



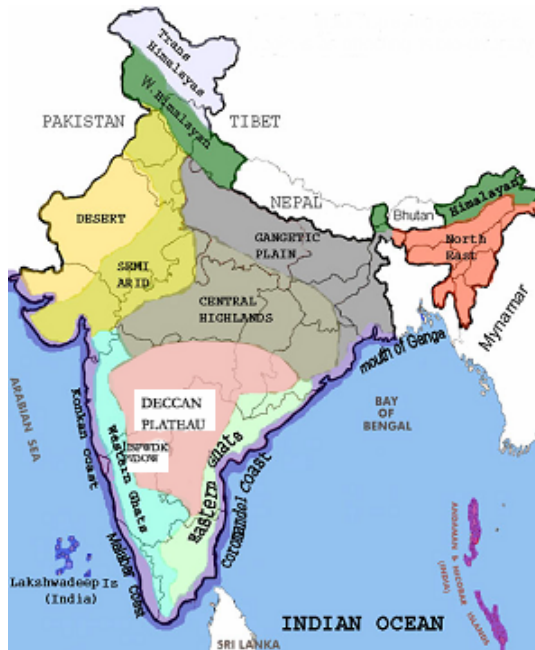
SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION SDC
COORDINATION OFFICE NEW DELHI

inter
cooperation

Natural Resource Management
Rural Economy
Local Governance and Civil Society



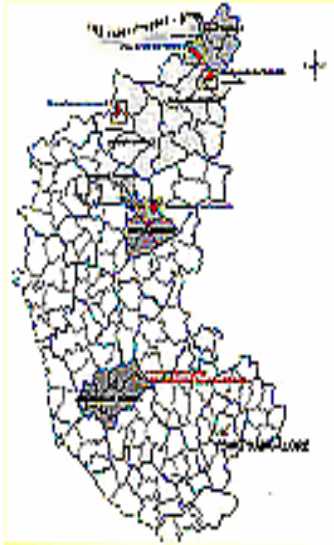
Evolution of institutional partnership and changing roles of CBOs in watershed management in India



The semi-arid region in India extends from Punjab in North west to the southern most tip of the state of Tamil Nadu.

Semi-arid regions face water scarcity, degradation of cultivable and common land, migration in search of employment and lack of livelihood opportunities.

SDC Promoted Watershed Management Innovations in India



•Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been a pioneer in introducing innovations and new concepts in watershed development in India since the mid 1980s'.

• **PIDOW: Participative Integrated Development of Watersheds** was started in the semi-arid regions of Northern Karnataka district in 1986 as a collaborative project between Government, SDC, NGO MYRADA and the communities.

• **Indo-Swiss Participative Watershed Development – Karnataka (ISPWDK) Phase-1:** PIDOW experiences were replicated to more drought prone districts of Northern Karnataka began in 1994. It was a collaborative project involving the Government, NGOs and the Communities.

• **ISPWDK Phase-2:** Started in 2002 where the focus is community where they own the process of development.

• **ISPWDK Phase-2 Loan Based Watershed Development** started in 2003 as an innovative experiment involving the communities and the NGO MYRADA.

• **ISPWDK Phase-2:** Working through Panchayat Raj Institutions, a constitutionally established local level institutions on a pilot basis involving gramapanchyat to develop and manage the NRM in one Gramapanchyat.

PIDOW:

Participative and collaborative Project involving Government NGO MYRADA and the communities.

Focus: Community Participation, Indigenous technology, Multi-partners collaboration.

Area: The watershed area covered was 20,000 hectares with 27 villages and 39 hamlets.

CBOs: SHGs

Roles of partners:

1. Community

Participation in planning, integrating indigenous technology in watershed.

2. Government:

Technical services

3. NGO, MYRADA

Community mobilization and its capacity building



Learning for replication and Policy Influence

- Community participation resulted in Innovations.
- Indigenous technologies/practices of soil & water conservation were identified and promoted.
- Self-help groups were critical CBOs for empowering the communities.
- Multi-partnership collaboration is key to successful implementation
- The Project influenced the National policies and guidelines on watershed development.

ISPWDK Phase I - 1994 to 2000

Participative and collaborative Project, involving Government, NGO's and the communities to replicate the learning and experiences of PIDOW. State Government & 5 NGOs were involved

Focus:

Area Development Approach. Watershed plus approach, Formation of Appropriate CBOs for watershed development.

Area : 5 districts of drought-prone areas of Northern Karnataka. 30,000 ha.

CBOs

- Self-help groups
- Watershed Implementation Committees

Roles

CBOs:

- Micro plan preparation
- Monitoring / Implementation
- Participate in the joint review
- Participate in the joint meetings

Government

- Technical
- Financial Management /Community mobilization and organization.

SDC: Concept, Funding and Resource Support



Learning

- Capacity building of the community on various aspects of the project resulted in better implementation of the project.
- Collaboration of different partners resulted in mutual learning.
- Periodical Joint review of progress in the field with the communities resulted in corrections and learning and transparency of the project.

ISPWDK Phase II - 2000 – 2005

Based on Phase-1 learning the project continued in the adjoining area of Phase-1 in three districts. 3 NGOs are involved: Myrada, Prawarda & Samuha

Focus: Capacity Building of the community.

Paradigm shift – area approach to household approach, From SHGs to Village Development Societies covering all the households in the village.

- Process oriented, people centered, people initiated, people controlled, equity and gender focused
- From watershed rehabilitation to poverty alleviation, Agriculture production and Livelihood promotion.
- More focus on addressing equity (landless and gender). Equal wages and representations of the landless and women in the decision making fora.
- Reduction of out migration in search of employment.

Area: 3 districts, 10,000 ha, 21 villages, population of about 30,000

CBOs

- Village Development Society (all households are members) – There are 14 VDSs and each of the VDS has a Watershed Management Committee.
- Self-Help Groups
- Apex-level micro-credit and service providing institutions.

Roles

Community

- They are the Owners of watershed development and village development (Social, technical, financial, managerial)

NGOs: Capacity Building of the communities, Facilitation and Support.

SDC/IC:SDC: Funding, Concept, Coordination and Resource Support.



Learning

- Intensive capacity building is critical for the CBOs to manage larger funds of the project. (**Ownership**)
- Local Contribution fund at the CBO level is critical for maintenance and management of assets in the watershed and provide livelihoods support for the poor. (**Financial Sustainability**)
- Operational Systems and procedures are essential at the community level to own, utilize and manage the financial and other resources which are key to sustainability. (Community Managed Systems).
- The investment made by the project has remained with village level institutions and it has provided many opportunities for livelihood investment in the villages.
- A pool of Community resource persons as Para technicians are critical at the community level to sustain the development.
- Proper Integration of gender resulted in empowerment of women in the villages and in the household. it resulted in better gender relations (equal wages, equal representation in committees)
- Proper integration of caste and class has provided the basis for conflict resolution mechanisms.
- The wage employment for carrying out physical activities for watershed treatment have generated more livelihoods, asset base to the poor.
- Developed specific strategy for managing the Common Property Resources (water and land resources).
- Proper utilization of trained local human resources and providing them the base for their livelihood support with in the village will ensure the post project sustainability

ISPWDK Phase II (Innovations).

Loan-based watershed development started in 2003.

- From grant to loan based watershed development.

Area: One watershed covering one village with an area of 400 ha.

CBOs

- Watershed Management Institution
- Self-help groups

Roles

WMI

All aspects of technical, financial, managerial

NGOs/others

Facilitators, capacity builders

GOK

Technical and legal support



Learnings

The farmers and their institution with the support of the project partners have developed system strategies for loan based watershed development under risk (rainfed) conditions in semi-arid region.

The farmers have learnt to take loan for watershed treatment in semi-arid region.

The cost per ha is reduced due to proper prior settings by the farmers/households for land development.

- Generated more livelihoods to poor and the marginalized by accessing to loans through the institutions..

- The loan based watershed has scope I for replication in Semi-arid regions.

ISPWDK Phase II (Working with Panchayat Raj institutions)

Grama Panchayat is a local level and constitutionally recognized body, which will develop and manage the Natural Resources.– It is a pilot project started in 2005.

CBOs:

- Village assembly (Grama Sabha)
- Village level committees

Roles

Grama Panchayat, Grama Sabha, Sub-committee take over the entire responsibility of development with transparency, accountability to the community

Government/ NGOs/others

Support, guide and build the capacity of the Gramapanchyat, Gramasabha and the committees.



Learning

- Involvement of village communities in Grama Panchayat system (decision-making, planning, implementation, monitoring and review) is critical.

- It is critical that greater awareness about the roles and responsibilities of Grama Panchayat local governance.

- It is essential that the service providers are accountable to the Gramapanchyat and to the Gramasabha (Village General Assembly)

- It is critical that the information sharing and decision making is done by involving all caste/class in the village for equal opportunity.

- It is important that the capacity-building for all various functionaries for transparency and accountability