



Vyakti Vikas Kendra's Water Projects

Presentation to workshop at National Water Mission, 20th November 2019





Water Projects - at a Glance

Over the past decade the Art of Living has been running large scale integrated watershed development and river rejuvenation projects across the states of Karnataka, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu. The technical plans for these projects are created by a team of experienced geo-hydrologists utilising remote sensing technologies. The projects have been developed with extensive community participations and the Art of Living has partnered with various governments, corporates, and foundations for funding and execution. The impact numbers are summarised below:

41

Rivers where rejuvenation efforts are currently underway

4000

Villages impacted through the efforts

4

States

Community Participation and Capacity Building are central to our approach

Our Project Manager, Chandrashekar Kuppan addressing a gathering of women leaders from the Naganadhi Project. Women from these villages were sensitised on water issues, and how they could engage with the Gram Panchayat to build water conservation structures under MGNREGA.



Community Outreach

- Pan-India Outreach - Over 1000 Community Leaders spread all across the Country
- Specially Designed Youth Leadership Training Program through which over 200,000 youth have been trained
- VVKI recently signed an MOU with NIRD to train Gram Panchayat Members and other Village Functionaries across 19 States in the country

I have watched the Youth Leadership Training Program of the Art of Living transform participants into enthusiastic, dynamic, and committed sevaks filled with compassion and dedication to serve. Village communities covered by program are experiencing a fresh surge of solidarity and passion for progress brought about by the focused activities being conducted for Model Village Development.

I see great potential for implementing the Art of Living model for social development in various programs of the government. By creating empowered women and youth leaders from within the local communities, we can ensure sustainability of the social progress - Nitin Chandra, Special Secretary, Government of Odisha



NWM and VVKI: Establishing Field Schools

- Establishing “*Field Schools - Prakriti Vidya Peeths*” in overexploited river basins utilising the following strategy -
 - Each PVP caters to a cluster of 8-15 villages collectively comprising a mini-watershed
 - Training Plan comprises
 - Sensitising at least 30% of the community
 - Building capacities of gram panchayat members, key influencers and other functionaries in water management
 - Creating at least 5 Jal Acharyas - Community Resource Persons who can
 - Training individual farmers in Farm Level Water Management and Sustainable Farming
 - Strengthening and creating local institutions for participatory natural resource (water) management



Case : Akharwai Watershed Development

Goal: To restore natural resources in Akharwai mini-watershed through integrated watershed management approach

Location and Area: Latur, Maharashtra ; Approx. 51 sq km

Funding Agency: The Hans Foundation

Time: 1st Oct 2017- 30th Sep 2018

Number of Beneficiaries: 12,374

Summary: Measures were taken to increase the groundwater levels in the catchment area including construction of artificial groundwater recharge structures, afforestation, promotion of horticulture and trainings on sustainable agricultural practices



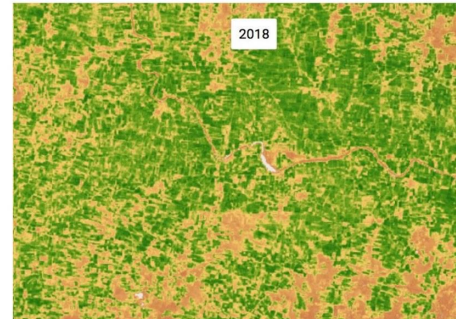
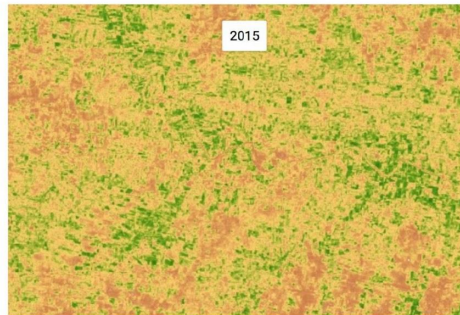
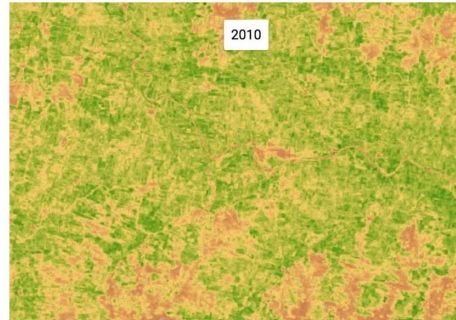
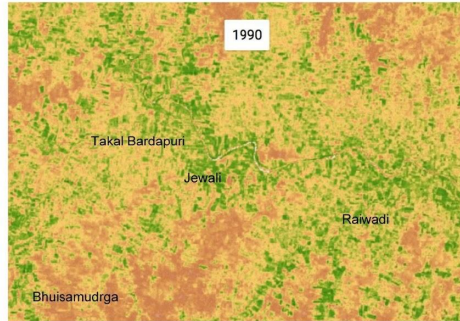
Impact

There are three key impacts of the interventions undertaken:

- **Improved Water Availability:** There has been overall improved water availability owing to the project interventions. This is demonstrated through the Vegetation Index and Water Index ascertained using remote sensing. This is further supported by farmer surveys where they were able to take 2-3 crops from June 2017-May 2018.
- **Sustainable Farming Practices:** Capacities of over 400 farmers from the have been built and they have started implementing sustainable farming practices - natural farming, multi-cropping, vertical layering, micro irrigation, in addition to farm level water conservation techniques. Case Stories of select Model farmers are shared in the section below.
- **Formation of Farmer Collectives:** Many Farmer Interest groups have been created as a result of the interventions. *Anna Daata* a brand has promoting natural produce has been created and multiple transaction have already been executed under this banner.

Improved Water Availability- Vegetation index

Vegetation Change in Villages in Latur Taluka



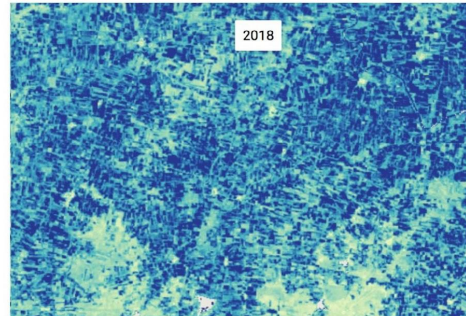
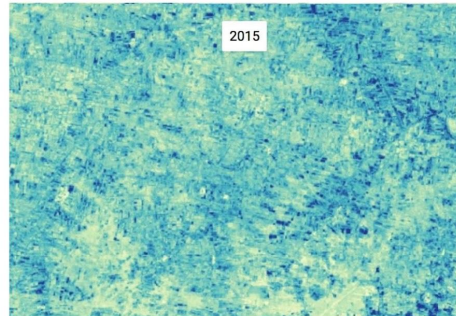
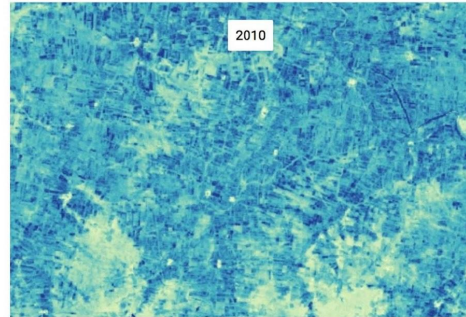
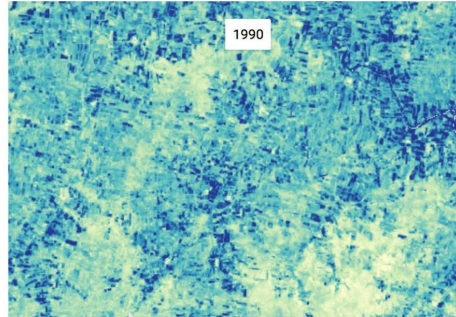
AOL started its restoring water level work in this area in 2015.

In this image we can see how the vegetation changed from 1990-2018. After restoration of water source in 2015, the greenness index in 2018 shows positive increase. Agricultural land shows positive changes in the current stage.

Map legend: yellow to green shows values 0 to 1

Improved Water Availability- Water Index

Water level changes in Latur Taluka, Maharashtra



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In this image we can see how the vegetation changed from 1990-2018. After restoration of water source in 2015, the water index in 2018 shows positive increase. Agricultural land shows positive changes in the current stage.

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Marginal Farmer to Model Farmer

Ramling Pundhari's farm represents a good model of integrated farming practice.

- Practices mixed farming in 2 acre growing Moong, Soya bean, sweet corn alongside Drumsticks and Mango
- To overcome water shortage for irrigation, he adopted adopt certain soil-water conservation techniques like bund formation and drip irrigation
- Livestock rearing activities stupendously complement the approach to mixed farming
- Strategic planning of sowing time so as to reap the produce at the lean supply season but higher demand in market helps him acquiring maximum



A champion lady tomato farmer

Mangala Waghmare, a marginal organic farmer but a leader in practicing and promoting natural farming through a reformed SHG in Bhuisamudraga.

- She grew tomatoes in 0.35 acre this summer utilising various natural techniques like stacking, jivamrut and other natural means
- She prepared her own seedlings, bio-fertilizers and other agri inputs
- She timed the plantation to perfection ensuring that the crop would reach the market when there is no other supply (peak summer)
- She made a profit of INR 60,000 in 3 months by selling the produce in the Rabi crop
- Owing to her comprehensive knowledge, she has been selected as one amongst hundred and fifteen farmers to be specially honored by Prime Minister Modi



Empowerment of Women SHGs

- Focus on creating female farmers groups and reviving existing SHGs
- Encouraged adoption of natural farming practices and crop planning to meet the nutrition requirement and better health of their family members
- Total of 74 female farmers have undergone multiple training programs

In picture: Training on building climate resilience and securing livelihoods by adopting multi-crop farming models with natural farming methods



Anna Daata - Formation of a Farmer Collective

- Formation of a farmers group who have collectively started an organic produce brand called ANNADAATA
- Initially started with selling the produce to local markets and residential area. Now, few potential buyers are identified and being supplied with the farm produce.
- Generated employment for village youth

In picture: Annadaata Office where farmers bring their farm produce, packaging is done and team coordinates with buyers for the sale.



*“When you see happiness in the happiness of others, that’s when you will
be truly happy”*

- Sri Sri Ravishankar

Thank You!