

Progress Report Update

(April 01, 2019 to September 30, 2019)

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:

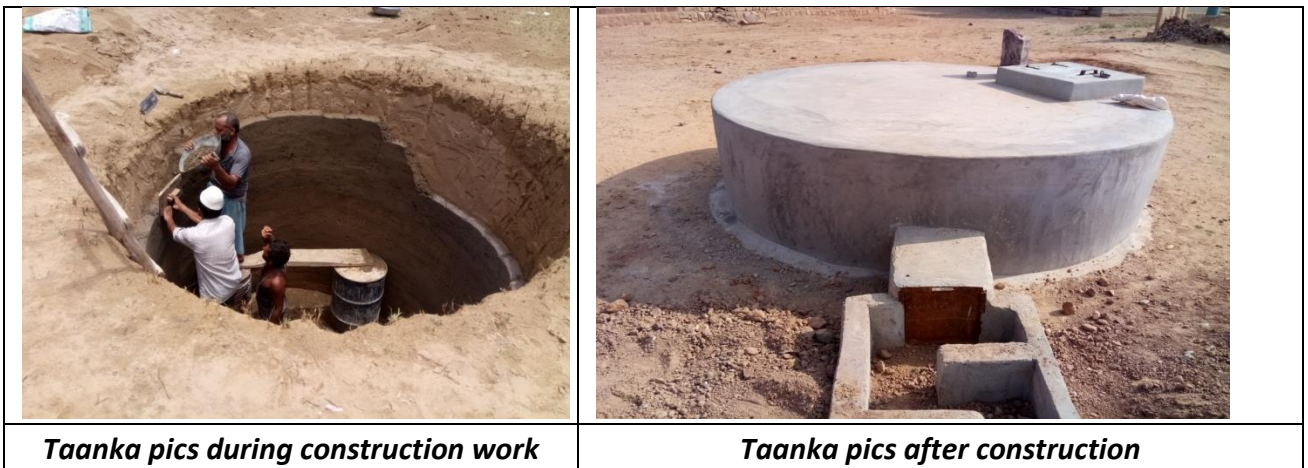
During this reporting period the VDCs organise their meetings to identifying the potential beneficiaries from project villages. During the VDCs meeting every village hamlets the community people participate with their representatives and family members and put-up their request in front of the VDCs members. 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 fusibility of the situation and finalize the family for approval the taanka construction. The based on the VDC request GRAVIS technical tam visited the family and select the needy and suitable site of the taanka for construction. After that the taanka construction work started 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. 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. 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 kids in the family are taking bath and join the school on regular, now no need 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.

Taanka pics during in progress:



Bio sand water filters (BSWF):

During the report period we started the making of the Bio sand water filter for the project beneficiaries. Almost 3 Bio sand water filters are manufactured and 2 in progress. These filters will install after completion of taanka construction work. Before installed we orient 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. These filters hope full we putted month of December 2019.

We observe during the field visit of the project the beneficiaries are very happy to use of theses filters water at their families members. Now they feel stomach free illness and other water born diseases, which they suffer before the BSWF.

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.

Training on climate changes and farming:

Training has been conducted on 5-8-2019 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 42 men and 34 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.

Seed banks:

Program seed bank gram Dhonia, Megh Singh ki Dhani and Juna Lakhara the 3 seeds banks have been established in these project villages at community level.

- 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.



The pearl millet crop in the project farmer's field at barmer "a result of seed bank"

Table-2: Details of trainings and seed banks:

Sr. No.	Name of trainings	Number of trainings	Participants / beneficiary		Total	Village
			Male	Female		
1.	VDC Training					Dhonia, Juna Ikhara and Megh singh ki dhani
	- on 15.08.19 at Juna Lkhara	01	32	28	60	
	- on 06.05.19 At Dhonia	01	35	22	57	
	- on 10.06.19 At Megh singh ki Dhani	01	27	16	43	
2.	Training on climate change 05. 08. 2019	01	42	34	76	Participants from Dhonia, Juna Ikhara and Megh singh ki dhani villages
3.	Seeds Banks	03	21	09	30	Chonniya, Junalakhwara, Meghsinghkidhanni
