

BEST PRACTICES OF GROUND WATER / WATER SOURCES

1. Protection of existing sources (Village Paturda, Taluka Sangrampur, District : Buldhana)

Prior conditions: Source wells were dirty and neglected, Some of these wells had become garbage dumps.

Abstract : Source wells had become a dumping place for garbage. Surroundings of the wells had turned into defecation spots. Villagers were taken on a visit to these places in their own village. They were shocked and worked together to clean the places. Cleaning drive at one well inspired the same for the other two places.

The process of change:

Paturda village is large in terms of both population and area. Three existing wells were the main sources of existing drinking water providing water to entire village. Shortage of water during summer, leakages and problems in distributing system were the key issues of the existing facility. At the time of various interactions with VWSC/SAC and WDC members viz. village level capacity building activity, collection of base line information through PRA and meetings, the focus was given on identification of problematic areas of existing water supply and sanitation facilities.

During PRA activity, village round, to identify key sector issues was rearranged in different wards in the village. Site visits to existing drinking water sources was one of the activities of these round. The villagers first were taken to major well of water supply. It was covered with bushes and wild plants; stink was indicating for what purpose the surrounding area was being issued. The place had become an open defecation spot, and dump-ground of solid waste for nearby restaurants and shops. Entire surrounding was unhygienic. Women were shocked. It was first opportunity for women to see the condition of the well and water which they and their family members were drinking. Men were ashamed.

The completion of this process prompted villagers to find solutions. First priority was given to the issue of cleaning of the sources area. After completion of PRA, all the committee members of VWSC, SAC and WDC, began the cleaning of this place as planned. Within a week, the scene was completely changed. The area was cleaned and protected by fencing. Plants like Tulsi having religious respect were planted. One man (Village Water Person) was appointed specially for protection and maintenance of the well.

Members, especially women were happy and satisfied with the efforts taken by all the members. Enthused by the changed scenario, the members turned their eyes toward the other two sources. The well close to local bus stand

was uncovered. Villagers and visitors at the bus stand were using the well as dumping hole for all kinds of garbage like footwear, tins, empty bottles of liquor, clothes etc. The bore well, third source, located in between mutton market and liquor shop was also unhygienic. An urgent meeting of Gram Panchayat and VWSC/SAC and WDC was called. The issue was discussed seriously and it was decided to protect both the sources immediately. Gram Panchayat agreed to spend money on source protection. The exposure visits within village during village level trainings and PRA, helped villagers in identifying problems of existing facilities and also solutions. This led in building practice of collective social action and developed importance of existing facilities of water supply.

2. Rainfall measurement (Village Titvi , Taluka Parola , District : Jalgaon)

Objective: To generate awareness in the village about the actual rainfall amounts and the total reaching the village across a particular water year.

In Adgaon (Yaval Taluka), Titvi (Parola Taluka) and Malshevga (Chalisingaon Taluka) raingauges have been made and rainfall recording has started. Daily rainfall can be monitored using a rain gauge made from a mineral water bottle with top removed and inverted (as photo above). This has to be placed in a location where trees or buildings do not interfere with rainfall, preferably on a roof and with a scale in mm.

In Titvi Model village on 4th June 2006, 31mm of rainfall was recorded in 1 hour. At Malshevga Model village on 17th June 2006, 18mm was recorded during the day.

The intention is to encourage the schools to take over recording of rainfall and produce a graph of daily and cumulative precipitation. This will be education for the children and information for the village and farmers in particular.



Simple low cost raingauge