PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

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WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

Village Pachala, Phagi Block, Jaipur District, Rajasthan

PROJECT JAL JEEVAN

PHAGI, RAJASTHAN

BACKGROUND

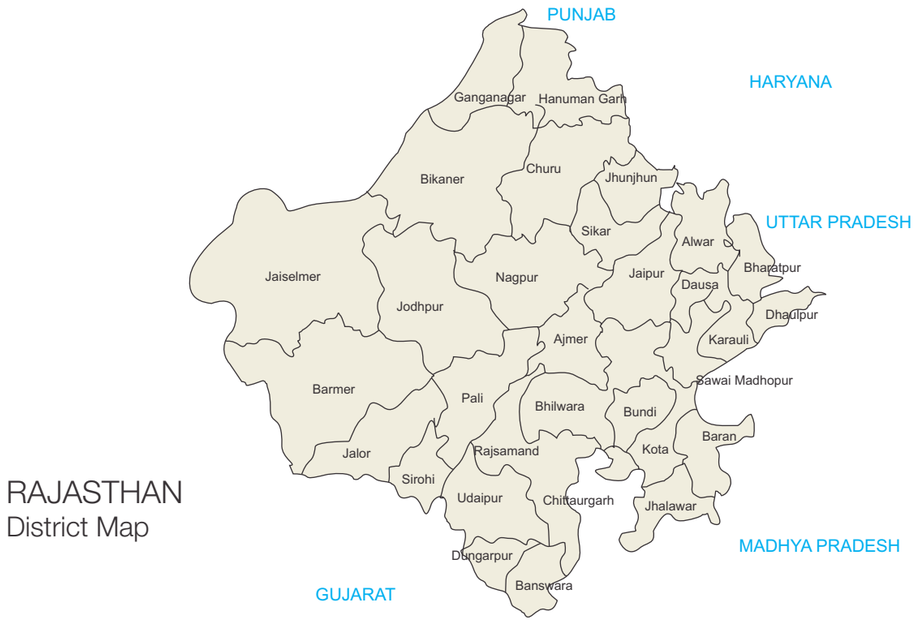
The importance of income for a living and groundwater for the existence of human society cannot be overemphasized. Groundwater is the major source of irrigation and drinking in the rural areas of Rajasthan. Being an important and integral part of the hydrological cycle, its availability depends on the rainfall and recharge conditions. This is a dependable source of uncontaminated water. Advit Foundation has in the last few years constructed a number of checkdams in Phagi and Sanganer district in Rajasthan. In continuation to the positive impact seen with this project implementation, this project looks at construction of more structures in Phagi block.

PURPOSE

The project village is located in Phagi block, about 65 km from Jaipur in Rajasthan has very scare water. Fluoride contamination is high, rainwater when available runs off. Salinity in the water is high.

The main objective of this project is to ensure availability of water for drinking, sanitation, livestock and agriculture for the communities. The Water conservation structure set up would increase soil moisture, recharge wells thereby reducing salinity, fluoride level in the groundwater and improve cropping pattern. The direct beneficiaries are approx 1700 individuals residing in the project village. Indirect beneficiaries would be more than 13,000 individuals as at least 5 more adjoining villages will be benefited. The activities undertaken are as below -

- Community mobilisation and creation of water user groups
- Design and construction of one water conservation structure in village Pachala
- Impact assessment



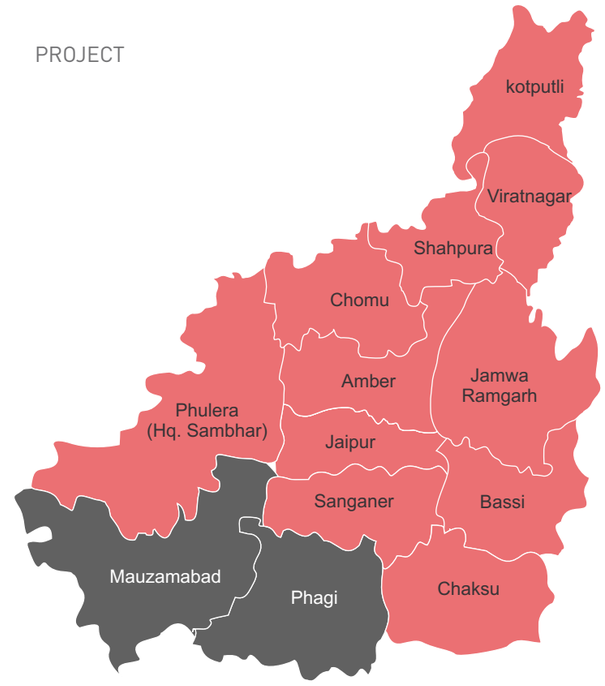
RAJASTHAN
District Map

IMPLEMENTATION SITE

The project has been implemented in village Pachala in Phagi block, in Jaipur District, Rajasthan. This region has been classified as among the driest part of Jaipur district. The region has high fluoride and salinity in water. The micro watershed implemented under this project has been successful in reducing salinity and improving water quality.

PROJECT

PROJECT



PROJECT UPDATE

The water conservation structure has been constructed and impact measured since the last 6 months. The dug up size (l/b/h in metres) was 130m x 20m x 3m with water recharging capacity of ~ 10,000 cu m. However, the total catchment area created has been 250m x 50m x 4m with recharging capacity of more than 50,000 cu m. During the process of project implementation the following initiatives were undertaken to ensure project sustainability.

Community mobilization

The project site was identified in consultation with the village heads and panchayat members. Village map was prepared and PRA undertaken. The need for water availability in proximity of the village came up as a discussion. The women had to walk a long distance to get drinking water. With the identified location in the village it would become easier for women to collect water. The location was identified such that it was in the middle of the village.

Capacity building to form water user groups

The community members selected, have been trained to maintain the constructed water structure. The required depth of the structure has to be maintained to ensure enough water accumulation. The sarpanch residing in the same village agreed to maintain the structure and ensure the village Panchayat's involvement in the project. The village communities decided not to pump out water from the structure for use in agriculture. Instead the water will be allowed to stand to ensure that the nearby wells get recharged and subsequently lead to increase in ground water level.

PROJECT IMPACT ASSESSMENT

In the long term, there will be an increase in soil moisture leading to more green cover in the region and improved cropping patterns. As of now, the structure has filled up with rain water and the water continues to stand.

After the first rain in July 2015 the amount of water accumulated in the water structure was about 50,000 cu m. The village communities hope to expand this structure as they see scope for further storage.

Environmental

- Improves soil moisture – increasing area under agriculture and in general green cover of the area
- Increases ground water thereby the wells get recharged making water available for drinking
- Reduces salinity in water due to ground water recharge

Social

- Water is available in close vicinity; thereby women have to walk less
- Water is available for sanitation purposes; improved life and health
- The village has 235 houses and 5 hamlets surrounding it. Each hamlet has around 100 houses and each house has on an average 5 people. The number of direct beneficiaries is around 1700

Economic

- Water availability increases output from livestock thereby increasing income
- Availability of water increases agriculture production and cropping pattern thereby enhancing income

Before

After

PROJECT INNOVATION

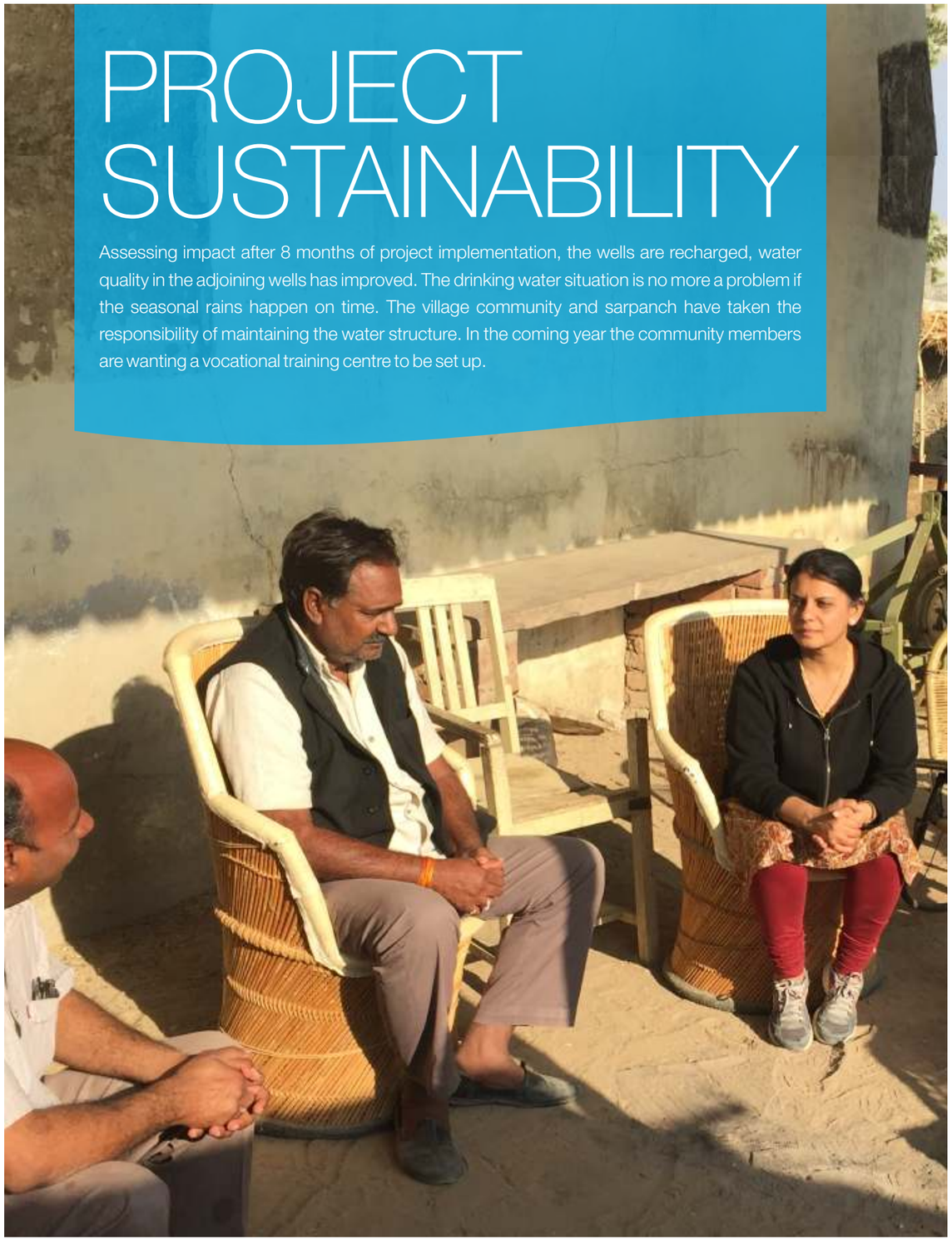
The size of the constructed structure was of the recharging capacity of about 10,000 cu m. However the location and design of the structure was so perfect that the recharging capacity has been more than 50,000 cu m.

The size of the constructed structure was of the storage capacity of about 10,000 cu m. However the location and design of the structure was so perfect that the water storage capacity has been more than 50,000 cu m.

More than 50 surrounding wells have got recharged. Salinity in the water has reduced and one of the well very close to the water structure that was dry earlier has drinking water now.

PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY

Assessing impact after 8 months of project implementation, the wells are recharged, water quality in the adjoining wells has improved. The drinking water situation is no more a problem if the seasonal rains happen on time. The village community and sarpanch have taken the responsibility of maintaining the water structure. In the coming year the community members are wanting a vocational training centre to be set up.



PROJECT FORWARD

The communities want a skill centre to be set up. The main aim of this could be to upgrade the existing skills, impart a skill to enable them to gain suitable employment or to become self employed. Conservation of environment resources and sensitivity towards environment could be linked to their livelihood enhancement activities through this centre. More than 1000 community members will be benefitted.