

Case Study: Enhancing Agricultural Productivity through Farm Ponds

Title: Impact of Farm Pond Construction in Sugav Kh

Name of the Beneficiary: Mr. Gunaji Shinde

Village: Sugav Kh

Block: Nanded

District: Nanded

Family Members: 9 (Male – 3, Female - 3, Children – 3)

Income Source: Agriculture Produce and Livestock (Milk) Production

Project Support: Preparation of Farm Pond (30 meters in length, 25 meters in width, and 3 meters in depth)

Water Storage Capacity: 2.2 TMC

Self-Contribution: Pitching for side walls of the pond and inlet-outlet (worth Rs. 20,000/-)

Background:

Mr. Gunaji Shinde, a small farmer from Sugav Kh village in Nanded district, owns 4 acres of land. He cultivates cotton, soybean, tuar, and jawar during the Kharif season and wheat and gram during the Rabi season. Previously, most of his land was rain-fed, allowing him to sow all 4 acres during Kharif but only half during Rabi due to insufficient irrigation water, leading to low crop yields.

Project Implementation: Under the Parivartan: Holistic Rural Development Programme (HRDP), Mr. Shinde was motivated to construct a farm pond on his land in 2019. The pond measures 30 meters in length, 25 meters in width, and 3 meters in depth. Positioned strategically on his farm, the pond filled to the brim three times during the rainy season, significantly aiding groundwater recharge.

Before constructing the farm pond, Mr. Shinde relied on water from dug-wells and bore-wells, which provided limited availability. Now, with the farm pond, he has sufficient water to irrigate his Rabi crops. The pond enabled the harvesting and recharging of at least 6.6 TMC of water, ensuring water availability for agricultural activities.



The total construction cost was Rs. 2,00,000/-, with Mr. Shinde contributing Rs. 20,000/- worth of materials for the side walls and inlet-outlet pitching.

Results:

The farm pond initiative significantly improved water availability during the Rabi season, expanding the cultivable area due to assured irrigation. In the last Rabi season, Mr. Shinde cultivated gram and fodder crops on 2.10 acres of land, yielding 10 quintals of gram and green fodder sufficient for 90 days. The remaining 2.9 acres of land were used for sugarcane, a perennial crop.

Additionally, Mr. Shinde plans to cultivate vegetables on a small scale (10 to 20 R) during the summer season. The success of the farm pond has brought immense satisfaction to Mr. Shinde, who now actively motivates other farmers to construct appropriate water harvesting structures on their land.

Conclusion:

The construction of a farm pond under the Parivartan program has had a transformative impact on Mr. Gunaji Shinde's agricultural productivity. The assured irrigation has not only increased the cultivable area during the Rabi season but also diversified his crop cultivation. This initiative serves as a model for other farmers in the region, highlighting the benefits of sustainable water management practices in enhancing agricultural output and securing livelihoods.