INTEGRATED VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

ALWAR CENTRAL SD

Alwar, Rajasthan.

Impact Assessment Report

Implemented by: SMGVS

Project Year FY 22

Supported by

mahindra Rise

Submitted by

chrysalis services

Project Highlights:

Need for the project:

Ecological and Water Issues: These include a lack of water conservation and management, a depleted water table, degraded forests and grasslands, invasive weeds, soil compactness, overgrazing, high biotic pressure, soil erosion, and issues.

Agricultural Sector Problems: Challenges such as soil erosion, water scarcity, low soil fertility, weed infestation, and crop raiding by wild animals impede agricultural productivity.

Animal Husbandry Issues: Problems include water scarcity, insufficient pastureland, lack of shade in common lands, cattle diseases, and low productivity.

Social Problems: The area struggles with unemployment, poverty, and low motivation among villagers.

Objective

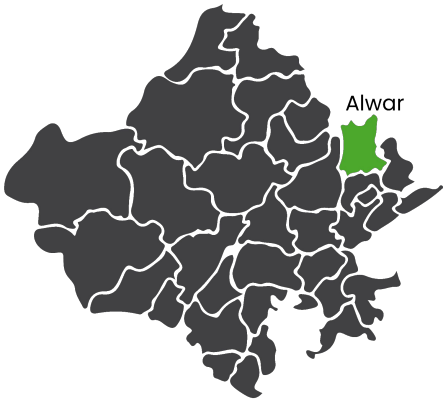
This project aimed to foster sustainable village development and enhance livelihoods by conserving and restoring natural resources. Project initiatives are designed to improve water availability and agricultural productivity, supporting economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Implementing partner

Sarv Mangal Gramin Vikas Sansthan (SMGVS).

Geography

12 villages in the Alwar district of Rajasthan



Activities

1 Livelihood Generation Activities

- Generation of employment by supporting backyard poultry farming and by providing large-sized cages to the poor section of society.
- Helps Villagers to manage retail business.

2 Agriculture Development

- Farm bunding for soil and water conservation in agriculture fields.
- Agriculture improvement by creating awareness among farmers to adopt modern practices.
- Providing Sprinklers.
- Providing agricultural inputs like seeds.

3 Animal Husbandry Development

- Improvement in animal husbandry practices by creating awareness.
- Vaccination program for livestock.
- Making of mangers to adopt better feeding practices.
- Making of community water trough for livestocks to provide them clean drinking water.

4 Soil and Water Conservation and Water Harvesting Activities

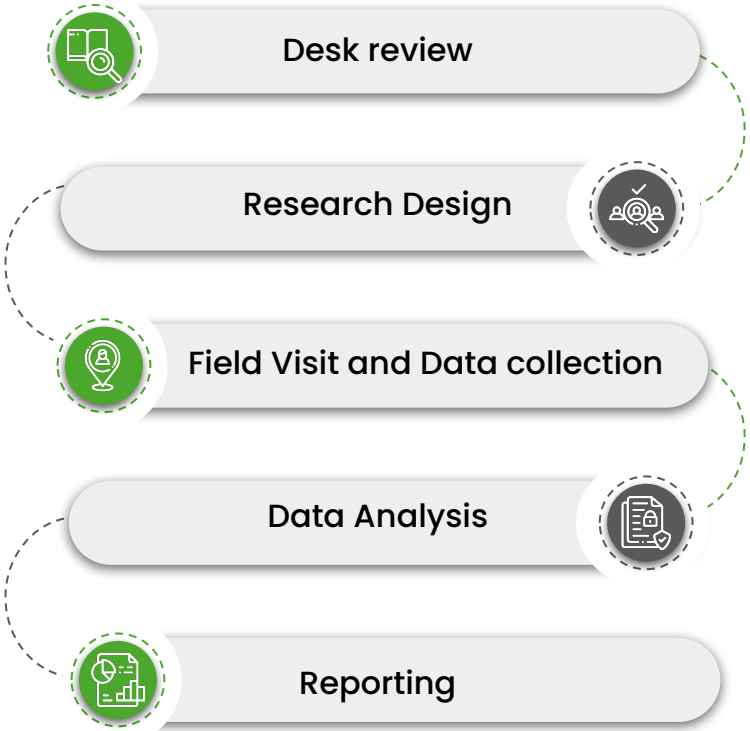
- Excavation and repair of village ponds.
- Construction of anicuts for water conservation and harvesting.
- Construction of water tank.
- Roof top water harvesting.

5 Forest and Pastureland Development

- Pastureland restoration (through grass seed sowing and fodder species planting).
- Forest restoration and protection including common resource development and management.

Approach and Methodology

Approach



Methodology

Stakeholders	Tools
Farmers	Focus Group Discussion (FGDs)
Village Development Committee	
Panchayat Members	Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)
Implementing partner team	
Conservation & restoration activities	Direct Observation
Villagers	Participatory Impact

Findings and Analysis

Sarv Mangal Gramin Vikas Sansthan implemented watershed interventions like Anicut and LBCD (Line Based Contour Drainage), effectively reduced soil erosion and boosted water recharge rates. Traditional water conservation systems were revived, including Medh embankments and ancient catchments, alleviating the irrigation water crisis in arid regions and benefiting local farming communities.

The project adopted efficient approach by engaging various stakeholders. All water recharge and harvesting structures were collaboratively designed and planned through consultations with the Village Development Committee (VDC) and the community.

Water Harvesting Structures : Interactions with farmers revealed:

100% of respondents reported increased water levels.

25% increase in irrigated area, along with a 25% rise in agricultural income.

100% of women experienced easier access to drinking water.

Study findings indicate that project strengthened village-level community institutions in surveyed villages increasing collective action and improving women's participation. Even after the project's completion, the community continued to own the program, recognizing its impact.

Focused Group Discussion with villages highlighted Improvement in Soil Health. Constructing farm bunding helped retain soil and nutrients, reducing land degradation and increasing crop productivity.

Reducing Soil Erosion:

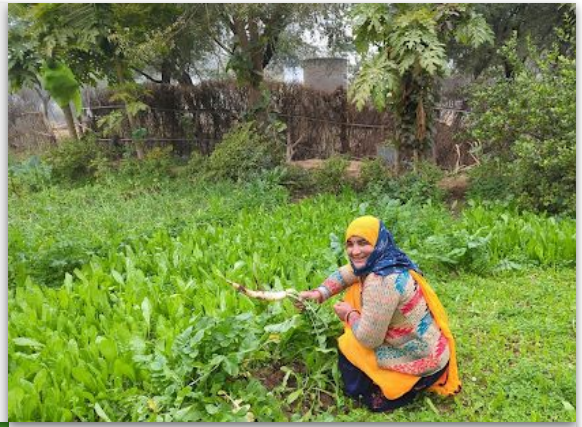
of respondents mentioned that farm bunds acted as barriers, preventing soil erosion and contributing to sustainable agriculture.

The average water level in wells across 12 villages increased by 15 to 30 feet, showcasing the effectiveness of the interventions.

Increased Crop Productivity:

of respondents perceived a higher return (10%-30% higher yield) from crops sown in bunded fields.

95% of respondents reported an average annual income increase of Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000 per family due to interventions, including farm bunding techniques and livestock rearing.



This project supported livestock rearing activities by organizing treatment and vaccination camps, facilitating breed improvement, and installing water troughs for livestock. These efforts reduced treatment costs, improved milk and meat production, and enhanced overall animal health.

95%

The project significantly supported poultry and goat rearing, leading to reduced mortality rates and increased production. Women beneficiaries reported a substantial boost in monthly income, reaching up to Rs. 8000, making these ventures their primary income sources.

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Relevance

The project addressed water needs in Alwar district, a historically drought-prone area. It focused on remote villages, providing support for basic amenities like drinking water supply and drainage lines. Proper funding allocation ensured support for the neediest communities.

Effectiveness

Post-intervention, groundwater levels significantly improved. Focused Group Discussion participants reported higher water levels after the construction of Anicut and Loose Boulder Check Dam structures. Agricultural productivity increased, with farmers transitioning to double crop cycles and experiencing a 25% income boost, indicating the project's effectiveness.

Efficiency

The implementation process was conducted in collaboration with stakeholders and the project design factored in the topography, geology, drainage, and contour lines of the area. This has made interventions more efficient as they have increased the water recharge rate and reduced soil erosion.

Coherence

The activities under the projects are in line with the Atal Bhujal Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, to improve groundwater management through community participation.

Impact

Interventions raised well water levels in many villages. 95% respondents experienced an average annual income increase of Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 40,000. Improved water access for women and strengthened community governance were additional social benefits, showcasing positive impacts across various levels.

Sustainability

Sarv Mangal Gramin Vikas Sansthan established Village Development Committees (VDCs) across all 12 project villages to prioritize the needs of underprivileged and marginalized community segments. Involving multiple stakeholders ensured the project's long-term sustainability.

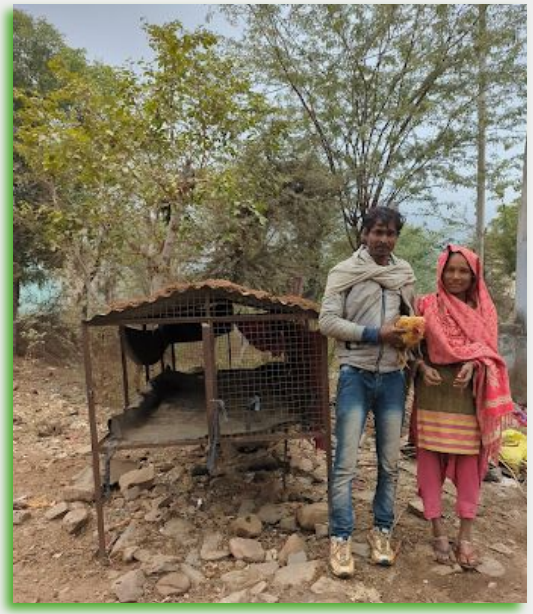
Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals

Goal	Activity of the Project	Target
	• Focus on soil and water conservation through capacity building of community. • Watershed development activities in 12 villages like Earthen Pond renovation, LBCD, Anicut, and Plantation.	
	• Formation of a nutrition garden by the women farmers. • Goat and Poultry farming. • Awareness of commercial seeds through Krishi Vigyan Kendra.	 
	• Multi stakeholder engagement along with execution through Village Development Committees (VDCs) in implementation villages.	

Case study - Turning Adversity into Opportunity

During COVID-19, Ms. Santosh Devi's husband lost his job, and as a landless family, they faced financial difficulties. With support from Sarv Mangal Gramin Vikas Sansthan and the Mahindra project, she received assistance to purchase iron cages to protect her poultry from predators and to buy chicks and feed. With technical guidance from Sarv Mangal Gramin Vikas Sansthan experts, she learned about chick quality, predator protection, and disease prevention. Within a year, she had over 150 chicks, earning Rs. 6000-8000 monthly from selling poultry and eggs. The mortality rate decreased by 40% due to the cages and timely vaccination and feeding. With stable earnings, her children could return to school, and her husband didn't need to migrate for work, focusing on their poultry business instead.

-Santosh Devi

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