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ಭಾ. ಕೃ. ಅನು. ಪ.-ಕೆ. ಎಚ್. ಪಾಟೀಲ ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಕೇಂದ್ರ
ICAR-K.H.PATIL KRISHI VIGYAN KENDRA
HULKOTI – 582205



Tq.: Gadag

Karnataka State

Dist.: Gadag

Impact Assessment Report on
“GRAM SAKSHAM PROJECT”
in Mundaragi Taluk, Gadag district, Karnataka State

Supported By

SBI FOUNDATION

Implementing Agency

Sankalpa Rural Development Society

Impact Assessment Report prepared by

**ICAR- K.H Patil Krishi Vigyan Kendra
Hulkoti-582205, Gadag Taluk & District**



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HULKOTI – 582205



Tq.: Gadag

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No.KHPKVK-60/2024-25/

Date: 25-10-2024

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

CERTIFICATE OF IMPACT REPORT

This is to certify that, ICAR-K.H.Patil Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hulkoti, Gadag district has carried out the impact report on "Grama Saksham Project" implemented through Sankalpa Rural Development Society (SRDS) funded by SBI Foundation in 15 villages covering 9 Gram Panchayats in Mundaragi taluk of Gadag district during September, 2024.



S. Mankani

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Senior Scientist & Head (I/c.)

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IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT ON GRAM SAKSHAMPROJECT

Development of Water Bodies for Maximum Storage of Surface Water and Improve Income of Farming Community in Ground Water Exploited Areas of Mundaragi Taluk of Gadag district in Karnataka State under Gram Saksham of SBI Foundation

1) Introduction on brief report of the project

Water and soil, two fundamental natural resources critical to human life, are increasingly threatened by unsustainable usage. The over-reliance on tube wells and bore wells has resulted in the negligence of traditional water storage methods, such as tanks and surface reservoirs. To address this issue, Sankalpa Rural Development Society (SRDS), an NGO committed to water projects in India, has been working diligently since January 2008.

Founded by visionary entrepreneur Mr. Sikandar Meeranaik, an expert in modern rainwater harvesting, SRDS operates under the Karnataka Societies Act of 1960. The organization focuses primarily on promoting rainwater harvesting techniques, including bore well recharging and rooftop rainwater harvesting. Backed by a skilled team specialized in water conservation and sustainable development, SRDS works to spread awareness about rainwater conservation, efficient water management and recycling practices among rural, semi-urban, and urban communities across India.

Through its dedication to sustainable water management and community empowerment, SRDS seeks to tackle the urgent water challenges faced by different regions, ultimately contributing to the well-being and resilience of communities nationwide.

Mundaragi Taluk is facing a severe water crisis due to over-exploitation of groundwater resources. In recent years, groundwater levels have dropped by more than 10-12 meters and as a result, the region has seen a 20% decline in agricultural productivity. The water table in some areas of the taluk has plummeted to depths of over 300 feet, making it increasingly difficult and expensive for farmers to access water.

The reliance on bore wells has soared with over 80% of farmers in Mundaragi taluk now dependent on them for irrigation. This shift has led to the overlooking of traditional

water storage structures like tanks and ponds, which once played a crucial role in water conservation. Of the 54 large tanks that once existed in the taluk, more than 30% are either silted or non-functional, further exacerbating the water scarcity.

This proposal seeks to reverse these trends by focusing on the rejuvenation of surface water storage systems, which can potentially increase water availability for agricultural activities by 25-30%. If properly implemented, these systems could help recharge local aquifers and bring down the rate of groundwater extraction, ensuring a more sustainable water supply.

In Mundaragi, the overuse of groundwater has caused significant declines in crop yields, especially for water-intensive crops such as sugarcane and paddy. Crop failures due to water shortages have resulted in annual financial losses of approximately INR 100 million for the farming community. The long-term environmental impact is equally severe. Studies show that the continuous depletion of groundwater reserves in the taluk could lead to land subsidence, affecting 5-7% of the total area and further degrading the quality of available water due to saltwater intrusion.

To combat these issues, a shift towards sustainable water management practices is crucial. Rainwater harvesting systems, such as bore well recharging could potentially replenish 40-50% of the groundwater that is currently being extracted. Reviving traditional tanks and ponds could store an additional 15-20% of surface runoff during the monsoon season, providing critical water reserves for dry periods.

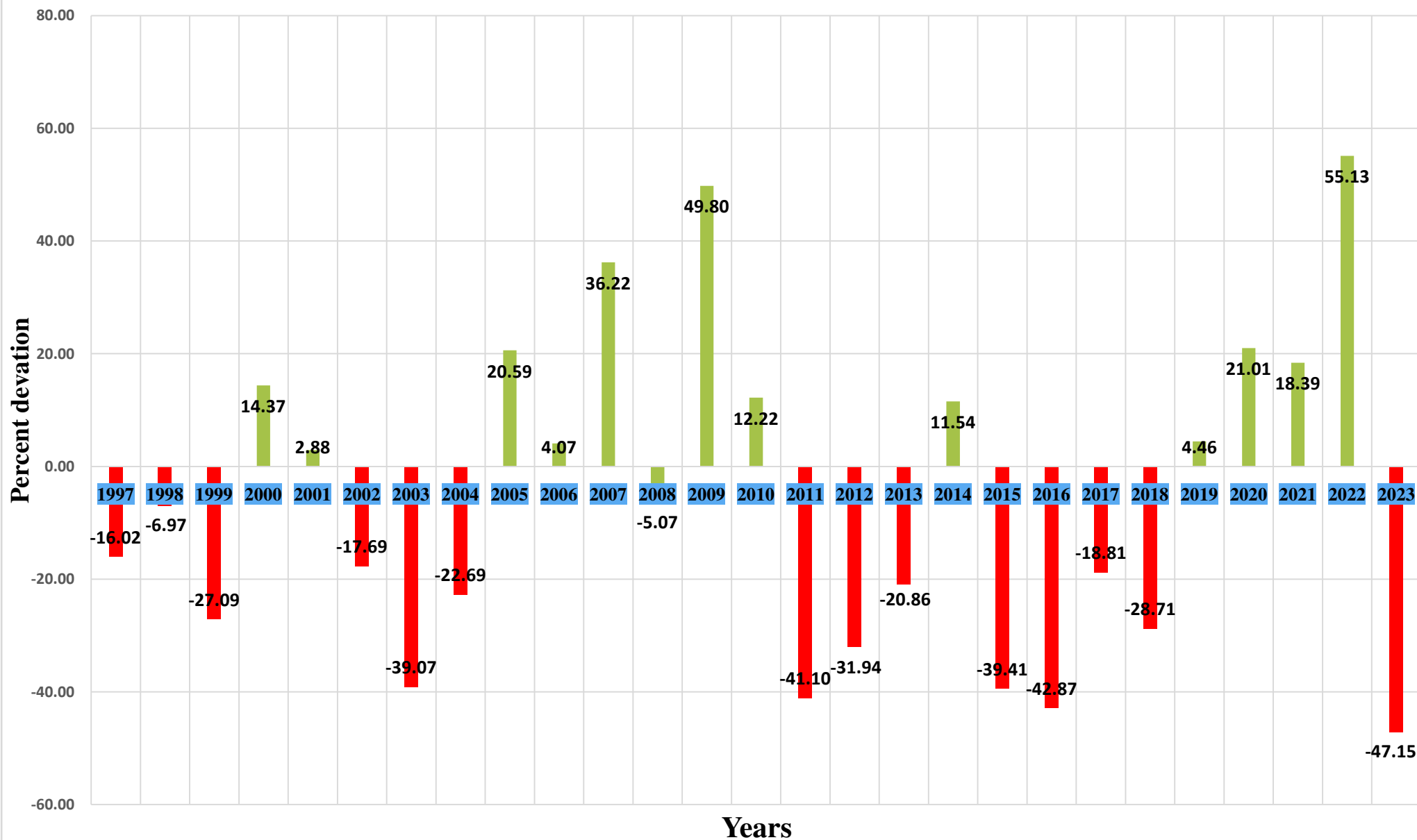
Community engagement is also vital. Educating farmers on efficient irrigation techniques, such as drip and sprinkler systems could reduce water usage by 30-40%. Additionally, introducing policies that incentivize the use of sustainable agricultural practices will ensure that water resources are managed responsibly and equitably.

By adopting these integrated water management strategies, Mundaragi Taluk has the potential to mitigate the negative impacts of groundwater depletion, restore agricultural productivity, and secure the livelihoods of its farming communities for the future.

SBI Gram Saksham project is a unique and vital initiative launched by SBI foundation in collaboration with its implementing partner, the Sankalpa Rural Development Society.

Initially started to individual poor and marginal farmers with individual farm ponds and field bunds for soil and water conservation and rainwater harvesting for enhancing ground water table through Raitha Bandu Scheme, the program has expanded its scope to include the rejuvenation of community ponds. The initiative's aim was to exchange groundwater levels and help farmers in the drought prone region of Gadag District to store rainwater during monsoon for household and agriculture purpose utilization during dry periods. Because, Gadag is a drought prone district located in north western parts of Karnataka state. The district falls in Northern Dry Zone with annual precipitation of 641.6 mm, having 108 rainy days. In the district 75 percentage of the population is engaged in agriculture occupation. Small and marginal farmers account for 70 % of farming population. The farmers in the district mainly depend on agricultural income but due to more frequency of drought the farmers are unable to get sufficient income. The percent deviation of rainfall experienced in the Gadag district is given below in Graph -I.

Graph-1: Percent Deviation of Rainfall data from 1997-2023 Experinced in Gadag District



By focusing on the construction and rejuvenation of these water bodies, the Gram Saksham project seeks to improve water availability and provide long term benefits to farmers in this region with following objectives.

❖ **Engaging with local stakeholders, including farmers, community leaders, and government authorities to understand their needs and priorities. NGO has envisioned following steps for the kick start of the project.**

- 1) **Informed Decision-Making:** By soliciting input from diverse stakeholders, decision-makers gain valuable insights into the specific challenges, preferences, and priorities of the community, enabling more informed and contextually relevant decision-making.
- 2) **Enhanced Stakeholder Buy-In:** Involving stakeholders in the decision-making process fosters a sense of ownership and accountability, leading to increased buy-in and support for proposed initiatives. This collaboration strengthens partnerships and promotes shared responsibility for project success.
- 3) **Tailored Solutions:** Understanding the unique needs and priorities of stakeholders allows for the development of tailored solutions that address local concerns and preferences. This ensures that interventions are culturally appropriate, effective, and sustainable in the long term.
- 4) **Conflict Resolution:** Engaging with stakeholders provides a platform for open dialogue and consensus-building, facilitating the resolution of conflicts or disagreements that may arise during the planning or implementation phases of a project. This promotes harmony and cooperation among stakeholders, fostering a conducive environment for collaboration.
- 5) **Maximized Resources:** Collaboration with stakeholders helps identify existing resources, expertise, and capacities within the community that can be leveraged to support project goals. This maximizes the efficient use of resources and promotes local
- 6) **Technical Implementation:**

NGO has engaged skilled professionals and technical experts to oversee the execution of rejuvenation activities in the project area. By leveraging their expertise, NGO ensured the effective implementation of tasks such as desilting, bund repair and infrastructure development, resulting in improvement of water body conditions. Additionally, utilizing appropriate machinery and equipment for excavation, silt removal and construction work enhanced efficiency and safety, leading to timely

completion of projects with minimal risk. Furthermore, implementing environmentally sustainable practices minimizes ecological impact and fosters the long-term health of water bodies and surrounding ecosystems, contributing to biodiversity conservation and environmental preservation. Overall, this approach ensured the success and sustainability of water rejuvenation efforts, benefiting both the environment and local communities.

The objectives of this initiative project include:

- 1) To rejuvenate existing ponds, water bodies, and bunds, along with construction of new farm bunding, in the Gram Saksham project area to enhance surface water storage capacity and to reduce soil erosion.
- 2) To implement sustainable water management practices to reduce groundwater exploitation and promote water conservation.
- 3) To empower the farming community by ensuring access to reliable irrigation water, resulting in improved agricultural practice for higher productivity and higher incomes.
- 4) To encourage community participation and ownership in water resources management efforts to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience to climate change in drought prone areas.
- 5) To obtain necessary NOC (No Objection Certificate) letters from the respective Gram Panchayats to undertake the works.
- 6) To conduct meetings with farmers and local governing bodies in the villages to create more awareness on soil and water conservation and to maintain biodiversity in the rural areas.

Ground water assessment

Quantification of current groundwater availability for irrigation by mapping existing resources, estimating aquifer recharge rates and measuring seasonal fluctuations in well levels.

Drinking water evaluation: Access to safe drinking water by:

- Identifying the percentage of household dependent on community ponds, bore wells or piped water supply
- Evaluating water quality in community ponds and other drinking sources

- Inspecting the functionality and capacity water supply infrastructure

Agricultural analysis:

Analysis of current agricultural practices and financial viability by:

- Determining crop types, irrigation techniques and fertilizer/pesticide use
- Estimating per hectare expenses and income for different crops
- Understanding farmers' perceptions and challenges related to water management and profitability.

II Approach and method of impact study

ICAR-K .H. Patil Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hulkoti, Gadag District has conducted impact study on Gram Sanksham Project implementation through Sankalpa Rural Development Society supported by SBI foundation. Shri N.H Bhandi, Subject Matter Specialist (Soil Science), Dr. Vinayaka H Niranjana, Subject Matter Specialist (Ag. Engg), Shri Suresh Halemani, Farm Manager and Dr. Soumya Patil, Plant Physiologist from ICAR-K.H.Patil Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Hulkoti, Gadag were involved in the impact study. The team along with staff of Sankalpa Rural Development Society visited various villages in the project area and initially interacted with the village community regarding input and output of the project. Study team visited to various work done in the activity area along with the village community and beneficiaries of the different villages in project area. The study team visited different community ponds in different villages viz., Hallikeri, Venkatapur, Janthli, Shirur, Pethalur, Yeklasapur etc, and made discussion with implementing agency and farmers of the village to assess the impact of the project. The team also interacted with the representatives of Gram Panchayat regarding tangible and intangible benefits obtained from this project and strategy to be adopted by Gram Panchayats after the withdrawal

of the project. The impact study team also visited and inspected the individual farm ponds and farm bunds constructed or repaired under the project along with the project beneficiaries.



III.Overall of impact of the project

A) Impact of rejuvenation of community water ponds

Community water ponds are vital to village life, serving multiple functions such as providing water for drinking, irrigation, and livestock, while also playing a crucial role in groundwater recharge. These ponds are essential for agricultural support, offering irrigation during dry seasons and reducing the burden on villagers by supplying water for livestock. Additionally, they enhance local biodiversity by creating habitats for aquatic life, birds, and wildlife, thereby contributing to a balanced ecosystem.

Socially, community ponds serve as gathering space and hold cultural significance, often being linked to traditional rituals and festivals. From an environmental perspective, they help to mitigate floods by absorbing excess rainwater and act as a buffer during droughts by storing water for dry periods. Economically, they sustain livelihoods through activities such as fish farming and lotus cultivation, and they even have potential to attract eco-tourism.

Recognizing the critical role of these ponds in both environmental sustainability and community resilience, the SBI Gram Saksham Project was initiated. Launched by the SBI Foundation in collaboration with its implementing partner, the Sankalpa Rural Development Society, this project aimed to rejuvenate water ponds across 15 villages within 9 Gram Panchayats in the Mundargi taluk of Gadag District. By revitalizing these ponds, the project sought to ensure a reliable water supply, improve agricultural productivity and promote sustainable livelihoods for the rural communities involved. The details of community pond are given in Annexure-I

Annexure - I: The work done details of community pond

Sl. No	Name of the pond	Name of the village	Name of panchayat	Actual pond size	Earth Excavation mode for water storage (Cubic meter)	Water storage capacity extended (Millionlitres)
1	Kelur Pond	Kelur	Harogeri Panchayath	4 Acre	4770	4.77
2	MuradiNirawari Pond	Muradi	Muradi Panchayath	4 Acre	4212	4.212
3	Dam Pond	Bagewadi	Bagewadi Panchayath	3 Acre	5400	5.4
4	Venkatapur pond	Venkatapur	Venkatapur panchayath	½ Acre (25 m length 25 m width 2.5 m depth)	2883	2.883
5	Niravari keri petaalur	Peta Alur	Peta Alur Panchayath	5 acre	45,650	45.65
6	YaklaspurNiravari pond	Yaklaspur	Yaklaspur Panchayath	2 acre (105 m length,65m width,4 mtr depth)	34,125	34.125
7	Kerehalli pond	Kerehalli	Bagewadi panchayath	4 acre	33,800	33.8
8	Haitapur pond	Haitapur	Mevundi panchayath	1 acre	35,100	35.1
9	Yakalaspura Niravari pond	Yaklaspur 2 nd village	Yaklaspur panchayath	2 Acre 110 m length,60 m width ,5.5 m depth)	36,300	36.3
10	Janthli pond	Janthli	Janthlishirur panchayath	80 m width,55 m length,5 m depth	30,800	30.8
11	Dambala pond	Dambala community pond	Dambala 1 st	1 Acre (30 mtrlength , width 31 mtr, Depth 3.5 mtr)	4340	4.34
12	Dambala drinking water	Dambala 2 nd pond	Dambala panchayath	49 mtrlength,width 47 mtr,Depth 2 mtr)	4600	4.6 Million liters
13	Peta alur community pond	Peta Alur	Peta Alur panchayath	30 mtrlength ,width 30 mtr,Depth 1.5 mtr)	8400	8.4
14	ShirurCommunity Pond	Shirur	JanthilShirur Panchayath	45 mtr length, width 49 mtr, Depth 1.5 Mtr	6600	6.6
15	Haitapura Road (Venkatapura)	Haitapura Road (Venkatapura)	Venkatapura	2 Acre (78mtr length, width 95mtr, Depth 3.5 Mtr)	37,050	37.05
16	Halligudi Drinking Water Pond	Halligudi	Halligudi	2 Acre (45 mtr length, width 50 mtr, depth 3 mtr)	20,250	20.25 (Note: depth 9 metre)
17	HallikeNiravari Pond	Hallikeri	Hallikeri Panchayath	2 Acre (79mtr length, width 90 mtr, Depth 8 Mtr)	86,900	86.9 (Note: depth 10 mitre)

Sl. No	Name of the pond	Name of the village	Name of panchayat	Actual pond size	Earth Excavation mode for water storage (Cubic meter)	Water storage capacity extended (Millionlitres)
18	Venkatapura 2 Niravari Pond	Venkatapura	Hallikeri Panchayath	2 Acre (40mtr length, width 45 mtr, Depth 2 Mtr)	7000	7
19	Kadampura	Kadampura	Kadampura Panchayath	1 Acre (50mtr length, width 90mtr, Depth 5Mtr)	5200	5.20
20	Mevundi Water Pond	Mevundi	Mevundi Panchayath	1 Acre (40mtr length, width 40mtr, Depth 3Mtr)	8000	8
21	Hallikeri Water Pond	Hallikeri	Hallikeri Panchayath	1 Acre (65mtr length, width 60mtr, Depth 3Mtr)	23000	23
22	Churchihal Water Pond	Churchihal	Churchihal Panchayath	1 Acre (65mtr length, width 60mtr, Depth 3Mtr)	2000	2
TOTAL					446380	446.38

The rejuvenation of community ponds was undertaken with the vision of creating a sustainable water resource that not only serves as a water source during droughts but also contributes to groundwater recharge. This, in turn, supports farmers by enabling them to cultivate higher-quality crops, ultimately increasing the income of the community.

As a part of the project, 22 community water harvesting ponds were renovated through desilting activities, with a total of 446,380 m³ of earthwork excavation completed. The excavated silt was applied to agricultural fields, improving soil fertility and leading to better crop yields. Previously, these fields were used primarily for traditional crops with limited profitability. Now, thanks to the improved soil fertility, farmers are able to grow commercial crops, earning higher profits. The desilting efforts also resulted in the harvesting of 446.38 million litres of rainwater. This harvested water has become a vital resource for the rural communities in the project villages, serving multiple purposes.

In particular, villages such as Venkatapura, Halligudi, Hallikeri, Yaklasapur, Jantli and Shirur faced severe drinking water shortages. The groundwater in these areas contains high fluoride levels, making borewell water unfit for drinking. As a result, villagers primarily rely on the rainwater harvested in the community ponds, locally referred to as "Kudiyuva Neerina Keri," for their drinking water needs. The rejuvenated ponds are now a critical

source of drinking water for these communities, while the harvested water also supports groundwater recharge and provides water for livestock. Additionally, this water is being used for protective irrigation, helping to sustain crops during dry spells.

During the project evaluation, group discussions were held with the village communities and farmers expressed their satisfaction with the work carried out. Field visits to the community ponds were conducted with farmers from Jantli and Shirur villages, including Shri Ramappa, Rudrappa Hugar, Shri Umesh Rudrappa Hugar, Shri Umesh Irrappa Hugar, and Shri Sharanappa Mudiayappa from Venkatapur, as well as Shri Huchusab Rajasab Halligudi and Shri Berappa Shivappa Pujar. These farmers expressed that the rejuvenation efforts had greatly benefited their communities.

The silt from the ponds, applied to agricultural fields, significantly improved soil fertility, resulting in a shift from single-cropping to double-cropping patterns. Farmers reported increased yields and profits. For instance, during a visit to the fields of Shri Ramappa Rudrappa Hugar in Jantli village and Shri Shivangouda Marigouda in Hallikeri village, the farmers shared that before the silt application, they cultivated only one crop per year with minimal profit. However, after applying the silt, they now practice double cropping with commercial crops, significantly increasing their income from the same land. Thus, the livelihoods of farmers have improved as a direct result of the pond rejuvenation and silt application efforts.



Before slit application



After slit application



Success Story on Pond Slit Application to Agriculture



Shri Ramappa Rudrappa Hugar is a farmer of Janthli village having 2 acre of land under dry land agriculture. In the earlier years he was cultivated only single crop with traditional crops in his land due to less soil fertility specially low water holding capacity, low organic carbon content and less nutrient availability status which hinders the productivity and provides less income to the farmers during less rain fall years or drought situation. To overcome this problem Shri Hugar decided to apply pond slit to his land for enhancing soil fertility thus during desliting of community pond he applied pond slit to his 2 acre of land.

During impact study it was observed that after application of pond slit his land became fertile. Because of slit application soil Physical, Chemical and Biological properties such as Soil texture, water holding capacity, organic carbon content in soil were improved these leads to increase in the availability of Macro and Micro nutrients in the soil to get better yield. Now Shri Ramappa Rudrappa Hugar is cultivated onion crop in kharif 2024. Now he was very happy with his crop he is expecting 25-30q additional yield as compared to non-slit applied fields hence these pond slit application has totally changed his land fertility status forever in future he can get minimum 2 crops per year even during less rainfall situation. So these is an example of good work done by the Sankalpa Rural Development society through soil and water conservation activities in project area.

A site visit was conducted to the rejuvenated community ponds in the villages of Hallikeri, Yaklasapur, Jantli, and Shirur. Farmers expressed their satisfaction with the work carried out under this project. However, they highlighted the need for additional improvements, such as fencing, stone pitching, and repairs to water channels, to ensure the long-term efficiency of the water harvesting structures.

The rejuvenation of these community ponds has raised greater awareness about the importance of rainwater harvesting and conservation. These structures are expected to significantly contribute to groundwater recharge, improving water availability in nearby tubewells and extending irrigation coverage in the project villages. The harvested water also addresses the drinking water needs of both humans and livestock, further supporting the local ecosystem.

Following the completion of the project, the rejuvenated ponds have been handed over to the respective Gram Panchayats to ensure their continued maintenance and effective use in the future.

Photo gallery of community pond of the project



B)Impact on Individual Farm ponds and Farm bunds

Gadag District receives rainfall from the southwest monsoon (June-September) and northeast monsoon (October-November), with a 70-80% probability of agricultural drought each year. Long dry spells and characteristic of agricultural drought severely affect the crop productivity, especially for major crops such as Maize, Chilli, Sunflower, Greengram, Groundnut, Rabi Sorghum, and Bengalgram. The frequent occurrence of early, mid, and terminal droughts during the Kharif season, along with receding soil moisture in Rabi, has made farming a non-remunerative profession for many farmers.

To address these challenges, soil and water conservation plays a vital role in improving crop productivity. The Sankalpa Rural Development Society has contributed significantly to this effort through the Raith Bandu programme, which supports the construction and repair of individual farm ponds and the creation of farm bunds on farmers' fields. Specific details are provided in Annexure II and III.

As a part of the Raith Bandu programme, Sankalpa provided earthmoving machines (JCBs) to farmers at a rental rate of Rs. 700 per hour for repairing existing farm ponds and constructing farm bunds. In total, 20 farmers repaired their ponds, with 54,000 m³ of earth excavated, resulting in the harvesting of nearly 5.4 Crore litres of water annually. This harvested water is used for protective irrigation during droughts, helping farmers safeguard crops from soil moisture stress and maintain their income even in dry periods.

During field visits to the ponds and bunds, farmers shared their affirmative experiences with the Raith Bandu programme. They expressed that the initiative has raised awareness about importance of soil and water conservation. The harvested water has been used efficiently for protective irrigation and spraying nutrients to enhance crop yields. Some farmers have even been able to cultivate double crops in a year due to the availability of water, reducing soil erosion and enhancing groundwater levels.

Trench-cum-farm bunding was also carried out across 303.15 acres of land, benefiting 70 farmers in 15 villages of Mundargi taluk. Farmers reported that these bunds play a crucial role in conserving fertile soil, reducing erosion and harvesting rainwater, which helps in maintaining soil moisture during long dry spells. By preserving moisture, these bunds enhance crop yields, demonstrating that farm ponds and bunds are essential tools for soil and water conservation, ultimately benefiting the farming community.



Photo gallery of farm pond of the project



Success story on individual farm pond in the project



My name is **Yallappa Kovi from Venkatapur village in Mundragi Taluk**. I am very happy to see my farm pond full of water. In May 2024, with the support of the Raitha Bandu program, I constructed the pond. In early June 2024, we received good rainfall, and all the farmers, including myself cultivated Greengram crop. However, after just three days of rain, a 25-days long dry spell was experienced.

I decided to use the water from my pond to irrigate my 3-acre land, which helped me grow a healthy crop. I harvested 9 quintals of Greengram, while other farmers could only manage 5 quintals. Hence there was **80% increasing in the yield** by providing protective irrigation from the water harvested in my pond. **I earned around Rs 64,800 from this yield.**

I am grateful to the SBI Raitha Bandu program for their support in helping me construct the farm pond, which made this possible.

Annexure-II: Details of individual farm ponds in the project villages

Sl No	Name	Village	Structure created	Area of land owned
1	SharanappaMarigoudar	Peta Alur	Individual Farm Ponds	8
2	VirabadaryaHiremata	Harogeri	Individual Farm Ponds	5
3	PrabhugoudaNagarahalli	Harogeri	Individual Farm Ponds	7
4	BasangoudNagarahalli	Harogeri	Individual Farm Ponds	4
5	PulekeshigoudaNagarahalli	Harogeri	Individual Farm Ponds	2
6	Umesh Bannimarad	Vekatapur	Individual Farm Ponds	3
7	Basappa Pojar	Vekatapur	Individual Farm Ponds	9
8	Yallappa Kovi	Vekatapur	Individual Farm Ponds	3
9	Channappa Kori	Vekatapur	Individual Farm Ponds	5
10	Subas Chakalabe	Vekatapur	Individual Farm Ponds	2
11	S S Patil	Vekatapur	Individual Farm Ponds	1
12	ShivanagoudrMarigoudar	Vekatapur	Individual Farm Ponds	2
13	Manju Soshi	Vekatapur	Individual Farm Ponds	4
14	HallappaKaberhalli	Maivundi	Individual Farm Ponds	3
15	Shivappa Ganiger	Harogeri	Individual Farm Ponds	5
16	Prabu Desahi	Petalur	Individual Farm Ponds	3
17	MuttappaKarkaredi	Harogeri	Individual Farm Ponds	2
18	SharanappaMarigoudr	Vekatapur	Individual Farm Ponds	3
19	YakanagoudarKarigoudar	Petalur	Individual Farm Ponds	2
20	Sangappa Malle	Yakasapur	Individual Farm Ponds	3

Photo gallery of farm bund of the project



Annexure III:Details of Farm Bunds constructed in the project villages.

Sl.No	Name	Village	Type of Work	Acre of land
1	Sampat Manavi	Petalur	Bund Construction	5
2	HallappaShiranalli	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	4
3	MariyappaKarigar	Jantali	Bund Construction	8
4	ShivanadJalihal	Yakalaspura	Bund Construction	3
5	Mallappa Madar	Harogeri	Bund Construction	4
6	S M Halli	Petalur	Bund Construction	5
7	MuttannaTalakalla	Janatalli	Bund Construction	3
8	Sangappa Kovi	Basapur	Bund Construction	2
9	MudakappaArakeri	Haligoudi	Bund Construction	1
10	Sharanappa Halli	Yakalaspura	Bund Construction	6
11	ShekappaVadatti	Yakasapur	Bund Construction	3
12	Nilappa Kole	Yakalaspura	Bund Construction	5
13	Sangappa Kuradagi	Harogeri	Bund Construction	4
14	YallappaBinala	Harogeri	Bund Construction	3.5
15	Sangappa Malle	Yakalaspura	Bund Construction	2
16	BharmappaTalakalla	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	6
17	ShekappaRonad	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	5
18	Shivanand Koppal	Yeklasapur	Bund Construction	4
19	HanamantaBharmagoudra	Yeklasapur	Bund Construction	2
20	Basappa Meti	Yakalaspura	Bund Construction	5
21	Basappa Sodi	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	6
22	Channappa Hadapada	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	3
23	Shivanagoudra Sannapagoudra	Yakalaspura	Bund Construction	2
24	Muttu Bisanalli	Petalur	Bund Construction	3
25	Haish Goura	Venakatapur	Bund Construction	7
26	GavisddappaKundral	Petalur	Bund Construction	3
27	Prakash Pujar	Yaklasapur	Bund Construction	5
28	ShankappaJaggal	Petalur	Bund Construction	9
29	Shivapa Hadimani	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	6
30	Basappa Alur	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	2
31	ShankrappaCagannavara	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	5
32	Channappagouda	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	4
33	GoususabDambal	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	7
34	Arun Kurtakoti	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	3
35	Shanamuka Kolli	Harogeri	Bund Construction	5
36	BasanagodaNagahalli	Harogeri	Bund Construction	3
37	Umesh Kabralli	Vekatapur	Bund Construction	5
38	Chandru Kenchanagoudr.	Yaklasapur	Bund Construction	2
39	Dariyappa Hadimani	Haitapur	Bund Construction	11
40	Shivappa Pujar	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	9
41	Shankrapa Harti	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	8
42	Suni Gadagin	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	7
43	ShivappNagavi	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	5
44	MallappGuihati	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	6
45	DevendrappaDyavanur	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	2
46	MaiariKaramadi	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	9
47	Basppa Sudi	Muradi	Bund Construction	4

Sl.No	Name	Village	Type of Work	Acre of land
48	Shankar Manavi	Muradi	Bund Construction	2
49	Pakkirapa Sandi	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	5
50	Mahesh Timmapur	Yaklasapur	Bund Construction	4
51	Siddappa Bagevadi	Harogri	Bund Construction	8
52	Nagaraj Timmapur	Vekatapur	Bund Construction	5
53	Ravi Asuti	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	7
54	Manjunath Shivaratti	Vekatapur	Bund Construction	4
55	Somanna Sudi	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	2
56	Muttanna Alur	Vekatapur	Bund Construction	3
57	Subhas Katagi	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	9
58	Yankappa Lamani	Jantli	Bund Construction	3
59	Manjunath Hiremath	Venkatapur	Bund Construction	5
60	Arun Pujar	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	2
61	Nagavva Halvar	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	1
62	SharanappaMarigoudar	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	2
63	Rakesh Halappa	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	4
64	LakshammaHalappa	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	3
65	Ravi Asundi	Peta Alur	Bund Construction	5
66	Basappa Sanadi	Kelur	Bund Construction	3
67	SidappaHoovi	Kelur	Bund Construction	2
68	Ramesh Sanadi	Kelur	Bund Construction	3
69	Nagaraj Timmapur	Kelur	Bund Construction	2
70	Mahesh Niyavli	Kelur	Bund Construction	3

The project's sustainability rests on a strong foundation of community engagement and capacity building. Local stakeholders, including villagers, community leaders, and government authorities, are actively involved, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility for the project's success. This translates into long-term commitment and support, ensuring the project's longevity.

The project prioritizes capacity building and training, equipping local communities with the knowledge and skills needed for sustainable water resource management. This empowers communities to manage their resources effectively, promoting self-reliance and resilience.

During discussions, villagers from Hallikeri, Halligudi, and Yekasapur highlighted the tangible benefits of the project. After the pond rejuvenation by the SBI Foundation, each household received one kg of jowar as compensation for their involvement in pond maintenance and cleaning activities during the summer. This demonstrates the project's commitment to fair compensation and community participation.

Furthermore, the development of a maintenance plan for the rejuvenated water bodies, coupled with community involvement in maintenance activities, ensures the ongoing sustainability of the project's outcomes. By fostering a culture of environmental stewardship and community participation, the project establishes a foundation for continued monitoring, upkeep, and preservation of water resources in the Mundragi area.

Ultimately, the project's sustainability is anchored in its participatory approach, capacity-building efforts, and focus on community empowerment. This ensures that the benefits of water rejuvenation are preserved for future generations in Harakanalu village.

IV) Key findings of the project

Gram Saksham project has made constructive changes in reducing soil erosion and harvesting rain water in drought prone area of Mundargi Block in Gadag District through soil and water conservation activities through the project of Sankalpa Rural Development Society supported by SBI foundation

Key points observed during the impact studies

- Total 22 community ponds rejuvenated in the project area approximately harvested 446.38 million litres of water per year, which played major role in recharging of ground water and improved the ground water quality. The harvested water was used for protective irrigation to the field crops to enhance the productivity and income of the farmers. Further these ponds enriched the biodiversity in the project area.
- The constructed 20 Individual farm ponds played a vital role in harvesting the rain water. Every year, approximately 5.4 Crore litres of water was harvested. Through this harvested water 50-60 acres of area was irrigated through protective irrigation in long dry spells between two subsequent rains. This led to the enhancement of farmers income by 40-50 percent by field crops cultivation.
- The farm bunds constructed in 303.50 acre of land has helped to reduce the soil erosion. Through this bunding work, approximately 2.72Crore litres of water was harvested per year. This harvested water ensured soil moisture for the crops during dry spells which in-turn enhanced the farmers' income by 15-20 percent in field crops per year.

V) Conclusion and recommendation

A) Conclusion

The Gram Saksham project, a collaborative effort between Sankalpa Rural Development Society and the SBI Foundation, has significantly boosted soil and water conservation efforts in 15 villages across 9 Panchayats in the Mundargi and Shirahatti blocks of Gadag district.

The project has achieved remarkable results as follows:

22 community ponds have been rejuvenated, increasing rainwater harvesting capacity by 446.38 million liters per year. Through the Raith Bandhu program, 20 farm ponds were repaired, enhancing soil and water conservation in project villages. These farm ponds can now harvest 5.40 crore liters of water annually. Farm bunding was constructed across 303.5 acres of land, benefiting 70 farmers in various project villages. These comprehensive soil and water conservation activities have a profound impact on the communities:

Meeting water demand: The project ensures a sustainable water supply for various purposes, including drinking water for humans and livestock, and provides protective irrigation through harvested rainwater, enhancing the area under irrigation.

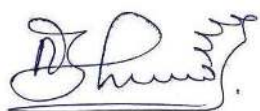
Groundwater recharge: The community ponds and individual farm ponds contribute to the replenishment of groundwater reserves, improving water availability.

Biodiversity enhancement: The project's success in conserving soil and water resources will positively impact the biodiversity of the implemented villages.

B) Recommendations

- The created community pond should be maintained by the respective Gram panchayats for effective utilization in future.
- If possible, stone pitching and fencing to the ponds can be taken up especially for drinking water ponds to avoid water contamination.
- For some of the community ponds water ways can be repaired to harvest more volume of water in the ponds.

The Gram Saksham project serves as a model for sustainable development, demonstrating the power of community engagement and collaborative efforts in addressing critical environmental challenges.



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