

Theme	Water Stewardship
Title	Assessment of ITC-NABARD Watershed Development Programme
State (s)	Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra
District (s)	Chhindwara and Pune
Evaluation Agency	Inter Cooperation Social Development India (ICSD)
Period of Study	December - April 2018

Executive Summary

Objective(s):

Gauge the impact of the watershed programme implemented in collaboration with NABARD on the soil and moisture regime in the project area, groundwater recharge, soil health, agricultural productivity and building strong institutions.

Key Findings:

1. Post the programme intervention, groundwater has increased in both Pune and Chhindwara districts over the baseline year- in Chhindwara district, the water measurements Below Ground Level (BGL) of outlet wells has improved from 3 meters in 2015 to 1.8 meters in 2017.
2. Soil Organic carbon improved in both Pune and Chhindwara by 42% (from 0.6 to 0.88) and 64% (from 0.31 to 0.51) against baselines respectively.
3. Productivity of major crops improved in both Chhindwara and Pune watershed locations – wheat up by 13% and maize up by 23% in Chhindwara; Green Gram up by 22% and Pearl millet up by 15%. In both districts, project location data was compared against control locations.
4. The satellite image analysis showed significant increase in vegetation in most of the treated areas in both the districts, evident from the Normal Difference Vegetation Index (NDVI), which was found to be in the range of 0.27 to 0.41, indicating a shift towards dense vegetation.

Areas for Improvement

1. Institutional development in the projects is currently at an informal level. Formal federated institutions need to be promoted which will generate enough revenue for maintenance of current structures, motivate community for construction of new structures and at the same time shield farmers from market risks.
2. The gender role in the project is limited to institution development and financial inclusion. However, special efforts can be made to improve women's' agricultural skills also.

In case you would like to know more on the study please write to us at: itcmsk@itc.in