

Progress Report

(April 01, 2019 to March 31, 2020)

Project name: Mitigating Droughts through Community Empowerment (MDCE)

Project villages: 3

Villages Name: 1. Dhoniya 2. Megh Singh ki Dhani and 3.Juna Lakhara

Block Name: Chohtan Dist. Badmer, Rajasthan

Project Goal:

The overall goal of the project will be to contributing in poverty reduction in 3 remote villages of Barmer through enhancing water availability and crop productivity.

Objectives are:

- Develop community leadership through VDCs
- Demonstrate innovated rainwater harvesting storage tanks
- Educate farming communities on new farming techniques keeping in view climate change
- Support agriculture through seed banks
- Introduce BSFs
- Build knowledge and solidarity

Duration and location of the project:

The project period for implementation 36 months in 3 remote villages of Barmer District of the Thar Desert.

Construction of Rainwater Harvesting Taanka:

During this reporting period the VDCs organise their meetings to identifying the potential beneficiaries from project villages. During the VDCs meeting every village hamlets the community people participate with their representatives and family members and put-up their request in front of the VDCs members. VDC members based on criteria and availability of number of taanka for this year shortlisted and recommend to the GRAVIS technical team to visit the family house and see the location and feasibility of the situation and finalize the family for approval the taanka construction. The based on the VDC request GRAVIS technical team visited the family and select the needy and suitable site of the taanka for construction. After that the taanka construction work started and completed on 5 taankas in project villages.

During the VDC meeting the members review the last year constructed taankas performance. The VDC members found the all last year constructed taankas harvest full of rains in these taankas. The result is all 5 taankas have full of water with 25000 litres each capacity of water and these families now secure with sweet of water without any chemical

contaminations in their water. Each family save the 5,000 to 7,000 rupees per year due to availability of rain water in their taanka.

Now the women in their families are free from the stress of fetching the water every day from long distance to carry water on their head with multiple pots and also free from the physical and social harassment. In the society the taanka is the symbol of social status, these families social status also improve. Other sign of result of the water security of taanka, the engagement of the women are increasing they are participating in the trainings and taking care of their agriculture and livestock. Women personal health and hygiene improved, Small children in the family are taking bath and join the school on regular, now no need girls to stay at home to support their mother to fetch water for domestic use. So, school attendance increased and dropout rate decreased due to water availability in the families.

People are happy after getting the direct and indirect benefit from these taanka and given their blessing to PPI for their support and as well GRAVIS for the timely implementation and proper selection of beneficiaries.

Table of taanka construction beneficiary during 2019-20:

S. No.	Name of beneficiary	Sex (M/F)	Age	Category	Village District	# of beneficiaries
1	Anchi Devi w/o Sona Ram, Jat	F	55	OBC	Juna Lkhara	11
2	Chauthi Devi w/o Chatura Ram, Jat	F	52	OBC	Juna Lkhara	10
3	Lahron Devi W/o Kamla Ram Suthar	F	61	OBC	Ghoniya	15
4	Puro Devi w/o Rau Ram, Jat	F	62	OBC	Juna Lkhara	13
5	HARKHU DEVI	F	59	OBC	Juna Lkhara	14
Total						63



Women fetching water from recently built the Taanka under the project

Bio sand water filters (BSWF):

During the report period we started the making of the Bio sand water filter for the project beneficiaries. 5 Bio-sand water filters are manufactured during this year. These filters installed at taanka beneficiaries home for safe and potable water. Before installation the technical team of experts oriented to the beneficiaries of BSWF about use and its function and taking care of after and during the use of the BSWF, how use the BSWF in proper way without any complication.

Table shown the training details of participants on BSWF during 2019.20:

S. No.	Village	date	Total participants	Male	female
1	Ghoniya	06.11.2019	26	15	11
2	Meghsingh ki Dhani- Juna lakhara	08.11.2019	36	19	17
Total			62	34	28

Field team observe during the field visits of the project, the beneficiaries are very happy to use of theses filters water at their families members. Now the BSWF providing biological and comical condemnations free water and they feel stomach free illness and other water born diseases, which they suffer before the BSWF installation at their home.

During this year the total more than 246 person including 183 indirect nearby families' person (male, female and children) are getting BSWF water for drinking purpose from these filters.

Table of BSWF beneficiary during 2019-20:

Village name	Direct beneficiaries benefitted	Indirect beneficiaries benefitted	Total beneficiaries benefitted
Juna Lkhara	11	32	43
Juna Lkhara	10	29	39
Ghoniya	15	44	59
Juna Lkhara	13	37	50
Juna Lkhara	14	41	55
Total	63	183	246

Village Development Committees (VDCs) and their trainings:

During this reporting period we organise the meeting and trainings for VDCs on the project goal and objectives. From GRAVIS our project coordinator and field supervisor facilitates

the training. These trainings organised at in field at project village on public palaces. This public place for trainings and meetings we decided with the VDC members to access easily and every one can participate fully.

The village development committee members have research at village level and discussions.

1. Use of indigenous seeds and benefit in the coming time.
2. Benefited by government schemes to poor families.
3. Self-reliance in social and economic status.
4. Rescue and maintain old and traditional sources.
5. Cleanliness in the oran gochar (Pastur land development), **Sewan grass** (*Lasiurus scindicus* and dhaman (***Cenchrus ciliaris***- buffel grass) Plantations.
6. Save from farming losses and diseases with hybrid seeds.
7. To make compost at home and to save from disease put a kitchen garden near the house along with plants, fruit so that children's can get vitamins.

Table of VDC trainings beneficiary during 2019-20:

S. No.	Village	date	Total participants	Male	female
1	Ghoniya	06.05.2019	57	35	22
2	Meghsingh ki Dhani	10.06.2019	43	27	16
3	Juna Lakhara	15.08.2019	60	32	28
4.	Ghoniya-meghsingh dhani ki	11.03.2020	35	20	15
5.	Juna Lakhara	20.03.2020	40	22	18
Total			160	94	66

Exchange convention:

During this year we organised a convention at Jodhpur and farmers visit in the field of different trials on different crops in scientific manner. Farmers interact with the agriculture scientists in Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) and Agriculture University of Jodhpur in Mandor. The farmers and scientist agreed to conserve the land races different crop varieties, which is available with the farmers only. So scientist will be support to register their own land races varieties with National Beaurow of Plant Genetic (NBPGR) New Delhi. GRAVIS from barmer and other region of Thar identified and send for registration. Farmers were happy to increases their knowledge about water harvesting techniques, line sowing, quality of seed, seed bank, package of practices which need to adopt on time and act accordingly, harvesting and seed and grain storing methods, etc. Farmers are ready to grow the crops in good manner, because of the exchange convention. 21 farmers including 5 farmers' women will attend the convention and participated from all three villages.



Farmers visit after convention in the field to observing the different crop trials at institution farm

Training on climate changes and farming:

During this year the training has been conducted in Gram Dhonia and all three villages' participants from Megh Singh ki Dhani, Dhonia and Juna lakhara village were participated. The training session had been attended by about 128 men and 96 women.

The major focus was to discuss on different topics related to climate change and to train the community towards becoming more resilient towards the same.

- Increasing frequency of Unseasonal Rainfall and its unequal distribution across places.
- Adverse impact of extreme weather events on farming resulting in reduction in farm production
- Reduced trees or grass in Oran gochar (pasture)
- Extreme weather events including severe Storms and cyclones

- Un favourable weather conditions including extreme scorch summer and very cold winters
- Discussion on the harmful impact of excess pesticide application on cultivation and productivity, Disease from hybrid seeds, Loss of interest among people in farming owing to increased challenges and lower profit
- Advice on usage of traditional local varieties of seeds which are not hybrid and which suited to the local conditions. Making people understand the benefits of using the same.
- Discussion on good quality of seeds storage, selections of quality seeds
- All the farmers discussed on using traditional sources to use grass and croups.

Table shown the details of trainings on climate change;

Sr. No.	Name of trainings	Number of trainings	Participants / beneficiary		Total	Village
			Male	Female		
1.	Training on climate change 05.08.2019	01	42	34	76	Participants from project villages and local govt. Department and CBOs. Villages are: Dhonia, Juna lakhara and Megh singh ki dhani villages.
2.	Training on climate change 12.11.2019	01	39	29	68	Participants from project villages and local govt. Department and CBOs. Villages are Ghoniya and meghsingh ki dhani
3.	Training on climate change 01.03.2019	01	26	18	44	Participants from project village and local govt. Department and CBOs at Juna lakhara
4.	Training on climate change 02.03.2019	01	21	15	36	Participants from project villages and local govt. Department and CBOs. Villages are Ghoniya and Megh Singh ki dhani
Total		4	128	96	224	

Seed banks:

The total 4 seed banks are established in project villages during this year. In these seed bank local indigenous land races and improved variety of seed stored at village level. The seed bank crop seed are available for all poor farmers, who full fill the criteria of seed bank.

Table shown the seed bank:

S.No.	Village	# of seed bank	Type of seed stored
1	Dhoniya	1	1. Kharif crop seed are: Moth bean, Mung bean, Pearl millet, seas am, Cucumber, Watermelon, cluster bean 2. Rabi crop seed are: Chickpea, Wheat, Cumin, Mustered, Fenugreek
2.	Meghsingh ki Dhani	1	
3.	Juna Lakhara	2	
Total		4	

- During this recently kharif sowing –About 55% families have completed their sowing with the help of the seeds provided by the seed bank including seeds of mung bean ,moth bean, desi bajara (Pearl millet)
- These crops take less time as well as less water to grow, Moreover, the taste is also good.
- This will help promotion of Desi (pure) seeds. In addition to that people will get the seed on time.
- The intervention created under the project will benefit all the poor people of the target villages. With the help of the village fund and availability of storage of vital inputs required for agriculture, the entire village would be able to avail the benefit of quality seeds on time particularly during instances of natural calamities. Thus, the overall agricultural productivity would improve there by elevating the well being of the farmers.
- Rabi crop sowing - 6 farmers Wheat, 10 farmers cumin, 9 farmers Rayada (mustered), 5 farmers Fenugreek good seeds have been provided to promote in-between 30 farmers. After harvesting will be complete, farmers will deposit their seeds in the bank so that they can get the seeds in the next year.



Mr. Gumana Ram farmer with Mustered field in Rabi session in Badmer



Wheat in Mr. Narpat Singh farm field in badmer with scientific techniques i.e line sowing of crop with proper distance of raw to raw.

Table shown details of trainings on seed banks:

Sr. No.	Name of trainings	Number of trainings	Participants / beneficiary		Total	Village
			Male	Female		
1.	Setting up Seeds Banks	03	21	09	30	Chonniya, Junalakhwara, Meghsinghkidhanni
