Project Update: June 2013

Summer is a good time in India to start actual eco-restoration work. This year before monsoon, massive eco-restoration work has been done on various streams of Bembla River. Due to high siltation in the stream bed made up gradation of streambed and water holding capacity of stream diminished substantially, in addition the rising of riverbed created problem of flood and problems to adjacent agriculture. The work done through financial support from various individuals, local contribution and contribution from government departments. Most positive thing during this river revival moment is enthusiastic involvement of local people, officers of various government departments and various individuals' spreads throughout India. We have started work from a first order stream near Wapati - Kupti village and soon another stream at Aurangpur village and Bhivari village has been included. Local people contributed financially as well as labour support. Various government departments and young officers took keen interest in the process and helped in rapport building and other technical and financial support. The output, which we observed after the starting of monsoon was amazing with complete revival of three streams and associated benefits.

Stream 1: First order stream located near Wapti – Kupti village is about 3 km long. On this stream there is small ancient dam. We have de-silted the stream and 286 trolleys of silt has been removed and provided to local farmers.

Stream 2: It is situated near Aurangpur village and is about 2 km long. We did detailed survey and deepening of this stream has performed. Along with stream eco-restoration farm bunding has also done.

Stream 3: Tulsi stream is situated near Bhivari village and it was completely degraded. We have de-silted it using financial support provided by Ms. Mamta Chhangani.

Tanks at Bambarda village. Two tanks are situated at Bambarda village completely silted. Through people's participation we have de-silted the tanks.

1. **30th April 2013**

Three Farmer's club has been inaugurated at Bhamdevi, Brahmanwada and Aurangpur village. District head of NABARD Mr. Pradip Parhate has been chief guest for the programme.

2. **13th May 2013**

News of the riverine eco-restoration rapidly spreads everywhere through internet communication and business head of V9 resources company Ms. Mamta Chhangani shown interest in the eco-restoration activities. She has come to visit the site and donated about 180000 Rupees (GBP 1963) for the eco-restoration activity at Bhivari village.

3. **15th May 2013**

On 15th May Magsaysay award winner and waterman of India; Dr. Rajendra Singh visited SAMVARDHAN'S working area for third time. On 15th May 2013, early in the morning at 5.30

AM, along with our team Rajendra Singh has started his field work from Bhivari village. Deputy collector (EGS) Mr. Shailesh Hinge, Sub divisional officer Mr. Mahajan, Tahasildar Mr. Shrikant Umbarkar and Block development officer Mr. Gautam Bhagat has been actively participated during field work.

Bhivari village (20°39'7.28"N, 77°35'34.64"E) is situated in Karanja block, Washim district of Maharashtra state. The stream is about 3.5 km long and in the state of complete degradation primarily due to siltation. Due to siltation there is raising of stream bed, as a result, the water holding capacity of stream decreased substantially and in monsoon flood water enters in the agriculture making agriculture impossible. The stream originated from an E-class land encroached by some farmer. There are farms of 25 farmers on the bank of stream with cumulative agriculture area 177 acres. The adjacent farmers are small and marginal farmers with average landholding 7 acres per head. The average irrigation in the village is only 3.37%. There are five cement plugs constructed on stream by agriculture department long ago and it is good condition however silted heavily. To rejuvenate the stream Ms. Mamta Chhangani, from Mumbai donated 1 Lakh 80 thousand rupees. The rest amount is being contributed by the villagers. Rajendra Singh walked with local people along stream and provided practical inputs in to ongoing de-siltation work. After fieldwork a discussion meeting has been arranged with the villagers of Bhivari.

After Bhivari, Dr. Singh and team visited Bhamdevi village where he has inaugurated NABARD supported farmer's club. After Bhamdevi we have visited Aurangpur village where, through people's contribution an eco-restoration work is going on. From Bhivari Rajendra Singh and team visited Wapati-Kupti village where through people's contribution, an eco-restoration work is going on at Rishi Stream. From Wapati-Kupti village, we have visited Bambarda (Kankirad) village where through people's participation, rejuvenation of two lakes is going on.

After fieldwork, there was a public programme has been arranged at Vidyabharati college at Karanja (Lad). The programme has been attained by local people and government officers. Dr. Nilesh Heda provided introduction of the "Bembla Samvardhan Abhiyan" and argued that to make drought proof Maharashtra is our aim. Presidential talk has been delivered by Dr. Rajendra Singh where he portrayed how Maharashtra's drought is manmade and small decentralized attempts of the river revivals are only way to cope with the future drought.

4. **12th and 13th June 2013**

Mr. Jitendra Singh, International Chief Technical Adviser to UNDP/GEF MENARID project in Iran has been visited to project site to do impact assessment and to discuss the future strategies. One day field work and one day brain storming with team members has been arranged at field station at Ladegaon.

5. **13th June 2013**

Policy impact and activism regarding problems of MGNREGA: Problems in the effective implementation of MGNREGA is increasing day by day. We have written letters of protest to district collector and other government authorities and created public opinion through

newspapers. As a result, collector of Washim district visited Karanja block and solved the problems related with MGNREGA implementation. Collector also visited aforementioned streams.







१८१३ से २०१३ तक के बारिश के औसत आकड़े
(भारत के लिये) (मि.मि.)