

Project Update: July 2015

- **Unite people, unite minds movement:** March 2015: A series of dialogues have been initiated with the villages of Bembla river basin regarding various activities so as to scale up the work area. The mission is named “JAN MAN JODO ABHIYAN” (unite people, unite minds movement).
- **Organizational Development process:** For the future sustainability of the project SAMVARDHAN is involved in the “Organizational Development process (OD process) jointly run by Paul Hymen Foundation, UK and CORO for literacy, Mumbai. Through this programme, processes of developing concepts, nurturing local leadership, developing capacity of organisation, etc. are going on.
- **Partnership with Rotary India Water Conservation Trust (RIWCT):** A 1-day field visit has been arranged with Dr Meenakshi Borate from Rotary India Water Conservation Trust (RIWCT) in Bembla river basin to understand the future watershed development work. During this fieldwork, seven sites have been decided for the eco-restoration work (see below).
- **Eco-restoration work in Bembla river basin:** Approaching summer in Indian landscape provides ample opportunities for the watershed work on ground. The 8 month planning and securing funding for the same should be functional on ground in this 4-month period of the scorching heat of Indian summer. This year Rotary India Water Conservation Trust (RIWCT) approached SAMVARDHAN and offer financial contribution for the water conservation work in our area. 10th May 2015 onward following watershed work carried out in Bembla river basin.

Sr. No.	Name of village	Nature of work	Amount spent (GBP)
1	Bhambdevi	De-siltation and riparian zone restoration work of 1.2 km long first order stream and de-siltation of traditional tank.	3032
2	Bhivari	De-siltation and riparian zone restoration work of 1 km long first order stream.	1299
3	Meha	De-siltation and riparian zone restoration work of 1 km long first order stream.	1060
4	Bambarda	De-siltation of two traditional tanks.	1455
5	Dhanaj	De-siltation and riparian zone restoration work of 1 km long first order stream.	1485

- **Supporting watershed development mission of Government of Maharashtra state:** 19th – 22nd May 2015. Government of Maharashtra has initiated mega Watershed Development programme in entire state. I have visited and provided inputs in the massive watershed work in Akola district with Stockholm Water Prize winner Rajendra Singh.
- **Fieldwork and public programme with Stockholm Water Prize winner Rajendra Singh:** Fieldwork and workshop has been arranged with Stockholm Water Prize winner Rajendra Singh in Bembla river basin. Dr Rajendra Singh visited all the watershed sites of SAMVARDHAN and a public programme has been arranged at Bambarada village.
- **Nurturing process of livelihood generation and entrepreneurship development program:** 5th July 2015. For the entrepreneur development and livelihood generation long ago, we have established GREENZA PRODUCER COMPANY of local farmers. Meeting of all stakeholders has been arranged at Aurangpur village. Many positive steps have been decided by local stakeholders to accelerate the process of positive change in the Bembla river basin.
- **Partnership with UNDP – MOEF&CC SGP:** Attended 2-day workshop at UNDP – MOEF&CC – CEE small grant programme at Bhopal. SAMVARDHAN is developing project proposal for the same.
- **International course on ecosystem approach to fisheries:** I am selected by Center for Development Innovation (CDI) at Wageningen University, Netherlands for 20 day duration course on Ecosystem Approach to fisheries at Wageningen, Netherlands. Dutch Ministry of external affair is funding me the cost of course. The course is from 20th September to 10th October 2015.

Pictures



Left: Organisational development process of SAMVARDHAN. Right: Involving school children in conservation.



Left: Inauguration of eco-restoration at first order stream at Bhambdevi. Right: Stakeholder meeting of GREENZA



Left: Meeting with local people regarding eco-restoration planning. Right: Stream and riparian zone restoration at Bhambdevi.



Left: Eco-restoration of traditional tank at Bambarda. Right: Stream and riparian zone restoration at Bhivari.



Left: Field visit with Dr. Rajendra Singh. Right: Public awareness program with Dr. Rajendra Singh.