

While there's life, there's hope!

**Watershed Success Stories
from
Andhra Pradesh**

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“Action is the foundational key to all success”

**“STABILIZING INCOMES AND
DEVELOPING RESILIENCE
THROUGH WATERSHED”**

***A SUCCESS STORY OF
BISANTHAM – I WATERSHED OF CHITTOR
DISTRICT OF ANDHRA PRADESH***

BISANATHAM – I:

About the project:

- **Location** : Located along the AP-Karnataka state border in Gudipalle mandal of Chittoor district of AP.
- **Coverage** : Three habitations – Bisanatham, Athinatham and Salachintanapalli.
- **Scheme** : IWDP
- **Project Cost** : 31.2 Lakhs
- **Project Period** : 1995 – 2002
- **Area Covered** : 520 Ha
- **Demography** : Out of total population of 923, 14% belonged to SC, 80% to BC and 6% to others when the project was started.
- **Geography** : The terrain was highly undulating with red sandy soil.

BISANATHAM – I:

Problem Statement:

- Soil erosion resulting in a reduction of cultivable land and the abandonment of severely eroded areas;
- Infertile red sandy soils with very low water retention and storage capacity resulting into low crop yield;
- Acute scarcity of fodder and water for animals;
- No alternative sources for livelihoods other than agriculture resulting into seasonal migration.

BISANATHAM – I:

Objectives:

The broad objectives of the project were to:

- Promote economic development of the village community dependent directly or indirectly upon land and water resources by introducing watershed approach
- Work for restoration of ecological balance in the village
- Adopt inclusive approach to improve the economic and social conditions of the asset-less, resource-poor and the disadvantaged sections of the watershed community including women.

BISANATHAM-I:

Activities Undertaken:

● NRM Structure:

- Continuous contour trenches (77 KM)
- Check dams (7 Nos)
- Percolation tanks (24 Nos)
- Gully control works (261 Nos)
- Contour bunding (23.35 KM)
- Supply channels (5 Nos)
- Gabion structures (3 Nos)



BISANATHAM-I:

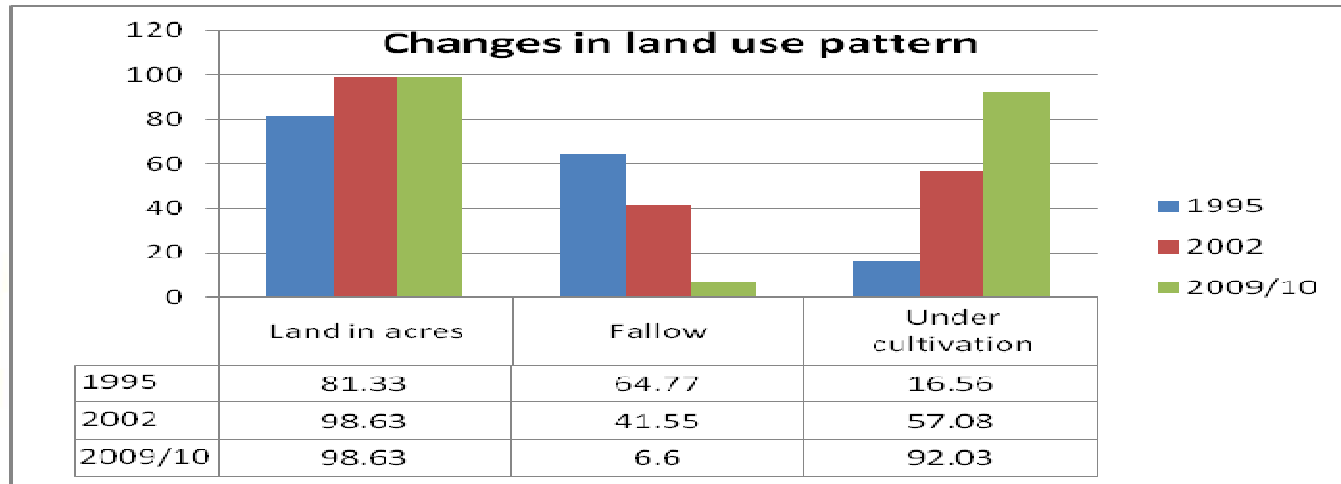
● Other Activities:

- Plantation (2,60,000 plants)
- Nursery raising
- Fodder plantation was done on common lands of villages.
- Revolving fund was given to Village Organization to purchase dairy animals and for promotion of different micro enterprises in the village.
- Farmers were trained for animal rearing, horticulture, floriculture, fertilizer and pest management, marketing etc.

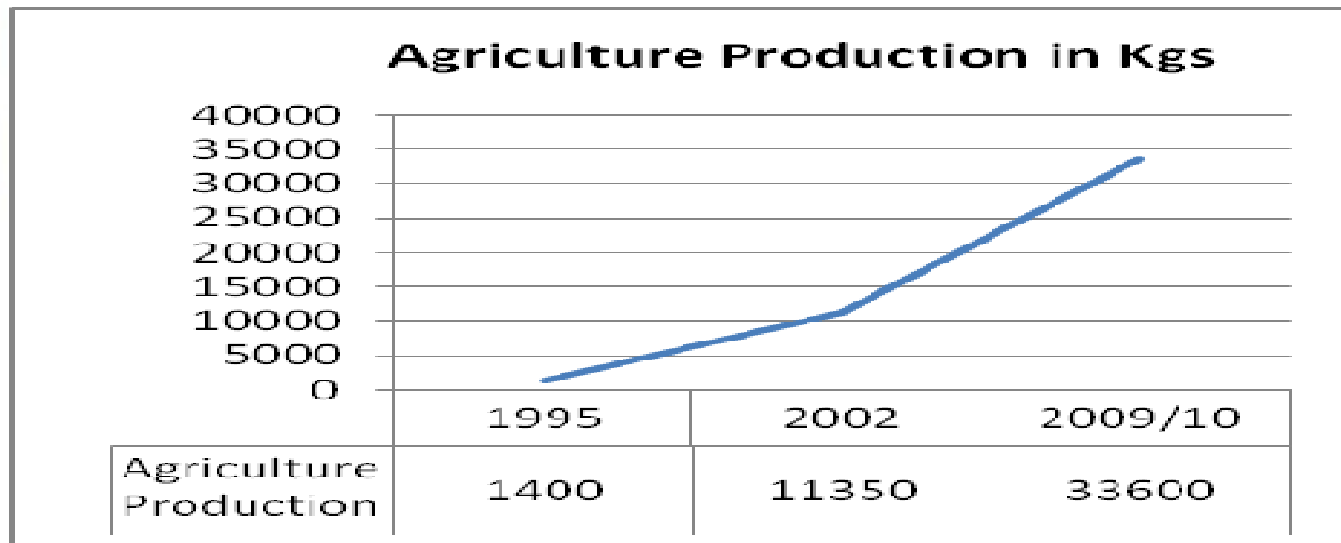
BISANATHAM-I:

Results:

Change in land use pattern:

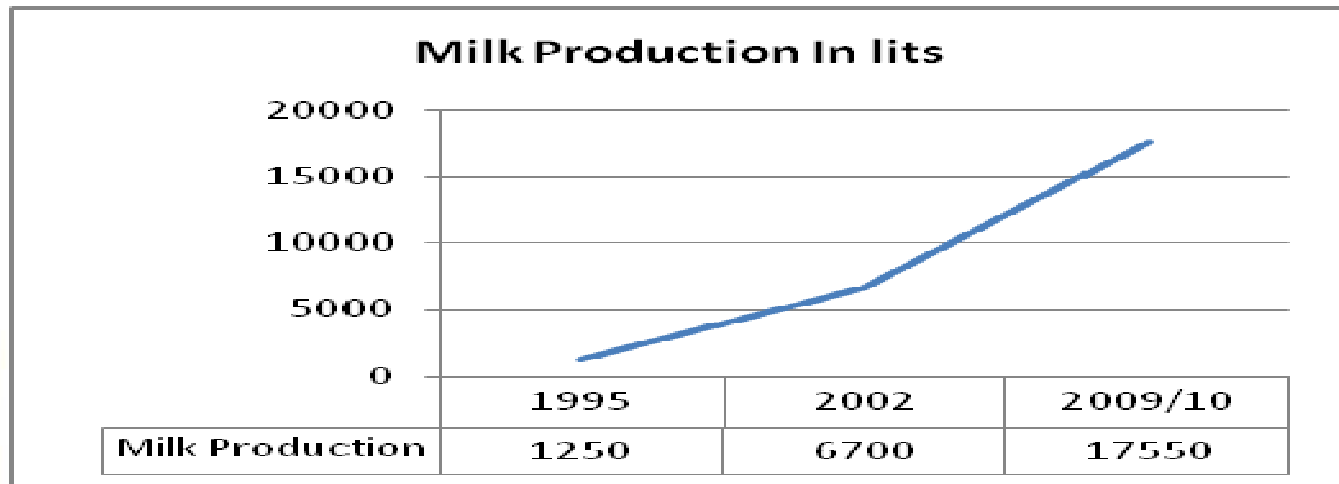


Change in agriculture production:

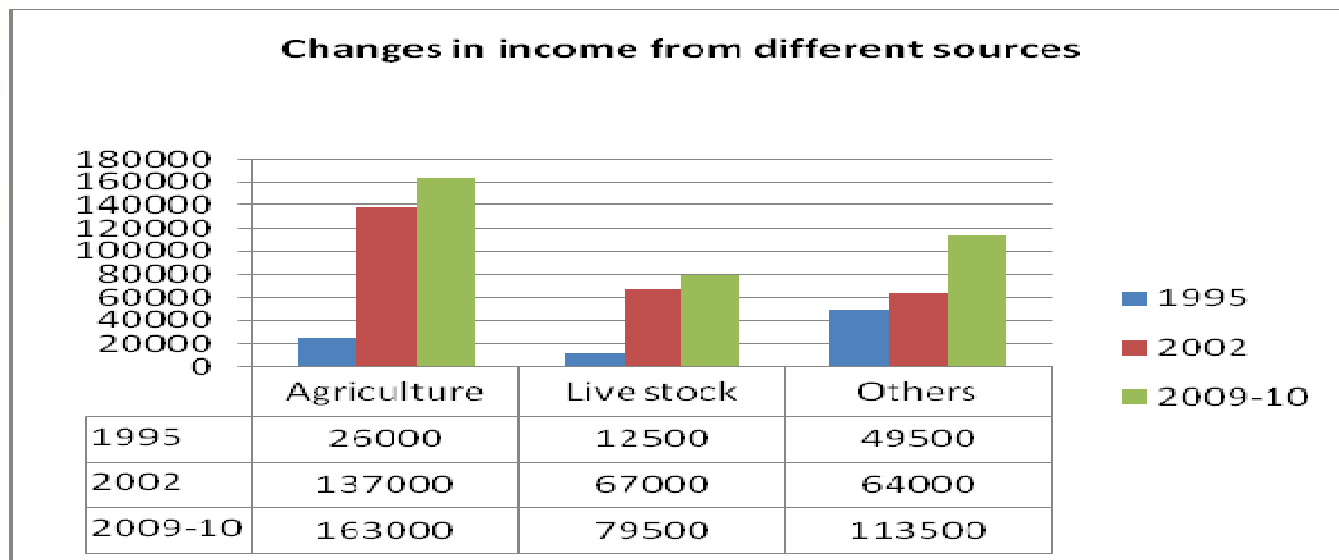


BISANATHAM-I:

- Increase in milk production:



- Increase in income levels:



BISANATHAM-I:

Impact:

- Improved natural resource regime helped in stabilizing the income of the watershed inhabitants through agriculture, animal husbandry and other enterprises.
- Cash income from milk sale emerged as a major resilience measure for farmers to cope with uncertain rainfall conditions.
- The increased availability of water led to expansion of cultivable land by bringing land hitherto lying fallow under cultivation.
- 65% of people who otherwise were working as laborers, converted fallow land into agriculture land.



BISANATHAM-I:

- There was a drastic decrease in both the extent and duration of migration.
- Farmers started making investments in agriculture to buy crop inputs and machinery from their enhanced income.
- *Peddavanka*, once used to be a seasonal stream turned into perennial.
- The plantation on the common land turned out to be an asset for the Gram Panchayat.
- Empowered social institutions.





Land, Water and Livelihoods.....

Ginjeru Watershed,

**A success story from
Vizainagaram District of AP**

About the Project:

- ▶ **Location** : Located at 18 km west of Vizianagaram and is situated at the foothill, prone to high velocity of runoff during rains causing erosion at high degrees.
- ▶ **Scheme** : IWDP – III
- ▶ **Project Period** : 2001-06
- ▶ **Area Covered** : 750 hectares
- ▶ **Project Cost** : Rs.45 Lakhs
- ▶ **Villages covered** : Budathanapalli, Kittubarthi and Ginjeru

Pre Watershed Scenario:

- ▶ The soils are red and sandy with pebbles.
- ▶ Low level of ground water table and infertile lands due to erosion produce very low yield of crops.
- ▶ There were hardly any wage opportunities available in the village.
- ▶ High rate of migration due to unavailability of livelihood opportunities in the village.

Objectives:

- ▶ To enhance the productivity of land by increasing the availability of water and water table.
- ▶ To increase the livelihood opportunities by increasing milk yield, crop diversification and promoting micro enterprises.

Activities Undertaken:

▶ NRM Activities

- Peripheral trench : 1.456 Km
- Rockfill dams : 35 nos
- Gabion structures : 1 no.
- Check dams : 24 nos
- Percolation tanks : 12 nos
- Farm ponds : 25 nos





▶ **Productivity Enhancement (PE):**

- Distribution of foundation seed for dry crops.
- Introduction of INM/IPM practices.
- Fodder plantations.
- Cattle breed improvement through AI.



▶ Enterprise Development (ED):

○ Vegetable vending:

- ✓ Group Name : Siva Parvathi (SHG)
- ✓ No. of members : 10
- ✓ Each individual in the group is getting a monthly income of Rs.1500/- as against Rs.900/- previously.



○ Tailoring:

- ✓ Group Name : Kanaka Durga (SHG)
- ✓ No. of members : 10
- ✓ Each individual in the group is getting a monthly income of Rs.1350/- as against Rs.900/- previously.



- **Carpentry:**

- ✓ Group Name : Dayamaya (SHG)
- ✓ No. of members : 10
- ✓ Each individual in the group is getting a monthly income of Rs.1800/- as against Rs.1400/- previously. Earlier the group used to work as assistants to carpenter.

- **Other enterprises:**

- ✓ Basket Making
- ✓ Fisheries
- ✓ Grocery shop.



Result/ Impact

- ⊕ 2 M increase in water level in wells.
- ⊕ 55 wells were rejuvenated.
- ⊕ 80 Ha. of additional area brought under cultivation.
- ⊕ Additional 153 Ha area brought under horticulture activities.
- ⊕ Afforestation was done on 224 Ha of land.
- ⊕ Agricultural productivity increased by 18%.
- ⊕ Migration of 700 laborers was checked due to availability of work in watershed works.
- ⊕ Milk yield increased by 125 lit. per day.
- ⊕ The over all impact was viewed in terms of children's education, household income form the agriculture, change in food habits etc.

The background of the slide is a close-up, slightly blurred image of crumpled, light-colored paper, possibly from a newspaper or document, with various folds and textures visible. The overall tone is warm and textured.

Methodology:

These analysis were carried out by comparing the records of the watershed committee (pre watershed intervention period baseline data) and the observations by the external state level evaluator. Various methods such as group discussions, personal interviews and random household survey were employed besides analyzing technical data.

Success is 20% skills and 80% strategy. You might know how to read, but more importantly, what's your plan to read?

WHAT MADE THE DIFFERENCE....

- From handholding to handing over the stick approach, absorption and integration of good practices into the system
- Scientific and participatory planning and effective institution building.
- From land to livelihood approach and drought adaptation measures, building resilience.
- Livestock breed improvement and improving dairy productivity leading to enhanced incomes
- Convergence with line departments.



“It is only through labor and painful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage, we move on to better things”