

Project Update: October 2002

We are very pleased by how the project is progressing. [Click here](#) to read a 3 page report. Here is a summary of what is going on at the two key villages:

Village Jakhoda

Barbed wire fencing has been completed around the perimeter of agriculture plots of the entire village, covering a distance of more than 4 kilometers. While villagers provided free labour and locally available raw material for this, Samrakshan supplied barbed wire worth nearly Rs.54,000. The fencing of fields is likely to contribute significantly towards protection of crops in this village from predation by cattle. It would also free the villagers from having to maintain a nightlong vigil of their fields, and allow them to seek other gainful employment during the daytime.

Village Barred

Samrakshan undertook to part-finance field bunding for the agricultural fields of this village, consisting of 22 families of Sahariya tribals. As a result of our support, the village was able to dig an 800-meter channel for draining surplus rainwater from their agricultural fields. In addition, nearly 4200 meters of field bunds have been constructed to conserve rainwater and retain it within the boundaries of the field. As a consequence of this activity, there would be significant improvement in the soil and water conservation regime for this village, resulting in better retention of topsoil, as well as improved soil moisture in the fields. Nearly Rs.36,000 have been spent in this endeavour, and the wages paid out have also contributed significantly to mitigation of economic distress during a period of severe drought. The villagers of Barred have contributed around 15 to 20 per cent of the cost of field bunding in the form of free labour.