

EST PRACTICES THOUGH THE INSTITUTION

5) BHIMASHANKAR TRIBAL PROJECT:

Tribal Development Initiative at MAM:

A. Bhimashankar Tribal Development Project (BTDP) (1981):

Khed, Ambegaon and Junnar blocks-Pune district Maharashtra State). MAM carried out various rural development activities in 15 villages near Hadapsar during the drought period of 1972. MAM also focuses on development of the tribal people from the Bhimashankar valley in the Ambegaon, Junnar and Khed blocks of Pune District in catchments of Bhimashankar Dam built on Ghod river. This area is inhabited by tribal-Mahadeo Koli. In this area communication, education livelihood and health facilities are extreme poor. Though it receives an average rainfall > 2500 mm due to lack of water conservation method drinking water becomes a severe problem in summer.

In this area MAM has started various activities of watershed development, Natural Resource Management, Livelihood, Awareness, Health Camps, Education promotion are carried out with peoples participation with integrated approach and active community participation. We are presently working in 217 (20710) Hamlets and reached more than 42000 population benefitting 7329 families.

B. Natural Resource Management:

In this activity various soil and water conservation treatments are done which are briefed as under Soil conservation Initiative: Programme of digging Continuous Contour Trenches on bare hillocks, the unique programme of MAM. Trenches of 40 to 60 cm. deep, 150 cm. wide and 6 meter long were dug at an interval of 8 to 10 meters depending upon the slope. More than 1127 hector area is covered. 42 Gabion structures were constructed on at the foothills and first and second order streams in the upper and middle catchments. It is a community friendly structure having low cost technology and checks the high runoff and velocity of water. It reduces widening of gullies, increases silt deposition and enhances soil moisture conditions. The structures are constructed by keeping the boulders/stones intact with the cover of wire mesh. Farm bunding and repairs over 113 Ha of existing farm bund is supported by spillway for safe disposal of excess

runoff water with non-erosive velocity. Grass seeding on bunds are used for its stabilization. At the same time biological measures like contour cultivation, crop rotation, green manuring, intercropping, etc are adopted to enrich the soil fertility. Plantation of local plants in Ha 9263 resulted in Environmental balance restoration & maintain ecological biodiversity. Vermi-Compost promotes the sustainable agricultural practices.

C. Water Management:

Water Ponds 108 in various villages are constructed which fulfils the need of drinking and agricultural water of the tribal Community. Natural drinking water resources are conserved. Provision of 913 water filtered promoted good water drinking practices and improvement in health in tribal community 10 Shared wells have increased the sense of water banking. These are reserved and used only in summer season. 4 Community Group Irrigation Lifts were developed ensuing in increase in the crop yield. 13 Masonry Check Dams were constructed for Water harvesting and Conservation measure where there is heavy water runoff, resulting in ground water level increment. 7 Earthen Check Dams which are Low cost, socially acceptable structures in which locally available material and skills are used for water conservation. 5573 Loose Boulder Structures are made on small and moderate gullies, where runoff velocity is more. This structure requires more stability so that it obstructs the high velocity runoff water.

D. Tribal Community Awareness Initiative:

Village Development Committees (VDC) Formation (61) developed a new platform to discuss the community issues and to find the solution. Self-help groups (176 SHG), developed cooperative entrepreneurship development resulting in economic and social improvement. Bench Terracing (Padkai)-in more than 1100 Ha helped in increase of cultivable area resulting in increment of paddy yield and decrease in starvation. Conceptualization of 76 Grain banks resulted in depletion of Malnutrition and Starvation as due to fair grain loans from grain banks directly from their own tribal to needy tribal. This has also lessened the economic crisis and prevented them from private money lenders trap. This concept has increased the paddy production and now the local community has converted it into capital

(Revolving Fund) which is now distributed at reasonable service charges to needy tribal. With paraprofessional trainings youths are trained in various aspects of tribal development and identify own problems and modes to face the same. Biogas plants has reduced fuel problem in tribal area. Non timber forest produce societies (NTFP) which were developed which stopped the barter system and economic exploitation of tribal for forest produce. The tribal community is now getting the appropriate returns for their collected products.

E. Health Care initiative for Tribal Population:

Diseases are more prevalent during rainy season due to water contamination & climatic conditions. Since the villages are situated in the remote & interior locations, timely access to the medical health facilities becomes difficult. Hence organizing health camps in villages for health check-up & providing medicine kits becomes helpful. Information Education and Communication Technique was applied in which basic knowledge of health and hygiene. Formation of health workers to for minor health ailments with (155) first aid kits helped to tackle the minor health ailments resulting in improvement in health status of people from tribal area. Improved cooking devices and smokeless chullas lessened the problems of tribal women due to smoke particularly respiratory problems. These women's are now using the saved time for productive work. We formed a concept of Kitchen Garden Cultivation of organic vegetables and medicinal herbs for daily food and health needs.

F. Tribal Educational Initiative:

With creation of 52 Coaching Classes (in hamlets) with friendly atmosphere for 933 primary students per year and moving library the students don't feel burden but enjoy the study The coaching classes was focus on basic knowledge such as Alphabets, Numbers, Tables, Spellings, Story, Songs Poems & other activities etc.

