

Harvesting Rain-water Helps Increasing Ground Water and Moisture Levels

Mr. Jayaraj Louis is a resident farmer of the village and owns his traditional farm land for 25 years. He belongs to Christian religion and he and his family stay in the village of Berkheda Mafi, which comes under Berkheda Mafi panchayat in Sagar Block of Sagar district. The village is 18 km away from the civil district headquarters and his house is 5 km away from MVSS. His ancestral land is of 8 acres and he being the eldest son of his family, subsequently the entitlement of landownership belonged of Mr Jayaraj. His land is his only property which he owns and is proud of. He says: “I smell



the hard work of my father in sweats which moisturizes my land”. Mr. Jayaraj cultivates a multiple of crops like soya bean, wheat and fruit trees including flowering plants and varieties of vegetables in his land. He also has a kitchen garden behind his house. His family was dependent on his earning from agriculture which he receives after keeping a better share of the crops produced from it. It was not that because he had no other source, rather it was because he loved farming and knew that his yields were healthy and safe to consume. His yield from agriculture was a boon to his family and also to the marketers.

But since last 2 years onwards his yields took a major setback. Lack of water in the Bundelkhand region also directly affected his agriculture yield which forced him to grow only less water consuming crops. His major share of crops fell prey to the hottest summer with 44-46 degrees recorded in July 2016 which was a record breaking temperature recorded in the last 12 years.

Community Level Reflection and Mobilisation: WARM team was fresh to the village and in the month of February a group of farmers was orientated from this village to form groups and Mr. Jayaraj was one among them. He along with others realized that water is main necessity to meet the thirst of crops first of all and then for drinking or domestic purpose. Jayaraj wanted to find a way for this climate change which affects severely as he knew things would be more drastic in days to come.

Process of Change: He then stepped forward to harvest rain water to the maximum way possible. He planned to channelize the rain water in the upcoming rainy season from his terrace through pipes being structured around his terrace (2000 sq feet) all around. The water thereby is channelized towards his bore well and the open well in his farm land. This technique could help harvest large quantity of rain

water which normally gets wasted during the rainy season and helped to quench the thirst of his dry land. “Rainy season is now just not for enjoying the charm and beauty of nature but rather for something to work upon, if materialized”, says Jayaraj. His realization is a learning which he shared with WARM team.

RESULTS: Some of the main changes brought about as part of the programme are the following:

1. Jayaraj has now his own rainwater harvesting structure and is able to store thousands of litres of water during rainy season.
2. Ground water level of his land has increased.
3. Moisture level of soil has also increased due to which crops do not get dry off as it was earlier.
4. Fruit trees planted flourish in the hot summer and also hold moisture of land to the maximum.
5. He has a steady income from his farm land to sustain his family's life.



Rain Water sprinkling used for crops
