



Water-centric Livelihood

Water, the most precious natural resource is essential for ensuring sustainable livelihood. Realising the need to improve water supply for ensuring growth in agricultural productivity and assured food security to participant families in diverse agro-climatic conditions, a water-use strategy has been developed to make optimum use of the available ground water and rain water. This has resulted in conservation of 55.11 billion litres, supporting 7855 families in water-stress areas and increasing the average household income by Rs. 38,900.

During the year, 8500 ha were brought under watershed development covering 49 villages and benefitting 7855 families. This increased the cumulative coverage to 1121

villages in 727 watersheds, developing 338,187 ha and benefitting 218,232 families suffering from stressful water conditions. The farmers have enhanced their crop production by 25 to 40%, valued at Rs. 850 crores per annum.

A Watershed Development Fund has been created for capacity building of the farmers. Water channels with threatening environmental hazards, are being rejuvenated by adopting efficient watershed management techniques which have reduced environmental pollution to a considerable extent.

Water-centric community actions are also being promoted through a cadre of trained para professionals from programme villages

to reduce climate change impacts on water and agriculture, build water security for agriculture and enhance capacity building of the community.

The BAIF Water Academy serves as a Centre of Learning for dissemination of best practices among practitioners and developing and standardizing new technologies and approaches to manage water as a critical resource. BAIF has been recognized as a Programme Study Centre for Diploma in Watershed Management and



Micro - irrigation

Certificate in Water Harvesting and Management by the School of Agriculture, Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi. With its focus on capacity enhancement and human resource development, courses have been conducted for 266 students through academic counselling, induction and study tours. 34 students, 350 farmers and 15 project team members benefitted from the programmes. Studies on the use of advanced technological tools such as remote sensing and geographical information system in mapping natural resources, ground water resources mapping and baseline studies on climate proofing in watershed projects, have been undertaken. ■



Well recharging

Table 2. Coverage under Watershed Development Programme

State	Coverage during 2018-19				Cumulative till 2018-19			
	Villages (No.)	Watersheds (No.)	Area covered (ha)	Families benefitted	Villages (No.)	Watersheds (No.)	Area (ha)	Families
Maharashtra	10	3	3920	3461	279	217	71203	36794
Gujarat	-	-	1210	1817	390	326	161453	116635
Karnataka	1	1	78	78	82	50	21939	8993
Rajasthan	14	10	366	920	57	23	9544	5642
Uttar Pradesh	2	2	71	26	27	14	8684	3103
Madhya Pradesh	8	1	105	216	58	31	22486	11761
Andhra Pradesh	14	3	1788	930	104	20	11772	8417
Bihar	-	-	-	-	45	6	6823	8316
Telangana	-	-	962	407	79	40	24283	18571
Total	49	20	8500	7855	1121	727	338187	218232