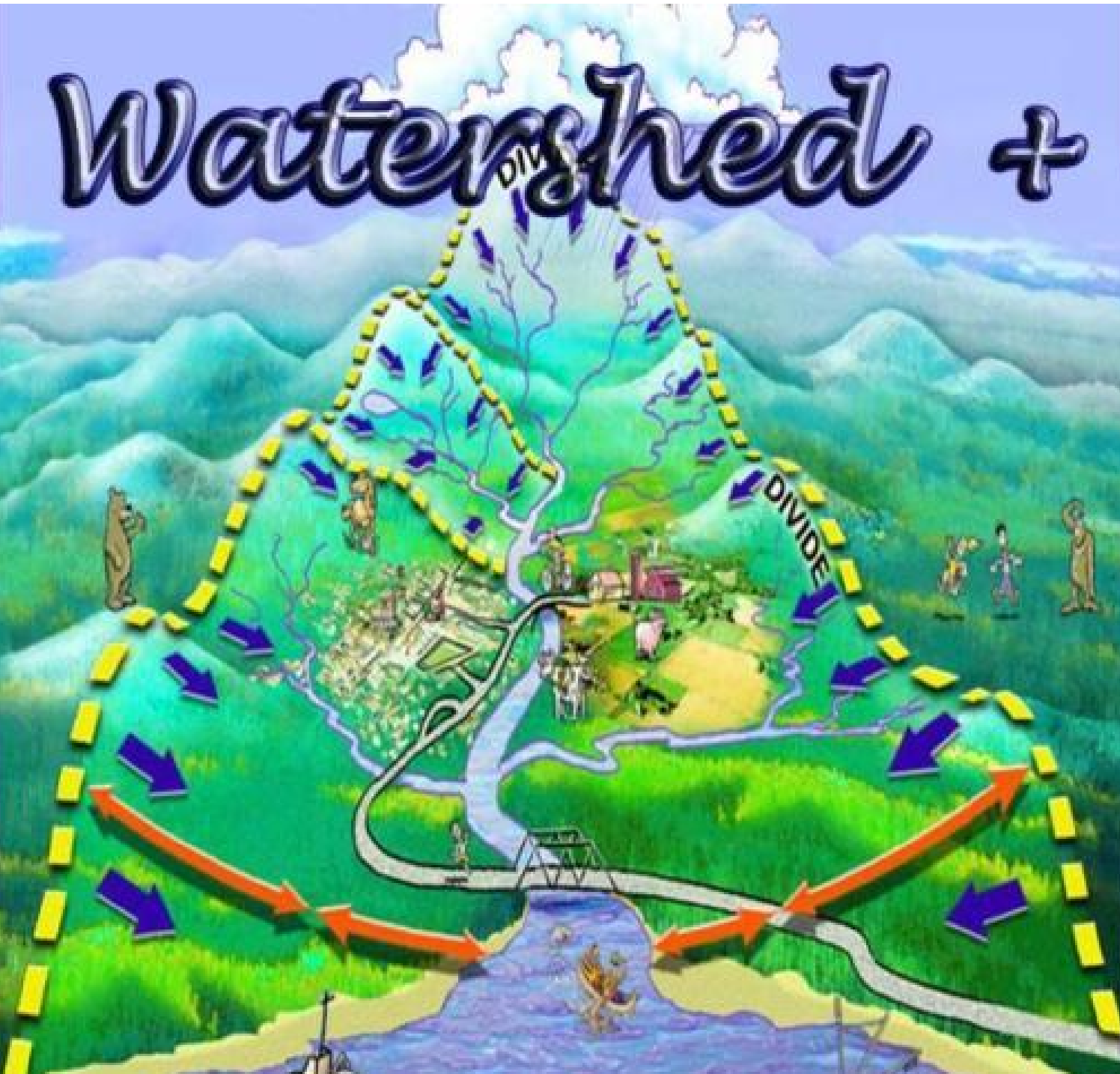


livelihoods

today and tomorrow

March 2010

Watershed +



Small Farmer Always Loses— 17

Mustard— 18

The Status Quo Remains— 21



Happy Ugadi! Happy New Year, 'Vikriti'!

It is a middle class Budget! Income Tax payable is less Rs.35,000 even if the annual income is Rs.500,000.

Food inflation is now spreading to other dimensions!

The effort to have the bill passed for women reservation in Parliament and Legislatures on the occasion of 100 years of International Women's Day (8 March) could not succeed. A couple of days later, Rajya Sabha passed the bill. However, it has to get the nod of Lok Sabha still.

International Consumer Rights Day (15 March) has just passed by, more or less, silently.

There is an effort to insert Article 41B in Constitution to provide for autonomous and self-reliant cooperatives all over the country. This will be an attractive alternative form for people's institutions. Of course, Producers' company will be another alternative!

Human Civilization is all around water! Direct rain water, its flows and/or the ground water provides life to human being. However, some of this water reaches the sea/ocean unused. Paradox is some do not get adequate water. Some do not get water. Some get 'n' times more than they need. Some do not know how to store for future use. Use of groundwater has increased manifold. These water sources are becoming dry. Many areas are being declared as dark areas or grey areas. Tanks are getting dried up. Broken bunds! Silted tank beds, aqua-ducts! Encroached tank beds and tanks! Water courses that changed their routes and courses! Water-intensity crops! With the water runoff, there is soil runoff. Lands lose their fertility. Even one crop a year is not happening in dry-land rain-fed areas! Major changes in climate! Decreasing rainy days! Decreasing spells of rain! Heavy down pour or no rain! It is now clear to all of us – we need to stop water, rain water, make it walk. Store it. Let it seep or sink into ground. Silt in the tank bed needs to be removed and applied back onto soils. Bunds need to be repaired and renovated. Tank cascades needs to be re-established. Moisture in the soil needs to be enhanced. Let the soil remain where it is. Trees need to be increased, especially on the land plots. Watershed treatment needs to be attempted from ridges to valleys, all across the country. In macro-watersheds and micro-watersheds! In river basins!

While doing so, equity cannot be ignored. Wages for the landless are fine. What about improvements in their livelihoods? Now, there are linkages established between watershed plus work and 100-days work of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee. There are also issues of post-watershed productivity – water productivity, land productivity and rupee productivity. Collectivisation in livelihoods is also important. As the watershed plus activities moved from civil society and government departments to Panchayat Raj Institutions, especially at the Gram Panchayat level and now at block level. Integrated and comprehensive watershed plus activities are reaching the nook and corner of the entire country in the coming 15-20 years. It is a massive effort. People's institutions have to take the lion's share in this effort, if government allocates necessary funds. In this context, 'livelihoods' explored 'watershed plus'.

Practicing Development Guru, Bunker Roy's Tilonia is a development Kasi. No development sojourn is complete without a visit there and without meeting him. WOTR has shown what constitutes watershed activity. Mihir Shah has transcended watershed activities to watershed plus activities, including food security. Inspired by Anna Hazare's Ralegaon Siddhi, Hivre Bazar has become a model for watershed and watershed plus villages. Chambers, Saxena and Shah's 'To the hands of the Poor – Water and Trees' is a must read for all those who are involved in the fight against poverty.

In the efforts to make the 'elephant' of livelihoods clearer for the organizing poor, their institutions, the human resources in them, the individuals and institutions that work for them – with the happiness that you are part of these efforts and with the faith that you are with us in this further, I remain.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Muralidhar', is written above the typed name.

G. Muralidhar

the 'livelihoods' team

‘livelihoods’ team

Editor in Chief	G Muralidhar
Principal Editor	T Nirmala
Senior Editor	K Bharathi
Working Editors	B Madhusudhan K Sridevi
Edit Associates	G Bhargava Nilendu Mukherjee Rekha Srinivasan T Venkateswarlu M Vijaybhasker Srinivas V Muralidhar
Cartoonist	G Dayanand

For Every Woman

7

Cover Story		12
Watershed Plus	Increasing productivity of dry lands is possible through soil and moisture conservation (SMC) efforts results in growth led by increases in the farm output. Separate efforts are required to include the land-less and the vulnerable in this growth, so that they also realize the benefits of improved food security, increased employment and diversification of livelihoods. Such activities are known as ‘Watershed Plus’ interventions, and ‘livelihoods’ explores these activities.	
	The Status Quo Remains	21
	Women on the Empowerment Scale	24
	Watersheds - Management to Development	27

For Private Circulation only

Response		4
News		5
Legend	‘Barefoot’ Bunker Roy	8
Intervention	The Miracle of Water– Hivre Bazar	9
Perspectives	Investing in Social Leaders!	10
Interview	Small Farmer Always Loses	17
Value Chain	Mustard	18
Organization	Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR)	20
Policy	Manual for Drought Management	26
The Contrasts	Trading Waste Doing Best	28
	Hole in Manual Ear Piercing	28
Worker	‘Samaj Pragathi’ Mihir Shah	29
Books	To the Hands of the Poor– Water and Trees	30
Resources	Websites Related to Watersheds Information	31
Story	Making A Difference	32
Trends	Social Services Expenditure by Government	33
Case studies	Multiple Income Sources Help! Lack of Feasibility Analysis Hurts!	34
‘Yoga’ kshemam		35

For enquiries contact:

AKSHARA Network for Development Support Services,

HIG II B-25 F-6, APHB Colony,
Baghlingampally, Hyderabad - 500044

Mobile: 09347802302

www.aksharakriti.org

akshara@aksharakriti.org

Response

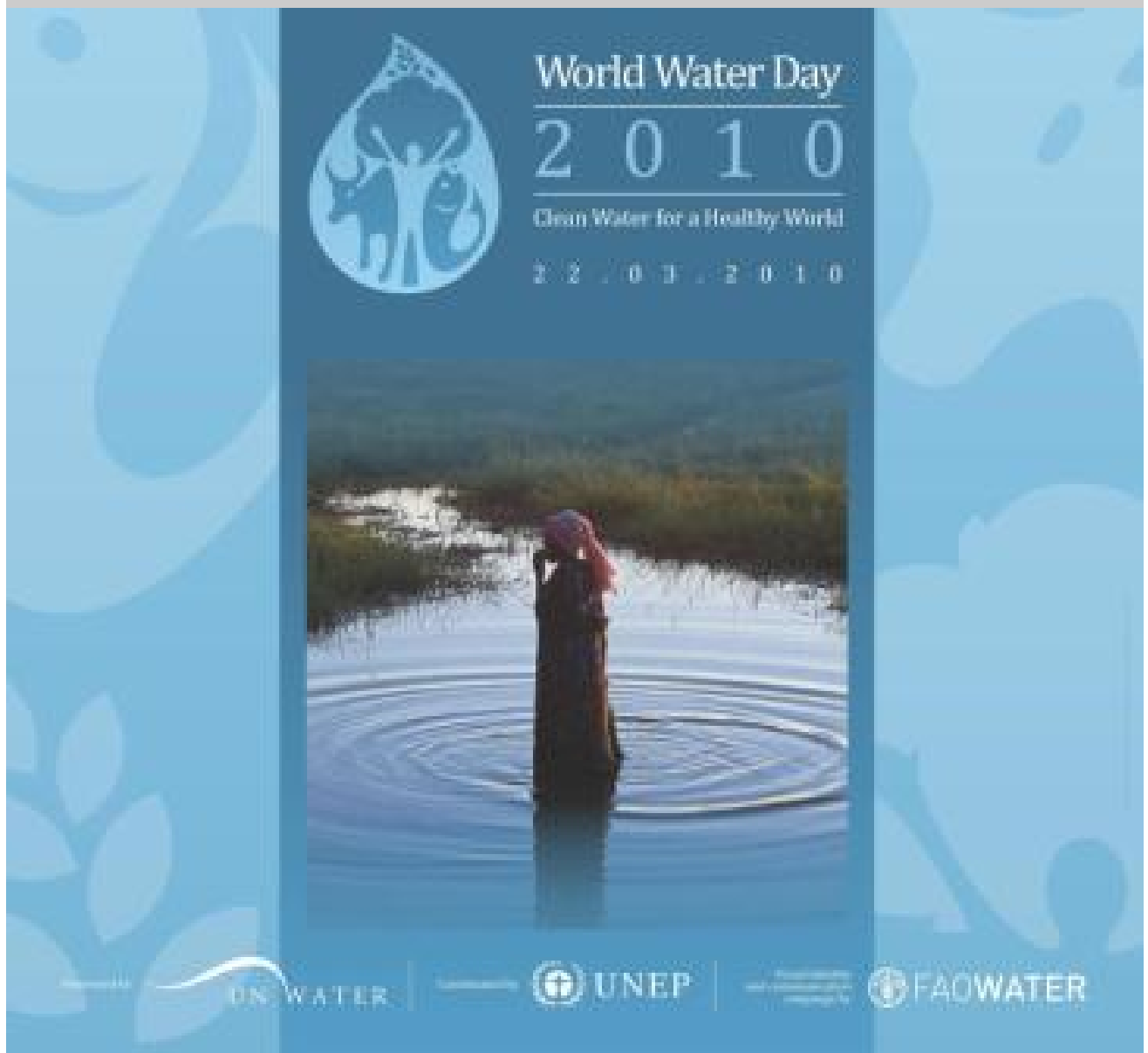


Thank you for the latest edition of Livihoods. Your team takes lots of efforts in putting in very valuable information and the hard work is reflected in the quality of each article.

Edwin Babu

Thank you, Its wonderful edition, lot of things covered and sharpen the axe is superb.

M Prakashan



HRF Team Visits Island Villages in Pulicat Lake - Expresses Concern Over Poor Education, Health Facilities for Fishermen: A team of representatives of Human Rights Forum (HRF) visited Irukam Deevi and Palenthopu Kuppam in Pulicat lake in Tada mandal in Sri Potti Sriramulu Nellore district of A.P and expressed concern over the poor amenities for fisher folk in the island villages. The team members interacted with the villagers, women and children and enquired about the health, education and boating facilities. The fishermen said the fishing activity had come down in the lake due to less catch as the seawater was not entering the lake from the 'mukha dwaram' (mouth).

Below the Radar, a New Agribusiness Pact with the US: The government quietly secured Cabinet approval for a new agreement recently with the United States that aims, inter alia, at promoting the privatization of agricultural extension services and facilitating collaborations between American agribusiness and the Indian farm sector. The proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. on 'Agriculture Cooperation and Food Security' was approved in the Centre and is likely to be signed soon.

No Mining Projects Without Ministry Approval: A day after declaring a moratorium on new mining projects in Goa, Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests told the Karnataka government not to approve mining projects in forest areas without his Ministry's approval.

Jean Mayer Award for Journalist: Eminent journalist Sanjoy Hazarika has been awarded the Dr. Jean Mayer Award for Global Citizenship by the U.S. - based Tufts University for his contribution to the north-east of India, initiatives in health and governance, besides advocacy of issues. The award is given annually to scholars and practitioners who make significant contributions to improving the lives of people in their areas of work and impacting both research and policy. The previous awardees include Nobel laureates Amartya Sen and Desmond Tutu.

Webcams Rein in Footloose Doctors: Government doctors serving in rural areas of Orissa are often found missing from workplace. So, the Chief District Medical Officer (CDMO) of the tribal dominated Sonepur district decided to use technology to watch over the doctors. The CDMO used funds available under the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) to provide five of the six block headquarter hospitals in the district with web cameras costing about Rs 1,000 a piece. They have been attached to computers. Whenever he wants to check on a particular doctor, he asks him to speak to him over the webcam.

Health Check-up for Fields: Farmers in Madhya Pradesh no longer need to follow the trial-and-error method while choosing fertilizers for their fields. The state government plans to distribute soil health cards in the next two years to help them determine soil fertility and accordingly chose the right fertilizer for their crops. The card will be prepared for all farmers across the

state after conducting laboratory tests of soil samples for their respective fields. "The card will show the characteristics of the soil, such as the pH value, and the micro and macro-nutrients present in it," said the director of the state agriculture department. The information would help farmers overcome shortage of nutrients in their fields and determine the cycle of profitable crops. The card will also have recommendations by agriculture experts on the kind of fertilizers to be used for a particular field.

Survey Projects Robust Growth Next Fiscal: The Economic Survey 2009-2010 argues for a gradual rollback of stimulus measures while projecting a robust GDP expansion of up to 8.75 percent in 2010-11 on the back of a "remarkable recovery" growth expected at 7.2 percent for the current fiscal. With the government successfully managing to partially lighten its burden by switching over to a nutrient-based subsidy scheme for fertilizers, the Economic Survey has now raised questions on the impact that food, fertilizer, kerosene and diesel subsidies have on poverty eradication. A setback to the farm growth rate and the emergence of double-digit food inflation have been singled out in the Economic Survey of 2009-10 as major areas of concern.

Handloom Mark Scheme Evokes Poor Response: The AP state governments efforts to popularize the 'handloom mark' a unique brand image for original handloom goods, is drawing a blank. The first of its kind meet of registered 'handloom mark' users organized at Hyderabad last

SEWA's Ela Bhatt chosen for Niwano Peace Prize



Social worker Ela Bhatt has been chosen for the Niwano Peace Prize this year for her contribution to the upliftment of poor women in India. Ms. Bhatt, a follower of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings recognized as one of the pioneers in the development of the most oppressed and poorest women of India for more than three decades, will receive the award in Tokyo on May 13. The award, which recognizes the significant contribution of an individual to inter-religious understanding and cooperation leading to world peace, comes with a certificate, a medal and prize money worth 20 million yens.

month evoked poor response. Of the 631 weavers' cooperative societies in the State, only 170 turned up.

RBI Nod for Loans Up to Rs.1 cr. to SC/ST Entrepreneurs: The RBI has cleared a proposal made by the State government of Andhra Pradesh to give loans up to Rs.1 crore to SC/ST entrepreneurs without collateral security to encourage them as industrialists.

Rice Procurement Better than Earlier Estimate : Food Corporation of India and other state-owned agencies have procured 231.8 lakh tonnes of rice so far in the current marketing season that started in October against 241.3 lakh tonnes a year ago, a government data showed on recently.

Milk prices likely to go up further: Prices of milk and milk products in the country are likely to increase owing to shortage in milk production over the next 3-4 years. The prices of milk and milk products may go up as the country is likely to face 3-4 million tonnes deficit in milk production in the next 3-4 years. India's annual milk production is estimated at 108.5 million tonnes and the country accounts for 16 per cent of the world production. The shortfall might also drive demand for dairy imports. Dairy imports were currently limited because of import duties of as much as 40 per cent and future purchases would depend on government policy. The government, with private sector participation, needs to take steps to increase milk production.

600 Chhattisgarh Residents are Bonded Labourers: Over 600 poor people from Chhattisgarh's Janjgir-Champa district alone have been kept as bonded labourers in others states, a minister told the state assembly recently. 'Hundreds of people from Chhattisgarh have been kept as bonded labourers in various states and the government is doing its best to free them and bring them back to their home state. Labour and Agriculture Minister of the state said that 662 persons belonging to Janjgir-Champa district alone have now been kept as bonded labourers, mainly in Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar

Pradesh.

Coconut Cultivation Declining in Kerala: Kerala, the land of coconut trees, has been steadily slipping in area under cultivation of coconut, losing ground to neighbours Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. Kerala's share in area under coconut cultivation in the country has fallen sharply from 57 per cent in the early 1990s to 43 per cent in 2008, while Tamil Nadu and Karnataka together accounted for 41.43 per cent of the total coconut production of 14,744 million nuts a year, as per the economic survey of Kerala Planning Board. According to farming experts, fragmentation of palm gardens into housing plots and as sites for commercial constructions were a major factor that contributed to the shrinkage of area under cultivation over the years. However, farmers hold that steady fall in coconut prices was a factor that compelled them to look for other crops that ensure better returns.

IFPRI Launches New Project to Improve Agriculture: To improve agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability in developing countries, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) has launched a new project "Global Futures for Agriculture". Focused on evaluating promising technologies, investments, and policy reforms, the effort is supported with major funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Government's April 1 Gift to Farmers: The Centre announced nutrient-based subsidies (NBS) for fertilizers as promised in last year's budget. Now individual nutrients in the fertilizer like nitrogen will be subsidized, rather than the end product. The new system will be effective from April 1. The government will control only urea's retail price. Its price has been hiked from Rs 4,380 to Rs 5,310 per tonne from April 1. An inter-ministerial committee under the secretary of the fertilizer ministry will finalize the subsidy on each nutrient-nitrogen, potassium, phosphorous and sulphur. Fertilizers containing these nutrients will get additional per tonne subsidy if

they include secondary and micro-nutrients. The fertilizer industry is happy. The new policy gives incentives to manufacturers to fortify fertilizers with micronutrients to reduce their deficiencies. Small and medium farmers and those who want to use bio-fertilizers won't benefit. The policy is meaningless for two-thirds of Indian farmers who are in rainfed areas.

Aravali Mining Banned: The Supreme Court on February 19 ordered closure of 157 of the 261 mines in the Aravali hills in Rajasthan. The court has asked for satellite images of the mining-ravaged hills spread across Haryana and Rajasthan. The ruling came after the states asked for renewal of mining leases for stones used for construction. Green groups allege illegal mining is rampant in the Aravallis.

Indian Bill to Allow Foreign Universities to Operate: India's government has approved a plan to allow foreign universities to set up campuses and offer degrees in India. The proposal, which needs to be ratified by parliament, is expected to benefit thousands of Indian students who head abroad to study. India is reforming its higher education system after concerns that it faces a shortfall of qualified graduates. The bill had been opposed by some political parties, particularly those from the left, on the grounds that it will benefit only elite Indians with poorer students unable to afford to pay high fees.

Inflation at 16-month High, Nears 10%: Inflation rises to 9.89% in February, the highest in 16 months, driven mainly by high food and fuel prices. With inflation slowly spreading from food items to other areas, analysts say RBI may further tighten money supply in its April policy.

Women Reservation Bill Passed in Rajya Sabha: The Rajya Sabha recorded a historic vote in favour of a Bill providing for 33% reservation for women in Parliament and assemblies. The legislation is likely to be brought to the Lok Sabha after the vote on account has been passed. ■

For Every Woman

For every woman who is tired of acting weak
when she knows she is strong,
There is a man who is tired of appearing strong
when he feels vulnerable.

For every woman who is tired of acting dumb,
There is a man who is burdened with the constant
expectation of knowing everything.

For every woman who is tired of being called
emotional female, There is a man who is denied
the full right to weep and be gentle.

For every woman who feels tied down by her children,
There is a man who is denied the full pleasure
of shared parenthood.

For every woman who is denied meaningful
employment and equal pay,
There is a man who must bear full financial
responsibility for another human being.

For every woman who was not taught the
intricacies of an automobile,
There is a man who was not taught
the satisfaction of cooking.

For every woman who takes a step towards
her own liberation, There is a man who
finds that the way to freedom has
been made a little easier.

Nancy Smith

‘Barefoot’ Bunker Roy

Bunker Roy is the man behind Barefoot College – the only college in India built by the rural poor for the rural poor. He is a renowned Indian social activist and educator inspired by the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi which reflects in his work style and lifestyle. Roy has worked all his life with the Barefoot College with a vision to build cadre of change agents who will improve the quality of lives in their community.

Sanjit Bunker Roy was born in 1945 in Burnpur in West Bengal. He was educated at Doon School in Dehradun and at St. Stephen's College, Delhi, India and was groomed for a career in the civil or diplomatic service. The Bihar famine in mid 1960s changed the course of his life. He left his comfortable life to see the situation firsthand and it was the first time that he ever saw poverty face to face. He was deeply moved by the suffering and decided to dedicate his life to help the rural poor. He met his life partner Aruna Roy and married in 1970.

Roy wondered at India's condition where many people lived in penury and few go through the best of education and not even think of giving anything back. This combination of conscience and anger drove him to spend five years blasting wells in villages around Ajmeer district of Rajasthan, and in 1971, he found the "Bare foot College" in Tilonia. He coined the term 'barefoot professionals' to mean indigenous and traditional knowledge leaders in poor communities. It is both literal and symbolic. Millions of people in India live and work barefoot; but the title is also used as a symbol of respect for the knowledge that the poor have. Roy was influenced by the philosophy of Mao Zedong, and modeled his organization after Mao's Barefoot Doctors.

The college takes illiterate and semi literate men, women and children from lowest castes, and most remote and inaccessible villages in India, and trains them to become "barefoot" water and solar engineers, architects, teachers, communicators, pathologists, midwives, IT workers, accountants, and marketing managers. Once trained, these villagers work within their own communities, thus making them less dependent on "outside" skills. All students are equipped with basic literacy, health and first aid skills and are then urged to move from one area to another, understanding their inter-relationships and learning the principles of community building and sustainability.

Taking from Mark Twain "“Never let school interfere with your education”, approach to learning is very different in this college. Here both teachers and students are learners and the process of learning is continuous. They believe that people should be encouraged to make mistakes so that they can learn humility, curiosity, the courage to take risks, to innovate, to improvise and to constantly experiment.

The college's achievements are staggering across various fields. Its barefoot engineers have provided solar powered lighting to over 136 virtually inaccessible Himalayan villages; over 15,000 children have been educated at Barefoot College night schools; and thirteen villages and 15,000 people now benefit from community piped water

supply systems, designed, planned and implemented entirely by the local people.

Today there are 20 Barefoot kind colleges in 13 states in India. Plus the college is now involved in training villagers from other countries, including Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Bhutan, Senegal and Sierra Leone. But the real achievement, says Roy, is the process rather than the result – the fact that the community has done this on their own, by sharing their own knowledge and skills. He feels that if someone wants to work in a village, the formal education system discourages them as the mindset that this system inculcates in students is that going back to the villages is a losing proposition. Remaining in the city is considered a success.

Commenting on government run education system Roy opines that, taking some of the responsibility for education out of the hands of government could speed up progress towards universal primary education in his country. He says that with out commercializing education private initiatives should be encouraged, given more responsibility, more space and freedom. According to him as things stand now, the formal system alone cannot answer the challenge of rural education on the contrary it can destroy initiative and creativity as it expects you to do everything the way they say, the way they do.

Roy states that the starting point in progressing towards universal primary education is to understand the reality of the rural poor as about 60 or 70 per cent of children never go to school in the morning because they are supposed to work and rear cattle. He feels that channeling these children into vocational training at an early age is necessary so that they can gain new skills while continuing to help their families.

Bunker Roy has been a leading figure in the Indian NGO community for sustainable development for the past thirty years. He is a source of inspiration for many younger social entrepreneurs. In recognition of this work he has been honored with many awards including the Arab Gulf Fund for the United Nations (AGFUND) Award for promoting volunteerism, The World Technology Award for Social Entrepreneurship, The Schwab Foundation for Outstanding Social Entrepreneurs, The Stockholm Challenge Award for Information Technology, The NASDEQ Stock Market Education Award, and the Tyler Prize.

Roy's advice to development workers is that one should listen to people more, listen to what they have to say and have patience to hear them. This he says will solve all the problems in the rural areas, as demonstrated by Barefoot College. ■

The Miracle of Water– Hivre Bazar

Rome was not built in a day. The journey of Hivre Bazar from a semi-arid poverty struck village to the status of a model village has also not happened so easily. It took one strong leadership, entire community's participation and commitment to change the face of the village, once ridden with limited employment and poverty, into a village of prosperity.

The Village Hivre Bazar is located about 60 kms north-east of Pune and about 17 kms west of Ahmednagar city, which is the headquarters of Ahmednagar District in Maharashtra state. Until the early 1990s, Hivre Bazar was a typical semi-arid village in western India, with low agricultural productivity, scarce irrigation water, limited employment opportunities, and high levels of out-migration. Although it had at one time been famous for wrestling, this died out by the 1970s; from the early 1970s until the late 1980s, the village appears to have been a place of considerable strife due to rampant in-fighting and factionalism, accompanied by large-scale alcoholism and gambling. The status of the village was just similar to other villages with lot of socio-economic problems, like scarcity of drinking water, no fodder, unemployment, heavy soil erosion, rain fed cropping pattern, crime and less productivity.

In 1989, a small group of young villagers, who were tired of the prevailing socioeconomic situation encouraged Popatrao Pawar, a M.Com graduate from the same village, to become the sarpanch of the village. He inspired the villagers to come together to undertake some common works such as the repair of the temple and school rooms. After this, Pawar started the process of consultation with the villagers about the most pressing changes needed in the village. The issues that everyone seemed concerned with were the availability of water (both drinking and irrigation) and the low productivity of agriculture. When the Adarsh Gaon Yojana was introduced in 1992, Hivre Bazar was one of its first applicants.

As soon as the village was selected under Adarsh Gaon Yojana (AGY), Pawar organized a visit to Ralegaon Siddhi, a model village in Maharashtra which was led by Anna Hazare, so that villagers could see for themselves the benefits of watershed development. After visiting the village the villagers had felt a strong need for discipline in the village which was lacking in the village. All the villagers unanimously accepted to implement "pancha sutri" five important points for rural development. The 'pancha sutra' are 1. Shramadan (voluntary labour), 2. Ban on Tree cutting, 3. Ban on Grazing of Cattle in Forest or in Pasture land, 4. Ban on Liquor, 5. Family Planning.

The AGY scheme was implemented in the village from 1994–99. On 15th august 1994 Yashwant Krishi Gram & Watershed Development Trust was formed in Hivre Bazar to implement watershed development programme under AGY scheme. Under this scheme the entire village had put ban on using bore well for irrigation (bore well were used only for drinking water supply in the village), cutting trees, cultivation of water intensive crops, selling land to outsiders, any feeling of full & private ownership of groundwater occurring in individual farms. Along with this they have started various activities in the village like

contour bunding, continuous contour trenching on hill slopes & planting of local, hardy trees, bushes & grasses over the watershed. New constructions and repairs of loose boulder bunds, cement bunds, farm bunds, farm tanks & percolation tanks have also been taken up. During this process the villagers of Hivre Bazar contributed Rs. 2.10 Million (The total cost of the water shed development programme was Rs.6.60 million) through Shramdan (Voluntary Labour).

Hivre Bazar's strong, participatory institutional set-up has facilitated its success. The *gram sabha* has the power to decide on a range of issues, including identifying sites for water harvesting structures, sharing water and types of crops to be cultivated. The village voluntary body is its implementing arm. The village prepared its own five-year plan for 1995-2000 for ecological regeneration which is an innovation by the villagers. The plan was the basis on which Employment Guarantee Scheme was implemented in the village. The village's another biggest innovation is its water budget. The village's second five-year plan (2000-2005) focused on sustainable uses of the regenerated wealth.

The soil and water conservation works taken up under this programme has changed the status of the village. The number of active wells in the village has gone up to 318 in number (ie 2.4 times), electric pumps has gone up by 280 (ie 2.25 times), area under irrigation during the season has increased to 795 Ha. (ie 3.18 times), summer cultivation increased from 7 Ha to 70 Ha (ie 10 times) and last but not the least the milk production per day has increased to 5000 litre from 140 litre as the increased availability of water and fodder encouraged the community to rear more number of livestock. At large this programme has helped to increase the water table, change in the cropping pattern, increase in the cropping intensity and availability of the fodder in the village. The per capita income of the village is twice the average of the top 10 per cent in rural areas nationwide (Rs 890 per month). In the past 15 years, average income of the villagers has risen 20 times. The improved economic and social situation has also resulted in some reverse migration, with many people who had moved out of the village for employment are returning to the village to live and work.

The success story of Hivre Bazar proves that if the local community realizes their real situation and the problems that exist and if they strongly believe that they can change, nothing can prevent them from achieving it. As development workers, we should be conscious of the fact that our critical job is to facilitate the community in realizing their current situation and in making decisions and be with them in realizing the way forward. This can pave way for more community driven Hivre Bazar's. ■

Investing in Social Leaders!

Food Inflation is not budging. Inflation is expanding to other sectors instead.

While suicides continue, T-issue slides into background for the time being!

Government of India has presented a middle-class friendly Budget!

Reservation for women in Parliament and Legislatures has come centre-stage. Rajyasabha has voted. Lok Sabha may vote for it in May! When SCs/STs can have quota within quota, why can't the OBCs?

Happy Ugaadi (New Year)!

As we live the month, Holi is celebrated. 100 years of International Women's Day (8 March) has made its presence felt. World Consumer Rights Day (15 March) may not show its presence.

We are immersed in understanding institutions of the poor in AP where more than 10 million women have come together as Self-help Groups and their higher order federal institutions. The work on business plan(s) for 'L-channel' is inching forward.

Watersheds, social entrepreneurship, social enterprises, urban, rural, tribal and coastal livelihoods, elders, poorest of the poor, marginalized communities, collectives, innovations, the people who work with/for them, business/strategic plans and creative tension continued to hog the most of the time of our time during the month.

In the midst of all this, we have noted that Government has proposed to introduce a bill on cooperatives to insert article 43B "The State shall endeavour to promote voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of co-operative societies." in the Constitution of India. This paves way for cooperatives free from state's interference in a year's time in all the states across the country. A watershed in cooperative movement! A better alternative to producers' company!

Pranab's budget proposals towards meeting the key challenges - quickly reverting to 9 percent growth and then aiming for double digit growth; making growth more inclusive and strengthening food security; and overcoming weakness in government's public delivery mechanisms – include:

- ♦ *The total expenditure proposed in the 2010-11 Budget Estimates is Rs. 11,08,749 crore (8.6% over last year); The Plan and Non Plan expenditures in e estimated at Rs. 3,73,092 crore and Rs. 7,35,657 crore respectively. Fiscal deficit is Rs.3,81,408 crore, i.e. 5.5% of GDP.*
- ♦ *The spending on social sector has been gradually increased to Rs.1,37,674 crore in 2010-11, which is 37% of the total plan outlay in 2010-11.*

Perspectives

G. Muralidhar

- ♦ *Another 25 per cent of the plan allocations are devoted to the development of rural infrastructure.*
- ♦ *Service tax to remain 10 per cent; 10 per cent central excise duty on all non-petroleum products; unified Goods and Services Tax from 2011; Implementation of direct tax code from April 2011.*
- ♦ *Income Tax – 20% tax for income above Rs 5 lakh and up to Rs 8 lakh; 30% for income above Rs 8 lakh; 10% tax slab for income above Rs. 1.6 lakhs up to Rs. 5 lakhs; and No income Tax upto Rs. 1.6 lakhs.*
- ♦ *Limits for turnover over which accounts need to be audited enhanced to Rs. 60 lakh for businesses and to Rs. 15 lakh for professions.*
- ♦ *"The advancement of any other object of general public utility" to be considered as "charitable purpose" even if it involves carrying on of any activity in the nature of trade, commerce or business provided that the receipts from such activities do not exceed Rs.10 lakh in the year .*
 - ♦ *National Social Security Fund created for workers in unorganised sector with allocation of Rs.1,000 crore - Government to give Rs.1,000 for each National Pension Scheme account opened by workers in the unorganised sector*
- ♦ *Rs.1,900 crore for Unique Identification Authority of India*
- ♦ *Draft Food Security Bill prepared and will be put in the public domain*
- ♦ *Banking facilities to be provided to all habitations with a population of 2,000 and more; RBI is considering giving some additional banking licenses to private sector players including Non Banking Financial Companies; RRBs are being infused more financial capital.*
- ♦ *Banks have been consistently meeting the targets set for agriculture credit flow in the past few years. For the year 2010-11, the target has been set at Rs.3,75,000 crore.*
- ♦ *Rs.66,100 crore allocated for rural development in 2010—11; Rs.40,100 crore for National Rural Employment Scheme; RS.48,000 crore for Bharat Nirman*
- ♦ *Allocation to Backward Region Grant Fund enhanced by 26 per cent from Rs.5,800 crore in 2009-10 to Rs 7,300 crore in 2010-11.*
- ♦ *Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) chaired by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission to be set up to evaluate the impact of flagship programmes.*
- ♦ *Rs.1,270 crore allocated for Rajiv Awas Yojna for slum dwellers, up from Rs.150 crore, an increase of 700*

percent with the aim of creating a slum free India.

- ♦ 46% of plan allocations in 2010-11 is for infrastructure development
- ♦ National Clean Energy Fund to be established
- ♦ New fertilizer policy from April 2010
- ♦ Organizing 60,000 “pulses and oil seed villages” in rain-fed areas during 2010-11 and provide an integrated intervention for water harvesting, watershed management and soil health, to enhance the productivity of the dry land farming areas.
- ♦ An Annual Health Survey to prepare the District Health Profile of all Districts shall be conducted.
- ♦ Insurance and other services to be provided using the Business Correspondent model. By this arrangement, it is proposed to cover 60,000 habitations.
- ♦ Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana benefits extended to all such Mahatma Gandhi NREGA beneficiaries who have worked for more than 15 days during the preceding financial year.
- ♦ National Skill Development Corporation has approved three projects worth about Rs 45 crore to create 10 lakh skilled manpower at the rate of one lakh per annum.
- ♦ Exclusive skill development programme for the textile sector to train 30 lakh persons over 5 years.
- ♦ Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana to meet the specific needs of women farmers to be launched with a provision of Rs 100 crore as a sub-component of the National Rural Livelihood Mission.

Latest Forbes’ list of the world’s rich has 2 Indians in the top 10 and Mukesh ambani is now fourth rich in the world with his wealth exceeding Rs.100,000 Crore. I hear that he wants to devote a fraction of his wealth for the social good



Forbe’s List of Billionaires

Rank	Name	Citizenship	Age	Net Worth (\$bil)
1	Carlos Slim Helu & family	Mexico	70	53.5
2	William Gates III	USA	54	53.0
3	Warren Buffett	USA	79	47.0
4	Mukesh Ambani	India	52	29.0
5	Lakshmi Mittal	India	59	28.7
6	Lawrence Ellison	USA	65	28.0
7	Bernard Arnault	France	61	27.5
8	Eike Batista	Brazil	53	27.0
9	Amancio Ortega	Spain	74	25.0
10	Karl Albrecht	Germany	90	23.5

in the country and outside. Three ideas merit his attention – investing in building the development/livelihoods workers in the country – one per 100 poor families (even if we assume half of India is poor by 2-dollar poverty line) – 1.2 million professionals needing at least Rs.100,000 – 200,000 per professional, 12 million community paraprofessionals/workers, dedicated development/livelihoods channels, and augmenting environment for educating the poor children – some lace to sit and read, some tuition, some reading material etc. These three initiatives together may not cost Rs.25,000 Crore over 10-15 years. This is not a big amount by any token of imagination. I hope Mukesh picks this up, pushes this and gets going!

This will ensure we will be able to get bright young minds into social development and livelihoods domain. We will have service providers in most of the services the poor need. The poor will have the knowledge-skills-resources ‘elephant’ known to the poor.

This will mean we need 1000 D-schools, at least one per district. This can be initiated. Governments, corporate, civil society act on this, if someone like Mukesh leads from the front. The way Bill Gates is leading on the health front. We are running out of time, can we work on these leaders to become social leaders, social entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs supporting social entrepreneurs, please!

Let us try and learn to get into this lest we will be less useful including to people around us. If we do not, the very reason we exist, will be lost!

Yes, we need to build and make our promising business leaders, together with the political leaders to commit to this agenda.

Do not give up practice. Join the architects of the future. Know what you truly love to do (purpose) and then direct all of your energy towards doing it. That is it! ■

Watershed Plus

Dry lands are one of the least productively used natural resources, and are home to large number of poor. Increasing productivity in these lands is possible through soil and moisture conservation (SMC) efforts results in growth led by increases in the farm output. However, this growth mostly favours the land owner class. Hence separate efforts are required to include the land-less and the vulnerable in this growth, so that they also realize the benefits of improved food security, increased employment and diversification of livelihoods. Such activities are known as 'Watershed Plus' interventions, and 'livelihoods' explores these activities.



About 68 of the net sown area in India constitute rain-fed regions and about 400 million people depend on rain-fed agriculture in the country. Rain-fed agriculture in India is mostly characterized by low and uncertain rainfall, limited irrigation, low moisture, poor and degraded resource base and declining soil fertility. In addition to these natural maladies, rain-fed areas suffered neglect of policy makers and scientists for long, resulting in poorly developed infrastructure and institutions and poor access to timely credit. The result is anybody's guess - low income and low saving capacity, low capital formation, dominance of low value crops, low productivity, and distress migration. The problem of rain-fed areas seem to be one of a vicious cycle that starts with degradation of the natural resource base through poor management leading to low productivity, low income, low surplus, and low investment which, in turn, leads to over-exploitation of the existing natural resources and further degradation.

The irrigated areas enjoyed the attention of various governments over the years through heavy subsidies in the name of improving the nation's food security. On the contrary, the rain-fed areas stand neglected in terms of subsidies, infrastructure and also in terms of research and extension services. However, it is increasingly being realized that the country cannot go forward neglecting the huge potential that the dry lands offer in providing food security to the country apart from generating livelihoods to millions of people. These realizations brought critical insights that the low yields in the dryland/rain-fed regions are mostly associated with the high degree of land degradation and there is strong need to develop technologies to reduce the degradation and improve the productive capacity of natural resources, especially land. In addition to this it is realized that moisture is the most limiting factor to adoption of improved technologies. Treatment of dryland areas on a watershed basis has therefore, been adopted as a comprehensive approach to conserve soil moisture through effective land and water management technique. The development of degraded lands is recognized across as an important element for eradication of poverty and watershed development approach is widely recognized as the means to achieve this.

A watershed is a geo-hydrological unit, which drains at a



common point. Rain falling on the mountain starts flowing down into small rivulets. Many of them, as they come down, join to form small streams. The small streams form bigger streams; and finally the bigger streams join to form a *nullah* to drain out excess water from a village. The entire area that supplies water to a stream or river, that is, the drainage basin or catchment area, is called the watershed of that particular stream or river.

Watershed degradation threatens the livelihood of millions of people and constrains the ability of country to develop a healthy agricultural and natural resource base. Increasing populations of people and livestock are rapidly depleting the existing natural resource base because the soil and vegetation system cannot support the present level of use. In a sense, the carrying capacity of these lands is being exceeded. As the population continues to increase, the





pressure on forests, community lands and marginal agricultural lands lead to inappropriate cultivation practices, forest removal and grazing intensities that leave a barren environment yielding unwanted sediment and damaging stream-flow to downstream communities.

To counter watershed degradation and the consequent ill-effects, the Government and NGOs have responded with an integrated watershed approach. The genesis of the approach can be found way back in 1970's with the initiation of Drought Prone Area Program (DPAP) and Desert Development Program by the Government of India (GOI). Later, the concept of development of rain-fed areas on watershed basis was adopted during the Seventh Five Year Plan (1987-92). In 1989, the GOI has started another program called Integrated Wasteland Development Programs (IWDP). To take a stock of the watershed development situation in the country, a Technical Committee was constituted by the Ministry of Rural Development, GOI, headed by Prof Ch Hanumantha Rao. This Committee reviewed the implementation of various programs including DPAP, DDP and IWDP and recommended a set of operational guidelines for taking up these programs on watershed basis which became functional since 1995-96. The principles adopted in the guidelines lay special emphasis upon the stakeholders' active mobilisation and participation in preparation of plans as well as their implementation and subsequent management. Following the Committee Report in 1994, DPAP and IWDP were brought under common 'Guidelines for Watershed Development'. Under the common guidelines, all the area development programs of the government are implemented through watershed development approach. Watershed development has been conceived basically as a strategy for protecting livelihoods of people inhabiting the fragile ecosystems experiencing soil erosion and moisture stress.

The main principles of integrated watershed management are: utilizing land according to its capacity, putting adequate vegetal cover on the soil, conserving as much rainwater as possible at the place where it falls both at farmlands and common property resources, that is, in-situ conservation, draining out excess water with a safe velocity and diverting it to storage ponds and storing it for future use, avoiding gully formation and putting checks at suitable intervals to control soil erosion and recharge ground water, maximizing productivity per unit of area, per unit of time, and per unit of water, increasing cropping intensity and land equivalent ratio through intercropping and sequence cropping, safe productive utilization of marginal lands through alternate land use system, ensuring sustainability of the eco-systems benefiting the man-animal-plant-land-water-complex in the watershed, maximizing the combined income from the interrelated and dynamic crop-livestock-tree-labour-complex over the years, stabilizing the total income and cut down risks during aberrant weather situation and improving infrastructural facilities like storage, transportation and marketing.

Many studies revealed that areas where watershed development programs have been executed successfully, these areas have shown positive results in various aspects. The infrastructure that is created under watershed program reduced the wastage of run-off water resulting in increased availability of water for irrigation, drinking and other purposes. Groundwater also got recharged in areas with water harvesting structures. With the increase in irrigation facilities more land is being brought under cultivation. Possibilities improved for two or three crops in a year and also to practice horticulture and sericulture activities. As a result the availability of agricultural works to the labour also increased and to that extent helped control distress migration of labour.





Pasture lands developed resulting in increased availability of fodder to the livestock and cattle resulting in improved milk productivity. Increased water availability sometimes also encouraged people to start micro-enterprises in the watershed villages. Increase in the income levels reflected in the improvement of people's health and education levels.

Watershed development activities also had implications on the resources of the people. Natural capital of the people increased through increases in trees, livestock, irrigated area and productive land etc. physical capital got enhanced through increased irrigation facilities, soil and water conservation structures. With the formation of the watershed committees and user groups, ensuring complete community participation, facilitated improvements in social capital. Watersheds also had a positive bearing on the human capital in those areas as people's capacities with respect to watershed development and management were enhanced. The establishment of credit groups and watershed funds helped strengthen the financial capital of the people.

Although watershed development has without doubt resulted in significant positive impacts on the natural resource base, there are growing concerns over the distribution of these benefits. The principle of the ridge to valley approach for instance may work against the interests of the poor who often rely on the commons in upper slopes much more heavily than do the better-off. To begin with, water control structures in the lower slopes would privilege those (i.e. the better-off farmers) having reliable access to agricultural land. The notion that the poor, who are denied access to the commons during the rehabilitation period, can benefit from casual, unskilled employment opportunities created by construction requirements in the lower slopes is appealing, but requires close monitoring; and there are important questions surrounding the sustainability of any of these gains.

For the wide range of physical assets such as bunds, check dams, gully plugs etc. created by the watershed development programs, there are problems related to access and sustainability for the longer term, especially if joint responsibility for maintenance is not clearly agreed. The better-off, being landholders, generally benefit

disproportionately from an increase in ground water levels brought about by soil and water conservation. Common Property Resources (CPRs) such as grazing and forest land constitute the important natural capital that the poor mostly depend on. After the watershed activities, the increased potential off-take of timber, fuel and fodder often attracts the attention of the better-off to CPRs, which, in degraded form, had generally been the preserve of the poor. Though social and human capital is being strengthened to some extent through the formation and capacity building of watershed groups etc, it is still evident in many places that the community is not adequately equipped to manage the resources on sustainable basis.

This imbalance in the distribution of benefits has raised questions against the sustainability of the watershed development programs implemented in the past. From this context, a newer concept called 'watershed plus' has emerged and has gaining momentum in the recent years. The term 'watershed-plus' emerged in 1998 to describe 'new-look' watershed projects that would step beyond their usual remit in order to address the needs of marginalized groups of people, such as those with no land, women and the poorest of the community. This was to be achieved through activities not normally associated with watershed development projects, such as improved water management, minor irrigation works, the provision of drinking water and sanitation, forestry and interventions to address the specific needs of the poorest, including provision of credit, collection and processing of non-timber forest products, aquaculture and crafts.

Though many activities are being taken up already by many NGOs and Government under watershed plus programs, the neglected fact in many cases is that the distribution of benefits from any development program depends on the existing socio-cultural and economic context of the particular area in which the program is implemented. The distribution pattern that exists already also has its implications on how the benefits of particular program are going to distribute. Unless these contexts are properly analyzed and programs are made appropriately it becomes difficult to achieve the desired results.

Another challenge in watershed activities is making the community realize the benefits of watershed as many of





the benefits that are accrued from the watershed activities are intangible. The tangible benefits such as increase in number of days of employment etc. are many times realized by the land less labour but they are only of short term nature. The long term benefits such as ground water recharge, increased yields and increased availability of water for irrigation and other purposes may not attract farmers enough to take full responsibility of managing the watershed in a sustainable way. Thus it is very important to build the capacities of the people so that they own the resources and maintain them in a sustainable way. It is also very important to realize that mere watershed activities cannot solve all the problems of farmers. Farmers' needs are multiple and there should be multiple interventions that need to be happened simultaneously. These interventions can include providing cheaper rates of credit, marketing support, information to the farmers about latest technology available, minimum support to the produces etc.

Under the circumstances, with increased influence of climate changes, the time is now for hastening up the coverage of the entire land-base of the country under watershed plus activities in the coming 10-15 years. This would mean covering not less than 10 million hectares every year under watersheds. The budget per annum can be Rs. 10,000 Crore. This investment may recur every 15-20 years. Water harvesting, water conservation and optimization, and increasing the water productivity has to be part of this agenda. This time around, it has to be clearly watershed plus management and development. The micro-plans need to be evolved and consolidated in consultation with the ground level stakeholders and their

People's Institutions, specially the institutions of the poor. Further, these institutions need to be involved in implementation. Thus, **watershed plus activities have to become core part of the integrated and comprehensive rural development, social mobilization, poverty reduction, food security and livelihoods efforts. May be this is also the time for the mission mode for this set of efforts!**

The farmers have to adopt cropping patterns that are more water-efficient. Government has to offer remunerative minimum support prices for such alternative crop produce. The landless will not be happy with some wages, they need investments in improving their livelihoods, in terms of skills, assets and infrastructure. Even the farmers need investments in **building their knowledge and skills through extension for water-efficient non-pesticide management and organic farming** for increased food security locally and reduced working capital needs. Further, they need **self-reliant collectives for realizing higher proportion of consumer rupee** for their produce. They need to undertake **value-addition locally** as much as possible in an attempt to reach out to the consumer as directly as possible. There is a need to ensure that the people have one or more options to form autonomous independent self-reliant collectives a la Producers' Company with less cumbersome procedures and formalities. Government needs to consider producers' companies as cooperatives for taxation purposes. Proposed amendment to Constitution to insert Article 41B - for providing for self-reliant cooperatives - is a step in the right direction. ■

Small Farmer Always Loses

Basheer belongs to a small village in Nalgonda district of AP. In this interview, Basheer explains his struggles as a small farmer. He feels that budgets come and go without bringing any change in the situation of poor farmer and he also wonders why the minimum support they expect from the government is not available.

Q: What is your name and age?

A: My name is Shaik Basheer, age 45.

Q: What is your native village?

A: My native village is Revanapally, Pochampally mandal, Nalgonda district, Andhra Pradesh.

Q: Since how long are you staying in this village?

A: Our family came to this village some 80 years back. Since then we are living in this village only.



Q: What about your family?

A: I live with my wife and four children, two sons and two daughters. My elder son stopped education after 10th class and elder daughter is now studying 10th class.

Younger daughter is studying 7th and younger son is in 4th class now.

Q: What is your education qualification?

A: I studied only up to 3rd class.

Q: What is your occupation?

A: Agriculture is my occupation. Apart from that I also run a small vegetable shop at my home.

Q: How many acres do you have?

A: I have two and half acres of land and my brother also has another two and half acres of land. Both of us together cultivate 3 acres of land.

Q: What about the remaining land?

A: No, the remaining land remains uncultivated.

Q: What is the reason for that?

A: There are so many problems. Our financial status is one of them. The costs of inputs and the labour have increased so much in the recent years which made us unable to invest on our entire land. It is also becoming increasingly difficult to get labour in time for agricultural operations. Government is also not providing seeds on subsidy which is also one reason for increase of input costs.

Q: What crops do you grow in your field?

A: We are cultivating paddy in our 3 acres of land.

Q: What variety of paddy you use?

A: I cultivate BPT variety of paddy in half of my land and in another half I cultivate 64 variety of paddy.

Q: What is the irrigation source to your field?

A: We have bore well in our land. Apart from that there is a small tank adjacent to my land. The tank gets water from the river Musi and it gives me sufficient water to cultivate.

Q: What is the yield of paddy from one acre of land and what is the income per acre?

A: The yield I get from one acre is 25-30 bags per season and the income I get from acre is Rs 6000/-.

Q: What is the labour involved in cultivation?

A: Generally we use more number of workers in the time of weeding and harvesting. But nowadays labour are not available in the time of harvest. So we are using harvesting machine by taking it on rent at a price of Rs 1500 per hour.

Q: How is your economic condition at present?

A: Not so good. The income which we get from the vegetable shop and agriculture is not sufficient to feed my entire family. I go to NREGS works also whenever they are available to earn some additional income.

Q: What are the issues you face in agriculture?

A: Government announced free power to all farmers. But in practice it is not implemented. I am paying Rs 200 every month towards current bill. Even that power supply is not regular. There is huge scarcity of fertilizers and pesticides every year because of which we are incurring huge amounts of money towards their purchase as we are forced to buy them in black market.

Q: New budget is announced recently. An amount of 1668 crores was allocated to the agriculture sector. What do you feel about the budget?

A: I don't know about any budget. Every year people say crores of budget is given for farmers. But small farmers like me always lose. We never benefit from any of these allocations. We are not getting any inputs at low price and also proper price for our produce. We don't have any contacts directly with the markets. It is not viable for me to go till the market and sell the produce as the quantity is very small. Thus all small farmers in my village and even in the neighbouring villages are depending on the middlemen to sell our produce. We don't have any power to make decisions regarding the price of our hard earned produce. We have to take whatever the middlemen give.

Q: What support do you expect from the government?

A: It is enough for us if they can give minimum support price for our produce. It is also very helpful for us if the government can take action to make the fertilisers available in time. ■

Mustard

Mustard seeds have great importance as spices. The origin of mustard is not known to the world but is said to have grown wild in the northern hemisphere which was later spread to other part of the world. It grows in Europe, Canada, USSR and Asia, in Asia it is chiefly grown in China, India and Pakistan.

Mustard is an important crop in India. On an average it produces around 5 million tones of mustard annually. It is the 3rd largest mustard seed and mustard oil producing country contributing to around 11% of the world's total production. Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal and Orissa are the important mustard producing states with Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh contributing to 50% of the total production. Mustard oil is consumed wholly in the domestic market.

Mustard grows well in subtropical and tropical countries in temperate zones and requires relatively cool temperatures to grow. It needs a right proportion of rainfall i.e. 25 to 40 cm. In India mustard is sown during rabi season i.e. October to November. Seeds take 3–10 days to germinate



if placed in cold atmosphere and relatively moist soil. Mature mustard plants grow into shrubs. It includes annual herbs ranging in height from 0.45 to 1.75 m. Roots, in general, are long and tapering. In different parts of India flowering is at different time ranging from

November to February, accordingly even the harvesting period starts from February and goes on till March. It is the major Rabi crop that accounts for almost 65% of the total Rabi produce. It is also important as the crop is a good soil cover in winter.

Mustard seeds are about 3 mm in diameter, and may be in yellow, white and black colors. It is basically a winter crop and requires a temperate climate to prosper. In India Several varieties of mustard crop are grown, important are Rai (brown mustard), Sarson (yellow or brown) Toria (yellow or brown) and Taramira varieties.

For over two thousand years various parts of mustard plant like the seed, flower and the tender leaves are used by Indians in food preparation. Seed is used as it is or in the paste form as a spice, oil extracted from the seed is an important medium of cooking in Kokkata, Bihar, Jharkhand and the northeastern areas like Assam, Tripura, Sikkim and others. Two forms of mustard oils traded in the Indian market are Kacchi Ghani and Pakki Ghani (expeller oil). The seed and oil are used in the preparation of pickles and for flavouring curries and vegetables. Mustard Oil cakes are used as animal feed. The use of mustard oil for industrial purposes is rather limited on account of its high cost. Mustard powder and oil are essential ingredients of the Popular pickle variety of Andhra Pradesh 'Aavakaayaa' Mustard seed is a rich source of oil and protein. The seed contains 46-48 percent of oil and 43.6 percent of protein. Mustard oil is often heated almost to smoke before it is used for cooking; this may be an attempt to reduce the pungent smell and taste. In Western countries, the oil is often sold "for external use only" in stores catering to Indian immigrants, since in North India, mustard oil is also used for rub-downs and massages, thought to improve blood circulation, muscular development and skin texture. The oil is also antibacterial.



The ancient Greeks were first to use mustard in drugs. Use of mustard was popularized by Romans and French monasteries were first to trade mustard preparations.

Inputs	Pre-production	Production	Post-production	Marketing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Land ◆ Seeds ◆ Plough/ Tractor ◆ Finance ◆ Labour ◆ DAP ◆ Fertilizers ◆ Urea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Preparing land ◆ Remove the residue of the previous crops. ◆ Plough the land three times followed by planking. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sowing the seeds ◆ Furrowing ◆ weeding ◆ Watering (once in 10 days) ◆ Apply DAP and Urea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Harvest the mustard plant ◆ Dry it in hot sun for 3 to 5 day ◆ Trashing the plant to separate the mustard seeds from the pods ◆ Winnowing to separate seeds from the foreign particles ◆ Storing mustard in dry place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sell it at the market yards

In India 80% of the mustard oil is extracted in small sheds and at homes called 'Ghani' using simple technology. These are sold in retail outlets with out packaging or branding. Only 20% of the total production of mustard oil is extracted in big oil mills.

India exports around 4 lakh tons of mustard oil cake annually to countries like Bangladesh, China, Italy and Japan. But mustard oil is neither imports nor exports from India, as said earlier 80% of oil extraction process is done informally using traditional methods which does not match with the international quality standards. India had to import mustard oil of late due to fall in production of oil seeds.

The preproduction activities in the value chain of mustard mainly include preparing land for sowing is the most important activity in the value chain of mustards seed production. A fine seed-bed with out any previous crop residue, firm and fairly levelled ground is necessary to ensure good germination. In irrigated areas, ploughing is first done with a medium sized soil-turning plough, followed by two to four ploughing with a desi/local plough or a cultivator. Planking is done after every ploughing. In rain fed areas, one to two ploughings with a desi plough or a cultivator, each followed by planking, is necessary to prepare fairly moist seed-bed, precaution should be taken to avoid excessive moisture retention in the soil. This work takes about 4 days of work for men in ploughing the land. Women are involved in removing the residue from the previous cropping.

The production activities include sowing seeds, weeding, furrowing, thinning, applying water, fertilizers and urea. Mustard is grown as a single crop and is also in mixed cropping. 5 kg of seed is required to sown one hectare of land. Sowing is done using a tube attached to the plough in which seeds are kept. During mixed cropping at least 10 to 15 cm of distance is maintained between plants. Thinning is done in the three weeks after sowing to ensure this distance is maintained. One need to also ensure that moisture in the soil is maintained. Production period spans from 110- 120 days after sowing before, black variety takes little lesser time of about 90 days. Women are involved in sowing and weeding activities. Men are involved in furrowing, thinning, watering, applying fertilizers and urea

Harvesting and post harvesting activities are done in the post production stage. Harvesting activities of mustard include cutting the plant and let them dry in the fields, after 4 to 5 days when the plants are dry enough they are trashed to separate plant, pods and the seeds. The seeds are separated from the foreign particles by winnowing. Cutting, trashing and winnowing activities are done by women, in some cases men are also seen cutting the plants. Mustard is then transported to be stored by men.



Income and Expenditure from mustard (Per acre)	
Cost of seeds	Rs. 100.00
Cost of manure	Rs. 800.00
Cost of chemical fertilizer	Rs. 800.00
Cost of pesticides and plant protection measures	Rs. 1200.00
Cost of irrigation	Rs. 1000.00
22 Man days of labour for the entire operations calculated at Rs 60 labour per day of activity 22 x 60 = 1320	Rs. 1320.00
Other costs	Rs 500
Total Cost of cultivation per acre	Rs 5720.00
Yield per acre: 320 Kgs	
Income per acre: 320 kgs* Rs 18 per kg	Rs 5760
Profit: 5760– 5720	Rs 40

Some crop residue is got during post harvest activities are empty pod shells and the leaves are separated from the plant and stored as a fodder for animals. Twigs are used as firewood and in putting up rooftops and fencing

Mustard seeds, mustard oil and mustard seed powder are the important forms in which Mustard is sold in the market. In the whole sale market mustard is bought at Rs 18 per kg from the farmer. Retail price of mustard seed is Rs45 per kg, mustard powder ranges from Rs. 60 to 70 and that of mustard oil is Rs100 per litre. 10 kgs of Kachighani mustard oil costs Rs 483.3. Cost of mustard oil is higher as one kg of mustard seed can yield only 400ml of mustard oil. In International market 1 Lb of mustard seed; black, yellow and brown varieties are sold at \$ 3.1, \$ 4.99 and \$ 6.99 respectively. Mustard seed powder is sold at \$7.99 for 1 Lb.

80% of the mustard oil is extracted in small sheds and at homes called 'Ghani' using simple technology. These are sold in retail outlets with out packaging or branding. Only 20% of the total production of mustard oil is extracted in big oil mills. India exports around 4 lakh tons of mustard oil cake annually to countries like Bangladesh, China, Italy and Japan. But mustard oil is neither imports nor exports from India, as said earlier 80% of oil extraction process is done informally using traditional methods which does not match with the international quality standards. India had to import mustard oil of late due to fall in production of oil seeds.

Mustard farmers face certain problems such as loss of weight in dry season, deterioration of quality of seeds if not properly stored, improper handling practices etc. Harvesting of mustard seeds should be done in the early hours of the day as the moisture accumulated during the night prevents the splitting of pods. Threshing also should be done on a clean and dry floor so that the seeds will not get spoiled. Apart from educating farmers on good harvest and post harvest practices, collectivizing farmers to provide required support like timely credit at cheaper interest rates, providing seeds and other inputs, providing marketing support etc. can help the mustard farmers. ■

Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR)

In the drought prone areas of India water and its availability is the prime concern of people. Taking a bath or washing clothes is considered a luxury that not many people in the region can afford. And the arrival of a water tanker can even lead to ugly fights. These realities led Fr. Hermann Bacher, a Jesuit priest, and Crispino Lobo to establish the Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR) in 1993 at Ahmednagar in Maharashtra. Over these 17 years, they have turned several villages with a barren landscape into forests.

WOTR was started as an outcome of a special study launched in 1987 under the Indo German Pilot Program (IGPP) - to assess the effectiveness of official assistance in fighting poverty. Findings highlighted that aid was most effective when it reached the poor directly and it can have wide spread impact when the government ably supported it. German government expressed interest in providing aid to projects that would take up this challenge. This inspired Fr Hermann Bacher, who was involved in the entire IGPP study, to conceive a large scale community-driven program for poverty reduction, centered on regenerating the environmental space of villagers along watershed lines in Maharashtra known as the Indo-German Watershed Development Programme (IGWDP). An NGO was thought to cater to the capacity building needs of the IGWDP and to create a movement for participatory watershed development in India, which led to the birth of WOTR on December 20, 1993.

WOTR believes that land degradation and water scarcity are the most intense and commonly felt needs of a village community that can bring different groups of people together for a development process. Their vision is to empower communities especially the poor to live in dignity and secure their livelihood in sustainable eco-systems through integrated watershed development and enhancement of well being on a sustainable basis. To achieve wholistic well being of people WOTR also provides educational inputs for children and entrepreneurship opportunities for women.

WOTR works on the principles of Vasundhara; (meaning the earth – that symbolizes compassion, caring, co-responsibility and harmony) to achieve far-reaching impacts. They believe that development of the village is the responsibility of the community; it is for them and by them. The action plan behind each project that the organisation takes up is to involve the participation of the villagers especially women and WOTR plays facilitators role. Therefore as a strategy they convince them about the need for collective participation and voluntary labour. They take commitment of the villagers to be part of entire process and also to taken on the responsibilities of managing watersheds. The development initiatives include regeneration of water sources, farming, increasing livelihood opportunities, literacy, women's role in governance, securing the future of the girl child and so on.

To build capacity of the communities to play their role well WOTR conducts training programs exposure dialogue programs at local, national and international level, exposure visits and fairs on technical aspects of watershed

development, project planning and management, resource management, maintenance of assets created, participatory impact monitoring, peer-group assessment, institution building at the local level, gender integration, social mobilisation, management of savings and credit, income and social developmental activities, etc.

In 1993, WOTR added two more organizations Sampada Trust and Sanjeevani Institute of Empowerment and Development (SIED). These organizations support SHGs to undertake economic activities by providing micro-credit and utilise their resources for better returns and promote health by conducting health camps. WOTR has moved on from just watershed development to climate change, rural renewable energy and community based rural tourism.

WOTR has developed methodology of designing and implementing large scale integrated Capacity Building Programme. It has also developed and operationalised Participatory Net Planning Method (PNPM) of involving farmer couple in the development of their farms and lands. Concepts and processes of Ridge-to-Valley treatments, site specific and community determined measures, people's ownership and civil society-public sector partnership, systems for public accountability, transparency and community contribution in government-run watershed programs. It was also successful in getting permission from forest department to develop the degraded forest land.

Though started in Maharashtra, WOTR has spread its reach and work to villages in Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. In statistical terms, WOTR has so far implemented 198 watershed projects in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan covering an area of 142,000 ha. WOTR's strongly believes in collective participation and says that when like-minded people get together, things begin to move. WOTR has developed an excellent network with government agencies and professionals, all of whom are dedicated to the welfare of the impoverished. Because of this ability it has been able to push government agencies into re-thinking about policies.

In recognition of its exemplary work in the development sector WOTR has received many awards like Kyoto World Water Grand Prize 2009 award (Istanbul) and Fr Herman Bacher, Co-Founder and Chairperson of WOTR, received the Krishi Bhushan Award. 'livelihoods' wishes that this tremendous work of turning barren landscapes into forests continue and keep inspiring people's groups and individuals to join hands in this green work. ■

The Status Quo Remains

Union budget 2010 is hailed as the populist budget. Budget estimate provides for a total expenditure of Rs. 11, 08,749 crore, an increase by 15% from the previous budget. Focus is on inclusive growth, ensuring food security, improving investment on addressing climate change, strengthening infrastructure and fiscal consolidation. There is continued emphasis on spending on social sector. As the country looks to 'quickly revert to high GDP growth path' concerns for inclusive growth targeting the disadvantaged sections form the defining features of the Budget.

Many new initiatives like setting up of Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana, Financial Stability and Development Council, Gold Regulatory Authority, Technical Advisory Group for Unique Projects, National Mission for Delivery of Justice and Legal Reforms, Independent Evaluation Office and National Clean Energy Fund have been announced. Initiatives like Direct Tax Code and the Goods and Service Tax has been planned to be introduced from April 2011.

The total receipts are estimated at Rs.7, 46,651 crore and the Non Tax Revenue Receipts are estimated at Rs. 1,48,118 crore. The Fiscal deficit is pegged at 5.5%. Government aims to utilize the proceeds from PSU disinvestment to meet this increased capital expenditure requirements. Government's net borrowing will be Rs 3,45,010 crore for 2010-1. Based on the measures announced in the budget and also taking into account the global macroeconomic scenario, the economy is expected to grow by 8.0 per cent at factor cost in 2010-11.

What is in store for the poor?

A sum of Rs.1,37,674 crore, representing 37% of the total outlay, will be spent on social sector programmes. Rs.66,100 crore have been provided for Rural Development. Most of the money is going towards improving rural infrastructure like roads and housing. There

is nothing new to address needs of the poor like housing, water, employment and housing, no mention of expanding the budget to cover people still outside the 'target group'. An amount of Rs.48,000 crore is allocated for rural infrastructure programmes under Bharat Niman.

Agriculture : The government's budgetary allocations towards the agricultural sector in the form of higher agricultural credit, subvention of interest on farm loans and renewed emphasis on expansion of Green Revolution in the Eastern states were expected. It is said that a four-pronged strategy would be followed to spur growth in agriculture sector. The elements of the strategy are (a) agricultural production; (b) reduction in wastage of produce; (c) credit support to farmers; and (d) a thrust to the food processing sector.

The Budget provides Rs.400 crore for extending the green revolution to the eastern region of the country comprising Bihar, Chattisgarh, Jharkhand, Eastern UP, West Bengal and Orissa, with the active involvement of Gram Sabhas and the farming families.

A total of 60,000 'pulses and oil seed villages' will be organized in rain fed areas with an outlay of Rs.300 crore during 2010-11. This will provide water harvesting, watershed management and soil health facilities to enhance to productivity of dry-land farming areas. Another Rs.200 crore has been provided for conservation farming.

To improve the storage capacity of food grains, Food Corporation of India is being allowed to hire godowns from private parties for a guaranteed period of seven years. This period so far was five years.

There is a marginal increase in the target for farm credit to Rs.3,75,000 crore in 2010-11 from Rs.3,25,000 crore in the previous year. Period for repayment of loans by farmers has extended by six months to June 30, 2010, in view of the drought and floods in some parts of the country. Interest subvention for timely repayment of crop loans has

been raised from 1% to 2%, bringing the effective rate of interest to 5%.

Five Mega Food Parks will be set up in addition to the 10 already being established.

External Commercial Borrowings will henceforth be available for cold storage, farm level pre-cooling and preservation and storage of agricultural and allied produce marine products and meat.

Concessional import duty of 5 per cent for the setting up of mechanized handling systems in mandis and ware houses as well as full exemption from service tax for installation

Funds for Rural Development Since 2000-01



Concessional customs duty of 5 per cent with full exemption from service tax to the initial setting up and expansion of cold storage, production units, cold room including farm pre-coolers

Full exemption from excise duty to trailers and semi-trailers used in agriculture

Transportation of cereals, and pulses by roads are exempted from service tax.

Infrastructure: The Budget provides Rs.1, 73,552 crore for infrastructure, accounting for over 46 per cent of the total Plan allocation. 25% of this is being earmarked for rural infrastructure development.

The allocation for road transport is being increased by over 13 per cent from Rs 17,520 crore to Rs.19,894 crore.

Energy: The Planned allocation for power sector is being more than doubled from Rs.2,230 crore in 2009-10 to Rs.5,130 crore in 2010-11.

The Plan outlay for New and Renewal Energy Ministry is being increased by 61% from Rs. 620 crore to Rs.1,000 crore, especially to support the ambitious solar energy programme.

Solar, small hydro and micro power projects at a cost of about Rs.500 crore to be set up in Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.

A Coal Regulatory Authority is proposed to be set up for creating level playing field in the coal sector and resolving various issues.

Education: Planned Allocation for school education is budgeted at Rs.31,036 crore to support the children's rights to free and compulsory education. In addition, States will have an access to Rs. 3,675 crore for elementary education under the Finance Commission grant for 2010-11.

Rs.4,500 crore budget has been allocated to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to raise the rates for scholarship schemes for SC and OBC students.

Environment and Climate change: National Clean Energy Fund for funding research and innovative projects in clean energy technologies to be established.

One-time grant of Rs.200 crore to the Government of Tamil Nadu towards the cost of installation of a zero liquid discharge system at Tirupur to sustain knitwear industry.

Rs.200 crore provided as a Special Golden Jubilee package for Goa to preserve the natural resources of the State, including sea beaches and forest cover.

Allocation for National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) doubled in 2010-11 to Rs.500 crore.

Schemes on bank protection works along river Bhagirathi and river Ganga-Padma in parts of Murshidabad and Nadia district of West Bengal included in the Centrally Sponsored Flood Management Programme.

A project at Sagar Island to be developed to provide an alternate port facility in West Bengal.

Financial services: It has been decided to provide appropriate banking facilities to habitations having population in excess of 2000 by March 2012. It is also

proposed to extend insurance and other services to the targeted beneficiaries. These provisions are expected to cover 60,000 habitations.

To encourage financial inclusion, the government proposes to augment NABARD's Financial Inclusion Fund and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund by Rs 1 billion. These funds enable to expand the reach of banking services to unbanked areas.

Employment: Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) gets Rs.40,100 crore and Bharat Nirman Programme, Rs.48,000 crore. Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana gets 75% increase in allocation from Rs.3,060 crore to Rs.5,400 crore.

Exclusive skill development programme to be launched for textile and garment-sector employees.

Housing: Indira Awas Yojana gets Rs.10,000 crore. The unit cost under this scheme is being raised to Rs.45,000 in plain areas and Rs.48,500 in hilly areas to cover the increase in cost of construction of houses.

Rajiv Awas Yojana, a scheme for housing to slum dwellers and urban poor, gets a huge jump in allocation from Rs.150 crore last year to Rs.1,270 crore in 2010-11. In addition, the allocation for Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is also being raised from Rs.850 crore to Rs.1,000 crore in 2010-11.

Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) property rights to slum dwellers has been provided which will give a boost to slum redevelopment programmes. Rs1,270 crore provided for slum development programme, marking an increase of 700%.

The 1% interest subvention on housing loans upto Rs.10 lakh (where the cost of the house does not exceed Rs.20 lakh) provided in the Budget for 2009-10 has been extended by another year.

Social security: National Social Security Fund will be set up for unorganized sector workers with an initial allocation of Rs.1,000 crore. This fund will support schemes for weavers, toddy tappers, rickshaw pullers, bidi workers etc.

The Swavalamban initiative started last year, Government will contribute Rs 1,000 per year to each NPS account opened in 2010-11. An allocation of Rs 1 billion has been made for the year, which will benefit up to 1 million NPS subscribers of the unorganised sector.

Health: Marginal increase in the Plan allocation for health and family welfare increased to Rs22,300 crore from Rs19,534 crore. The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Joyana is being extended to all Mahatma Gandhi NREGA beneficiaries who have worked for more than 15 days during the preceding financial year.

Women and other marginalized groups: Allocation for woman and child development and social justice ministry increased by 80% Plan allocation for minority affairs ministry raised from Rs1,740 crore to Rs2,600 crore.

The ICDS platform being expanded for effective implementation of the Rajiv Gandhi Scheme for Adolescent Girls.

“Saakshar Bharat” to further improve female literacy rate launched with a target of 7 crore non-literate adults which includes 6 crore women.

Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana is being launched to meet the specific needs of women farmers.

The allocation to Backward Region Grant Fund is being enhanced by 26% from Rs.5,800 crore to Rs.7,300 crore. An additional Central assistance of Rs.1,200 crore is being provided for drought mitigation in the Bundelkhand region.

Industry: Companies Bill, 2009 will be introduced to replace the existing Companies Act, 1956, which will address issues related to regulation in the corporate sector in the context of the changing business environment.

Allocation for development of micro and small-scale sector raised from Rs.1,794 crore to Rs.2,400 crore.

Hike of excise duty on man-made fibers and yarns from 8 per cent to 10 per cent will raise polyester prices by Rs. 1.5 -2 per kg.

The government’s announcement of a one-time grant of Rs 2 billion to the Government of Tamil Nadu for the installation of a zero discharge system to reduce environmental pollution at the Tirupur cluster will benefit knitwear exporters of the region in the long term.

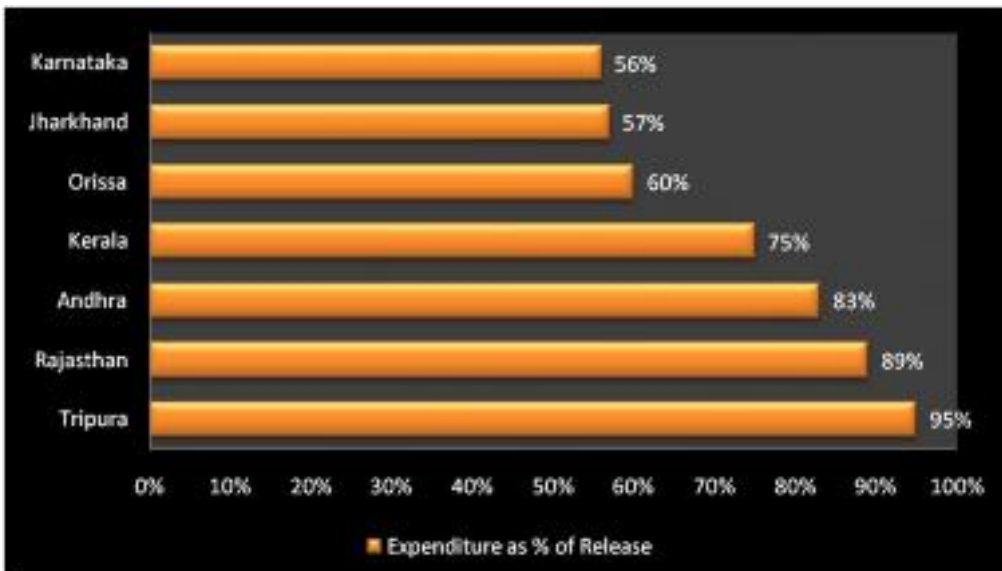
Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises: High Level Council on Micro and Small Enterprises to monitor the implementation of the recommendations of High-Level Task Force constituted by Prime Minister.

Allocation for this sector to be increased from Rs.1,794 crore to Rs.2,400 crore for the year 2010-11.

The corpus for Micro-Finance Development and Equity Fund doubled to Rs.400 crore in 2010-11.

Concern: A concern that always follows the budget is how much of the budget allocated would be expended. State governments are expected to submit a proposal to the centre for each of the programs to make funds available for them to be expended. It has been observed that most of the budget allocated to the departments comes too late, just before it is the time to return the unspent money back. There are two problems with implementation. First, releases do not match sanctioned amounts. Second, despite receiving less than what was asked for, most states is unable to spend the money.

To illustrate this fact we share following facts that are put forth by an organization - Accountability Initiative *research and innovation for government accountability*. The figure



Wide inter-state disparity in spending ability

shared here highlights the expenditure pattern in two flagship programs of UPA government i.e. NREGA and PMGSY in the financial year 2008-09.

In 2009-10, the NREGA received 49 percent of the rural development budget, followed by PMGSY at 14 percent. NREGA is a demand-driven scheme. Thus, fund availability is based on proposals submitted to the centre by state governments. Despite being demand-driven, there are wide inter-state variations in the ability to spend funds. For instance, Tripura, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh spent over 80 percent of the monies available till 2008-09, while Karnataka and Jharkhand fell far behind at less than 60 percent.

PMGSY: PMGSY was launched in 2000. The programme is funded exclusively by GOI, and is intended to provide rural connectivity by building all-weather roads. PMGSY is largely funded through the Rs. 1.50/litre diesel cess. Since its inception in 2000, a total of 90010 crores have been sanctioned for PMGSY, of which a mere 47805 crores (53 percent) has been released till 2008-09. The amount of money released to states varies greatly. Since 2000, Rajasthan has received 77 percent of the funds sanctioned to it, while Orissa and Assam received only 41 and 31 percent respectively. The program is able to achieve mere 6 percent decrease in the percentage of unconnected habitations...As a result we still have 10 states in India account for over 85 percent of unconnected habitations.

The budget doesn't offer anything new or exciting to the poor people of India. Even to the middle class tax payers it shows a mirage of tax savings by increasing the slabs but on the other hand rise in the direct tax and substantial increase in the petrol and diesel prices will increase the prices of the commodities and services bringing them back to the square one. As always poor will become even poorer with the increased prices. The current allocation under rural development helps only in maintaining the existing program commitments and has no scope to include other poor people as its right holders. One has to wait and watch how Poorest of the Poor (POP) will cope. ■

Women on the Empowerment Scale

Change in women's living condition doesn't automatically ensure women's empowerment. Empowering activities should entrust women with right to choose the kind of life they would like to lead. This calls for restructuring and reordering mammoth institutions on which patriarchy thrives. Most important among them is the family the basic unit of society.



Today one can be sure that there would be no villages left in the radar of developing and undeveloped countries untouched by women's self help groups. As acknowledged, what had started as an intervention is now a movement, a movement towards 'women's empowerment'. There are several milestones that mark journey back and forth towards women's empowerment. Recognition of women as a distinct group, developments in the discourses of gender, adopting women's human rights convention CEDAW, setting up of UNIFEM, new governments setting up separate ministries for women's development and mass mobilisation of women in Self help groups across the globe are some of the milestones. In the due course several definition and frameworks have been evolved to understand what women's empowerment is and how does an empowered women look like?

Women Empowerment has become a popular jargon in the development sector in the last two decades. Most development programs target women with the explicit goal of empowering them. However, their underlying premises are different. Some argue that women are amongst the poorest and the most vulnerable of the underprivileged therefore they need to be targeted first. Others believe that investing in women's capabilities empowers them to make choices, which is valuable in itself, and also contributes to greater economic growth and development. Another motivation is the evidence from literature that shows that an increase in woman's resources result in higher well-being of the family, especially children. Finally, many development organizations prefer to implement programs through women members as they believe that they are better participants.

Community Driven Development activities, undertaken through SHGs like providing drinking water, health services, financial support involve only women. This has

benefited women to an extent – for instance, solving drinking water problems in the village, reduces the demand on a woman's time while leading to better health of all household members, particularly children. Similarly women empowerment activists claim that these development activities have increased the women's mobility as they now go for meetings and trainings to other cities, they have learnt to talk with officials, sit on chairs on par with men during meetings, members of cooperative and panchayat etc. they have been able to improve their economic condition. Forming SHGs have also giving them opportunity to widen their knowledge on various things like government schemes, how to access them, health care, importance of eating nutritious food, importance of girl child education as well as have obtain skills to enhance their livelihood incomes.

However, most of these activities are for the welfare of the household (including women) or the community at large but are not directly empowering to women. They are helpful only in making women existing roles and duties a little more easier, in fact by doing so they re-inforce the existing gender roles within the society. Therefore we don't see substantial change in the quality of life that women are leading though their material conditions might have changed. For example Case in point is lives of Jamuna and Ramulamma. Jamuna is a IT professional, working with reputed software company earning handsomely she is a team leader and well respected, but she is not happy doing this she prefers to write story books for children, work from home and take care of her children. Though the family is economically well-off and can give that choice to her, she is being pressurized to stick to her job. She is totally unhappy. Rumulamma is a dalit agriculture labourer, they are poor and don't have enough to eat, she has had repeated abortions as she is not physically fit to bear the child, her husband would beat her over petty family quarrels. Irrespective of her physical fitness she has no choice of either working or not to work and also on what kind of work she wants to do. She is totally unhappy.

What is different in their situation is their living condition. Jamuna has enough to eat, pay for medical care, stays in good house, and has insurance and education. Where is Ramulamma is poor has not had opportunity to get good education, not enough to eat or pay for health care. But what is common is their condition of living. Both have no choice or control over their lives, in other sense both are not empowered.

This leaves us with a bigger question of what does women's empowerment mean? What changes lead to empowerment? What are those activities that take us towards empowerment? And finally how does one measure it.

Empowering women envisions change in the condition in which women are living as well as position of women. Condition refers to satisfaction of needs at all levels starting from basic needs for survival like food, water,

shelter, health to higher ordered needs like self realization and actualization. Access to these needs and services will improve the condition of women. Position of women refers to women's participation of women in the decision making, ownership and control over assets and participation in planning and development. Other definitions of empowerment are:

Empowerment is 'the development of individual autonomy, self control and confidence' It is also 'the development of a sense of collective influence over the social conditions of one's life' (Young, 1997, p. 89). This second meaning is a more useful as it 'includes both personal empowerment and collective empowerment and suggests that the latter is a condition of the former'.

Women's empowerment refers to women's sense of self and vision of the future, their status and decision-making in the household, the ability to interact in the public sphere, participation in non-family groups, mobility and visibility, and economic security. **(Schuler and Hashemi)**

By enabling women to achieve equal control over the factors of production and participate equally in the development process one can empower women says **Sara Hlupekile**

UN definition of women's empowerment has five components: women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and to determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and resources; their right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally.

The above definitions view women's empowerment as a process in which women challenge the existing norms and culture, to effectively improve their well being. .It calls for providing women with **agency** (refers to both ability and opportunity), bring changes in the **structure** (family, community, market, political) , and change in **relations** (of production) and most importantly claiming all these changes as a matter of **Right**.

Rights framework is acclaimed to be the most empowering way of understanding women's life. Before this was formulated it was assumed that if family is developed or empowered, its members i.e. children and women will be automatically empowered. Discarding all these arguments or approaches rights framework says that development activities targeting women should do as a matter of women's right to development. Therefore they need to prioritize changing position

of women in family and community along with changing their living conditions.

In an insightful reflection on the measurement of women's empowerment, Kabeer (1999) explains that women's empowerment refers to the process by which those who



have been denied the ability to make strategic life choices acquire such ability. This ability to exercise choice incorporates three inter-related dimensions: resources which include access to and future claims to both material and social resources; agency which includes the process of decision-making, negotiation, deception and manipulation; and achievements that are the well-being outcomes.

Women's empowerment differs from culture to culture and context to context. It cannot be applied uniformly across the developing world. Women are not same across the board they imbibe other identities of caste, class and religion. Their experiences of discrimination or disempowerment are also influenced by these factors therefore one need to uncover local women's own definitions and indicators of their empowerment.

Truly empowering activities are those that reflect the changes that women have effectively made to better their lives by resisting the existing norms of the society. Thus, for instance, if a woman offers greater resistance to any form of abuse from her husband or family, we consider her more empowered as she is trying to improve her wellbeing by asserting herself. Or a girl convincing her parents to remain single with out being married, a rape victim resists marrying rapist with the support from the community etc.

Coming to the question of where are women on the empowerment scale we need to accept that though there are small instances that give us hope and direction, on a large scale there are few attempts in this direction like reservation for women in panchayats, property rights, and employment in male dominated sectors etc. Most of these success stories have been possible because of many conducive factors like greater awareness, conducive environment and good leadership or guidance. Providing such conditions to all women is a challenge. This needs a dynamic leadership, investment and a political will. This needs networking cutting across borders of class, cast, religion, geographical location and gender as the task before us is mammoth. One way of fastening this process is restructuring and reordering the basic unit of the society i.e. family. This is the most crucial but a very difficult task. Both men and women need to be reassured that such changes will benefit both and these will lead to a better society. ■



Manual for Drought Management

The Drought Management Manual was developed by the National Institute of Drought Management (NIDM) through consultative process involving Central Ministries, State Governments, scientific, technical and research organizations and the grass root level organizations working for mitigation and management of drought.

The manual suggests a system for drought management and programs related to mitigate the drought impact. It focuses on common elements of drought management at national level while allowing specific schemes and programs of the states. This manual serves as a hand book to all decision makers and administrators ranging to national level to village level. The manual is divided into 5 sections namely understanding drought, monitoring drought, declaring drought, providing relief and mitigating drought.

The manual emphasized on relief based approach which provides space for other mitigation programs for crop failures. It strongly expresses the need for new drought management system which is based on technological advancement and innovative crop and water management. It feels the need of long term strategies apart from short term strategies. It suggests a uniform approach in drought management to guide all the states. It also suggests employment and area development works in drought mitigation.

The manual defines drought as a temporary aberration unlike aridity, which is permanent feature of climate and it differs from the natural hazards like cyclones, earth quakes, floods, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis etc. Drought has both direct and indirect impacts. As per manual the direct impacts of drought are physical such as decrease in the agriculture production, livestock grazing and ground water levels which lead to malnutrition, starvation and migration that are called indirect impacts.

As per the manual, rainfall, reservoir/ lake water levels, surface water/ ground water, soil moisture and sowing / crop condition, fodder supply and its prices, position of drinking water supply, demand for employment, agricultural and non agricultural wages status, supply of food grains and prices situation of essential commodities are some of the important indicators of drought. If the deficiency percentage with actual average rain fall is 25%, it will be called as drought, if it is 26% to 50% it is called moderate drought and if it is above 50% it is called severe drought.

The drought manual explains that decline in ground water levels is also an important indicator of drought. An annual decline in the water table of up to 2 meters is considered normal and can be tolerable, a decline up to 4 meters is a cause for concern and decline above 4 meters is considered as severe condition. Another important indicator of drought is the net sown area. A delayed sowing manifests the rain fall deficiency and indicates the onset of drought. Crop conditions also indicate the severity of the drought situation.

Along with these indicators, the manual explains other several drought indexes in the country like Aridity Anomalies Index, Standardize Precipitation Index, Palmer Drought Severity Index, Crop Moisture Index etc.

Declaration of drought at appropriate time is very important for the effected people as it helps people to be provided with timely relief assistance and concessions. Thus the manual provides the mode of drought declaration. It analyzes traditional method of drought declaration usually practiced in India, the process which recommended by the district collectors to State Government for drought declaration basing on crop production only. When it falls below 50% of crop production and the State Government send the memorandum to the Central Government for the relief fund from National Contingency Calamity Fund (NCCF). It explains that State Governments are responsible to declare drought and collectors can notify drought only after State Government declares the drought.

The manual explains the need for planning and implementation of drought relief and response measures which help the effected people come out from the drought hardships. It suggests for preparation of contingency plans for drought management by taking measures like crop planning to support farmers, providing relief employment linking with National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, preserving water resource by proper water management systems.

The manual emphasizes for proper water resource management system and it explains that shortage of water is one of the earliest indicator of drought which affects the entire society in rural and urban areas and assessing the water demand and meeting the needs of all user groups is extremely important thing in drought management. It explains the process of water resource management which starts with estimating the water demand. This manual also emphasizes on the need of providing food security particularly in the time of drought situation by providing food grains through Public Distribution System (PDS), providing nutritious food to the children through Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) etc. It suggests various measures that need to be taken to rehabilitate people particularly those who are vulnerable.

As per the manual drought relief measures should include programs like permitting concession to tax waivers, arranging cattle camps, supplying fodder, providing service to the cattle through Animal Husbandry Department, taking necessary services through Forest Department, Agriculture Department, Irrigation Department and Health and Hygiene Department. The manual emphasizes strong institutional structure to monitor and provide timely response to drought. The focus of this manual is equally on both prevention and management of drought. The manual appreciates the critical role of Drought Prone Area Program and Desert Development Program in preventing droughts. The manual rightly recognized the role of watersheds in confronting droughts. ■

Watersheds - Management to Development

For integrated conservation and management of natural resources for optimal production watershed represents the most rational unit. Since 80's watershed-based development has been the strategy to enhance agricultural production, conservation of natural resources and enhancing rural livelihoods in the rain-fed regions of India. Initially soil and water conservation was the primary objective of watershed program and gradually the focus shifted to principles of equity and enhancing rural livelihood opportunities and recently to sustainable development through regeneration of degraded fragile lands in the rain-fed regions.

There is a close relationship between the environment and the community living within that area as the community derives sustenance from it. Increase in biotic pressure leads to over-exploitation and degradation of natural resources and also leads to internal conflict giving opportunity to others to exploit the situation. Appreciating this intrinsic relationship between population, poverty and degraded environment they live in calls for complete participatory approach where the primary stakeholders – the community take complete charge with support/facilitation from external actors. Integration of indigenous technologies is vital. Low cost locally available technology with suitable intervention by latest advancements yields best solution.

Watershed is a natural entity and may contain different types of lands namely, forest lands, community lands, government lands or private lands which can be treated on "ridge to valley" approach. A land lying in a valley cannot be improved if the land at upper reaches is not treated. Further, mere treatment of land is not enough. It is also important to empower the people who live in it. Watershed plus approach takes care of this holistic development. The entire watershed community is to be involved for the integrated development of watershed and the assets created in such an effort are to be maintained through the people of the watershed community in order to ensure sustainability. People's participation also ensures conservation and development of Common Property Resources. The inclusion of women and vulnerable groups and a strong focus on equity is what distinguishes the Watershed Plus approach from previous watershed programs. The program seeks to ensure convergence of all other programs that promote economic activities and generate increased employment opportunities. Conscious efforts to promote non-farm employment and increased land access for the landless as well as promotion of self-help groups form part of the new approach. Under the new approach, communities have organized themselves into user groups and generated sustainable incomes, demonstrated strong success in improving food security, and poor household food gaps has been reduced considerably. Projects following the Common Guidelines for National Watershed Development Programme, formulated and funded by the Ministry of Rural Development, GOI have critical components like promoting livelihood improvements, capacity building for primary and secondary stakeholders, convergence, gender and equity and

encouraging an enabling environment.

From decades of experience in implementing watershed projects, Sustainable Livelihood Analysis (SLA) emerged as a coherent framework with a set of tools to analyse and deal with complex issues relating to watershed development and plan appropriate interventions. Due to the introduction of SLA there has been a shift in the focus of development efforts from resources to people and their livelihood outcomes. By analyzing the complexity of poverty through SLA it has become easier to identify potential project activities as well as assess implications of each activity.

SLA is very instrumental in: providing a point of reference and common language between the donor, state government, NGOs and consultants, moving the focus away from natural capital alone to the total capital asset base of the poor, building on local capacity and strengths, addressing macro-level constraints through advocacy for pro-poor approaches

However, the current SLA model has some limitations. These include: static nature of SLA analysis as against the dynamic nature of livelihoods. SLA as it exists is a closed model not factoring global policies as input variables.

The revised program guidelines seeking to operationalize the Watershed Plus philosophy issued by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, in 2001 provide for: A program-specific and focused project approach, Greater flexibility in implementation, Well-defined role for state, district and village level institutions, Removal of overlaps, A provision for keeping the watershed development projects on probation, An exit protocol for the project implementing agencies (PIAs), A twin track approach that provides for short term and long term benefits in the implementation of projects, A combination of government and NGOs as PIA, A greater role for women and PRIs, Bringing SHGs especially those belonging to SC/ST categories to the forefront, Establishing a credit facility from financial institutions, Transparency in implementation, Effective use of remote sensing data

The following support like land and water management, Participatory forest management to regenerate degraded forest land and to develop NTFP processing and marketing enterprises, Improvements in agricultural productivity and animal husbandry, Improved access to rural financial services through the promotion of self-help savings and credit groups and linking them with formal financing institutions, Development of community infrastructure including economic and social infrastructure, Improved access to basic services like health and sanitation, safe drinking water, education etc. is being provided to the poor communities in recently implemented watershed projects.

Additional funds of Rs 3500/- per hectare have been allocated to watershed projects under the revised guidelines of GOI. This provides an excellent opportunity to take Watershed Plus forward on a scale. ■

Bijay Kumar Sahoo

Trading Waste Doing Best

Shining Livelihoods



Hole in Manual Ear Piercing

Declining Livelihoods



‘Samaj Pragathi’ Mihir Shah

Mihir Shah is a well known development professional, working extensively to provide water and livelihood security to the poor in India. He has combined 20 years of living and working at the grass-roots with academic research and policy advocacy. He believes strongly that a new paradigm of development needed to be forged in India, one that is based on the principles of sustainability, equity and people's empowerment.

Born on 25th November, 1956, Mihir Shah graduated in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi (where he won the KC Nag Economics Prize) and did his post-graduation from the Delhi School of Economics (where he was Merit Scholar) in 1970s. M.Phil. in Applied Economics: at Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum. He has a Ph.D. for his Dissertation titled: "Capitalist Development and the Transformation of Agrarian Relations in Chingleput District c.1780-1983" from the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Mihir began his career as project associate at the Centre for Development Studies where he conducted M.Phil teaching programme on "Macro-economic Framework for Analyzing Agrarian Economies" and guided students on their dissertation. He moved on to work on the Project "Inter-regional Variations in Agrarian Structure" prepared for the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). To explore fresh terrains beyond the ivory towers of conventional academia and traveled extensively in rural, tribal India in pursuit of a fresh understanding, necessary for the formulation of an alternative Indian vision of development. These travel culminated in formation of Samaj Pragati Sahayog (SPS) along with similar minded friends in the year 1990.

Samaj Pragati Sahayog (SPS) is one of India's largest grass-roots initiatives for water and livelihood security. It works in 50 villages in the Adivasi pocket of the Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh, known as the Bagli tehsil in the Narmada valley. They believe that farmer-driven, location-specific watershed development combined with bio-diverse agriculture, other nature-based livelihoods and micro-finance, can result in sustained higher incomes and empowered communities, providing an enduring panacea to India's suicide-ridden dry lands. Over the years, the SPS programs have resulted in drinking water security to 20,000 people, a rise in the percentage of irrigated areas by 150 per cent, a 90 per cent reduction in indebtedness, 80 per cent decrease in distress migration and 100 per cent increase in income. It works in partnership with 122 CBOs on a million acres of land across 72 districts in 12 states.

Dr. Shah has been actively involved in "Narmada Bacho Andolan" and issues of "Right to food". He was part of a team that devised a detailed blueprint for technical redesign of the Narmada Project, which would enable the resolution of the drinking water crisis of Gujarat, while simultaneously reducing submergence caused by the dams by over 60%. He assisted Baba Amte in preparing studies on Narmada Project "Cry, the Beloved

Narmada" (1989) and "The Case Against the Narmada Project and the Alternative Perspective" (1990). In 2007 he co-founded the National Consortium of Civil Society Organisations that works to support Panchayat Raj institutions for more effective implementation of NREGA.

He has held important positions like Member, Governing Body, Andhra Pradesh Society for Social Audit and Transparency, Member, Central Employment Guarantee Council, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India (2009), Adviser to National Commissioner, Supreme Court of India in the Right to Food case (2002-2009). Honorary Adviser, Technical Committee on Watershed Programmes in India in the Parthasarathy Committee. Chairperson, Sub-Group on Review of Existing Strategies for Development of Rainfed Areas for XIth Five Year Plan, Planning Commission, Member, Project Steering Committee, UNDP-GEF Project, Forest Department, Government of Madhya Pradesh. He was also part of the Hameed Committee set up to suggest a completely new structure for CAPART. He has worked as faculty at Baba Amte Centre for People's Empowerment (1998-2009), one of only 7 national centres for training in Watershed Development, recognized by the CAPART.

He has written over 100 articles important publications like Economic and Political Weekly. He has co authored many important articles along with P.S. Vijay Shankar titled like "Watershed Reforms in India", "New Development Paradigms and Challenges for Western and Central India" and "Land Reforms in Madhya Pradesh: Redefining the Agenda" in 2002. "Land Reforms in India: Issues of Equity in Rural Madhya Pradesh". Dr. Shah has co-authored a study report for the UNDP on India's Drylands in 1998. The study brings out the macro-economic significance of watershed programmes for food security and employment guarantee in India. Authored NABARD study "Agrarian Structure and Modernization of Indian Agriculture: A study in Inter-regional variations" (1986). He was largely responsible for drafting its landmark report that argues for radical reforms in India's watershed sector, as honorary adviser to the Technical Committee on Watershed Programmes set up by the Government of India in 2006.

He has received many awards like Social Entrepreneurship Award of American India Foundation, New York, Doreen Mashler Award of International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) for Outstanding Contribution to Integrated Watershed Management for Sustainable Development, Ashok Gondhia Manav Sewa Puraskar of Young Men's Gandhian Association, Gujarat and Diwaliben Mohanlal Mehta Award for Outstanding Social Service presented by former President of India.

Mihir Shah is currently Secretary of Samaj Pragati Sahayog and a member of the National Executive of the Ministry of Rural Development. He draws inspiration from the life and work of Baba Amte. Since 1990, he is actively engaged in formulating a concrete and comprehensive vision for an alternative Indian model of equitable and sustainable growth. ■

Books

Book Summary

Name: **To the Hands of the Poor—Water and Trees**

Authors: **Robert Chambers, N C Saxena and Tushaar Shah**

Publisher: **Oxford & IBH Publishing Co. Pvt. Ltd**

'To the Hands of the Poor—Water and Trees' is extremely well written book with excellent abstracts at the beginning of each section which suggests that if we cannot change the political economy confronting the rural poor, we should at least seek policies which have the potential of doing the best possible for the poor within the circumstances. India has the greatest concentration of rural poverty of any country in the world. Besides income, poor people's evident priorities can be expressed as survival based on stable subsistence; security based on assets and rights; and self-respect seem to have risen in importance. Lift irrigation and trees fit the livelihood priorities of the poor. Professionals have undervalued the potentials of lift irrigation and trees for the poor. In this book the authors ask how it can be the poorer who benefit and gain more from their exploitation.

In the normal course of events, it is mainly those with more wealth and power who are able to gain access to and appropriate the benefits from lift irrigation and trees. In this context the authors raised an important question that whether these trends can be reversed so that the poor will in future gains more. They also identified some of the factors that curtail people's access to Lift Irrigation potential such as high capital investments to establish lift irrigation systems, risks of capital loss from well failure and large overheads etc. These constraints suggest group organization to improve poor people's access to Lift Irrigation water. The book also reviews the performance of various kinds of existing groups and found some factors responsible for the success of some of these groups such as dependable and adequate water supply, size of group and leadership. The authors also argue that markets, unlike groups, can be strongly and quickly influenced by a

few public policy instruments with enormously wider impacts. However policies vary in speed and scale of application: power tariff policies have quick and wide impacts; power supply management is slower and more localised; and other policy mixes need tailoring of local conditions. Actions should assure early and large gains for the poorer while gathering experience for wider use of localised policies.

Apart from suggesting the measures required to bring water resources to the hands of poor, the authors also discussed the traditional dependency of people upon forests and revenue lands for the collection of livelihood goods. Their access, consumption and income have been affected by deforestation. Those who gather minor forest products (MFPs) from forests receive extremely low prices because of monopoly controls and exploitation, whether of contractors or of government following nationalisation. To realise the vast potential of forests and village lands to support the livelihoods of the poor, the authors suggest, requires putting their priorities first, pointing away from single products like timber and poles, and towards a diversity of labour-intensive products, with open competition between public and private buyers and good market information. The book argues for a new policy with respect to trees where poor people's priorities are put first with special provision for the interests, needs and entitlements of women.

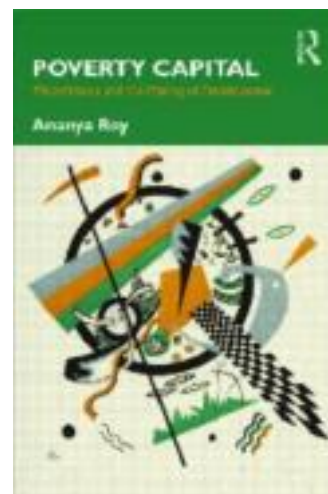
The book suggests various measures that can be taken up to bring the water and trees to the hands of poor and it clearly states that the requirements for the success of these measures are clearly established rights, massive information campaigns about those rights and organization. The authors conclude the book with a hope that the book will support those people who are already working, with conviction and courage, to put the priorities of last in first and encourage many others to join them. 'To the Hands of the Poor—Water and Trees' is a must read for the people who seek sustainable solutions to rural poverty. ■

New Books

Name: **Poverty Capital**

Publisher: **Routledge**

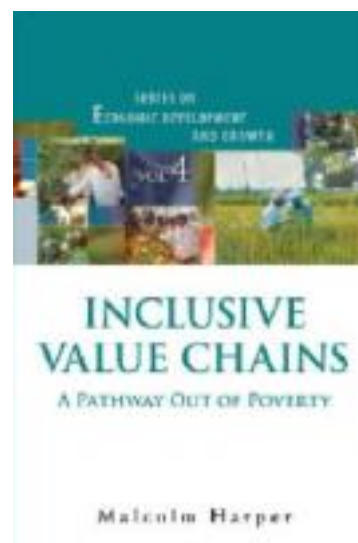
Author: **Ananya Roy**



Name: **Inclusive Value Chains**

Publisher: **World Scientific Publishing Company**

Author: **Malcolm Harper**



Websites Related to Watersheds Information

www.watershed.nic.in

Desert Development Program (DDP), Drought Prone Area Development Program (DPAP) and Integrated Watershed Development Program (IWDP) are the major programs that are implemented by the Department of Land Resources, Government of India with an aim to develop dry land areas through watershed development activities. The information related to these programs can be accessed at this website.

www.indiawaterportal.org

Government, industries, citizens all are responsible to look after not polluting water resources. Each and every action will show impact on resources. We can see water conservation photos and videos in this website. Water related case studies, news, interviews can be read. Detailed analysis of water related policies also can be found. Information is also available about the issues related to rain water harvesting, agriculture, watershed, water quality, rivers etc. This site also features information related to the courses on water management.

www.wassan.org

Watershed Support Services Network (WASSAN) is a premier organization in Andhra Pradesh exclusively working on Natural Resource Management. The website of this organization is a bundle of lots of information regarding watersheds and other natural resources. The website features various reports and other resource material related to the issues of watersheds, land resources, livestock and gender etc. It also gives a link to another website www.rainfedfarming.org where information related to dry land areas such as crops, technology, study reports, research papers are available.

www.dscindia.org

Development Support Centre (DSC) is an Ahmedabad based organization which aims to provide knowledge based support to people-centred natural resource development. This organization conducts research programs in many areas such as watershed, participatory irrigation management (PIM) etc. The research papers of DSC and other associates of the organization are available in this website.

www.dolr.nic.in

This website of Department of Land Resources, Government of India features the major schemes implemented by the department and also the Acts and Rules that are relevant to land resource management. This department is started as National Wasteland Development Board in the Ministry of Environment and Forests in the year 1985, later became as Department of Wasteland Development in Ministry of Rural Development in 1992 and then renamed as Department of Land Resources in 1999. The vision of the Department of Land Resources is to have sustainable development of land resources in the rainfed/ degradable areas of rural India to enhance their productivity. ■

Contributions Solicited

If you would like to contribute an article or have something interesting to share, email or mail it to us. If it contains pictures or files please remember to attach them to the email. Please include your name, email, contact information such as phone number, location (nation) and area of expertise. If your article is accepted an editor will prepare the article for publication and may edit it for accuracy, grammar, style, and length.

Please include "livelihoods Contribution" in the subject line.

Email address is akshara@aksharakriti.org

Mailing address is: HIG-II Block 25 Flat 6, APHB Colony, Baghlingampally, HYDERABAD, India 500 044.

Making A Difference

Many people want to help others. But there is always a doubt that the number of people that require help are so much and our efforts are not enough to help them all. Its really true. But one should not forget Hellen Keller's words - 'I am only one but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something, I will not refuse to do something I can do. So let each one of us keep making a difference.



Once upon a time there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his journal writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.

One day he was walking along the shore. As he looked down the beach, he saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself to think of someone who would dance to the day. So he began to walk faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he saw that it was a young man and the young man wasn't dancing, but instead he was reaching down to the shore, picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean.

As he got closer he called out, "Good morning! What are you doing?"

The young man paused, looked up and replied, "Throwing starfish in the ocean."

"I guess I should have asked, why are you throwing starfish in the ocean?"

"The sun is up, and the tide is going out. And if I don't throw them in they'll die."

"But, young man, don't you realize that there are miles and miles of beach, and starfish all along it. You can't possibly make a difference!"

The young man listened politely. Then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea, past the breaking waves and said, "It made a difference for that one."

There is something very special in each and every one of us. We have all been gifted with the ability to make a difference. And if we can become aware of that gift, we gain through the strength of our visions the power to shape the future. We must each find our starfish. And if we throw our stars wisely and well, the world will be blessed. ■

Social Services Expenditure by Government

(Central and State Governments combined) (Rs. Crores)				
ITEMS	2006-07 Actual	2007-08 Actual	2008-09 (RE)	2009-10 (BE)
Total Expenditure	11,09,174	12,95,903	16,59,109	18,70,955
Expenditure on Social Services of which:	2,39,340	2,88,500	3,98,828	4,45,751
I. Education	1,14,744	1,27,547	1,67,981	1,98,842
II. Health	52,126	60,869	76,489	89,314
III. Others	72,470	1,00,084	1,54,358	1,57,595
Total Expenditure	25.89	26.19	29.76	30.35
Expenditure on Social Services of which:	5.59	5.83	7.15	7.23
I. Education	2.68	2.58	3.01	3.23
II. Health	1.22	1.23	1.37	1.45
III. Others	1.69	2.02	2.77	2.56
Expenditure on Social Services of which:	21.6	22.3	24	23.8
I. Education	10.3	9.8	10.1	10.6
II. Health	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.8
III. Others	6.5	7.7	9.3	8.4
As percent of social services expenditure				
I. Education	47.9	44.2	42.1	44.6
II. Health	21.8	21.1	19.2	20
III. Others	30.3	34.7	38.7	35.4
Source: RBI as obtained from Budget Documents of Union and State Governments. BE: budget estimates; RE: revised estimates.				

Multiple Income Sources Help!

Chandrasekhar, Sitamma and their daughter Vasantha used to live at Kosgi village, Adoni mandal, Kurnool district. Except for an old house they didn't have any other assets. They eked livelihood by making mud piggy banks and selling them in the village as well as in the neighbouring villages. Income from this work was not sufficient to meet the family expenditure, so Chandrasekhar also worked as a labourer. The mud piggy bank business declined day by day, he was not able to earn even Rs 100/- a week. Getting labour work continuously was also tough making it difficult to have even bare minimum food to eat.

Few of Sitamma's relatives live in Hyderabad. They advised them to migrate to the city and continue their piggy bank business there. Following their advise the family came sold their house for 3000/- and borrowed another 5000/- from their friends and came to live in Amberpet area of Hyderabad city. In Amberpet they built a small hut and also put their daughter to a near by school and started enquiring about raw materials like mud, colours etc required to start piggy bank business and found them.

Chandrasekhar and Sithamma both started making mud piggy banks of varying sizes and shapes. They were able to make approximately 5000 piggy banks from a tractor of mud. Chandrasekhar sold them in the streets of the city on a push cart. At Hyderabad they were able to sell big piggy bank at 10/-, medium sized piggy bank is at 7/- and the

small sized one is at 5/-. At the end of the day they were able to earn Rs. 200/- per day. Their life continued like this for a while. Their daughter discontinued her studies after studying till eighth standard as she was not interested in studying further and joined her parents in making and selling piggy banks.

As they had an extra hand now they were able to make more piggy banks and increase their business. With the additional income they were able to repay the loan and have a decent life.

Though there was potential to make more piggy banks they didn't have place to store them. It was even more difficult to protect them during the rainy season. In rainy months their income was very low and they had to again struggle for enough food to eat. They thought of diversifying business and with a small investment started a cloth business. They were able to earn an income of Rs. 40 to 50 per day. This added to their income and they were also able to save some money.

Now Chandrasekhar's family has been able to build a house and also buy minimum household requirements. They have also got their daughter married with fifteen thousand rupees dowry. Migrating to city and diversifying sources of income has helped Chandrasekhar and his family to come out of poverty and lead a better life. ■

Lack of Feasibility Analysis Hurts!

Damoder Reddy belongs to Ramanaiahgaripalli, Pakala mandal, Chittoor district of Andhra Pradesh where he lives with his wife and two daughters. He lost his parents in his childhood and therefore couldn't get education. Damoder had one and half acre of irrigated land and more than 30 sheep and goats. In a small patch of land he cultivated vegetables also. His wife was helpful in farming and the children were studying a primary school at Pakala. The income from farming and sheep rearing was sufficient to meet household expenses and the education of the children.

There was only one kirana shop in the village. So Damoder thought that it would be profitable to start another kirana shop. He shared this idea with his wife and to raise money for investment he sold 6 sheep and 8 goats. He got Rs 20,000/- with which he started kirana shop. Damoder was getting good profit from the shop. Once there was a steady income his wife advised him to give up tiring job of rearing sheep and goats in sun and concentrate on the shop. Heeding to her advise he sold all the sheep and goats and

got Rs.30,000/- . After some time they thought of migrating to Pakala town where their children were studying and do the same kirana shop business. Without rethinking on their idea they sold their land and the house for 5 lakhs and migrated to Pakala. They took a house on rent and started a shop. In town they had tough competition from other neighbouring shops; it was not easy for a new shop to get customers who were used to buying things from old established shops.

In this environment they couldn't sustain for long time. Let alone profit they were not able to even recover the investments made by them. They found it difficult even to maintain the family as they were getting poorer day by day. Unable to pay school fees of their children they had to borrow money from their relatives. With no other means to go now they are selling coffee and tea at the railway station near their house and are struggling to make their ends meet. Failure to access the business potential and hasty decision pushed Damodar reddy and his family into poverty. ■

‘Yoga’kshemam

Inflation is extending to others from food! Budget of the middle class is on the anvil! Rajya Sabha has voted for Women Reservations in Parliament/Legislatures, as International Women's Day completes 100 years. Sri Krishna Committee gets going in its own way.

Apart from Holi (1 March) and International Women's Day (8 March), the month also allowed World Consumer Rights Day (15 March) to go by! World Day of Water (22 March) is reminding us of the action needed on the water front!

Appreciating efforts to mobilize poor into Self-help Groups and their federal institutional architecture and build their capacities, initiatives built on this foundation to reduce poverty and improve livelihoods, and actions for institutionalizing many of these for long-term sustenance of the results - has consumed most of the month. Next two months are also reserved for the same. Tribal, Coastal, Rural, Semi-urban and Urban farm and non-farm livelihoods, Tourism, Poorest of the Poor, elders, collectives, social entrepreneurs and social enterprises, networks and consortiums, and students, continued to dominate our thinking space in this month.

We have stepped up our time and energy inputs in building business plan(s) of 'L-channel' and related activities.

While 'fasting' has become a habit, efforts towards practicing 'silence' and 'thought silence' have become intense. At the same time, a feeble but growing contemplation has set in whether to continue with 'fasting' in the current mode, intensity, periodicity etc.

This month could also succeed in 'keeping' me in reflection. When I signed the Memorandum of Association to formally launch the SIANET, a network of social entrepreneurs (who have been part of Social Impact Programs), it occurred to most of us that there is a need to build a platform of all the development/livelihoods service providers in the country, for solidarity, resource sharing, complementing one another in services, mutual help and learning, standards and code of 'business' and importantly, increasing the support infrastructure/architecture/resources available, building capacities, offering quality control, mentoring the new entrants etc. It will also reduce/avoid some of the existing unhealthy practices of service providers and clients vis-à-vis service providers and vice-versa. This can begin with Hyderabad area initially and grow to reach the entire country with chapters. I hope some of our dear colleagues take this important agenda forward.

My travails and struggle to draw the contours of the third phase of life have not reached anywhere concretely yet. While we know, *the purpose is being useful and giving the world the best we have*. We know that it has to be an offering. May be I need to withdraw for a while and become incommunicado. May be I need to begin the processes of systematic exploration at the earliest. These include visiting development experiments that I could not go so far, talking to friends, guides and 'mentors', traveling and listening to the poor, marginalized and vulnerable across the country, in their corners and domains, listening to the younger generation(s) and older generation (s), tossing

the feasible ideas that have the potential to last with a variety of stakeholders and drawing the contours. Towards this, the reflection continues! This reflection has to pick up momentum and reach a crescendo!

Being a development worker, we cannot escape Gandhi! While on reflection, we cannot escape Gurudev, Rabindranath Tagore!

"... Thou hast made me endless, such is thy pleasure. This frail vessel thou emptiest again and again, and fillest it ever with fresh life. This little flute of a reed thou hast carried over hills and dales, and hast breathed through it melodies eternally new." fresh lease, fresh phase, fresh contours

"... I must launch out my boat. ... I can see nothing before me. I wonder where lies ... path! Let me not force ... a poor preparation ... Freedom is all I want, but to hope for it I feel ashamed"

"... where knowledge is free Give me the strength to make my love fruitful in service ...

"... I give back the keys of my door--and I give up all claims to my house. I only ask for last kind words from you. ask not what I have with me to take there. I start on my journey with empty hands and expectant heart. ... and if the end comes here, let it come --let this be my parting word...."

G Muralidhar

Being useful at large means – respond to the indent, choose the most useful when there is a conflict in indents, listen deeply, inside you and through you to the universe, to find how to be useful, useful at large. Be useful. Do useful. Talk useful. Yes, think useful. Nothing else.

In the confluence of the souls, and through the gentle flows of universe, **colourful holi raas of immortal Raadha with her Krishna** reinforces the need to surrender your instrument with love to your innermost for good, better still be its instrument, so that you play to its tunes – be ready forever – to be lost in the raas, in the ecstatic thrill of its touch beyond touch. It will ensure you scale *aananda raas*.

Can we be there? **Yes, if we pursue Atma Yoga**. The focus is on being fully ready and involved, forever. This would mean being a flow, flowing with the natural flows of the universe, as universe prods you to flow, together completing the spiritual whole, *aanandaraasayoga*. That is Atma Yoga - Atma Yogi in relentless pursuit of *aanandaraasayogaamritam*!

Krishna confirms – if our mind is filled with universe, if we pursue what universe wants and nothing else, if we bow down to universe and thinking of universe forever, if we take universe itself as the supreme goal, universe conspires to take us into it. Any which way you pursue, universe responds in the same way. Guaranteed! If pursue readiness and nothing else, universe will take charge, build capacity and grant flow with its free and natural flows.

Join us in the world of yoga – yoga of being ready and useful in all dimensions of our being as it guides and innermost *aanandaraasayogamritasiddhi* in every second of life. You will not regret it. ■

International Women's Day

