

WATER RETURNS – A success story

Conservation Measures to Maintain Sustainable Supply of Water in Rajasthan



The development goal of the Water Project in Rajasthan is the “Development of a model to maintain the sustainable supplies of ground/surface water to the rural communities.

The overall purpose of the project was to plan, develop and maintain water resources in the water impoverished state of Rajasthan to support the growth and well being of the communities and respond to the growing need of water for drinking, agriculture, industrial and general improvement of living conditions.

IKEA, as part of the social and environmental responsibility, decided to initiate this project as a few of their suppliers were based in this water impoverished state of Rajasthan.

The initiative is designed to ensure that all the IKEA suppliers in Rajasthan should adopt the best possible practices while utilising the local resources including water and ensure sustainable supplies of water and other natural resources. The communities involved in the production of the supplies to IKEA should participate in the program to improve the environment in and around their villages. IKEA hired the services of Advit Foundation to conduct a detailed study and design the program. The development objectives of IKEA water project are:



- To identify technologies and management approaches to help achieve sustainable groundwater recharge systems in and around the supplier factories and adopted villages;
- To aggressively promote solutions for sustainable groundwater recharge among the target groups

PILOT PROJECT AREA

A belt of about 20 villages along the River Vani near the city of Jaipur, Rajasthan: Bagru, Rotwada, Kunjbiharipura, Sanwal, Kunchiyawas, Bhimpura, Harbanspura, Kiratpura, Jhund, Rampuranwali, Mandor, Chandwas, Harsoolia, Gohandi, Navalkishorepura, Mandao, Jagatshiromanipura, Mohana.

Designed and constructed 5 model water harvesting structures (checkdams) for replication in other villages.

Dimensions of the constructed structures -

1. Bhimpura – dimension of the structure – 643 ft long and 16 ft high
2. Sanwal - 2442 ft long and 11 ft high
3. Kiratpura – 544 ft long and 10 ft high
4. Navalkishorepura – 1400 ft long and 13 ft high
5. Chandwas - 470 ft long and 15 ft high



IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

Community Involvement:

Contribution: Villagers contributed in kind on each structure i.e. they worked without being paid once a day in a week.

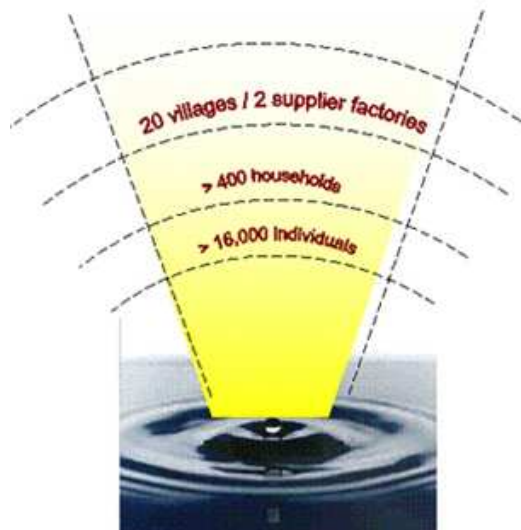
Village maps were made by the villagers themselves to design the checkdam and decide location

Ownership: to ensure sustainability of these structures the formed water user groups (WUGs) have taken the responsibility of maintaining the structures

Replication: besides the 5 villages where the structures have been made the neighboring villagers too are interested to make such structures and so training has been imparted and WUGs have been formed in those villages as well.

Community Empowerment:

- Formed water user groups (WUGs) in each village



- The WUGs were trained to maintain the constructed checkdams in each of the villages
- They were empowered to dovetail the village initiative with ongoing government programmes (*village Kiratpura Panchayat got money from a government project to maintain the structure in their village*)
- Besides the 5 villages where the structures were made WUGs were formed and training imparted in the neighboring villagers as well.

Social Impact:

- The water table of the region has improved. There is water for more than 5 months in the villages.
- Thereby the women have to walk lesser to get water.
- There is water for the cattle for more than 8 months now.
- The soil moisture has increased. So the cropping pattern has become twice a year and thereby the income has enhanced.

Environment Impact:

- Each structure would recharge about 1 km radius land area i.e about 100 wells
- Total of 34,286 cubic metre of water storage capacity would be created through these structures
- Each structure would support at least 4 nearby villages for water
- Population in each village is more than 500 therefore, more than 2000 people will get benefited by each structure
- There will be increase in soil moisture with even slight rain thereby increasing the green cover of the land and so the productivity
- At least 5,500 livestock will get water





