

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE - AUGUST 2016
SUBMITTED TO: E. I. DUPONT INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

WATER CONSERVATION & HARVESTING PROJECT

SEHJAWAS VILLAGE, HARYANA

SUMMARY

In Sehjawas region, readily available water has always been in short supply. Although the total annual rainfall in the area is sometimes enough to sustain farm needs, it is often distributed very unevenly, resulting in villagers facing long dry periods interspersed with periods of intense rainfall. In many cases, families find it difficult to get access to hygienic drinking water, as much of it is lost through run off or leaching. It also causes soil erosion and loss of soil nutrients.

Navjyoti's Water Conservation and Harvesting Project targets these problems through a series of initiatives. In the scope of the current project, we are promoting water conservation and water resources in Sehjawas village of Haryana with a continuous effort to make it a community-owned programme. This setting has given us the opportunity to reach people using existing social structures, maximizing the impact and reducing the time and resources necessary for program development.

We also believe that locals often have high levels of contact with these settings, both directly and indirectly.

Our program combines *chaupals*, schools and communities settings to have a greater impact. While populations reached sometimes overlaps, it ensures that people who are not accessible in one setting can be reached out to in another.

These nontraditional settings have helped us to encourage informal information sharing through peer social interaction and allowed for greater tailoring of water conservation and harvesting information and education.

Our key stakeholders - women groups, youth, community members and village panchayat have actively participated in our initiatives during the last quarter. The project fund has allowed us to expand our project outreach and draft training program for member communities with the implementation of two additional local projects (water audits and water wastage control) to further promote drinking water conservation, reduce water usage, and its loss.





KEY OBJECTIVE: TO PROMOTE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION THROUGH LOW COST AND LOCALLY ACCESSED TECHNOLOGIES

The beneficiaries were introduced to ways to enhance the theoretical and practical knowledge and skills to run water community-level conservation techniques and watershed management activities. In addition, they were involved in a tree-plantation drive to reduce land degradation and promote appropriate soil and water conservation techniques .

OUTCOMES

1. 10 households saved a total 9000 litres of water per day, through the regulated use of bore wells in Shiv Colony (Harijan Basti), Sehjawas.
2. Approximately 8,10,000 litres of water saved in this quarter.
3. 50 saplings planted during Vanmahotsav event with a survival rate of 72% (36 out of 50 surviving).

3.1 The varieties of Gudhal (Hibiscus), Chandni (Crape jasmine), Anar (Pomegranate), Jamun (Indian blackberry), Bougainvillea, Neem, Gulmohur, Ajeer (Common fig) were specifically chosen for a variety of reasons. Primary was their ability to tolerate rough and harsh environments. They are also effective in attracting local species of birds, have minimal droppings and don't require much water.

3.2 The locations of village temple, government school, hospital, water supply outlet were strategically chosen to ensure maximized effect and survival rate

6 CATEGORIES IDENTIFIED TO MEET KEY OBJECTIVES.

- Water Conservation
- Tree Plántation
- Door-to-Door Visits
- Women representation in water resource management activities
- Participation in Selfgovernance
- Employment Generation
- Community Service

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

"PEOPLE COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY CAN MAKE THINGS HAPPEN" JACOB REES-MOGG

Understanding the importance of community involvement in the development and delivery of program and to ensure that project benefits reach out to maximum, we have taken extra steps to include different groups in our project. In this quarter, we have specially encouraged Harijan basti residents and village youth to provide input on the current plan, as well as ideas to better serve the region.



KEY OBJECTIVE: TO MOTIVATE WOMEN AND COMMUNITY TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

OUTCOMES

1. The door-to-door campaign brought out 132 community members to actively participate in the water conservation practices.
 - 1.1 A group of 40 members was specially sensitised about rain water harvesting.
2. The women representation in water resource management activities has substantially increased.
 - 2.1 Female workers constitute 48.9% total work force at the check dam construction site.
3. 30 participants in the inauguration of check dam construction; 5 panchayat members and 1 community key-person participated in the discussion on 'Draft Bill for Protection, Regulation, Management and Conservation of Ground Water, 2016'.
4. 54 participated in the designing of resource map for village Sehjawas.

“I have been working as a labourer since the last two months and I am spending the money earned on education of my children and meeting my household expenses.

Rajwanti (Aged – 38 years old, Women Worker in Check Dam, Sehjawas Village) **”**



KEY OBJECTIVE:

TO CAPACITATE COMMUNITY ON WATER CONSERVATION ISSUES

During our interactions with the stakeholders, we made them understand how important is water and how every single person on the planet needs it to survive. They were introduced to simple water conservation techniques to help cut their water usage by more than half and reduce the demand for water.

OUTCOMES

1. Regulated use of bore wells to reduce wastage of water resulting in a model that saves 9000 litres of water every day for 10 households in Shiv Colony, Sehjaswas – through efforts of Ms. Murti and other women of the village.

2. Capacities of 116 people enhanced through awareness on water harvesting structures and water conservation. Of them, 40 were sensitized about rainwater harvesting, while 76 participated in vanmahotsav plantation drive on July 1, 2016. Total of Rs. 4,53,350 income generated in this quarter.

3. A total of 49 workers hired for the check dam construction, for a total of 9320 man hours in 1165 days; total of Rs. 4,53,350 income generated for the community.



KEY OBJECTIVE:

TO ENSURE VILLAGE OWNERSHIP IN MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

Many villagers offered *shramdaan* (free labour) on the construction and conservation sites to step up their project ownership. They came forward with multiple options and showed enthusiasm for various aspects of the work.

OUTCOMES:

1. A youth group - Sehjaswas Vikas Manch offered weekly two hours *shramdaan* to give back to their community and make a difference to the people around them. It also provided them an opportunity to develop new skills or build on existing experience and knowledge.
2. All the workers at the check dam construction site decided to work one day without pay.
3. With 16 other documented participants, the project got a total of 128 hours of *shramdaan* in different ways.
4. A total of Rs. 5,800 was contributed through the *shram*.



Employee Engagement activity with representatives from DuPont



“There are limited opportunities of livelihood for women in the village. The Check Dam has not only provided me a source a income but it will also benefit our Village and remove the scarcity of water in the village.”
— Omwati (45 years old, women worker at Check Dam, Sehjawas Village) ”

THE ROAD FORWARD.

Along with completion of the check dam construction and its inauguration, we look forward to cultivate and encourage ownership among community members for managing their water resources efficiently in the coming quarter. Through a series of different interventions, improvements will be introduced, the water savings will be measured and based on the results a coordinated, replicable program for a region will be developed.

All primary and secondary stakeholders in Sehjawas village will be invited to partake in the project and study the principles of water management and water conservation. Navjyoti India Foundation will conduct dedicated training sessions to:

1. Test the effectiveness of conservation campaign.
2. Cultivate and encourage ownership among community members for managing their water resources efficiently, through training and formation of *Pani Samitis*.
3. Change the habits and behaviours of as many participants as possible by empowering them to make small changes, which in turn can lead to an awareness of how they can make a difference more generally in reducing resource consumption.



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