



Construction of new pond improves the tribal life in Malangdev village

Introduction:-

Songadh taluka of Tapi district is having tribal population. Average rain fall here is 1700 mm during monsoon. But this area is very remote and hilly, although there is abundant rainfall; the rainwater is wasted in absence of appropriate water conservation structures.



Before implementation of the project, soil moisture & water availability was a constraint during pre-project period. Due to lack of water harvesting structures, the run off was not efficiently utilized. The dry land farming was predominantly practiced with uncertainty in crop yield and resulted in migration of the community members.

Malangdev Gram panchayat is the last panchayat of Songadh block on the border of Dang district. Area of this GP is rocky and hilly. There was a small natural pond where insignificant quantity of water got accumulated during monsoon and most the water in

form of run off. For the purpose of water storage, village people came together with the idea of renovating the natural pond.

Implementation:

Villagers and MRNREGA team came together after detail discussion and then decided on the size and renovation of pond work .This was under taken under MGNREGA in the financial year 2015-16. Deepening of pond was carried out and surface area of pond was increased. Earthen bund was also made from the mud/soil excavated from the pond.



Total 8113 mandays were generated and Rs.13.06 lakh cost was incurred. Earthen bund of 50m long and 5m high was made by which 5622 cu.m water storage capacity was built.

In monsoon season the pond was filled with water but still some water runs away as discharge from the east side of the pond. Thus Again in 2018-19, to increase the water storage capacity and cater to the need of irrigation along with preventing soil erosion another earthen bund was made to the east of the pond of 75m long and 10 M High.

As a result surface is of pond increased by 120 x 130m and depth of 12m. This has resulted in increase of water storage capacity of 13100 cu.m at present.



Total 12203 mandays were generated and Rs.22.57 lack cost was incurred.



Year	Mandays generated	Expenditure (in lakh)	Water capacity created (cmt)
2015-16	8113	13.06	5622
2018-19	12203	22.57	7478
Total	20316	35.63	13100



Impact:

- Before renovation of pond water was available in monsoon season only. But after completion of completion of work water is available throughout the year.
- 55 farmers having around 2 acre of land each, of surrounding area are taking advantage of irrigation and now they are able to reap crop twice in the year.
- Around 110 acres of land is now irrigated, resulting in cultivation twice a year and jump in revenue for the farmer.
- Due to the earthen bund soil erosion is reduced.
- Farmers have started growing wheat, pulses and vegetables which were they not able to do earlier.
- Individual farmer's crop productivity has increased around 2-3 Quintal which has resulted in increase of farmer's income to Rs.3, 30,000/- annually by production of wheat in total of 55 farmers from 110 acre of land.
- Standard of living of farmers has increased as yield of more crops from per unit of land has increased which again has resulted in increased cropping intensity in village.
- As cropping is increased and work is available in the village, hence migration is nil due to increased livelihood options.



Voice from the field:-

- Gram panchayat member of Malangdev village Mr. Ibaliyabhai A. Gamit says, “Renovation of village pond is a boon to us. Water is now available throughout the year, though in summer water level goes down but still water is available. We are blessed that now we don’t have to leave our village and migrate for livelihood.”
- Elaben V. Gamit of Malangdev says, “I have 2 acre of land in which we used to grow Jowar in monsoon. Other than monsoon season due to lack of irrigation facility we were not able to any cultivation. After construction of pond, water is available in summer also and now we are cultivating wheat and vegetables also. My family income has gone up to Rs.10, 000.”