

Practitioner Input Form

Submitted: 15/02/2005

Input Record Number	007
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Organisation(s) Involved	Gomukh environmental Trust for Sustainable Development
Geographic Area	Village: Bhalgudi, Block; Mulshi District : Pune State, Maharashtra, India Area : 620 hectares Population approx 1,000 people
Dates	Year of implementation: 2000 - 2001
Communities Involved	The beneficiaries of the intervention are a group of subsistence farmers (30 households). They are largely below the poverty line (less than 1\$ a day). The community would obtain their water from a small spring nearly a kilometre uphill from the settlement. This would take the women about four hours a day.
Duties and Responsibilities/ Purpose of Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To provide an assured supply of safe drinking water to the settlement. - To protect the spring and its surroundings from environmental degradation. - To provide protective irrigation to the <i>Rabi</i> (winter) crops
Context of Intervention	- Construction of gravity fed drinking water supply scheme to be operated and maintained by the resident community.

Practitioner Reflective Case Study

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<p>The community would obtain their water from a small spring nearly a kilometre uphill from the settlement. This would take the women about four hours a day. Also, due to rampant deforestation on the mountain, the discharge from the spring has decreased.</p> <p>The proposed intervention involved extensive soil and water conservation measures on the slopes uphill, and adjacent to the spring. A rock tank was excavated to store excess runoff from the spring. Water stored in this tank is taken downhill to another tank located within the settlement. The villagers use this tank to collect water. The tank and other interventions were variously funded by DRDA (The District Rural Development ~Agency), MISEREOR (a German funding organization), and Kirloskar Cummins (a Pune-based industrial group).</p> <p>The residents were exempt from the normal practice of contributing in cash or kind, as they were below the poverty line.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The whole process was participatory and inclusive. Due to the work of Gomukh in Kolwan valley for over a decade stressing on equitable water distribution, we did not have to make targeted efforts for increasing the water access to the poor. Access was not an issue, but participation of the below poverty line families in planning and decision-making activities had to be focused on. <p>Self-help groups of the below poverty line families were formed and were given financial assistance. Involving them in economic activities helped increase overall confidence and participation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">2) Self-help groups initiated especially for the families below the poverty line are working well. The allied income generating activities (e.g. we initiated a Dairy Project in which we bought milk from the below poverty line SHGs) did face an initial quality – control problem.3) Overall participation index, economic gains and water security to the families below the poverty line were the criteria used.4) Ensuring meaningful participation from the stakeholders, adequate funding and ensuring equitable access after the exit of the implementing agency are the factors which are crucial in the implementation of pro-poor interventions.	

Practitioner Input – Part II

Input Record Number	007II Suneel Waman
9)	<p>MISEREOR had earlier supported Gomukh for the integrated development of the Sacred Grove – Spring Tank concept. Government funds were not available for this project, since the technical validity and usefulness of the concept had not yet been demonstrated. After successful implementation of the concept in Bhalgudi, and after considerable lobbying and advocacy on Gomukh’s part, integrated development of Sacred Grove – Spring Tank has now been included in the set of priority drought-proofing interventions recommended and funded by the Government. Gomukh was able to procure Rs. 40,000 for replicating the Spring Tank concept at four different locations. The purpose of giving you this information is to emphasize that financial support is treated as seed money or venture support so that the replication of novel concepts become a part of national/state government policy.</p>
10)	<p>We do not have a mechanism per se, but we do conduct socio-economic surveys pre and post interventions to assess the actual benefits. These surveys can be tailor-made to include the water access factor.</p>
11)	<p>Research in hydrology and appropriate technology that brings about innovative options to enhance water availability, costs at least the same as gravity water supply schemes.</p>
12)	<p>Research on cost effective appropriate technology interventions that enhance water access to the poor.</p>
	<p>Simple water harvesting techniques, which require less maintenance, and can be handled by the stakeholders themselves, should be focused. Also, innovative ways need to be explored to ensure meaningful participation from the stakeholders at village level meetings.</p>
13)	<p>No response.</p>