

Project title	Impact Assessment of Watershed Programme in Karnataka State
Source of funding	Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India
Year	2002

Abstract

A watershed is taken to consist of an area of approximately 500 hectares. An impact assessment study of three types of watershed programmes - Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), and Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP) was initiated by the Ministry of Rural Development in the sixteen districts of Karnataka State.

General objective of the programmes was to ensure efficient land and water resource management for suitable agricultural production. The focus of the study was to investigate the extent that the objective of the programmes was achieved because of the implementation of the watershed projects. The field investigation was done with the help of three different schedules. The DPAP / DDP projects covered areas of about 500 hectares each.

The implementation of 276 watershed programmes have generated 589 different kinds of assets. The structures were maintained by Panchayats and government departments. Training programmes in the case of 195 projects (73 percent) out of the 276 projects, were organised for members of the user groups and Self-Help Groups.

Data collected revealed that 58 percent of the projects (160) implemented under the different programmes could get funds in time. In judging the success of a watershed project, eight parameters were important. Out of 16 districts, 5 districts namely, Belgaum, Hassan, Mandya, Mysore and Bangalore reported full positive effect regarding all these 8 parameters.

Large number of jobs were created from watershed programmes in Bangalore, Bijapur, Chitradurga, Hassan, Kolar and Tumkur. There was significant improvement in the livestock and allied activities. Priority has been given to the economically and generally backward sector of society among the target groups. The share of irrigated land in the total operational holdings of beneficiaries increased from 44 percent to 49 percent. The availability of drinking water also increased.

Sixty-nine percent of the beneficiaries and 39 percent of the non-beneficiaries reported increased availability of fodder. Afforestation, Agroforestry and Horticulture were the other conservation measures widely accepted by the beneficiaries. The estimated increase was 58 percent in the case of DDP beneficiaries followed by 48 percent in the DPAP areas and 33 percent in the IWDP areas. As a result, the income per hectare registered 35 percent increase. The per hectare increase was maximum in the DPAP areas. Such a perception was also shared by the Zilla Parishads and DRDAs.

