

Drought Proofing (Watershed Development)

KEDARWADGAON, a small village located at the base of the mountain where agriculture is the main income source of the villagers. Being at the foothill, ground water level was very low. The rain water used to flow away on the slope of the mountain. The villagers had to suffer from water scarcity every year. Moreover, the percentage of rainfall has dropped down year by year. Farmers used to be in trouble for second crop cultivation season. Earlier, in 1972, SSM has implemented a watershed project with a lake in the village to prevent the water scarcity issue. Due to villagers and government officials' ignorance, the lake was filled with silt in massive quantity. Eventually, the water holding capacity of the lake had decreased. It had directly affected in agriculture productivity, small enterprises and overall livelihood of the community.

SSM had taken an initiative to revive the silted lake knowing that there was no provision of funds from government to complete the task. De-silting the lake was expensive. In defiance of the issues, the team had conducted an awareness campaign to convince two folded benefits among the people. Firstly, placing the sludge in to the farms will improve the fertility. And secondly, the water holding capacity will increase. The villagers agreed on de-silting and even volunteered to help do the work. Taking this into account, SSM then approached a funding agency with a proposal for the support to the cause. Under the guidance of KVK, we de-silted the lake in May 2014.



16000 Brace of silt placed in to the farm field. Due to de-silting, all the villagers are benefited in some or the other ways. The major outcomes are stated as below -

1. 500 acre farm field is under cultivation.
2. Round the year crop cultivation is possible.
3. Around 500 wells have been recharged.
4. Rain water holding and storing capacity increased till April end.
5. Around 45.27 TMC water will be stored.
6. Drinking water problem resolved.