Participatory process in Integrated Watershed Development: A case of Gangeswar watershed

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Focus area 3: Models for convergence, linkages and collaborations among institutions (for sustainability and upscaling)

Context

The presentation illustrates the different stages of participatory watershed processes in the Gangeswar watershed in Bhinder Block of Udaipur district, Rajasthan, India

About the organization: Sahyog Sansthan

A non-profit, registered voluntary society set up in 1988

Field areas: Udaipur and Chittorgarh districts of Rajasthan

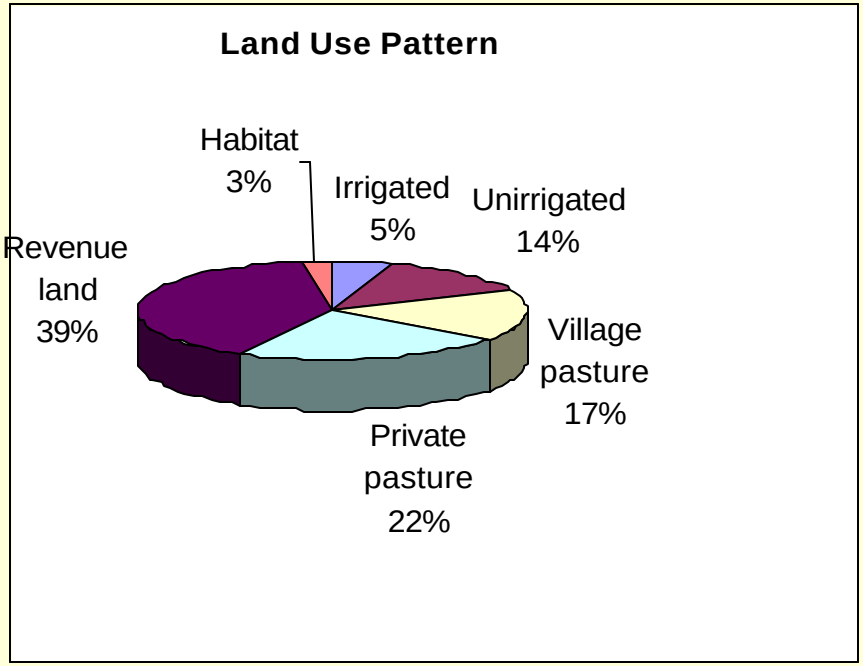
Belief: Social and economic transformation among the poor is possible only with their own initiative and leadership. Role of external agency is only of facilitation

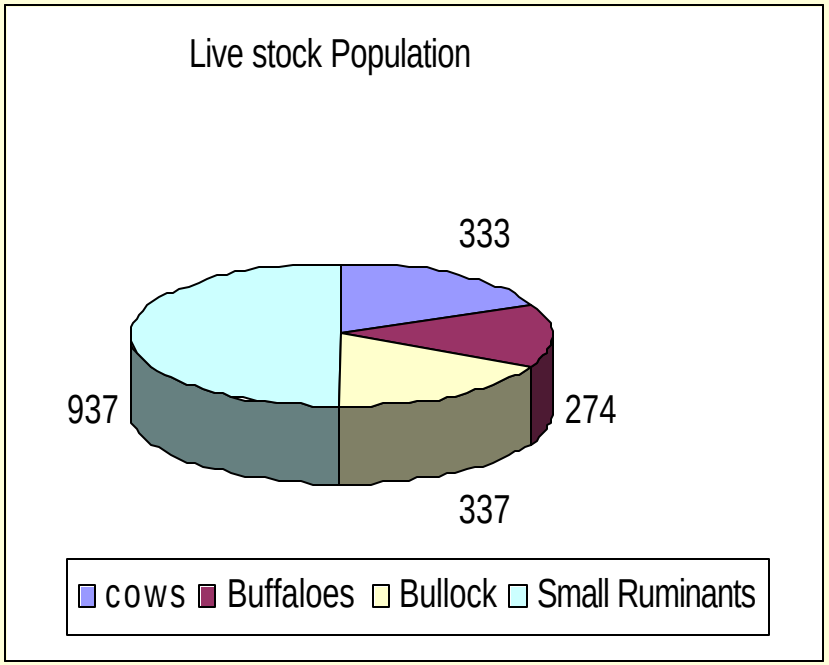
Gangeshwar Watershed Development Program

- **Watershed Area:** 920 hectares in four villages of Akola Panchayat in Bhinder block of Udaipur district in Rajasthan.
- **Village Profiles:** The communities in all the four villages of project area are tribal

S.No	Villages	Households	Population
1	**Surkhan**	84	501
2	**Samel**	47	249
3	**Harji Buj Ki Bhagal**	40	118
4	**Kalalon Ki Chhatri**	20	106
Total	**4**	**191**	**974**

Land use pattern and Livestock of all the four villages





Village-wise Land use Pattern

S. No	Name of Village	Total area	Cultivated area			Village Pastureland Charnot	Forest	Private Beed (Pasture)	Hills & Barren (Revenues)	Others (Habitat)
			Irrigated	Un irrigated	Total					
1	Surkhand	270	14	37	51	58	0	60	90	11
2	Samel	242	13	22	35	79	0	41	79	8
3	Harji Boojh Ki Bhagal	157	4	29	33	15	0	64	42	3
4	Kalalon Ki Chhatri	162	4	22	26	0	0	38	97	1
5	Bodi Mangri	90	10	15	25	0	0	7	57	1
	Total	920	45	125	170	152	0	210	365	24

Approach and strategy

Principles of Participatory Processes and Approach were followed. Participatory processes are followed in planning, execution, monitoring and review cum assessment.

Various stakeholders, their role and function are as follows:

- Local community for organization and /village management
- SAHYOG as facilitator / coordinator
- Wells for India as support agency
- Main stream agencies e.g.

  Line departments – Department of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, Dairy, KVK Udaipur etc.
- Financial Institutions such as nationalized & private Banks, LAMPS and PACS etc.
- Elected representatives - Wardpanch, Sarpanch, Pradhan, and MLAs etc.

PLANNING PROCESS

A. Conceptualizing watershed program: Guiding principles

- Development and management systems according to need and capacity of people
- Technical appropriateness, feasibility and cost effectiveness of technical interventions.
- Incorporating indigenous technical know - how
- Participatory planning and implementation of the programme.
- Promotion of community management and maintenance systems
- Promotion of democratic decision making emphasizing on women empowerment
- The outcome / impacts of project intervention (Technical & social shall provide the basis for further / future planning of new phase).
- Decisions are made / taken adopting democratic process

Participatory process: All stakeholders

Community members

Dr. S.C. Manhot Watershed expert, Sahyog Sansthan

Sh. Heera Lal Sharma, Sahyog Sansthan

Sh. Randheer Singh, M.L.A., Bhindar

PLANNING PROCESS

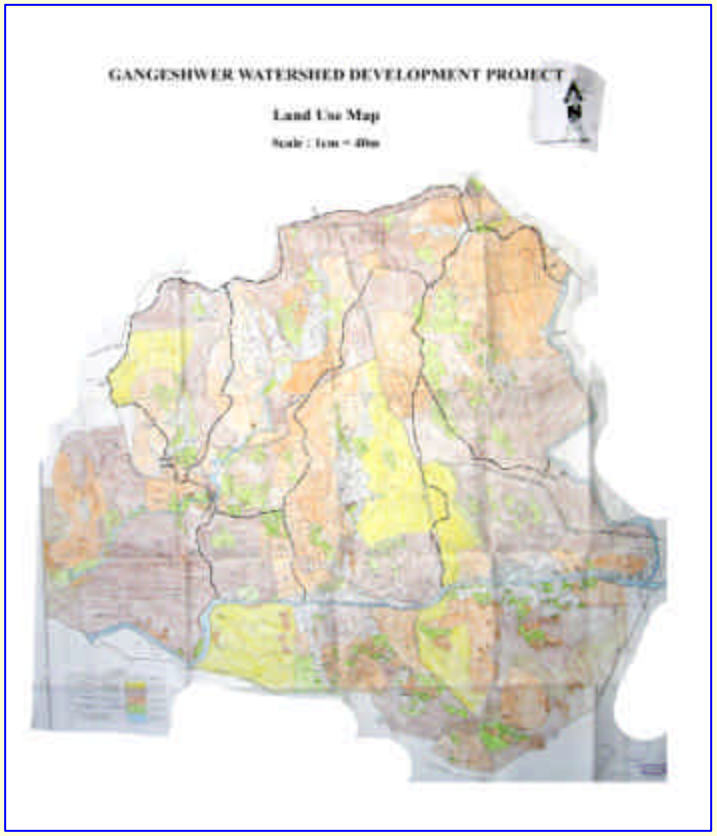
Baseline survey: Preparation of socio-economic and local governance profile of the area

PLANNING PROCESS

B. Delineation of watershed area:

Mapping of watershed area, activities and interventions: Based on revenue map, G.T. sheets topographical surveys and PRA exercise, the following maps were prepared:

Land Use



Location of Wells / Habitation

PLANNING PROCESS

Bio-Physical Intervention (proposed and implemented)

Other soil & water conservation structures

Major drainage

Checkdams

PLANNING PROCESS

C. Detailed planning of watershed interventions: Village meetings in all the four villages, SHG based, village based, watershed based

Meeting at SHG Level

Meeting at Project Level

Planning Meeting with Technical and Support Agency at Village Level July

Joint platform meetings

PLANNING PROCESS: Prioritization of activities

Carried out jointly (village / SAHYOG/WFI)

- Village meetings
- Capacity enhancement- group trainings, exposure, experience sharing, SHG management and technical trainings for various agriculture, animal husbandry practices.
- Land and water based activities in accordance with the watershed approach

Estimation of costs

- Assessment of the cost of some of the activities (well renovation / plantation) by villagers/communities
- Survey and cost estimate of bio-physical interventions by engineer/technical personnel
- Cost sharing of various activities worked out jointly by all stake holders

Decision making

- All stake holder institutional and individuals are involved in taking / making decision.
- Certain decisions (e.g. Vermi culture, Horticulture, Plant protection) were taken by individuals
- Some decision of individuals are endorsed by SHGs (e.g. field bunds /well renovation / crop demonstrations)
- Important decision (selection of intervention / design and site selection/ cost / contribution) are taken jointly by all stakeholders.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Program and activities were carried out by the various stakeholders as follows:

- Implementation and execution of physical works by individuals, SHGs and Community (mobilised 20% contribution)
- Coordination and Management at site by SHGs leaders and facilitated by SAHYOG (Guidance, supervision and technical support provided by Sahyog Team)
- Concurrent planning and monitoring of the program jointly by community, Sahyog Sansthan and donor (Wells for India agency provided 80% financial support for work)
- Project assessment jointly by all stakeholders.

Mahadevwala WHS under construction, completion and filled with water

April - 2004

July - 2004

February -2005

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

Collaboration and Linkages

On behalf of participating community, Sahyog Sansthan has worked out collaborative arrangements and linkages as follows:

- Panchayat and line departments at village, block and district level for legal and financial support

- Other agencies such as Banks, KVK, LAMPS etc. for credit, technical trainings, Public delivery system State Agricultural Universities and other institutions for technical support

Process:

Roles and functions of participating agencies / organizations worked out jointly by concerned stakeholders.

Meetings/ discussions (on going process) at various levels and at different stages of project intervention.

➢**Agreement / MoU developed:** Entering in to an agreement for extending support (technical, financial and administrative) for specific programme interventions.

An example of process followed / adopted for collaboration/linkages for construction of Loose Stone Checkdams (LSCD) in all the four villages

- Proposal for construction of LSCD in all four villages proposal submitted to district administration and a sanction of Rs. 1,25,000 was accorded by government relief department under drought relief programme.

- The programme executed by village level self help groups in 2003-04.

June - 2004

February – 2005

MONITORING

Kind of monitoring

- Progress : quarterly progress report, monthly review meetings, six monthly out put report, watershed related issues are taken up & addressed during monthly meetings of SHGs
- Financial monitoring
- Impact Monitoring and assessment

a) Frame work developed jointly by WFI & SAHYOG
b) All parameters and indicators are also developed jointly for: Rainfall, Water table, Crop production, Horticulture, Vermiculture, SHG management, HRD interventions

Process:

- Participating households/SHGs leaders provide information and data
- Sahyog project staff and SHG leaders collect information from the field
- Data collection and compilation, maintenance of records at field office together by Sahyog and SHG leaders.
- Analysis carried out jointly by Sahyog, WFI and invited external experts
- Sharing and feedback – Sahyog and WFI provide out come / results to the participating communities.
- Next steps are worked out jointly (Community, Sahyog and WFI)

Learning's & Key Messages

Planning

- Any development intervention planned with active participation of local community has grater success.
- Management systems that have local bearings will be sustainable for longer period.
- There should be a good balance between benefiting individuals and community as a whole.
- Development program should be planned according to the need and capacity of people.
- Program should need based and capacity based.

Implementation

- A thorough analysis of the situation is required
- Better coordination amongst all stakeholders as per need and capacities
- Community involvement with a sense of ownership and cost sharing basis is essential
- Maintenance of time and review of program is essential for timely implementation
- Selection of activities on the basis of catering to the needs of all concerned.

Learning's & Key Messages

Collaboration linkages

- For promotion of better collaboration transparency is necessary.
- Role and responsibility should be defined clearly
- Written and documented communication and agreements ensures accountability

Monitoring

- Parameters and indicators should be decided in advance
- Involvement by all stakeholders will improve the quality of process
- Structured formats are helpful
- Logical and scientific systems are essential for quality assessment

Coordination administration

- A clear understanding of strategy and goals amongst stakeholders is necessary
- A competent and qualified team is necessary
- Better planning and management systems are essential for smooth functioning
- Experience sharing and dissemination of information removes bottlenecks.

Thank You
29/08/2006

This presentation was made as part of "Capitalization of Experiences Water Land & People", an initiative of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) facilitated by Intercooperation and implemented in Bolivia, India and Mali during 2005-2006. It aims at sharing and deepening the knowledge base of SDC and partners on issues related to integrated water resource management.