



GWP-South Asia Water and Climate Resilience Program (WACREP)

Report on Exposure visit

of

Farmers of Datia District

(28-29 March 2014)

Overview

Integrated Watershed Management is extremely crucial to minimize the disparities of vulnerable communities living in semi-arid geographies. The main objectives of Integrated Watershed Management is to restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water. The outcomes are prevention of soil run-off, regeneration of natural vegetation, rain water harvesting and recharging of the ground water table. This enables multi-cropping and the introduction of diverse agro-based activities, which help to provide sustainable livelihoods to the people residing in watershed area. In this context a two days farmer's exposure visit program was organised on 28th-29th March, 2014 by Development Alternatives with support of India Water Partnership and Global Water Partnership-South Asia under Water and Climate Resilience Program (WACREP) of GWP-South Asia. Aim of the farmer's training workshop under the project was to spread awareness about importance of watershed management and its link with various other agricultural techniques.

About the Exposure Visit

Two days exposure visit was organized for farmers in Datia district intended to give a practical exposure to farmers. The farmers learnt from different successful implementation models being implemented in their region. The main objective of 2 days exposure visit was to spread awareness on sustainable and efficient ways of managing watershed and its role in increasing agricultural yield.

Duration of visit was 2 days from 10:00 AM to 05:00 P.M. Participants was stayed in Development Alternative's Gaushala campus.

The entire program met the objective of the visit and was very much interactive and fruitful.

Day 1

One day 1, participants were taken to Development Alternative's campus at village Ambabai, near Jhansi. The campus is known by the name of TARAGram,Pahuj.

TARAGram Pahuj, is a Sustainability Resource Centre for Innovation, Action, Training.

The campus is spreaded over 7.5 acres of land; this centre provides alternatives and solutions to the local agricultural and social empowerment problems, in partnership with the local communities.

The objective of the centre is to generate awareness, leading to capacity building within the target group, by demonstrating models of improved farming practices, water conservation and harvesting and land use planning. The centre aims at strengthening the livelihoods of the rural people, who belong to a predominantly agrarian economy. The guiding premise for these interventions is a participatory, gender-just and ecosystem- based approach.

In the campus participants have seen:

Land reclamation and development especially using green manuring – organic manure and soil and moisture management:

- Land use and field Bunding: Bunds are made on sloping and undulating terrains. Bunding reduces soil erosion by intercepting water run-off and conserves soil moisture.

Water-Management and Conservation

- Micro irrigation system: The use of sprinkler and drip irrigation systems have been piloted in the campus for water efficiency in different cropping systems suited for the region.
- Farm pond: A farm pond has been constructed in the low-lying area in the campus, strategically positioned to receive run-off water from the surrounding catchment areas for recharging and enhancing soil moisture.
- Water harvesting: A rooftop rainwater harvesting system supports the critical requirement for water during the lean period

- **Water Quality:** The Jal-TARA water filter installed for generating awareness on aspects of water quality and methods of purification.

Crop improvement:

- **Use of improved varieties:** Demonstration of drought-resistant varieties of different cropping systems is through cultivation to share the know-how of the package and practices to the farmers.
- **Agriculture and Horticulture practices:** Models of different practices demonstrated to the farmers for adoption as a tool for creating awareness and transferring of technologies.

Participants were very happy after seeing different farming models and know the techniques for improved production.

After the visit of TARAGram, Pahuj, participants went to TARAGram, Orchha, another appropriate technology centre of Development Alternatives Group.

The centre has demonstrated enterprise development, using waste- materials and other local raw materials. The enterprise models provide solutions to create wealth retain it and share it in the larger interests of the community.

A number of models created are housed in TARAGram and have been replicated. They are:

- **TARA Nirman Kendra** - Produces a range of innovative, affordable building products for house construction, using TARA eco-technologies, which utilise local crushed-stone waste.
- **TARA handmade paper recycling unit** - An enterprise based on “waste to wealth” technology employing more than 40 women, including Sahraiya tribal women; who earlier had no source of income. TARA paper and products are marketed locally, nationally and globally.
- **DESI Power (local power)** - an energy initiative. The power plant converts renewable biomass fuels (mainly local agro-wastes and unusable weeds), generating 100kw of power that powers the TARAGram campus. Website link

- **Radio Bundelkhand (FM 90.4)** - The first Community Radio in Madhya Pradesh. Radio Bundelkhand enables and empowers the local communities to use this medium of communication to take charge of their own lives. The community radio is being run and managed by local communities of Bundelkhand and has been supported by Development Alternatives since October 2008. There are 12 local community reporters working at the radio- station
- **Check Dam** – Have been constructed near the campus by The DA Group in 1998 to ensure water supply to the enterprise units and for internal consumption. It maintains moisture in an 100 acre area across a three km long trail. The water requirement on the campus of more than 100,000 litres per day is fulfilled, in spite of there being no ground water in this area.

After visiting the TARAGram,Orchha campus, participants went to Gaushala. Gaushala is the Center for the livestock based livelihood set up for the women group near Orchha in 20 acre land provided by the M.P government for rearing cows and managing the livestock based activities benefiting 500 women.

The involvements of women's are managing the forage production, vermin compost and generation of Electricity by Biogas through cow dung. The Biogas based (using cow dung) electricity generation power plant installed for the generation 7.5 kilo watt electricity, which is utilized by the women group to run enterprise i.e. Masala Processing, Groundnut processing and packaging, Oil speller etc..Additional Employment generated for 20 women. This bio gas electricity generation plant it self working as a micro enterprise.

2 halls are constructed in gaushala campus for organizing different types of training programmes/workshops and other events.

All the participants stayed in Gaushala campus in the night.

Day 2

After having breakfast all the participant went to village Futera, Baruasagar, Jhansi (UP).

Village Futera is notified by Horticulture Department, Jhansi for vegetable production.

Dr. D.S. Yadav from Horticulture Department, Baruasagar taken a session on vegetable production and methods of different vegetable cultivation. Dr. Yadav has also shared with the participants about how to improve farming by using different machinery.



After visiting village Futera, participants went to village Kaina of block Niwari, District Tikamgarh (MP).

In village Kaina participants saw different farming models i.e. Green house etc. Participants have also seen different models of irrigation and Solar energy plant, which is used by villagers for irrigation and other related works.



Participants

Total 30 participants took part in the exposure visit.

List of participants is attached as annexure, enclosed in report.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

S.No.	Participant Name	Village
1.	Mohan Singh Rajpoot	Diguan
2.	Vikas Singh Rajpoot	Diguan
3.	Lakhan Singh Jatav	Ingui
4.	Dashrath Singh	Aansuli
5.	Santosh Pathak	Khairona
6.	Rajesh Baghel	Parsonda Gujar
7.	Ram Shankar Sharma	Fatehpur
8.	Shatrughan	Khairona
9.	Gulab Singh	Pura Daboh
10.	Kamal Kushwaha	Parsonda Baman
11.	Lachhiram Bohre	Gora
12.	Nripendra Bundela	Teda
13.	Sudama Prasad Matolia	Gyori
14.	Kamlesh	Gyori
15.	Keshav Singh	Mehroli
16.	Manish	Teda
17.	Janak Singh	Kheri Devta
18.	Yashpal Singh	Pura Bhadroa
19.	Sunder Lal Dixit	Parsoda Vaman
20.	Ram Charan	Diguan
21.	Gambhir Singh	Gora

22.	Kalyan Kushwaha	Igui
23.	Har Nath	Khairona
24.	Chandra Shekhar	Berkheda
25.	Arvind Kushwaha	Fatehpur
26.	Tilak Rai	Teda
27.	Panchum Singh	Parsoda Vaman
28.	Vivek Sharma	Jori
29.	Kali Charan	Kheri Devta
30.	Kok Singh	Pura Daboh

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