

TECHNICAL BULLETIN—5

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SOIL CONSERVATION SERIES—5

RECLAMATION OF ILL-DRAINED SOILS

at villages Nagansur and Agalgaon in
Sholapur District

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
MAHARASHTRA STATE, POONA-1.

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FOREWORD

Recent political developments have brought out how important it is that our country should become self-sufficient in food.

India's population is increasing faster than her food production. This is a very serious problem. To achieve the self-sufficiency, the Prime Minister of India has put food production on a war footing and given it the status of second line of defence.

It is not difficult to achieve this objective. The production of food grains can be increased either by bringing additional area under cultivation or by adopting intensive cultivation measures on the area already under cropping. Crop yield can be increased by proper soil management. The soils which were once very productive are thrown out of cultivation due to improper soil management. Neglect of water courses and nallas have caused water stagnation. This has resulted in accumulation of harmful salts. Under such conditions crop growth is not possible.

We have in our State an area of about 15,00,000 acres of ill-drained soils. If this area is reclaimed by adopting various reclamation measures, we will be able to increase food grain production considerably.

Some ill-drained pockets have been located in Sholapur District. Attempts are being made to improve these by adopting various reclamation measures. The work carried out at villages Agalgaon and Nagansur in Barsi and Akkalkot Talukas respectively, has been described in this technical bulletin. It is hoped that this would serve as a guide both for field workers and for the cultivators and will help in bringing additional area under cultivation.

The data incorporated in this bulletin have been recorded by Sarvashri R. V. Date, Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Akkalkot and C. M., Gokhale, Sub-Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Barshi I, under the technical guidance of Dr. N. K. Ghumare, Divisional Soil Conservation Officer, Sholapur who has prepared the final draft of this bulletin.

POONA-1,
31st December 1965.

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