natural systems. The approach is based on that developed by an NGO, Social Centre, in which the capacities of local people are built-on and developed alongside the introduction of sustainable agriculture innovations.

The programme works in partnership with 51 local NGOs and 77 village self-help groups, and has improvements implemented on some 92,000 hectares, with the involvement of about 20,000 farm households. There has been a marked improvement in both agricultural productivity and natural resources, which in turn has increased incomes, reduced seasonal migration, increased school attendance, and a led to a wider sense of hope and confidence amongst rural people. Many new village institutions have also been organised by rural people, including grain banks, women's groups, youth groups, credit unions, dairy cooperatives, and agricultural cooperative societies.

In Pimpalgaon Wagha, for example, there were 75 seasonal wells before 1988, of which only 40 had an 8 months supply of irrigation water; now these supply 9-11 months of water, even in dry years. Potable water is available year round. The irrigated area has increased from 60 to 168 ha. Village milk production has increased from 150 to 1400 litres per day; the diversity of crops grown has increased, with farmers now cultivate pulses with millet and sorghum. Yields of irrigated sorghum have increased from 1250 to 2200 kg/ha, and of rainfed from 200 to 700 kg/ha. Household grain production has increased by 42% for rainfed farmers, and by 100% for those with some irrigation. Local employment has also increased, and now the landless have work for 9 rather than just 3 months. Eight families who previously had left the village have returned; during the 1991 drought, there was no migration to canal-irrigated villages.

Social Centre: The case of one NGO

SC has worked in the drought-prone district of Ahmednagar since 1966. The average rainfall is

500 mm but, in some years, 60-70% of this falls in June. Soils are poor, and degradation on the common lands is widespread. For the first 16 years, SC provided credit and support to individual farmers, but since 1982 has focused on comprehensive watershed development. This is a participatory approach that brings together a wide range of actors, including local people, voluntary and government agencies, agricultural universities, and banks, so that their collective resources can have an impact on village resources.

SC works in about 10 villages with a population of 5500 and a land area of 6000 ha. Pimpalgaon Wagha is one of these villages. It has 879 people and 840 ha of land. Prior to 1988, the hills were bare, the wells ran dry in summer, and most of the fuel and fodder had to be imported. Over several months, SC staff went to the village to listen to local people. Local people were also involved in surveying village resources. A village watershed committee was nominated by consensus, and has improved rainwater harvesting through construction of checkdams and weirs; soil conservation through gully checks, bunds, drains and percolation ponds; water conservation through more efficient irrigation systems; and water supply and sanitation. Many training courses were arranged locally for men and women.

As a result, there have been substantial changes. Before 1988, there were 75 seasonal wells, of which only 40 had an 8 months supply of irrigation water; now these supply 9-11 months of water, even in dry years. Potable water is available year round. The irrigated area has increased from 60 to 168 ha. Village milk production has increased from 150 to 1400 litres per day; the diversity of crops grown has increased, with many farmers now cultivating pulses along with millet and sorghum. Yields of irrigated sorghum have increased from 1250 to 2200 kg/ha, and of rainfed from 200 to 700 kg/ha. Household grain production has increased by 42% for rainfed farmers, and by 100% for those with some irrigation. Local employment has also increased, and now the landless have work for 9 rather than just 3 months. Eight families who previously had left the village have returned; during the 1991 drought, there was no migration to canal-irrigated villages.

Many new village institutions have been organised by the people themselves, including a grain bank, a women's group, a youth group, a credit union, a dairy cooperative, and an agricultural cooperative society. All are represented on the village watershed committee. Many of these groups have saved substantial sums of money, and make loans to their own members. The contributions from the women's group, for example, are Rs 5 per month per member, and the revolving fund now has some Rs 10,000. Private moneylending has now ceased altogether.

Sources: Lobo and Kochendorfer-Lucius, 1998; IGWDP, 1998