

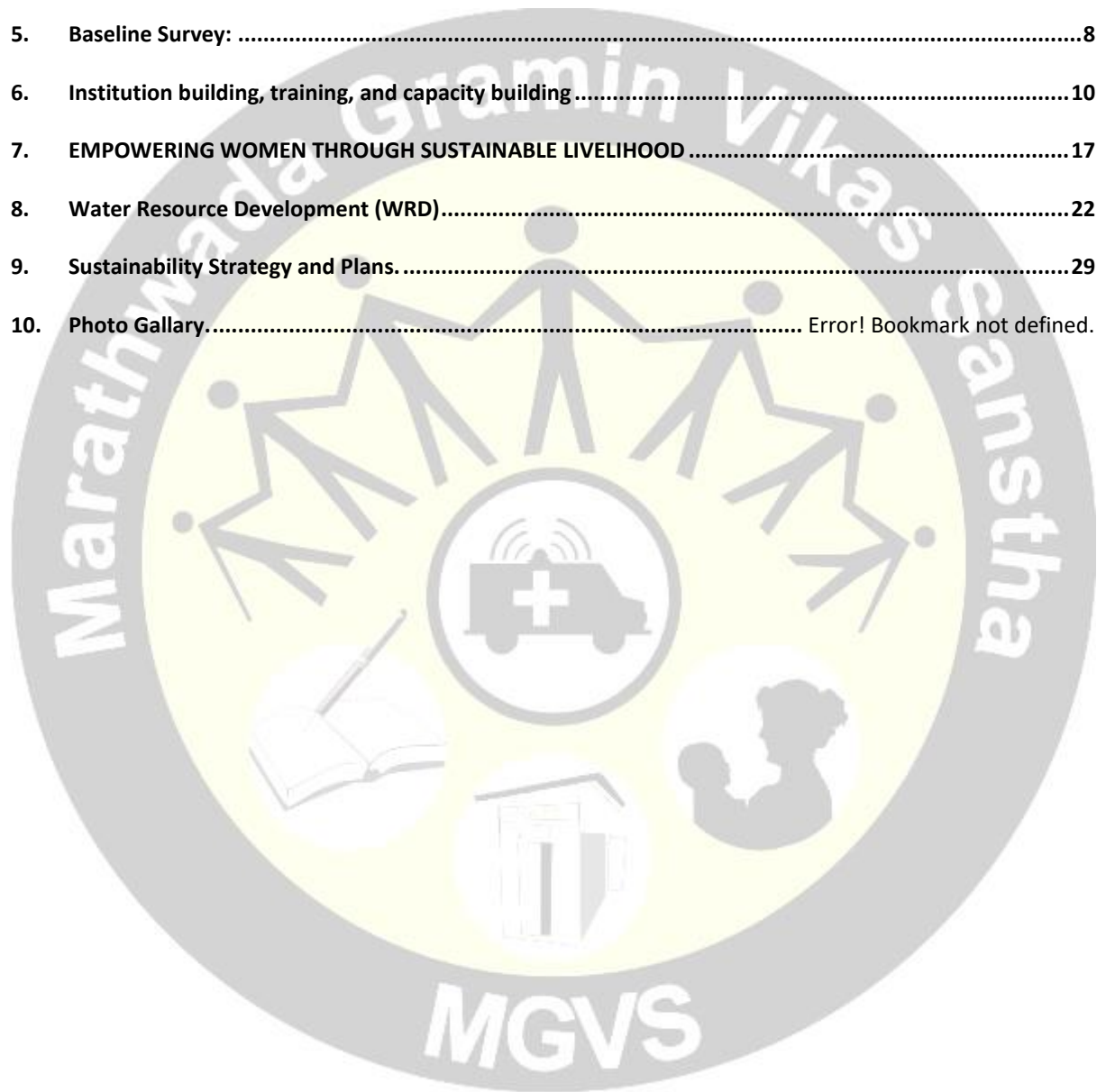


**Integrated Watershed Development Project (IWDP)
Project Area: Babhultel, Nayghavan & Mahankalwadgaon of
Ahmednagar & Chh. Sambhajinagar Dist.**

(15th May 2021 – 30th Sept 2023)

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Abbreviations

Cum	Cubic meter
Ft	Feet
HH	Household
IWSM	Integrated Watershed Management
PTD	Percolation Tank Desilting
WRD	Water Resource Development
WC	Watershed Committees
WDF	Watershed Development fund
WDC	Women's Development Committee
NWD	Nala Deepening and Widening
Lt	Liter
Mt	Meter
CBO	Community Based Organization
UG	User Group
GP	Gram Panchayat
VD	Village Development Committee
WUG	Water User Group

1. INTRODUCTION OF PROJECT

Project Title: Integrated Watershed Development Program for farmers in Babhultel and Nayghawan village, Vaijapur block, Chh. Sambhajnagar District & Mahankalwadgaon Village of Shrirampur Block Ahmednagar Dist. Maharashtra

Implementing By: Marathwada Gramin Vikas Sanstha (MGVS), Chh. Sambhajnagar

Location of the Project: Babhultel and Nayghawan Village, Vaijapur block, Chh. Sambhajnagar District & Mahankalwadgaon Village of Shrirampur Block Ahmednagar Dist. Maharashtra

Beneficiaries: Men, women & children at Vaijapur Block Dist: Chh. Sambhajnagar and Shrirampur Block of Ahmednagar Dist.

Reporting Period of the Month: 15 May 2021 – 30 Sept 2023

Introduction of Marathwada Gramin Vikas Sanstha:

Marathwada Gramin Vikas Sanstha (MGVS) is a Non-Governmental Organization Registered under the Public Trust and Society Registration Act. It is also registered under FCRA Act and also having 12A, and 80 G certificates. MGVS is working in the outskirts of Aurangabad, Nasik, Ahmednagar and Jalna districts of Maharashtra State since year 1995-96 for the down trodden and affected area. Health, water & sanitation, water conservation, women empowerment are the key thrust areas. Organization has also implemented Bajaj Water Conservation Project under phase I in five villages of Vaijapur block.

2. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Background:

Maharashtra has grappled with a severe climatic crisis, notably in 2019, combating both drought and floods. The changing climate patterns and erratic rainfall have particularly impacted the farming communities, with Marathwada, a region in Maharashtra, being one of the hardest-hit areas. Marathwada, part of the Aurangabad division, has been struggling with drought conditions since 2015. Apart from the Godavari River, there are no major rivers in the region.

Government data reveals a significant rainfall deficiency in Marathwada, with only 534.6 mm recorded between June and September last year, compared to the normal 682.9 mm. This resulted in a rainfall deficit of 22%, with 30-50% deficiencies observed in 40 out of the 76 taluks.

Due to inadequate rainfall and a lack of water harvesting structures, the region heavily relies on groundwater, leading to a substantial drop in the water table. In October 2017 alone, the groundwater level in 1200 villages fell by 2-3 meters, and 1,948 villages experienced a depletion of 1-2 meters. This over-reliance on groundwater, coupled with deficient rainfall, has impacted soil health and agricultural yields adversely.

While 2019 provided some relief, projections indicated that the region would face renewed water crises beginning December 2020 to January 2021 due to the unavailability of water-saving mechanisms. Given the changing climatic conditions and population growth, there was an urgent need to implement sustainable solutions for water conservation and harvesting.

In response to this pressing need, Marathwada Gramin Vikas Sanstha initiated Integrated Watershed Development Program in Babhultel and Nayghawan in May 2021 and extended the same to Mahankalwadgaon in March 2023, with the overarching objective of increasing groundwater levels and capacity through the adoption of sustainable practices.

Babhultel and Nayghawan villages, situated around 39-40 kilometers from Vaijapur and 65-70 kilometers from Chh. Sambhajinagar, face water scarcity issues, particularly in the summer. Both villages rely on tanker trucks or external sources for drinking water, and the supply is irregular. Women in these villages often have to walk significant distances to fetch drinking water, and during the summer, the entire community faces a significant water shortage.

Babhultel, with a population of around 2417 people and 442 houses, and Nayghawan, with about 396 people and 94 houses, have struggled with inadequate water access for an extended period. Mahankalwadgaon, comprises 2283 people and 505 houses. These villages predominantly rely on rain-fed farming, focusing mainly on kharif crops.

Recognizing the urgent need for sustainable water management, Marathwada Gramin Vikas Sanstha's initiatives aimed to address water conservation and harvesting challenges in these villages. The integrated model focused on mitigating water scarcity, enhancing agricultural resilience, and improving overall community well-being in Babhultel, Nayghawan, and Mahankalwadgaon.

Project Goal: To ensure holistic development of communities through Water Conservation Program.

Project Objectives:

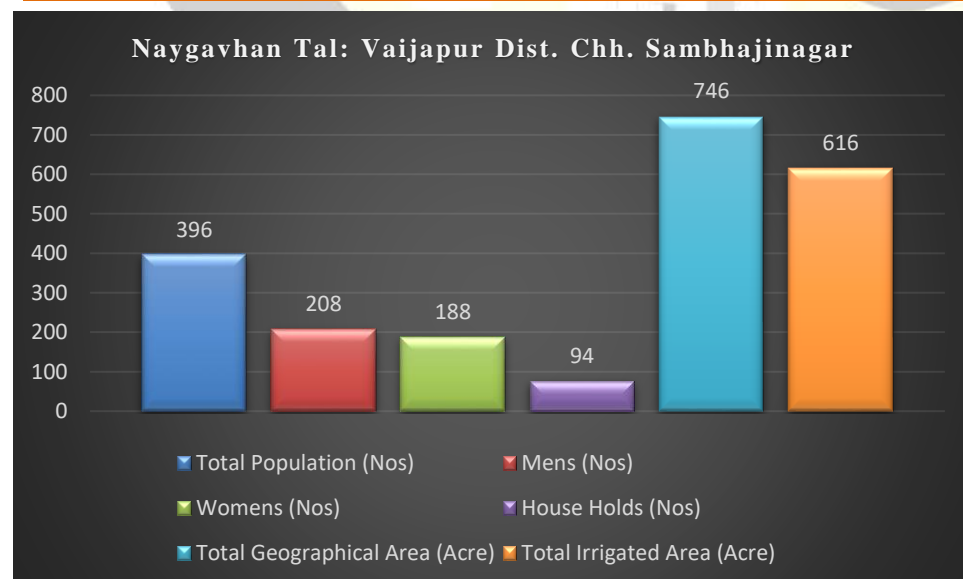
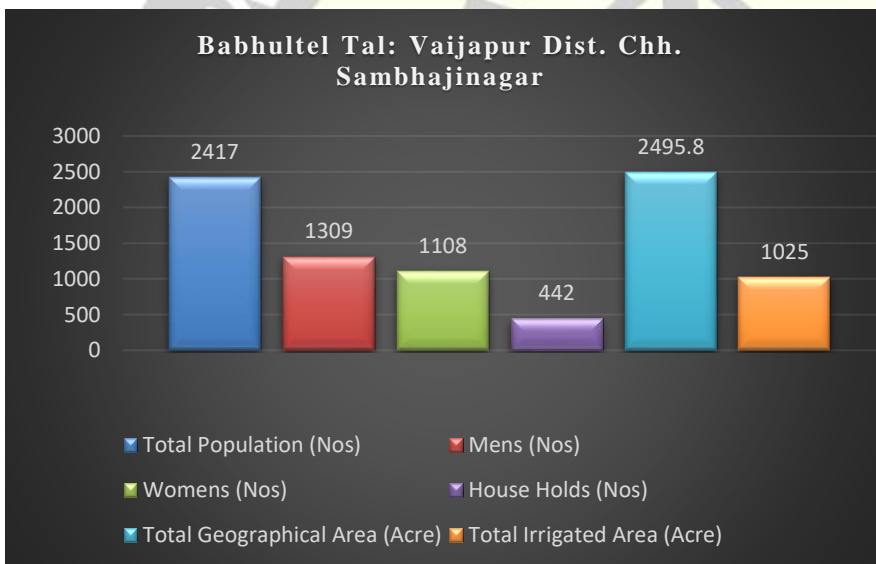
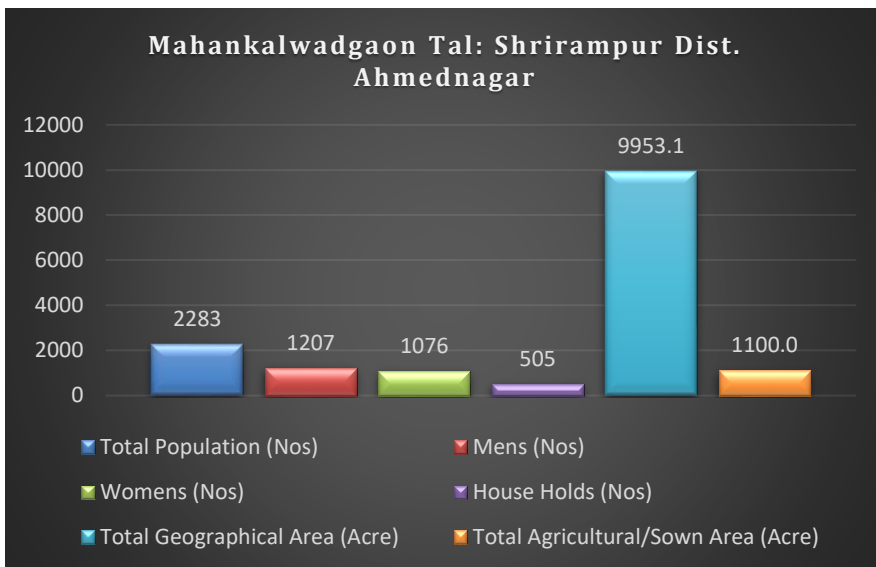
- To develop relevant infrastructure development for watershed development
- To develop capacities of the communities to manage water
- To increase access of water for agricultural, drinking purpose & daily use

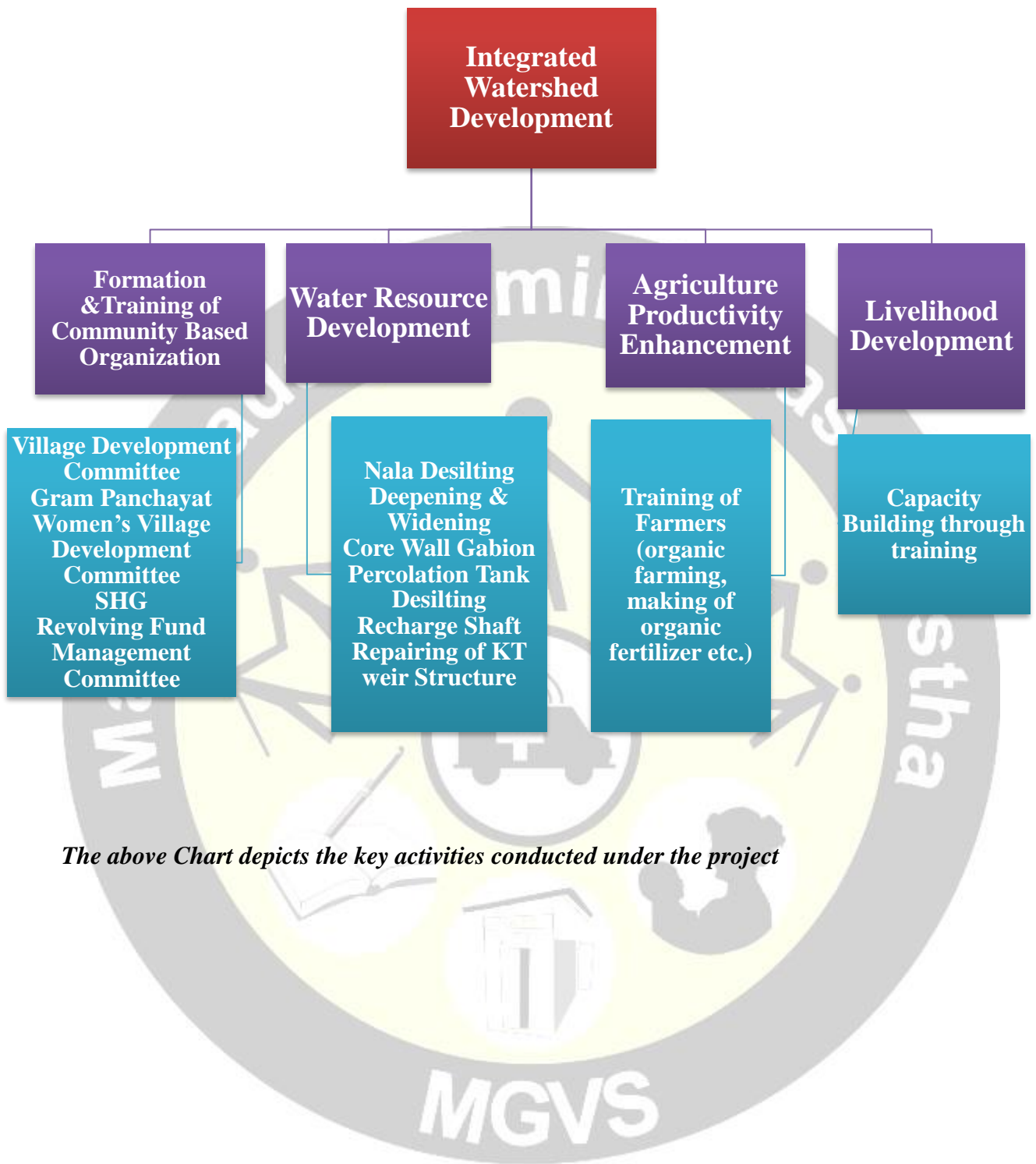
Geographic Coverage:

Babhultel & Nayghavan village, Vaijapur block, Aurangabad District & Mahankalwadgaon, Shrirampur Block Ahmednagar Dist., Maharashtra



3. DEMOGRAPHY OF PROJECT AREA





The above Chart depicts the key activities conducted under the project

5. BASELINE SURVEY:

The baseline survey played a crucial role in gathering essential information for planning and implementation of the project. This included information about the population in the project area, such as age distribution, gender, ethnicity, education status and other relevant demographic factors. Understanding the demographic makeup helped in tailoring project interventions to specific needs. The survey helped us in assessing the economic status of the community, including income levels, employment patterns, and overall economic well-being. It helped in identifying vulnerable groups and designing interventions that address socio-economic challenges. It also facilitated an understanding of the landownership and land use patterns which is essential for projects related to integrated watershed development projects as it helps in designing interventions that consider the local land context. The survey further helped to understand access to basic resources like water & source of drinking water. Further the survey also helped in tailoring the livelihood intervention implemented under this project. The baseline survey served as a foundation for a well-informed and targeted project implementation.

House Hold Survey

Household survey was conducted in intervention villages and the findings are represented in the table below.

Village Name	Total HH in Village	Total HH Covered	% of House Hold Covered
Babhultel	442	369	83.48%
Nayghavan	94	84	89.36%
Total Form	536	453	84.51%

84.51% of households have been surveyed and recorded. The remaining 15.49% could not be surveyed as it comprises of migrants who have left the village for work. Additionally, there are cases of combined families, which are not counted as separate households.



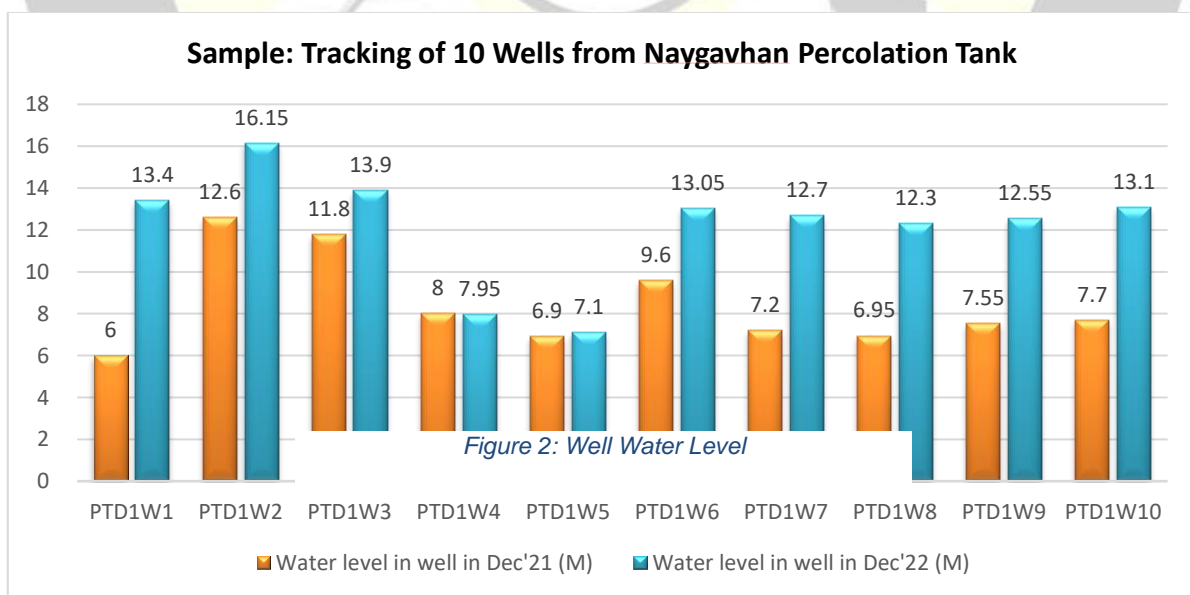
Figure 1: Household Survey in Bahultel & Nayghavan

Well Inventory

In the project area, a decline in the groundwater level was noted. To address this issue, a monthly monitoring initiative was launched in Babhultel and Naygavhan villages. This activity focused on monthly tracking of groundwater levels of 14 wells in Babhultel and 10 wells in Naygavhan, all located within a 1-2 KM radius of existing water sources. During this tracking of ground water in well, a drastic change has been recorded in ground water table. Below is the graph of the tracked wells.



Sr No	Name of Village's	Name of Site Jan 2023	Total No of Wells Identified
1	Babultel	NDW 1	5
2		NDW 2	4
3		NDW 3	3
4		NDW 4	3
5		NDW 5	3
6	Naygavhan	Percolation Tank Desilting 1	10
	Total		28



Well Inventory Data of 10 wells near Naygavhan PTD

Ground water level of these 10 wells on percolation tank were tracked monthly and after completion of desilting of percolation tank in May 2022 an increase in ground water level by 5-6 meters on an average was observed.

6. INSTITUTION BUILDING, TRAINING, AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Establishment of Village Development Committee (VDC) & Women's Village Development Committee (WVDC).

Village Development Committees (VDC), Women's VDC, and Water User Groups (WUG) were a part of the project's strategy to strengthen social participation. Through these institutions the project aimed to leverage local knowledge, empower women, and promote sustainable development from the grassroots level. It was expected that this exercise would help to develop a sense of ownership among the community and assure their participation in the decision-making processes, contributing to the overall success and sustainability of the project.

Village Development Committee (VDC):

- **Formation:** The Gram Sabha passed a resolution for the formation of the VDC.
- **Leadership:** The VDC elected a president and a vice-president/secretary from among its members.
- **Membership:** The committee comprises 12-17 members from diverse sectors and backgrounds, ensuring representation across various aspects of the community.

Women's Village Development Committee (WVDC):

- **Formation:** Women's VDCs were formed in specific villages, such as Babhultel & Nayghavan, with 10-12 members each.
- **Training:** The project team provided training to WVDC members on various development-related topics. This capacity-building initiative enhanced their ability to contribute effectively to community development.

Meetings and Discussions:

Meeting Arrangements: Meetings were organized for the Women's VDC in Babhultel village.

Discussions covered a range of topics, including livelihood, women's empowerment, and capacity building.

Project Implementation:

- **Training:** The project team trained WVDC members, indicating a commitment to skill development and knowledge transfer.
- **Inclusivity:** The VDC and WVDC structures ensure representation and active involvement of community members in project planning and execution.

Topics of Discussion:

- **Livelihood:** Addressing issues related to income generation and economic activities.
- **Women's Empowerment:** Focusing on initiatives to empower women in various aspects of their lives.
- **Capacity Building:** Enhancing the skills and knowledge of community members for more effective participation in development initiatives.

Community Involvement:

- **Participatory Approach:** The formation of these committees reflects a commitment to a participatory approach in the development process.
- **Local Representation:** Involving members from different sectors and backgrounds ensured a comprehensive understanding of community needs.

Name of Village	Committee Name	Number of VDC Members
Babhultel	Womens Village Development Committee, Babhultel	10
	Village Development Committee, Babhultel	12
Nayghavan	Village Development Committee, Naygavhan	17
	Womens Village Development Committee, Naygavhan	11
Mahankalwadgaon	Village Development Committee, Mahankalwadgaon	10

Establishment of Water User Group (WUG)

Water User Groups (WUG), referred to as "पाणी वापर गट" in Marathi were formed to oversee and maintain the water resource development work. This capacity building of WUG members is strengthening their ownership of water resource development work. These groups were educated about watershed development work, its necessity, and its significance touching upon sustainable water management, conservation practices, and the broader impact on the community. **6 WUGs have been formed indicating a distributed and localized approach to managing water resources.**

Name of Village	Committee Name
Babhultel	Water User Group NDW 1
	Water User Group NDW 5
	Water User Group NDW 6

Nayghavan	Water User Group PTD
	Water User Group NDW 1
	Water User Group NDW 2
Mahankalwadgaon	Water User Group NDW 1

Establishment of SHG and RFMC

The project identified a need to enhance women's participation in training and meetings conducted by various village institutions and Community-Based Organizations (CBOs). Taking into cognizance the initial low women's participation, the decision was made to form a Women's Community-Based Organization (CBO) to specifically address and increase women's involvement in project activities.

Since Self Help Groups (SHGs) serve as platforms for financial inclusion and economic empowerment among rural communities, especially women eight SHGs were established in Babhultel village, and five SHGs were formed in Nayghavan village.

RFMCs were also simultaneously set up in both Babhultel and Nayghavan villages as they play a crucial role in managing the revolving fund, ensuring its effective use for microloans and income-generating initiatives.

Capacity building of Gram Panchyat (GP), Village Development committee (VDC) & Women's Village Development Committee (WVDC)

Capacity building trainings were an important aspect of the project as it was necessary to provide the institutions with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary for sustainable and effective management of watershed resources.

33 trainings have been conducted in the intervention villages:

Sr.No	Village	Unit of Training
1	Babhultel	15
2	Nayghavan	16
3	Mahankalwadgaon	2
	Total	33

The trainings included the following topics:

- Various aspects of integrated watershed development project.
- Roles and responsibilities of VDC/WVDC and GP members.

- Collection of community contribution
- Information shared about farm pond and sprinkler and fill up application form.
- Technical aspects of nala deepening and widening work, KT weir repairing work and WRD work.
- Babhultel KT Wier no 1 & KT Wier 6 repairing need, maintenance and repair.
- Information disseminated on percolation tank desilting.
- Information shared about farm pond & sprinkler/other irrigative methods
- Collection of community contribution and its importance.
- Livelihood development in Village.
- Vermicompost making
- Amrut Jal making.



Meeting of Gram Panchayat (GP), Village Development committee (VDC), Women's Village Development Committee (WVDC) and Water user Group (WUG)

68 meetings were conducted across the three intervention villages to cover a wide range of issues, from water management and infrastructure development to community empowerment and inclusivity. Regular reviews and planning sessions helped to ensure a proactive approach to addressing the needs and MGVSs of the villagers.

Sr No	Village	Unit of Training	No. Of Members		
			Male	Female	Total
1	Babhultel	47	420	172	592
2	Nayghavan	18	278	79	357
3	Mahankalwadgaon	3	31	5	36
	Total	68	729	256	980

The topics of discussion included:

Topics of Discussion:

- Storing water in the village.
- Formation of VDC for completing work on NDW
- Opening VDC bank account for local contribution.
- No Objection Certificate (NOC) for repairing existing NDW, CNB/KT weir.
- Villager contributions and roles of responsibility for farmers and stakeholders.
- Marathwada Gramin Vikas Sanstha visit.
- Introduction of MGVS Indian Foundation to farmers.
- Providing information about the project.
- Assessment of villagers' issues and site verification.
- Discussion on providing information about Farm Pond and Sprinkler, taking applications from farmers.
- Reviewing progress of ongoing development projects.
- Discussing new development initiatives and prioritizing them.
- Addressing community issues, MGVSs, and grievances.
- Evaluating the performance of different committees and groups.
- Planning for optimal utilization of available resources, including water resources.
- Discussing strategies for women's empowerment and inclusion in decision-making.



Training & Meeting of Self-Help Group (SHG) and Revolving Fund Management Committee (RFMC):

A comprehensive series of 36 training programs were conducted across various villages, aimed at empowering Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and enhancing the capabilities of the Revolving Fund Management Committees (RFMC). The focus was on providing practical knowledge and skills to both male and female SHG members, fostering financial literacy, entrepreneurial spirit, and a holistic approach to community development.

Sr No	Village	Unit of Training	Total SHG Covered	No. Of Members		
				Male	Female	Total
1	Babhultel	19	8	9	191	200
2	Naygavhan	16	5	4	161	165
3	Mahankalwadgaon	1	1	6	9	15
	Total	36	14	19	361	380

Training Topics and Sessions:

✓ **SHG Formation and Functions:**

- Basic training on SHG formation.
- Understanding the characteristics and functions of SHGs, including savings, lending, and loan repayment.
- Linking SHGs to banks for financial inclusivity.

✓ **Record Keeping and Bookkeeping Sessions:**

- In-depth sessions on bookkeeping, covering Meeting Minutes Book, Loan Ledger, Receipts and Payments Statement, Cash Book, General Ledger, Monthly Reports, etc.
- Organized separate sessions based on SHG member demands, utilizing sample sheets formats for practical understanding.

✓ **Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship Skills:**

- Financial literacy sessions to empower SHG members in managing their finances effectively.
- Cultivating entrepreneurship skills to explore and seize modern business opportunities.

✓ **Marketing, Sales Techniques, and Communication Skills:**

- Practical insights into marketing and sales techniques to enhance business ventures.

- Building effective communication skills for better interpersonal relations and business negotiations.
- ✓ **Digital Literacy:**
 - Training sessions on digital literacy to equip SHG members with essential digital skills for modern business operations.
- ✓ **Government Schemes and Benefits:**
 - Informing SHG members about various government schemes and benefits available to them, fostering socio-economic development.
- ✓ **Health, Hygiene Awareness, and Agriculture Practices:**
 - Raising awareness about health and hygiene for the well-being of community members.
 - Providing insights into sustainable agriculture and farming practices.
- ✓ **Leadership, Team Building, and Skill Development:**
 - Developing leadership qualities and team-building skills among SHG members.
 - Emphasizing the importance of skill development for personal and professional growth.

A total of 14 Self-Help Groups actively participated in the 36 training programs. The training sessions engaged 380 members continuously, providing them with a wealth of knowledge and practical skills.

The training and capacity-building initiatives have not only equipped Self-Help Groups and Revolving Fund Management Committees with essential skills but also created a platform for continuous learning and community development.

Exposure Visit

Exposure visits played a pivotal role in fostering sustainable agriculture by enabling farmers to learn from successful examples in similar communities. In alignment with GREEN's mission of promoting sustainable practices, exposure visits were organized to raise awareness about watershed work, organic farming, and the importance of making villages green. The initiative aimed to address the rising use of chemical fertilizers, food security MGVSSs, and declining soil health. Two impactful exposure visits were conducted in Mahankalwadgaon and Osmanabad, providing valuable insights to Village Development Committee (VDC)/Gram Panchayat (GP) members and women's groups.

2 exposure visits were organized namely to Mahankalwadgaon (Shrirampur Taluka) and Osmanabad (Swayam Shiksha Prayog NGO – SSP). 26 VDC/GP members attended the exposure visit to Mahankalwadgaon and 26 women from Babhutel & Naygavhan participated in the exposure visit to SSP.

The following topics were covered during these exposure visits:

- Visit to an organic fertilizer making unit run by a Self-Help Group (SHG) with a corresponding training program.
- Exploration of "Poshan Bag" (Nutrition Garden) and guidance on its correct implementation.
- Visit to water conservation initiatives, emphasizing the importance of community participation.
- Overview of livelihood programs and experience sharing through Q&A sessions.
- Importance of women's leadership in agriculture.

Participants gained a deeper understanding of watershed work, organic farming, and the importance of active community involvement in sustainability initiatives. Farmers were equipped with practical knowledge on organic fertilizer production, nutrition gardening, and water conservation, enhancing their skills for sustainable agriculture.

The exposure visits also emphasized the pivotal role of women in agriculture, fostering leadership skills and encouraging their active participation. The visits further encouraged community members to actively engage in making their villages green, promoting a collective and sustainable approach.

The exchange of information through videos, lectures, and Q&A sessions facilitated meaningful knowledge transfer, ensuring the participants were well-informed.



7. EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

Mobilizing women and formation of women SHG

In the initial days, in the intervention villages of Bhabultel & Nayghavan community meetings struggled to attract the attention of the women, who seemed bound by societal norms and lacked the motivation to step forward.

Recognizing the need for change, MGVS took the initiative to organize a pivotal meetings. The concept of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and Women Village Development Committees was introduced, igniting a spark of inspiration among the women. It was the idea of solidarity, of coming together to pool resources, both financial and emotional, that resonated with them.

The first meeting marked the birth of the 'Ramabai Swayam Sahayya Samuh,' the inaugural SHG that would pave the way for transformation. However, the journey was not without its challenges. Many of these women lacked basic financial literacy skills and the ability to manage savings, loans, and maintain proper financial records.

Undeterred, MGVS continued its support through continuous follow-ups and engagements. Various training programs were introduced to equip these women with the necessary knowledge and skills. From understanding the intricacies of financial management to gaining the confidence to handle savings and loans, the women of 'Ramabai Swayam Sahayya Samuh' underwent a profound transformation.

The success of the first SHG acted as a catalyst for change. The ripple effect was evident as other women witnessed the empowerment and newfound confidence of their peers. Successively, 13 SHGs emerged across the villages of Babhultel and Naygavhan and 1 in Mahankalwadgaon, symbolizing a collective effort towards economic and social upliftment.

As the women embraced the principles of mutual support, financial independence, and community development, the landscape of these villages began to change. The journey from passive observers to active contributors showcased the power of mobilization, education, and the resilience of women in creating a brighter future for themselves and their communities.

Capacity Building of Self-Help Groups (SHG)

Sr No	Village	Unit of Training conducted	Total SHG Covered	No. Of Members		
				Male	Female	Total
1	Babhultel	19	8	9	191	200
2	Naygavhan	16	5	4	161	165
3	Mahankalwadgaon	1	1	6	9	15
	Total	36	14	19	361	380

MGVS conducted extensive capacity-building training sessions for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the villages of Babhultel, Naygavhan & Mahankalwadgaon. A total of 36 impactful sessions covering a diverse range of subjects crucial for the successful operation and growth of SHGs were conducted.

Topics spanned from the fundamentals of SHG operations to exploring business opportunities, enhancing financial literacy, nurturing leadership skills, acquiring digital proficiency, and optimizing farming practices. These sessions were not just about imparting knowledge but were instrumental in fostering a sense of confidence and capability among the participants.

A remarkable 14 SHGs, consisting of 380 dynamic members, reaped the benefits of these training programs. The transformative impact was evident as the SHGs began to function more smoothly, with members showcasing an improved understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

Among the noteworthy initiatives was a comprehensive 3-day livelihood training session held in Babhultel Village. This immersive experience saw the active participation of 150 women, equipping them with valuable skills and knowledge essential for pursuing sustainable livelihoods. The ripple effect of this training reverberated through the community, amplifying the potential for economic growth and self-reliance.

In collaboration with the Reserve Bank of India, a specialized financial literacy training program was conducted in Chh. Sambhajanagar. Thirty-one women from Babhultel and Naygavhan villages actively engaged in this enlightening session, gaining insights into financial management, budgeting, and cultivating a deeper understanding of the banking system. The partnership with a reputable institution added credibility to the training, ensuring that the participants received high-quality, relevant information.

These capacity-building initiatives not only empowered the women directly involved but also contributed to the overall development of the villages. By investing in knowledge and skills, MGVS has sown the seeds of sustainable change, fostering a community where each individual is equipped to contribute meaningfully to their collective progress. The journey continues, as the empowered SHGs stand poised to catalyze positive transformations, not just within themselves but throughout the fabric of Babhultel and Naygavhan

Livelihood Development

During the implementation of the project, apart from water issues and related challenges faced by the women, the need for livelihood development and income generation activities was also recognized. The women reported seasonal unemployment between January to May

as there was no work in the fields, and expressed the desire to utilize this time for activities which would help them to contribute towards the needs of their family and educate their children. Based on the teams' observations and community meetings viable alternative livelihood opportunities were identified. Marathwada Gramin Vikas Sanstha with promoted 3 key livelihood options:

1. Goat Rearing
2. Cattle for dairy Farms
3. Poultry

A	Goatery Unit	10	10 Goatry Units have been given. 2 Goatery units in Naygavhan. 8 Goatery Units were given in Babhultel.
B	Dairy Unit	9	9 Dairy Units have been given. 3 Dairy in Naygavhan. 6 Dairy Units were given in Babhultel.
C	Poultry	1	1 Poultry Units have been given in Naygavhan.

Goatery Unit

10 Self-Help Group (SHG) members have embarked on an empowering journey as they were provided with Goatery units, each comprising four goats. The SHG members were trained and their capacities were built to empower them towards day-to-day management of the goats. This comprehensive care regimen encompasses providing proper nourishment, ensuring a constant supply of water, administering vaccinations, and conducting regular health check-ups to safeguard the well-being of the goats. As the goat herd naturally expands over time, the SHG members, armed with determination and foresight, plan to delve into opportunities for strategic breeding. The foresightedness extends to the financial realm, where the sale of goats—both for meat and breeding purposes—is poised to become a sustainable source of additional income for the SHG members. In the backdrop of rural entrepreneurship, this initiative not only fosters economic independence but also promises a flourishing future for the entire community.

Dairy Unit

9 Self-Help Group (SHG) members were provided with Dairy units, each comprising a single cow. The success of this initiative rested on the collective commitment of the Dairy Unit members, who assumed the responsibility for the day-to-day care and management of their bovine partners. In recognition of the significance of knowledge sharing and skill development, the SHG members are actively engaged in continuous experience-sharing meetings and guidance training on livestock management. These educational sessions not only enhanced their proficiency in handling the cows but also fostered a supportive community dynamic where insights and best practices are exchanged. Beyond the realms of animal husbandry, the project extends its impact to financial empowerment. The SHG members were not only educated on the intricacies of financial management, including meticulous tracking of expenses, income, and savings, but were also encouraged to reinvest a portion of the profits. This strategic approach aims at ensuring the long-term sustainability of the project, creating a cycle of growth and self-sufficiency within the community.



Poultry Unit

1 SHG member was given a poultry unit. The SHG member was assisted in procuring high-quality and disease-free poultry stock sourced from reputable hatcheries or certified suppliers. Deliberate attention was paid to the local climate, market demand, and resource availability, ensuring the selection of an appropriate poultry breed tailored to the specific needs and conditions of the region.



Recognizing the pivotal role of knowledge and skills in ensuring the success of the poultry venture, comprehensive training sessions were planned. These sessions are meticulously designed to cover a spectrum of crucial aspects in poultry farming, ranging from breed selection and housing construction to feeding and nutrition, disease management, and effective marketing



strategies. By imparting this holistic understanding, the SHG member is not only equipped to provide the best care for her poultry but is also empowered to make informed decisions that contribute to the overall success of the venture.

This initiative not only promotes entrepreneurship but also encapsulates a commitment to sustainable and responsible farming practices. As the SHG member embraces this new endeavor, the ripple effect is expected to extend beyond individual prosperity, creating a positive impact on the broader community through enhanced economic stability and self-sufficiency.

The given livestock have been Vaccinated and Tagged.

8. WATER RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (WRD)

Watershed Development was implemented through the 'ridge to valley approach' with the intention of conserving every drop of water starting at the ridge and reducing to a considerable extent both the surface run-off volume and the velocity of the water.

Sr. No.	WRD	No. of structures	Water storage created (CUM)	Water storage in Cr. Litres
1	Recharge Shafts	18	23198.04	2.32
2	Farm Ponds	11	16106.06	1.61
3	Core Wall Gabion	2	3185	0.32
4	Nala desilting, deepening and widening	5	97742.82	9.77
5	KT Wier Repairing	2	20160	2.02
6	Desilting of percolation tank	1	54003.66	5.40
	Total		214396.12	21.43

Recharge Shaft

18 Recharge Shafts were constructed in the identified sites.

Recharge Shaft				
Sr No	Name of Village	Site Name	No of Recharge Shaft	Water Storage Created (TCM)

1	Naygavhan	NDW 1	2	2577.56
2		NDW 2	2	2577.56
3		PTD	4	5155.12
4	Babhultel	NDW 1	3	3866.34
5	Mahankalwadgaon	NDW 1	7	9021.46
	Total		18	23198.04



These Recharge shafts will help to divert water from a stream or river into underground aquifers. Compared to alternative water storage methods such as reservoir construction, Recharge shafts offer a cost-effective solution. They require less land area, have lower maintenance costs, and can be implemented in both rural and urban areas. These 18 recharge shafts will boost water percolation and will help in the faster refilling of bore wells and wells.

Farm pond

8 farm ponds in Naygavhan and 3 in Babhultel have been prepared. Each farm pond contributes significantly by creating additional storage of 16,107 cubic meters, thereby extending irrigation coverage to 42 acres of land. This will have a positive impact on the cultivation of rabi and summer crops in the region.

The selection of beneficiaries for these farm ponds followed a well-defined procedure. The process began with the systematic collection of forms from both Naygavhan and Babhultel villages, ensuring comprehensive coverage. The subsequent door-to-door visits played a crucial role in the selection of beneficiaries, allowing for a firsthand understanding of the local context and needs.

The criteria established for beneficiary selection were multifaceted, reflecting a commitment to social and economic inclusivity. The chosen recipients must be minority landholders, financially backward individuals, and residents of average households. Additionally, a crucial criterion was that the selected beneficiaries should not already have a farm pond in the same field, ensuring equitable distribution of resources.

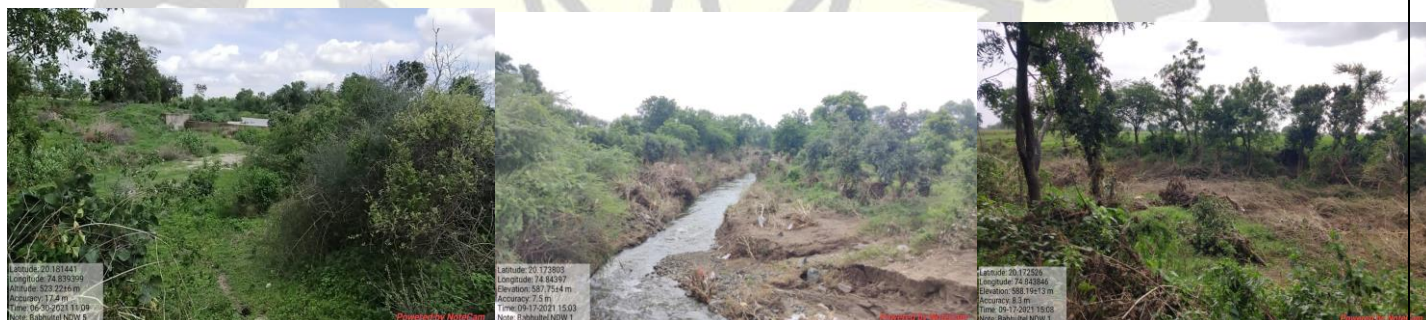
To address disparities, special consideration was given to applicants from SC/ST/VJNT categories, aiming to uplift marginalized communities. Women applicants were also prioritized, aligning with efforts to promote gender equality and empower women in agricultural practices.



Nala Deepening and Widening

Nala desilting, deepening, and widening work has been completed in Mahankalwadgaon, Shirampur Block Dist: Ahmednagar. Around 1100 acres of land have been brought under irrigation paving the way for improved irrigation practices and facilitating the cultivation of both rabi and kharif crops for local farmers. Nala Desilting Deepening and Widening work has been completed in Babhultel and Naygavhan. 3 NDWs in Babhultel and 2 NDWs in Naygavhan have been completed. This work will increase 15.17 Crore liters of Storage and Ground Water Table in both villages. The community has contributed around 10% amount of the total estimate. The guide bunds will help the damage to farms in flood situations. Around 51 nearby wells & bore wells & 1775 acres of land will be directly benefited due to this 6 NDW work.

Sr No	Name of Village	Name of Work	Total Cum	Additional Storage in (Lit)	Length (m)	Avg Width	Avg Depth
1	Naygavhan	NDW 1	6982.20	2,09,46,606.75	300	9.17	2.74
2		NDW 2	7057.14	2,11,71,422.56	260	8.54	3.01
			14039.34				
3	Babhultel	NDW 1	20241.84	6,07,25,529.80	590 m	17.90	3.26
4		NDW 5	12743.75	3,82,31,245.74	340 m	26.94	2.58
5		NDW 6	3565.07	1,06,95,220.00	70 m	28.58	2.10
6	Mahankalwadgaon	PTD 1	47,154.41	4,71,54,410.00	592 m	20.85	4.46
				97,744.41	9,77,44,410.00	1592 m	



Pre Photos of NDW



Post Photos of NDW

Desilting of percolation tank work has been completed in Naygavhan resulting in the creation of an impressive additional water storage capacity of 54,003.66 cubic meters, equivalent to 5.40 crore liters.

This substantial increase in water storage will have a transformative impact on agriculture in the region, bringing about irrigation possibilities for a total of 400 acres of land. The

enhanced water availability will enable local farmers to cultivate both rabi and kharif crops, fostering increased agricultural productivity and contributing to the overall economic well-being of the community.

Deepening and Desilting of Percolation Tank				
Sr No	Name of Village	Site Name	Water Storage Created	Water Storage in (Litres)
1	Naygavhan	PTD 1	54003.66	5,40,03,000
Total	54,003.66	5,40,03,000		



Core Wall Gabion

The New Core Wall Gabion 1 & 2 in Naygavhan has been successfully completed. These gabions, constructed on NDW No. 1 and NDW 2 of the same village, have created additional storage capacity, contributing 3185 cubic meters to the groundwater table, equivalent to 31.85 lakh liters.

Noteworthy is the community's active participation, with a commendable contribution of around 10% of the total project cost. This shared responsibility reflects a collaborative spirit and a collective commitment to the sustainable development of the community.

18-25 wells and 30-35 borewells are expected to be directly benefitted. providing a substantial boost to local water resources. Beyond the immediate impact on water availability, the completion of these gabions is expected to address the drinking water challenges faced by the entire village area.

The transformative effects extend further as the barren land of the village is repurposed through the creation of additional storage. This not only enhances the productive potential of the land but also contributes to the overall ecological and agricultural sustainability of Naygavhan.



KT Wier REPAIRING

KT Wier 1 and KT Wier 6 repairing has been done in Babhutel Village. This will create additional Storage on 20160 CUM in the ground water table. (2.01 Cr lit). Around Community has contributed around 10% amount. It will prevent farm damages in case of more flood due to slowing of water speed. Water way has cleared and guide bund has been compacted and it will prevent nearby farm damage. Around 23 Wells will be directly benefited

KT Wier 1 and KT Wier 6 in Babhutel Village was successfully repaired. These repairs contributed to the creation of additional storage, adding a substantial 20,160 cubic meters to the groundwater table, equivalent to 2.01 crore litres.

The community has made commendable contribution of around 10% of the total project cost. Beyond the quantitative increase in water storage, the repaired weirs play a vital role in flood prevention. By slowing down the speed of water, these structures are instrumental in safeguarding against potential farm damages during periods of excessive flooding. The clearing of waterways and the compaction of guide bunds further enhance the flood control measures, preventing damage to nearby farms.

23 wells are expected to directly benefit from the improved water storage and flood control measures.



Enhancing Agricultural Productivity

Sprinkler Irrigation

40 needy farmers from Babhultel, 40 from Naygavhan, and 10 farmers from Mahankalwadgaon were supported Sprinkler sets. The provision of these Sprinkler sets holds the promise of transforming the way farming is conducted, benefiting a total of 90 farmers. Beneficiary contribution was of around 10% of the total project cost.

Sprinkler Distribution	No of Beneficiary		
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
Babhultel	25	15	40
Naygavhan	25	15	40
Mahankalwadgaon	0	10	10
Total			90

This assistance aims to alleviate the challenges faced by these farmers by saving them time, water, and physical effort in their fields. The introduction of Sprinkler sets not only enhances the efficiency of irrigation practices but also contributes to water conservation, a crucial aspect in sustainable agriculture.

The cumulative effect of this support is anticipated to extend over 300 acres of land, allowing farmers to expand their cultivation and potentially diversify into seasonal crops such as wheat, onions, and more. By enabling the cultivation of a variety of crops, these Sprinkler sets will contribute to the overall economic well-being of the farming community.

In essence, the provision of Sprinkler sets to needy farmers is a tangible step toward enhancing agricultural productivity, promoting water-efficient practices, and ultimately improving the livelihoods of the farming community in Babhultel, Naygavhan, and Mahankalwadgaon.

9. SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY AND PLANS.

The sustainability and longevity of water conservation projects are crucial for ensuring continued benefits for the community. To ensure this continuous capacity building of local institutions was adopted throughout the project period.

The responsibility for the maintenance of water bodies constructed has been assigned to the Village Development Committee (VDC) or Gram Panchayat members. These local governing bodies play a pivotal role in overseeing the upkeep of the water infrastructure, ensuring its functionality, and addressing any issues that may arise.

✓ Handover of Completed Structures:

Water bodies and structures completed under the project have been formally handed over to the Village Development Committee. This transfer of ownership ensures that the local community has direct control over the management and maintenance of these vital resources.

✓ Training of Water User Groups (WUG) and Stakeholders:

Water User Groups and other stakeholders have undergone training sessions focused on maintenance and repair of the structures. This empowerment ensures that the local community is well-equipped to handle routine maintenance tasks, minor repairs, and troubleshooting.

✓ Community Initiatives and Active Participation:

The community has been trained to take the initiative and actively participate in the role of water conservation. This fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, encouraging community members to contribute to the preservation and sustainable use of water resources.

✓ Annual Desilting by Water User Groups:

Water User Groups will take the lead in annual desilting activities. Community contributions will facilitate this annual maintenance, ensuring the continued effectiveness of the water structures.

✓ Community-Based Organization (CBO) Involvement:

Community-Based Organizations have been organized and trained to continue water conservation work in a sustainable manner. These organizations serve as a local driving force, ensuring that conservation efforts are ongoing and responsive to the evolving needs of the community.

OUTCOME/IMPACT

Activity	Outcome	Impact
Well Inventory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ground water table has increased over 5-6 mtrs in average as observed from the well tracking data. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30% (Approx) of land has been brought under irrigation. • Farmers have started taking rabi crops. • The Well recharging time has been increased
Training of GP/VDC/GP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 GP and VDC trainings conducted across the villages. • 50 GP/VDC/WVDC members attended trainings repeatedly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP/VDC members are aware on environmental issues & have collected the required contribution for WRD work, members have now shown interest in maintenance and repair of the structure through local contribution. Also, Livelihood activities has been boosted up in Babhultel and Naygavhan.
Meetings of GP/VDC/WUG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted 68 GP/VDC/WUG meetings in three villages. • 980 GP/VDC members were present for the meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducted 68 GP/VDC/WUG meetings in three villages. • 980 GP/VDC members were present for the meeting • 90 Members were selected and benefitted from sprinkler. • Community issues addressing increased.

		<p>Like women's financial rights inclusion increased.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community issue regarding WRD were solved in the meetings
Training/Meeting of SHG/RFMC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36 training programs has been conducted and 14 SHG's have been participating continuously. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SHG members are involved in livelihood program, they know basics and principles of Self-Help Groups. • 20 women from the SHG group have started the small business such as dairy, goatry and poultry unit.
Exposure Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Got eye opening session on Organic farming and success stories on usage of organic fertilizer. • Saw detailed impact & setup of organic fertilizer • Womens experienced SHG based ventures during the visit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GP/VDC have completed all the WRD work and less on ground conflicts have been created. • Conflicts solving during the WRD work was done by VDC/GP. • Women's have started participating in the SHG/RFMC training/meeting program. • Women started talking about their rights.
Livelihood Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livelihood activities have given women's confidence about generating extra income from the agri based 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 Dairy Unit have been started by the womens. • 10 SHG member have

	activities.	<p>started dairy unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 SHG member have started poultry unit
Water Resource Development Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 Recharge Shafts constructed 23198.04 have been created. • 11 Farm ponds have been completed 16106.04 CUM water storage have been created. • 2 CWGs constructed in Nayghavan & 3185 CUM water storage has been created. • 6 drainage lines were widened and deepened & 97742.82 CUM storage have been created. • 2 KT Wier has been constructed and 20160 CUM water storage has been created. • Desilting of percolation has been completed in Naygavhan and have created 54003.66 CUM water storage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recharge of wells has been boosted because of recharge shafts. • Rabi/Summer crops has been increased over 42 acres of land due to FP. • Cropping pattern has changed to cash crops from rain fed crops.
Sprinkler Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90 farmers have started using micro irrigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Around 300 acres of land has been brought under irrigation. • Due to less rain in the area, Cotton and Maize have been damaged. Due to sprinkler the plants sustained because of Sprinkler irrigation.

10.CASE STUDIES



Transforming Agriculture and Livelihoods: The Story of Ambadas Khose

Ambadas Khose, a marginal farmer from Naygavhan, has experienced a remarkable transformation in his agricultural practices and overall livelihood, through the above project. Prior to 2021, the community in Naygavhan struggled with water scarcity, relying on rain-fed crops like cotton and maize. This limitation had profound implications on both financial and social growth, with restricted cultivation of essential Rabi crops such as wheat and onions.

The unavailability of water resources forced Ambadas and his fellow farmers to depend solely on rain-fed crops, restricting their agricultural productivity and economic growth. The scarcity of water led to the cultivation of only 50-60 acres for Rabi crops like wheat and onions, further constraining the agricultural potential of Naygavhan.

The completion of NDW 1 & 2 and percolation tank desilting significantly increased irrigation in Naygavhan. Ambadas expanded his wheat cultivation to over 100 acres, onions to 300 acres, and introduced sweet lime crops on 30-35 acres.

The shift in cropping patterns resulted in a substantial increase in Ambadas's income. The cultivation of high-value crops like onions and sweet limes created new economic opportunities, breaking the financial constraints imposed by rain-fed agriculture. The improved irrigation not only benefited crop yields but also increased the availability of fodder. This positive change is expected to enhance livestock management, providing an additional source of income for Ambadas and the community.

The transformation in Ambadas's farming practices has contributed to increased economic stability for him and other farmers in Naygavhan. Diversifying crops has improved food security within the community, reducing reliance on a single crop and mitigating the risks associated with climate variability. The introduction of high-value crops and improved livestock management opportunities has diversified livelihoods, making the community more resilient to economic challenges.

Ambadas Khose's journey is a compelling example of how targeted interventions, can bring about a significant positive impact on individual lives and entire communities. The transformation from rain-fed agriculture to diversified, irrigated crops has not only increased income but has also laid the foundation for a more sustainable and prosperous future for Naygavhan. Ambadas's story is emblematic of the potential for positive change when addressing water scarcity and implementing strategic agricultural interventions.



Title: Empowering Agriculture and Overcoming Challenges: The Resilience of Tatyaba Baluba Londhe

Tatyaba Baluba Londhe, a marginal and handicapped farmer from Babhultel, Vaijapur, Dist Aurangabad, has faced and overcome significant challenges in agricultural practices. With 1.5 acres of land, Tatyaba's story is one of determination, resilience, and positive transformation, particularly in adapting to modern irrigation methods.

Tatyaba used traditional surface irrigation methods, which became a challenging task due to electricity issues. The inability to irrigate during the night affected the overall productivity of the farm. Further being handicapped, he faced limitations in working during the night in the Rabi season. This dependency on Kharif crops impacted the overall agricultural output and income.

The turning point in Tatyaba's agricultural journey came with the intervention of modern irrigation techniques, Sprinkler irrigation. This addressed the challenges of surface irrigation and provided a more efficient and accessible method for Tatyaba.

The adoption of sprinklers enabled Tatyaba to diversify his crops, venturing into Rabi crops such as onion and wheat. This diversification significantly expanded his income sources beyond the dependency on Kharif crops. With the ease of using sprinklers, Tatyaba could manage irrigation without being restricted by his handicap. This newfound independence allowed him to work on his farm during the night in the Rabi season.

The introduction of Rabi crops, facilitated by the efficient use of sprinklers, has also contributed to an increased income for Tatyaba. This has not only improved his financial stability but also contributed to the overall livelihood security of his family.

Tatyaba's success story serves as an inspiration within the community, showcasing the transformative potential of modern agricultural practices and their impact on individual lives. The adoption of sprinklers not only addressed practical challenges but also empowered Tatyaba to diversify his crops, increase income, and improve his family's livelihood. Tatyaba's resilience in the face of adversity and his ability to adapt to modern agricultural practices underscore the importance of inclusive and