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BOSCO GRAMIN VIKAS KENDRA SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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ABSTRACT

Agriculture is the main enterprise in rural area. The less agricultural production is due to unavailability of adequate water, untimely rainfall, soil degrkation due to erosion, incorrect cultivation practices and lack of management. The production can be increased and therefore economic condition of entire rural area can be improved, if integrated watershed development program is adopted.



KEY WORDS: Agriculture , untimely rainfall, soil degrkation.

1] INTRODUCTION:

Bosco Gramin Vikas Kendra (BGVK), kedgaon, Ahmednagar understood the cause and therefore tried to find the solution to the problem by taking watershed development programs.

2] BOSCO GRAMIN VIKAS KENDRA -

Bosco Gramin Vikas Kendra is a NGO working in rural development, since 1988; and it is registred in 1994 with charity commissioner, Ahmednagar (No F 2657, 13.03.1994). The main aim of development work is To uplift the poor rural mass and bring in social justice. The agriculture being The main occupation of the rural people, efforts are made to improve Agricultural production, with more focus on rural poor; and village women. Therefore BGVK has worked in following areas;

- a] Watershed Development
- b] Self Help Groups of Rural Women.
- c] Self Help Groups of Rural Youths.

In watershed development, soil and water conservation works and related Development works were completed in 22villages. Tree plantation on hill Slopes, construction of check dams and nala bunds helped in preventing soil Crosion and storing surface runoff. The horticultural plantation helped poor And marginal farmers in brining marginal land in use and in making economic Development. The use of drip and sprinkler units not only saved water Available but enabled the poor farmers in taking up crops in summer, which in Turn, helped them in fetching more price for their produce in market. Activity Like biogas plants made best use of animal waste and gave fuel gas to poor Families. This helped in reducing felling of trees for fuel and improved health Condition of women and children. In the 22 villages irrigation was available to Only 9 percent of cultivated land, but after watershed development works this Increased to 26 percent in each village, on an average. Apart from economic Development, social development was achieved for poor rural families.

In self help groups of women, (SHGs), women from poor families are Brought together to form a group such 167 SHGs are established so far. These groups register the group, open an account in a bank, contribute

Monthly sum and accumulate the saving. Poor and needy members take loan From the group. Sometimes group as a whole takes loan from the bank for Executing a small project of their interest. Out of 167 SHGs 20 groups have Taken up to poultry keeping. Each group has a well equipped shed to Accommodate 500 poultry birds. Guidance is given to these SHGs for health And management of poultry birds. Also 12 SHGs have taken up stall fed goat Keeping. This scientific approach helps in increasing body weight of a goat and Keeps goat in good health. This also helps in reducing soil erosion, as free Grazing is prevented. The buck of improved breed such as Boer is given to the SHGs for cross breeding and improving their local stock. Till date womens Shgs have been able to procure 1 core 50 lakhs Rs. Loan through the Intervention of BGVK. One of the Men SHG name daya sagar Bach at Gat From Agadgaon managed to purchase a JCB though their own savings each Member contributed about Rs. 40,000 each from their savings. This was one of The first of its kind that one of SHGs could manage to purchase a JCB. The New was published in the regular news paper named Sakal dated 15th may 2009. Thirty youth groups have been formed in villages in Ahmednagar District. Efforts are being made to bring them together and make them aware of their Poverty and problems thereof. These youths are being encouraged to take up To some skill, so that they can have their own business. Some of them are Encouraged to take up the formal higher education.

Thus BGVK has taken up integrated development programme for village People with more emphasis on rural poor in order to remove social imbalance.

3] OBJECTIVES -

a] To execute soil and water conservation works in watershed development programs in drought prone areas.

- b] To improve the soil structure by reducing soil erosion and to improve the water availability.
- c] To monitor the data on change in cropping pattern in the area.

d] To make economic evaluation of development program, considering the change in cropping pattern.

4] DEVELOPMENT WORKS -

Bosco Gramin vikas Kendra executed integrated watershed development Programe in 22 villages : Dongargan, Ratadgaon, Bhoire-Pathar, Agadgaon, Ranjani, Mathani, Manjar-sumba, Ghat-Deolgaon, Pimpalgaon (U), Kaudgaon, Khandke-Deogaon, Parewadi, Sonewadi, Kolhewadi and Sasewadi. Baliwadi, Marathwadi, Hariwadi, Bhirwadi, Pimpalgaon. Landga, Jamb, Pimpalgaon Ghat All these villages, except Ghat Deolgaon, Marathiwadi, Hariwadi fall in Nagar Block of Ahmednagar District Ghat Deolgaon Marathwadi, Hariwadi is in Beed District, All these villages Suffered from low and untimely rainfall, The soils were degraded and as a Result the agricultural production was low, which led to poverty of rural people.

All these works were executed during a period from 1989 to 2005. Dongargan was the first village where this program was implemented during The priod from 1989 to 1990. Subsequently the works were executed in other Villages. Recently in 2009, works were accomplished in, Marathwadi, Hariwadi, Bhirwadi and pimpalgaon landga. Pimpalgaon Ghat The Areas and topographics of villages differed. The areas varied from 400 ha of Parewadi to 1567 ha of Agadgaon. The cultivable areas varied from 313 ha in Sonewadi to 998 ha in Manjar Sumba and Ghat Deolgaon. The average annual Rainfall is low and varies from 350 to 550 mm from village to village.

In all these villages works like continuous countour trenches, forestation, Gully control structures, farm bunding, were executed, Besides water storage Structures like Nala Bunds (Small Earthen Embankments) and Check Dams (Small Stone Manonry Dams) were constructed Embankments) and Check Dams (Small Stone Manonry Dams) were constructed which directly helped the Farmers by increasing yields of their wells. Gabion Dams (Stone Dams), tied With wire mesh) were also constructed to slow down runoff through streams. Only making more water available to the agriculture was not the aim of these Programs. It was necessary to teach and train the farmers to make efficient use Of irrigation water. So drip irrigation units and sprinklers were introduced in The programs. Horticultural plantation was done in 7 villages out of 14 villages, This helped in maintaining soil fertility, diversification in production, and Bringing better monetary returns.

5] SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION -

The continuous Contour Trenches (CCT) were constructed on hill slops And on lands with steep slopes. Gully plugs are the small stone bunds of 1 m Height and were constructed to control gully erosion. These two activities Helped in conservation of soil and improving their productivity.

Farm bunds are small earth embankments of 1m height and were Constructed on lower side of individual farm and on two sides of this farm. Farm bunds not only helped in storing and holding water on farms, but also Helped in reducing soil loss from the farms.

Nala bunds, check dams and Gabion dams are the direct water storage Structures, and helped in increasing water of wells in the neighborhood. The Area under irrigation increased due to these storage dams. Nala bunds were Constructed across the streams in upper reaches of the catchments. These are Comparatively cheaper structures and need provision of suitable spillway on One side of the dam. Check dams are constructed across the streams in lower Reaches of the catchments. These are costlier storage structures but last for 30 years or more. Gabion dams are stone dams and held in place by tying wire Mesh around it. All these three structures are water storage structures and liked by farmers due to its direct and immediate benefits through availability of more Water from wells for farm irrigation.

All 22 villages fall in scarcity zone. All the soil and water conservation Works helped in reducing soil erosion and increasing the ground water. The dry Spells of 1 month or more are common in these villages. But due to availability of water in wells farmers could irrigate their crops during dry spells and saved the crops and increased the yields. With this reason, all 22 villages stand distinctly different from other villages in the region where these work are not Accomplished.

Drip units and sprinklers were supplied to few farmers, who were trained to Use these units for efficient use of water. These units were useful to these Farmers and also served as demonstration to others.

Due to timely availability of water from wells, farmers changed their Cropping pattern. They took up forage crops to feed cattle on farms. Dairy Cows and buffaloes were reared by farmers. Their number and productivity Increased. This resulted in more milk production and fetched more monetary Returns;

All these 22 village use wells for irrigation. The wells are classified as

a] wells not in use, b] wells in use for 4 months c] wells in use for months, and

d] wells in use for 12 months. The number of these wells before the program and after the program is given in Table 3. The number of wells not in use reduced while number of wells in use increased, due to water conservation structures. Few farmers also constructed new wells for tapping groundwater.

In Dongargan, there were 93 wells, now the number has increased to 104. The land 478 ha was under irrigation. This irrigated area has increased to 586 ha. The increase in irrigated area was 22.60 percent. Similar increase in Other villages helped in changing the cropping pattern. In Sasewadi, irrigated Areas increased from 365 ha to 401 ha (9.86 percent). This increase in irrigated Area in this village may increase in next 2 to 3 years, as the project has been Completed only in 2005.

6] CHANGE IN CROPPING PATTERN -

Soil and water conservation works executed in 22 villages showed Positive results just after 3 years of completion of projects. There were Changes in crops. Farmers cultivated sunflower, mung, vegetables and onion Instead of bajara and jowar, the traditional cereals in kharip. In rabi too, Farmers took up to wheat, vegetables forage crops and onion.

In Dongargan village, areas of lands under crops have changed. Areas Under bajara has changed from 30 to 90 ha, sunflower from 5 to 12 ha, onion From 2 to 10 ha, in kharip. In rabi areas under jowar changed from 25 to 75 ha, Wheat from 28 to 69 ha, gram from 20 to 48 ha and onion from 4 to 13 ha.

In Sasewadi, similar trend has been observed. In kharip areas under Suflower has changed from 5 to 7 ha, vegetables from 6 to 8 ha, onion, from 15 to 33 ha. In rabbi, areas under irrigated jowar has changed from 62 to 115 Ha, rain dependent jowar has reduced. Due to more availability of irrigation Water farmers took up to onion cultivation. Area under onion has increased From 13 to 20 ha. Crops like onion and pulse fetch more prices in market and Therefore farmers shifted to such crops due to increase in water resources. Sasewadi project is completed just in 2005 and better results will be seen in coming 2 to 3 years.

In all 22 villages areas under forage crops have increased. It was Possible for farmers to take up these crops in rabi and summer, as wells had Good potential to irrigate the farms. This resulted in more number of milch Cows in the region.

Increased water resources resulted in timely irrigation and therefore in More crop yield per hectare. From Table 3, it is seen that in Sasewadi irrigated Bajara yield increased from 15 q/ha to 25 q/ha and rain dependent bajara yield Increased from 6q/ha to 12 q/ha. Similar trend was seen in rabi season. More Productivity resulted in more crop production, and therefore more moentary Rekturns for the village. The better economic condition of farmers enabled them To use better seeds, sufficient fertilizers and timely use of insecticides and Pesticldes. This in turn resulted in better production. So watershed Development program has helped in creating positive cycle of production. The Positive cycle brought in many social changes. The migration of poor reduced, General health condition of village people improved and number of school going children increased.

9] CONCLUSION -

a] Bosco Gramin Vikas Kendra executed integrated watershed development program in 22 villages from 1989 to 2009.

b] Soil and water conservation works like continuous contour trenches, gully plugs, farm bonding, nala bunds, check dams, gabion dams were executed under this program.

c] Number of wells and irrigated areas increased due to these activities.

d] Total available water and irrigations during stress periods helped in increasing crop yields. Areas under different crops increase and farmers took up cash crops.

e] Survey of 12 village indicated that annual monetary returns increased due to watershed development program. The increase varied from 88 to 217 percent.

f] In Sasewadi village the income increased from Rs. 12592/ha to Rs. 27674/ha

g] In income from other supplementary enterprises is considered, the income will still be more.

h] The watershed development program is eco-friendly, more acceptable and understandable by rural people and direct result oriented.

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