Chapter II

Watershed Development in Sangli District

2.1 Introduction

2.2 About Sangli District

2.3 Need of Watershed Development

2.4 Watershed Development of Sangli District

Chapter II

Watershed Development in Sangli District

Go to the people,

Live with them,

Learn from them,

Love them.

Start with what they know,

Build with what they have,

But with the Best leaders,

When the work is done,

The task accomplished,

The people will say,

"We have done these ourselves"

-Lao Tsu (China), 700 BC.

2.1 Introduction :

Indian agriculture is still gambling with the monsoon. Agriculture productivity depends on the availability of irrigation water. But the availability of irrigation facilities is inadequate. About more than 70% of agriculture land is dependent on rain. The period

of rainfall is restricted to only 4 months in a year remaining 8 months remain dry. Besides the rainfall even in monsoon are scanty in many parts of the study area. As a result large area of the study is fall under the drought conditions.

Proper development of watershed facilities can help the cultivators to solve their problems, created by rainfall. Moreover watersheds eliminate the drought, famines and the floods can effectively be controlled.

More land under cultivation is only possible when the help of availability of assured water facilities. Irrigation plays a protective role during drought years. Availability of regular water supply will create security and stability in agriculture.

2.2 About Sangli District :-

Sangli is the one of the district of Maharashtra. Its geographical area is 8601.5 sq.km. Its latitude is 16.4 to 17.1 North and Longitude is 73.43 to 75.0 East. Its average rainfall is 400-450 mm. The population is 25,83,524 (based on the census of 2001). It has three sub-divisions and 10 tehsils. It has 8 Panchayat Samities. The total villages are 731.

Sangli District

Drought

- **Sony Watershed**
- **Wadi - Bhagai Watershed**
- **Renavi Watershed**

But unfortunately, it has an irony of the fate. In other words, it is prosperous and drought prone at the same time. One can see miles of healthy Sugarcane and Grape cultivation as well as miles of parched land in the eastern area.

2.3 Need of Watershed Development :

The untimely or little rain caused the famine in 2003-2004. Besides the agricultural income was the lowest from the past three years. In 2003-2004 crops were spoilt and some area was also remained uncultivated. The farmers and the agriculture labours suffered on account of the famine. The famine also shocked the other classes of the society. The shortage of sugarcane affected many sugar factories. As a result, there was a wide – spread unemployment in agricultural and allied sector.

Growing population, irrigation and the bore-wells are man-made reasons for the intensity of the famine. The water supply was by tankers to 268 villages and 868 wadies out of 730 villages. 40 crore rupees were spent on the water supply. 178 cattle food camps were setup for 1,18,127 cattle. 62 crore rupees were spent on them.

One crore rupees were spent per day to overcome the intensity of the famine. The total estimated loss of grapes, pomegranates, other crops and the agricultural investment capital was 2500 crore rupees.

The water literacy was the necessity of the time. The watershed development was an effective remedy for the removal of the famine. The watershed development brought a water revolution in the whole district.

Water is Life. Its planning is necessary. "Prevent Water & Shed it" must be on the large scale.

2.4 Watershed Development of Sangli District :

The watershed treatment technology has a large scope in the rainfed areas. Watershed is an ideal planning unit for conservation of soil and water. It enables a holistic development of agriculture and allied activities in the study area. It aims to optimize moisture retention and reduce soil erosion and maximize the agriculture productivity with ensuring the crop yield and minimize the land degradation.

Table No. 2.1

Watershed Development of Sangli District

S.N.	Type of Work	Miraj	K.Mahankal	Tasgaon	Jat	Khanapur	Atpadi	Kadegaon	Total
1	Soil Nala Bunding	23	103	161	423	155	395	190	1453
2	Cement Nala Bunding	47	58	96	30	26	34	60	351
3	Farm Pond	90	700	418	418	239	415	323	2603
4	Loose Boulder	1	1362	109	3868	649	147	2816	8952
5	CCT (Ha.)	17	807	1416.21	2665	1303.5	369.57	931.8	7510.05
6	Compartment Bunding (Ha.)	0	232.29	121	26	78	25	369.82	821.17
7	Percolation Tank	6	28	14	17	2	81	3	151
8	Well Recharging	627	2	79	206	198	102	144	1358
	Expenditure on Work (Rs. In Lakhs)	**319.78**	**708.72**	**978.96**	**923.78**	**1101.43**	**2250.28**	**623.45**	**6909.03**

Source :- Government of Maharashtra, Agriculture Department, Soil & Water Conservation Department – Sangli District 2005-2006

The watershed as a social unit too has also benefited the society as a whole. The allied economic activities are being centralized in the watersheds. The socio-economic up gradation of the societies in the drought prone zones is holistically taking place.

The watershed development programme as located in Table No. 2.1 is helpful for rain harvesting. All programmes enrolled under watershed development programmes render two types of benefits a) Increase the soil productivity by soil conservation and b) Increase the rate of percolation of rain water into the grounds for conserving the water resources.

Improvement in soil quality and irrigation potentials helps to increase the crop productivity. Besides, environmentally, the watersheds become green and soften the hardships occurring out of drought prone climate. The watershed development programmes are yet to be fully followed by the people in India and even in Maharashtra also. It should totally be accepted as 'Peoples Movement' as referred by the central government.

There are about 9 types of programmes being implemented under watershed development programmes in the study area. More

amount of money to be spent in Atpadi (Rs.2250.28 Lakhs) tehsil and Khanapur (Rs.1101.43 Lakhs) tehsil.

In most of the dry zones, rain water is the main source of irrigation. But it remains scanty and irregular. If rain falls, it falls speedily and heavily, whose water flow away from the runoff. As a result watershed development programmes become inevitable. The foregoing analysis exposes this fact and justify the case of significance of watershed development is noteworthy. People have learned to use the scanty water economically by way of drip and sprinkling kinds of irrigation whenever necessary. The wasteland has been brought under cultivation through watershed development programme. Government is entrusting to various programmes for enhancing these programmes. Irrigation through watershed development has rewarded the agriculturist of dry zone phenomenally.