

Progress Report as on October 2018

Project name: Mitigating Droughts through Community Empowerment (MDCE)

Project villages: 3

Villages Name are: 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:

In this period, the needy beneficiaries for tank building were identified through VDC. After this the technical team did a field visit in three villages to the identified the beneficiaries and discussed with the community regarding the work of tank building and decided to complete it with support of community. In this the unskilled labor will be employed in the construction of tank for beneficiary. Previously there was not system for water conservation hence water was saved in pots. As there was no water conservation in place, they had to struggle with personal hygiene, children education and health.

This tank building helps the women of the household in many ways. The efforts and time of women in selected household will be saved. Women will get rid of mental pressure faced previously and will give them opportunity to invest their time in fruitful activities and pay attention to children education, personal hygiene. They will get opportunity to contribute in agriculture and livestock and farmer training and thereby increase production. The tank build has capacity for 4-6 people per family for 5-6 months. In order to get rid of insects or organisms, silt ketcher, cover by stone slabs, inlet, outlet are made with wire mesh. The catchment is done using calcium carbonate, to make steep.

Total 3 Taankas were completed out of total 5 in 3 project villages.



Bio sand water filter:

Under this project, creation of 5 BSWF is done. This will be provided to beneficiaries with tanks. Now the beneficiaries will start filtering the rain water using BSWF and use for drinking purpose.

A total of 5 families have been provided with BSWF. The filtered water from these BSWF is sweet, and pure. The household no longer spend the money on health issues as they have source of pure water.



Formation of Village Development Committees (VDCs) and their trainings

Three VDCs in 3 project villages formed with representation of all castes and with gender equality. The each VDC has 12 members in which 5 are women out of total. VDC training was organized on 25/10/2018 in Dhoniya and Meghsingh ki Dhani village. A manual of rules and regulation for VDC was formed in training.

These are as follows:

- 1) VDC will meet every month
- 2) Mandatory 50 % of the women participation in meeting
- 3) Rules of government schemes will be communicated to common people
- 4) Monitoring of NREGA work
- 5) Maintenance of traditional water system
- 6) Work should be prioritized for people from vulnerable community
- 7) Ensure that no child marriage happens in village
- 8) Proper functioning of government work
- 9) Reduction in intoxication trend at village level
- 10) Settlement of village disputes within village

- 11) VDC training to be conducted every three month
- 12) Creation of seeds bank for traditional seeds
- 13) To control the soil compaction in Oran Kochar forest
- 14) VDC will prioritize and take action on important issues such as ban on cutting of trees
- 15) Work will be done in the supervision of VDC. In addition, the work of people from vulnerable community will be prioritized and there will be no space for discrimination



VDC formation meeting and their training

Farmers Trainings on climate resilient farming

Three training for farmers in Meghsingh ki Dhani and Dhoniya village was conducted on 15.07.2018, 18.07.2018 and 16.10.2018. The total 111 farmer participated in these trainings. In this training, discussion was done on climate change where how there is extreme floods in some parts and at the same time extreme droughts in some parts is observed. A drastic change in evaporation rate is also observed. Previously, ber, sevan, bekar, bhurat were mainly grown but babul, bui, kadi, sonela are mostly seen. But these plants don't let crops grow. By creating **kanabandi baad**, the loosening of soil will reduced and there will be good production. This will save the crop from winds and hurricane.

Nowadays traditional seeds are getting extinct and new hybrid seeds are coming in market which is harmful to environment and costly. Thus, there is a need for formation of seeds bank.

There is a change in the way of farming done these days. Previously, bullocks were used for work in fields such as for ploughing but now tractors are being used. Information on how to inline sowing crops seed were given to farmers. Along with this, they were also informed to keep one cm distance between plants to have good production.

Training was given to farmers on following:

- 1) The method of farming done
- 2) Seed treatment
- 3) Making and spraying of pesticides made from natural ingredients such as cow urine, sour buttermilk, green chilly, garlic, compost fertilizer, vermicompost, Amrut paani etc.

Poshan (Aahar)-

Our body requires vitamin iron from time to time hence crops with these contents should also be grown. Nutritious food such as includes pulses, green vegetables and other vegetables should be included in the diet of children.



Setting up seed banks:

Farmers in Dhoniya and Meghsingh ki Dhnai village used traditional seeds. Traditional seeds especially moong, sprouts and sesame are useful. People fear out that their traditional seeds might get extinct hence they have decided to make seeds bank. These traditional seeds require less water and even production is better. As there is a probability that seeds might get extinct, the villagers felt the need to form seeds bank. Due to the availability of seeds bank, the villagers will be able to sow seeds immediately as the rain comes. With the formation of seed banks, the preservation of healthy seeds will also be done. In addition, the farmers will no longer be forced to purchase costly seeds from the market. Seeds bank will be beneficial for the villagers. By purchasing the rabi season crops such as moong, mooth etc, seed banks will be formed. Also, crops such as sarso, jeera etc were provided by Rajasthan Agriculture University which are registered and traditional seeds that made the soil fertile require less water and no chemical fertilizers like DAP and Urea.



Hybrid Seeds

Hybrid seeds require more quantity of water and even need chemical fertilizers such as DAP and Urea that make the soil infertile. Also, the food gets contaminated by harmful chemicals that affect health. Nowadays people have started using hybrid seeds varieties and not traditional seeds varieties. These hybrid varieties are not only expensive but are harmful to health. They have to be purchased every year and has gives poor yield due to which small farmers are in loss. Hence

traditional seeds will be stored in seed bank every year which will be cheaper and requires less water compared to hybrid varieties.
