

Welcome to our latest newsletter! Where we highlight the inspiring work of Concern India Foundation in driving sustainable change across India.

Through innovative livelihood programmes we empower women and initiatives to restore vital water bodies, we are uplifting communities and fostering a more equitable future.



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HELPING PEOPLE HELP THEMSELVES

www.concernindiafoundation.org

The Buzz About Bees

Bees, often underappreciated, play a crucial role in maintaining the health of our ecosystems. Through their pollination efforts, bees support the growth of many plants, including crops vital for human consumption. Recognising the critical role of bees, our Beekeeping-Based Livelihood Development Project is making strides in Cuttack District, Odisha, and Uttara Kannada, Karnataka. This project not only fosters biodiversity but also empowers women by providing sustainable livelihood options, aligning perfectly with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Empowering Women Through Beekeeping

In regions with limited livelihood opportunities, communities often resort to unsustainable practices that harm natural resources and biodiversity. Our project offers an alternative by empowering women with beekeeping skills, allowing them to generate income without compromising their cultural and domestic responsibilities. Beekeeping can be managed close to home, making it an ideal activity for women who juggle household duties. This flexible livelihood option not only provides financial benefits but also fosters social recognition and respect for women.

Beekeeping has low startup costs, requiring only bee boxes, hive stands, and basic training. This makes it an accessible and effective way to boost livelihoods and biodiversity. The increase in flora and fauna due to enhanced pollination supports a healthier environment.





Community and Economic Development

Our project promotes the formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs), encouraging women to support each other in their beekeeping endeavours. This collective approach not only strengthens community bonds but also ensures the sustainability of the livelihood activity. By establishing a women farmer producer company, we aim to develop a market for honey and other bee products, providing a consistent income stream for the beneficiaries. Implemented across 8 villages in 5 Gram Panchayats (GPs) within 3 taluks, our initiative has directly benefited 250 individuals during the 2023-24 period. By providing bee boxes equipped with eight frames and super chambers, we are equipping beneficiaries with the tools necessary for successful beekeeping.

Reviving Ponds, Revitalizing Lives

Kendrapara district in Odisha frequently faces severe natural disasters like floods and cyclones, causing significant distress among the underprivileged population. Limited job opportunities and repeated calamities have resulted in substantial migration out of the district.

In Kapleshwar GP, where the aquaculture intervention is implemented, addressing poverty, requires resilient livelihoods capable of withstanding climate disasters. Aquaculture emerges as a viable option due to high fish demand and local markets in Kendrapara. This initiative offers marginalized families a supplementary income. Aiming to empower landless and marginal farmers and fishermen by promoting aquaculture as a viable livelihood option. Aquaculture holds considerable socioeconomic potential for coastal and rural communities, aligning with the primary objectives of SDGs.





Renovation and Revival of Ponds

- 5 ponds (Mahadev Pond, S.P.Res Pond, Samsana Pond in Garapur, Gan Pond in Alijanga, and Samsana Pond in Jajanga) renovated with earthworks, bund raising, and levelling of the outer portion.
- Tree plantation for balancing the ecology.

Capacity Building and Technical Training

- Pond Management Committees (PMCs) were formed for each pond, with 15 members from every village.
- PMC members received specialized technical training on various aspects of aquaculture farming, including water management, seed management, fish feeding, health management, harvesting, and entrepreneurship development.
- An exposure visit was organized for the PMC members to a model aquaculture farm and fish seed production centre, allowing them to learn from experienced farmers and technical experts.

Improved Livelihoods and Income Generation

- The project aimed to provide supplementary income to marginalized families through aquaculture farming in the community ponds.
- By adopting climate-resilient livelihood practices, the project will benefit the most vulnerable community members in the Kendrapada block, which frequently faces natural disasters like floods and cyclones.

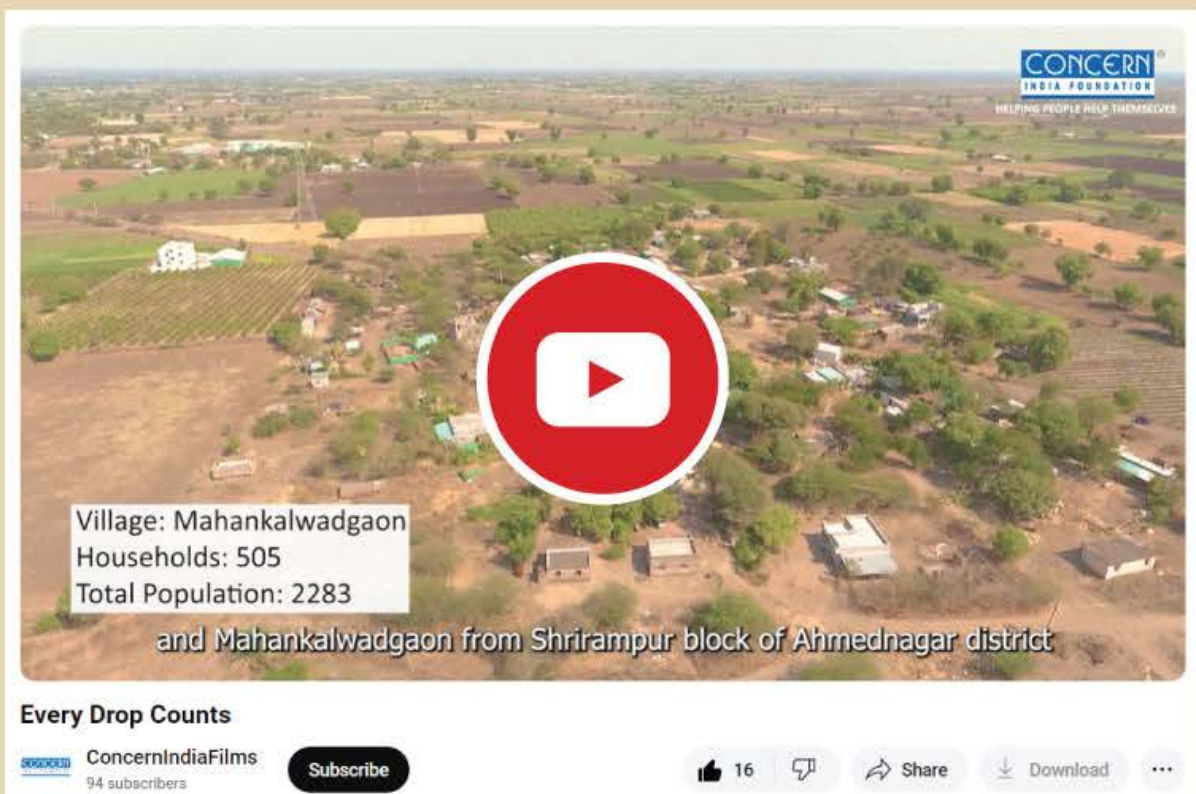
From Scarcity to Sustainability

In the region of Marathwada, farmers are heavily dependent on monsoon rain. As the region is drought prone they frequently face water scarcity, severely impacting agricultural productivity and their livelihood. As a game-changer for farmers, Concern India Foundation intervened and designed the Marathwada Integrated Watershed Development Project (IWPD) with a comprehensive water conservation strategy. The project focused on 3 villages - Babhultel, Nayghawan, and Mahankalwadgaon in the Marathwada region and improving farmers' livelihood and overall community well-being.

Constructing water harvesting structures, helps farmers to reduce their dependency on erratic monsoon rain. This project also emphasized soil and water conservation which helped in preventing soil erosion and improving groundwater recharge. These practices aided farmers in cultivating their land more effectively, leading to higher crop yields and better quality produce. Farmers were provided training through this project by educating them on sustainable agricultural practices, efficient water usage and enhancing their livelihood.

The women of these villages have been trained to improve their families' financial well-being. We provided training in various areas, including goat rearing, dairy farming, and poultry, which will help them establish sustainable livelihoods. Additionally, they have received entrepreneurial training, empowering them to become self-sufficient and contribute to their households' economic growth.


This perfectly aligns with the Goals








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Village: Mahankalwadgaon
Households: 505
Total Population: 2283
and Mahankalwadgaon from Shrirampur block of Ahmednagar district

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Restoring Balance by Revival of Lakes

In a community largely dependent on agriculture, understanding the challenges posed by water scarcity was imperative. With scant rainfall and limited water resources, the communities in Machanpally, Telangana, reliance on agriculture becomes a daily challenge. The lakes, once lifelines of these villages, had succumbed to neglect and environmental degradation, threatening the very existence of the people dependent on them.

To strengthen the catchment area, increase rainwater collection, generate freshwater inflow, and enhance the lake's water holding capacity, we initiated a mission to rejuvenate the Machanpally Lake. Our project aligns with the goals





Glimpse of our efforts:

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The Impact:

- The results of our efforts have been profoundly positive: 1500+ community members are now aware, engaged, and educated about the importance of a restored lake.
- Sustainable water management: The strengthened bund and Full Tank Level pillars ensure that the lake's water levels are effectively managed, providing a reliable water source for agriculture and daily use.
- Enhanced local ecosystem: The increased green cover and preserved native flora and fauna have created a healthier and more sustainable environment for the community.