

Summary of Impact Assessment Report

Water Conservation Project

Kauthadi, Daund, Pune

The Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) Policy of CGCEL, is rooted in the belief that business sustainability is closely connected to the sustainable development of the communities and environment in which the business operates. Water Conservation, Skill & Entrepreneurship Development and Community Care are three focus areas identified under the CSR framework.

One such project under Water Conservation was implemented in collaboration with BBKGSS, a reputed NGO in this domain. The third-party Baseline, Endline, Structural Audit & HydroGeo Assessment of the project was conducted by NuSocia, an impact advisory firm.

Project title: Water Conservation Program

Location: Kauthadi, Daund, Pune District, Maharashtra

Implementation Partner: Bhartiya Bahuuddeshiya Khadi And Gramodyog Shikshan Sansthan (BBKGSS) (Not-for-Profit Organisation)

Project timeline: February 2022 to March 2023

Project Objectives:

1. To Increase the soil water level and stabilise the water table, to conserve soil and water through proper conservation techniques and structures
2. To decrease soil erosion and revive the non-functional wells
3. To Increase awareness about the importance of water and soil conservation
4. To Increase income generation opportunities within agriculture and allied activities,

Project Rationale:

- Karjat, Ahmednagar faces water scarcity problems due to its geographical location, with limited rainfall and an erratic pattern. As a result, the water supply is limited, and the water resources are depleted which leads to water scarcity in the region.
- Karjat is predominantly an agricultural area, and the agricultural sector relies heavily on water for irrigation. The lack of water availability can severely impact crop production and yield, leading to financial losses for farmers and the local economy.
- Climate change is causing changes in rainfall patterns, making it more unpredictable and erratic. As a result, it is essential to conserve and manage water resources effectively to adapt to these changes.
- The improved availability of water resources can create opportunities for more sustainable economic development.

○ **Key Interventions:**

Intervention	Quantity
Digging of Percolation Tank	01 Nos
Desilting of Earthen Nala Bund	05 Nos
Repairing of Mati Nala Bund	05 Nos
Cement Nala Bund	01 Nos
Loose Boulder Structures	50 Nos
Nala De-siltation	02 Km
Compartment Bunding	30 Ha

Key Findings of the assessment:

Change in Water Recharge:

- The amount of runoff harvested indicates that approximately 100% of the area's total runoff has been captured because of Water Conservation Structures implemented by CCF
- Total runoff conserved because of Water Conservation Structures for the year 2022-23 was 4.58 Lakh liters (458350.7m³/kiloliters)

1. Change in area under cultivation:

- On field research along with HydroGeo study indicates increase in area under cultivation because of the Water Conservation Project.
- 47-acre (19.1 hectare) area increased under cultivation from Waste/Fallow land.

There is an increase in the cultivation area in the year 2023 has been observed

2. Change in Cropping Pattern:

- 16% farmers confirmed that the change in cropping pattern is because of the water conservation project
- Onion and Corn cultivation has increased by 13% in the region because of the Water Conservation project

3. Change in Income & Expenditure:

- Average 8% increment in the annual income of farmers verified through field data
- Additional annual income gained by farmers reinvested in technology-oriented farming practices as well as reinvested in purchasing livestock

4. Change in Agricultural Allied Businesses:

- 68% farmers confirmed that expenses on fodder have drastically reduced because the water availability leads to fodder availability.

- In the month of January 2023, village dairy daily milk collection was nearly 200 litres more compared to the baseline because of water and fodder availability resulting from the Water Conservation Project

Key Recommendation:

- Formation of a village-level committee composed of one member from each village pocket, as well as an implementation partner and a member of the monitoring agency for on ground monitoring and evaluation.
- During the project implementation year, there are numerous opportunities for collaboration with government or private initiatives that are taking place on the ground. Collaboration and leveraging resources and manpower can aid in effective implementation with the greatest impact possible.
- Involve the local community in the planning and construction of water structures to ensure their ownership and sustainability. This can be done by involving community members in the decision-making process.

End of the document.