

Theme	Water Stewardship
Title	Community Participation and Socio-Economic Effects of Watershed Development
State	Rajasthan
District	Bhilwara
Implementing Agency	Foundation for Ecological Security (FES)
Evaluation Agency	Indic Knowledge Operations Network (iKOnet) Pvt. Ltd., Kolkata
Date of Submission	August 2013

Executive Summary

Study Objectives: To assess the programme in terms of its socio-economic impact, quality of intervention, robustness of village institutions created and gain insights into the community's perspective on joint management of common pool resources.

Key Findings:

1. As a result of increased availability of water for irrigation, yield improvements post intervention were 33% for Soya, 25% for Wheat and 20% for Maize.
2. Land under irrigation increased by 80% and erstwhile un-irrigated land reduced by 3 times. A four-fold increase in the net cropped area was therefore observed in the programme area after the watershed development project.
3. The project has also demonstrated a viable model for bringing together various partners (the Government of Rajasthan, the ITC Limited, Foundation for Ecological Security, Zila Parishad-Bhilwara and the respective Panchayats) to address critical issues of natural resource management.
4. As part of water conservation efforts, low water demanding wheat variety (Amrita) was promoted in the programme villages. A comparative cost analysis of the traditional variety (Lokwan) and Amrita variety of wheat shows that with the water requirement for Amrita being almost half of that of Lokwan, the irrigation expenses of the farmer highly reduces.
5. Watershed development activities coupled with improved farming techniques impacted in supplementing monthly household income, as a result of which and for increased awareness levels beneficiaries were covered under the financial security programmes like life insurance policies and Kisan Vikas Patras.
6. The various village institutions formed during the project are functioning as expected with all systems in place. There is active participation of the community in providing support to these institutions.

Areas of Improvement:

7. Create sustainable institutional arrangements for equitable distribution of benefits. It is important is to develop a blue print to scale it across time and geographies.

8. Strengthening the capacities of the village institutions to implement tasks and manage of resources after the handover of the project to the local institution and withdrawal of active participation of the PPP stakeholders.
9. Greater convergence with the government programmes and enhanced coordination with line departments.
10. Formal allocation of user rights and collection of user charges for usage of the benefits created for sustainability of common property resources

Please write to us at: itcmsk@itc.in for the full study