

Stories of Parivartan

Project Code: P0539

Implementing Partner Name: Arpan Seva Sansthan

State: Madhya Pradesh

District (s): Shajapur

Block (s): Shajapur

Village (s): Pipliya Gopal

The Challenge: *Before the construction of the stop dam, farmers in Pipliya Gopal village faced severe water scarcity, relying solely on erratic rainfall, which led to inconsistent irrigation and limited crop production. Due to the lack of irrigation facilities, they were restricted to a single cropping season (Kharif) with low yields resulting in financial instability and forcing many into debt or migration in search of alternative livelihoods. Overuse of borewells further depleted groundwater levels making water extraction costly and unsustainable. The absence of proper moisture retention in the soil led to soil degradation, reducing fertility, and increasing the risk of drought-like conditions. Additionally, the water crisis severely impacted livestock productivity, limiting fodder availability and reducing milk production, further exacerbating the economic distress of farming households.*

Our Intervention: *The construction of the stop dam in Pipliya Gopal village was made possible through the collaborative efforts of Arpan Seva Sansthan and HDFC Bank Parivartan, who joined hands to address the critical issue of water scarcity and improve the livelihoods of local farmers to ensure efficient water conservation and long-term agricultural benefits. The key activities undertaken were:*

Community Mobilization and Awareness

1. *Meetings were conducted with the Village Development Committee (VDC) and farmers to discuss the need for water conservation and the benefits of constructing a stop dam.*
2. *Awareness programs were organized to educate villagers about how the dam would improve irrigation, increase crop yields, and enhance groundwater recharge.*
3. *Inputs were taken from local farmers to identify the best location for the dam based on water flow and storage potential.*

Site Selection and Survey

1. Engineers and technical experts, along with villagers, conducted a topographical survey to assess the feasibility of the stop dam.
2. A hydrological study was performed to ensure proper water retention and groundwater recharge without causing flooding.
3. Farmers actively participated in marking the location and identifying nearby water sources to be connected.

Resource Mobilization and Planning

1. The Village Development Committee (VDC) coordinated Arpan Seva Sansthan for stop dam construction.
2. Villagers contributed by providing manual labour (Shramdaan) thereby fostering a sense of ownership.
3. A timeline was set to complete the dam before the next monsoon season to maximize water storage.

Construction Phase

1. Excavation work began, involving digging the foundation, laying stones, and constructing concrete structures to ensure durability.
2. Check walls and spillways were designed to regulate water flow and prevent overflow damage.
3. Local laborers and skilled masons were employed, generating employment for villagers during the construction period.

Testing and Strengthening

1. After construction, a structural stability test was conducted to ensure the dam could withstand water pressure.
2. Additional reinforcement and protective embankments were created to prevent soil erosion and leakage.

Community Training and Maintenance Plan

1. A water user group was formed to regulate water usage and prevent misuse.
2. Water user groups were trained in basic maintenance and repair techniques to ensure the long-term sustainability of the dam.
3. Guidelines were established for equitable water distribution among farmers, ensuring fair access for irrigation.

Through these participatory efforts, the stop dam was successfully constructed, providing year-round water availability, improved irrigation, and enhanced livelihoods for the farming community in Pipliya Gopal village.

The Result:

The construction of the stop dam in Pipliya Gopal village brought significant positive changes to the community, benefiting farmers, schools, and individuals alike. The feedback from different stakeholders highlighted the transformative impact of this project.

Community Feedback

- ❖ **Increased Water Availability:** Villagers reported a consistent supply of water for irrigation, reducing dependency on erratic rainfall and borewells.
- ❖ **Higher Agricultural Productivity:** Farmers expressed satisfaction with increased crop yields, as they could now grow multiple crops (Rabi and Zaid seasons) instead of relying only on Kharif crops.
- ❖ **Economic Growth:** Many families experienced higher incomes and financial stability, as they could cultivate cash crops, vegetables, and fodder for livestock.
- ❖ **Improved Groundwater Levels:** Community members noticed a rise in well and borewell water levels, reducing the cost of water extraction.
- ❖ **Reduction in Migration:** The availability of water and improved agricultural conditions led to a decline in seasonal migration, as more villagers could sustain themselves through farming.

Beneficiary Testimonial:

- ❖ **Shiekh Hafiz, a local farmer:** "Earlier, we could only grow one crop, and many of us struggled to make ends meet. Now, with the stop dam, we have water throughout the year, and I can cultivate wheat and vegetables, which has improved my family's income."
- ❖ **Sabina Bi, a woman farmer:** "Water scarcity made it difficult to grow fodder for cattle. After the dam construction, we have enough water, and my dairy business has flourished. I can sell more milk in the market."

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