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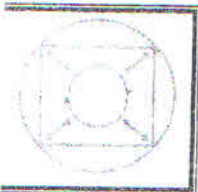
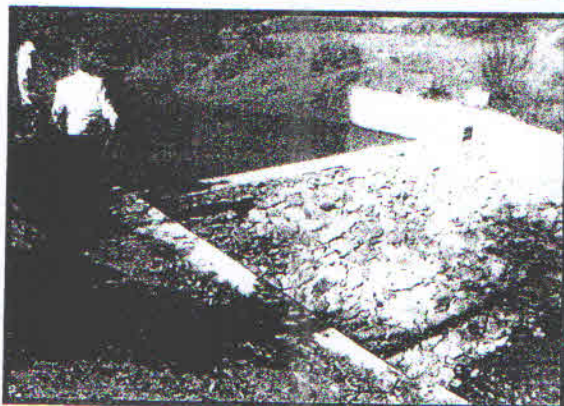
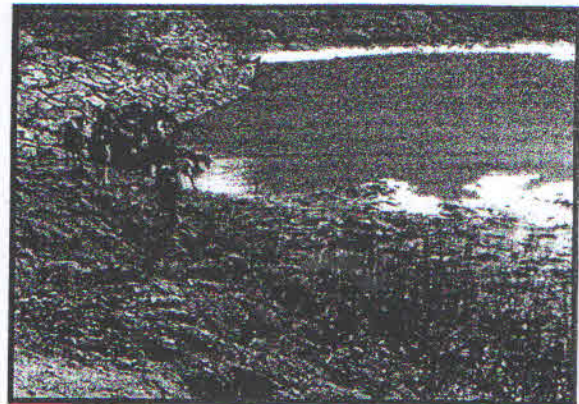
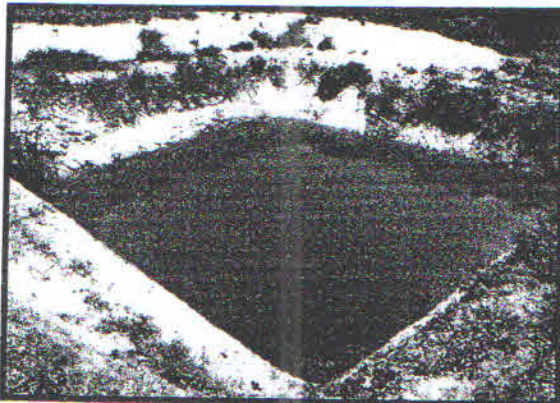
GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Watershed Development Department

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**Evaluation Study of Special  
Component Programme (SCP) and  
Tribal Sub  
Plan (TSP)**



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Executive Summary

Evaluation Study of Special Component Programme (SCP) and Tribal Sub

Plan (TSP)

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The watershed development programme is expected to promote employment generation in the rural areas besides enhancing people's participation at all stages of development of watershed leading to equity and sustainable development. The main objective are 1) to promote the overall economic development through efficient management of resources ii) generation of employment and iii) augmentation of other income generation activities. Further it also aims to restore ecological balance through easy and affordable technological solutions and sustained community action resulting in over all upliftment of the poor and disnautaged sections of the community. The major activity taken up under the programme are soil and water conservation programme in arable and non arable lands, planting and pasture development in wasteland and promotion of agro forestry and horticulture measures and the needed technology to disseminate knowledge through training, extension and creation of greater degree of awareness among the participants is encourages for effective peoples participation, especially women.

It is evident from the above that watershed development is among the policy thrust areas of rural development in India. It has transformed from resource conservation programme to a comprehensive livelihoods and rural development programme over the years. Establishment of National Rainfed Area Authority in 2008 and bringing watershed development under its purview with doubling of allocations for the watershed development under the common guidelines has confirmed the primacy of the programme at the policy and planning level. Besides, the common guidelines of 2009, expanded the watershed programme beyond 500ha, along with extending the time frame with emphasis on livelihoods. The 2010-2011 annual budget consolidated three schemes viz., IWMP, DPAP and DDP under the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and made a provision of 2021 crore for the programme.

Hon'ble Prime Minister in the 51<sup>st</sup> NDC meeting held on 27/06/2005 emphasised that "SCP and TSP should be an integral part of Annual Plans as well as Five Year Plans, making provisions therein non-divertible and non lapsable with the clear objective of bridging the gap in socio-economic conditions of the SCs and STs with in a period of 10 years". The schemes included under SCP/TSP should therefore, ensure direct benefits to SC/ST individuals or families

In accordance with the above, these programmes were used as watershed plus activities directed to these communities to have multiplier effect of resource conservation on catchment basis supported by additional funding at the individual/family level for minimizing the gestation period in deriving benefits from resource conservation to the disadvantaged groups. Under SCP for development of schedule caste familes, the department has incurred an expenditure of 1718 lakhs during 2009-10 for constructing rainwater harvesting structures in 676 villages falling under 557 panchayats in 169 taluks for benefiting 5641 families. Similarly under TSP, a sum of Rs.1832.03 lakhs was spent to cover 20378 farmers belonging to Schedules Tribes spread over 715 villages in 553 panchayats falling under 169 taluks. Water harvesting structures such as percolation tanks, check dams and farm ponds are made to benefit stakeholders to



improve their water resources so as to enable them to protect their crops to tide over the drought. In addition to water harvesting structures, soil and water conservation measure such as earthen bunding, boulder bunding, field bunding and bench terracing were carried out on individual fields for preventing erosion and retaining moisture to improve crop yields. In all 26000, SC and ST families spread over selected districts where programme is implemented are benefitted.

These programmes are implemented with the following objectives:

- To control erosion and improve the soil moisture availability as well as groundwater recharge.
- To improve the soil fertility and thereby production levels.
- To utilise harvested water as supplemental irrigation during critical stages of the crop during drought.

The Department of Watershed Development Govt of Karnataka initiated an impact assessment programme covering all the districts under the programme.

As per the specifications, 1527 beneficiaries were selected randomly across the 8 districts in which the programme is carried out and interviewed using a close-ended questionnaire for determining the performance of the programme. Secondary data from the State and district headquarters was collected and analyzed using appropriate statistical and analytical tools.

The SCP and the TSP component are under implementation during 2009-10 in the state. The Department has already initiated action for the implementation during 2011-12 as well. Thus, the programme is being evaluated after a short time interval of its implementation.

The study has brought out several positive aspects of the programme. The important achievement of the programme is that through this programme the small and the marginal farmers belonging to the targeted groups in the state has been provided with the required benefits. Secondly, the programme has resulted in bringing about certain changes in the income levels as a result of shift in the type of crops viz., rain-fed crops to vegetable cultivation, cropping intensity - from rabi or kharif to rabi or kharif and short duration crops during summer. These are found to vary across the different agro-climatic zones. For instance, in the Hassan, Shimoga, Tumkur districts during rabi season the beneficiaries have taken up the cultivation of vegetables [ginger, paddy, sericulture, coconut cultivation, banana etc.] and in the Belgaum, Gulbarga, Bijapur and Bagalkote districts the farmers have shifted to cultivation of crops such as the green gram, black gram etc., while they have continued with the cultivation of traditional crops, there is shift to the improved variety which is expected to enhancing the yield and thus, the incomes. It is also observed that there is a shift to perennial crops such as the sugar cane and grapes. As a result of the implementation of the various types of bunding works, the fallow lands, the undulated lands have been brought under cultivation.

The greatest impact of the programme is seen in terms of recharge of ground water. This is found to vary with the type of structures executed. The check

dams, nala bunds, RRS. MPT and vented dams is reported to have not only resulted in recharging of ground water sources in the targeted plots, but has had its impacts on the water sources in the surroundings as well [beyond 500 mtrs.]

In a certain number of cases or districts, the programme is implemented in convergence with the other programmes implemented by the Agriculture Department. For example, in the event of the provision of the farm pond under the present programme, implements such as kerosene pumps, manual water lifting equipments, provision of seeds such as haemata, mango saplings / saplings etc., In addition, through the NREGA saplings such as Teak, Silver oak and others is provided to be used for planting on the bunds on the different structures. The Department of Fisheries has also provided fingerlinks to help the farmers to undertake the fishing activity which is also reported to have helped in enhancing the income levels of the farmers. The Horticulture Department is found to have provided seeds kit to promote kitchen garden in and around the farm ponds.

The study has also revealed several shortcomings of the programme. One of the important issue is the selection of the sites for the erection of the structures resulting in wastage of the scarce resources, dissatisfaction among the beneficiaries and other problems as well. The implementation of the programme is not coupled by adequate sensitization and awareness building on the various aspects of the programme that is implemented. It is found that there is poor maintenance of the drainages, inlets, silt traps etc., This is a result of the poor awareness and the participation in the implementation of the programme as well. It is necessary to give increased attention towards the various technical issues both in the planning and implementation phases of the programme as well. It is necessary to consider such factors such as the soil type in the implementation of the programme. In certain cases, check dams and farm ponds and vented dams have been constructed in such locations where there is very little possibility of collection of water. As a result, these structures are not effectively utilized.

The SCP and the TSP programmes needs to be implemented with a 'shelf-of-activities' approach providing for appropriate interventions desired by the target group. The department may evolve a strategy to train the SCP and the TSP beneficiaries on the various aspects of the maintenance of the structures created under the programme either by outsourcing to a professional agency or by implementing the same through the department.



## Chapter VII

### Observations and Findings

The SCP and the TSP component are under implementation during 2009-10 in the state. The Department has already initiated action for the implementation during 2011-12 as well. Thus, the programme is being evaluated after a short time interval of its implementation.

#### Positive Aspects:

1. The important achievement of the programme is that through this programme the small and the marginal farmers belonging to the targeted groups in the state has been provided with the required benefits.
2. All the targeted beneficiaries are found to have received the benefits proposed under this programme.
3. The programme has resulted in bringing about certain changes in the income levels as a result of shift in the type of crops viz., rain-fed crops to vegetable cultivation, cropping intensity – from rabi or kharif to rabi or kharif and short duration crops during summer. These are found to vary across the different agro-climatic zones. For instance, in the Hassan, Shimoga, Tumkur districts during rabi season the beneficiaries have taken up the cultivation of vegetables [ginger, paddy, sericulture, coconut cultivation, banana etc.] and in the Belgaum, Gulbarga, Bijapur and Bagalkote districts the farmers have shifted to cultivation of crops such as the green gram, black gram etc., While they have continued with the cultivation of traditional crops, there is shift to the improved variety which is expected to enhancing the yield and thus, the incomes. It is also observed that there is a shift to perennial crops such as the sugar cane and grapes.

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4. As a result of the implementation of the various types of bunding works, the fallow lands, the undulated lands have been brought under cultivation.
5. The greatest impact of the programme is seen in terms of recharge of ground water. This is found to vary with the type of structures executed. The check dams, nala bunds, RRS, MPT and vented dams is reported to have not only resulted in recharging of ground water sources in the targeted plots, but has had its impacts on the water sources in the surroundings as well [beyond 500 mtrs.]
6. In certain cases, the farmers are reported to have shifted from single crops to multiple crops. Thus, the farmers are reported to be taking up the cultivation of the vegetables in the coconut gardens as a result of the availability of water.
7. In a certain number of cases or districts, the programme is implemented in convergence with the other programmes implemented by the Agriculture Department. For example, in the event of the provision of the farm pond under the present programme, implements such as kerosene pumps, manual water lifting equipments, provision of seeds such as haemata, mango saplings / saplings etc., In addition, through the NREGA saplings such as Teak, Silver oak and others is provided to be used for planting on the bunds on the different structures. The Department of Fisheries has also provided fingerlinks to help the farmers to undertake the fishing activity which is also reported to have helped in enhancing the income levels of the farmers. The Horticulture Department is found to have provided seeds kit to promote kitchen garden in and around the farm ponds.

8. The benefits of the programme is just not confined to agricultural purposes, but non-agricultural purposes as well. Thus, it is found that the water that is stored in the major harvesting structures is used for domestic purposes. In certain cases it has resulted in recharge of village drinking water borewells.
9. Due to the enhanced vegetations in the villages, there is increased no. of milch animals and also marginal increase in the production of milk from the milch animals.
10. The works such as bunding and water harvesting structures is said to have resulted in creation of employment for the rural community in general and beneficiary in particular.
11. The programme is said to have resulted in enhanced social status and self-esteem among the targeted beneficiaries.

#### **Negative Aspects:**

1. The Watershed Development Department has been implementing a number of schemes with similar type of interventions. While the SCP and the TSP programme has provided a number of interventions to the beneficiaries, the details of the assistance provided under this programme is not displayed on site. Such practices are expected to help in eliminating the duplications in the assistance provided to the beneficiaries.
2. The process of documentation i.e. the collection of various documents from the beneficiaries is not found to be uniform in all the districts.



There is need to issue strict guidelines to follow the stipulated guidelines. This will help in the effective implementation of the programme as well.

3. It is found that there has been certain shortfalls in the selection of the sites for the erection of the structures resulting in wastage of the scarce resources, dissatisfaction among the beneficiaries and other problems as well.
4. The implementation of the programme is not coupled by adequate sensitization and awareness building on the various aspects of the programme that is implemented. It is found that there is poor maintenance of the drainages, inlets, silt traps etc., This is a result of the poor awareness and the participation in the implementation of the programme as well.
5. In a certain percentage of cases relating to farm ponds, due to non-provision of the outlets for the excess water, this has resulted in breach of the pond giving rise to unintended problems to the farmers.
6. It is necessary to give increased attention towards the various technical issues both in the planning and implementation phases of the programme as well. It is necessary to consider such factors such as the soil type in the implementation of the programme. In certain cases, check dams and farm ponds and vented dams have been constructed in such locations where there is very little possibility of collection of water. As a result, these structures are not effectively utilized.
7. It is reported that the bunding works are taken up only for the tribal communities. However, there is increased demand for it from the scheduled caste beneficiaries as well. Thus, it is felt that there is need to implement the programme in 'shelf-of-activities' approach providing



8. The selected farmers in few districts are not satisfied with the design in the formation of bunds. However, the departmental personnel have expressed limitations in implementing it due to financial ceilings provided under the programme.

**Suggestions:**

1. The SCP and the TSP programmes needs to be implemented with a 'shelf-of-activities' approach providing for appropriate interventions desired by the target group.
2. The department may evolve a strategy to train the SCP and the TSP beneficiaries on the various aspects of the maintenance of the structures created under the programme either by outsourcing to a professional agency or by implementing the same through the department.
3. In view of the merger with the Agriculture Department, the Department may focus greater attention in implementing other programmes through the process of convergence. This is also true for departments / programmes such as the Department of Animal Husbandry and Verterinary Services, Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, Department of Horticulture, Department of Forestry and Department of Fisheries.
4. At the taluk level, an appropriate committee under the Chairmanship of the President of the Taluk Panchayath with appropriate members from the different line departments to be constituted with powers relating to the selection of the beneficiaries, timely execution and monitoring and more importantly to ensure the implementation on a 'mission' mode.

5. The Department may further issue appropriate guidelines towards ensuring proper documentation.