

Summary of the Gokhale Institute Studies

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Title : *Impact of National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA) in Maharashtra ,*
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Need of the Study

National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA) was introduced during the Seventh Five Year Plan. The main objective of the programme was to stabilize the productivity in rainfed areas and to conserve as well as upgrade the land and water resources. The programme was reviewed during 1990 and fresh guidelines were issued focusing on holistic intergrated approach towards the watershed treatment components. The participation of the beneficiaries and project planning, were incorporated as the important components. It was felt necessary to review the impact of the NWDPA on various aspects of the agricultural economy. The present study was undertaken to analyse the impact of NWDPA on various aspects of the agricultural sector and to give a feedback for the effective implementation of the project.

Main Objectives

The objectives of the study were:

- (1) To examine the present status of the available technology and the extent of its adoption by farmers.
- (2) To identify the factors responsible for productivity changes and to ascertain major impact parameters.
- (3) To locate the constraints in the project implementation in terms of infrastructure, technology and other factors.
- (4) To evaluate the impact of vegetative measures, soil and water conservation structures and other components of the programme.
- (5) To suggest strategies for removal of the constraints faced.

Methodology

A structured Watershed Impact System Model with four major sub-systems viz., (i) technological parameters, (ii) organizational structures, (iii) institutional structures and (iv) time frame of impact system, is utilized in the study. We selected two watersheds falling in two distinct agro-climatic zones in the State. The first watershed falls in the Scarcity Zone, with fragile agro-climatic conditions in Ahmednagar district. The second watershed selected comes under Transition Zone falling in Satara district. We selected 50 beneficiaries from each watershed with the help of Systematic Random Sampling procedure with Probability Proportion to Size. Similarly, 25 non-beneficiaries were selected from a carefully chosen control village, falling close