



Annual Report 2020-2021

Aarangar Environment Action Foundation



Unnamed Road, Syaluta, Rajasthan 301410, India

Latitude
27.0929928°

Longitude
76.3461639°

Local 04:41:22 PM
GMT 11:11:22 AM

Altitude 261.78 meters
Tuesday, 26-01-2021

Message From the Directors

Dear Supporters and Friends,

This year, we are proud to apprise that our on the ground work has started with the mission to revive the catchment area of a local seasonal river of eastern Rajasthan known as 'Syaluta wali river'. Our approach has been of deploying traditional methods of the region involving communities.

To begin with we started work in one of the villages of the catchment area of Syaluta wali river. Initiating ground work in any area had its own challenges. We invested our time wisely and spent a lot of time in understanding the catchment area of the river and villages situated in it. After many community interactions and surveys the work was initiated in the Keetla village which became the first village wherein our foundation intervened.

We successfully raised awareness in the village about the sustainable rain water conservation practices and traditional methods. This led to the creation of a traditional water holding structure i.e. Johad in the village with full community participation. From this intervention 22 people from the village got daily wage jobs worth 146 days.

Through this intervention we touched the lives of 130 families of the village and nearby area which will get direct benefit of the water conservation effort. We are grateful of the 106 known and unknown generous people who came forward to support us financially in the endeavour. We are eagerly waiting to witness the impact of our initiative on the village, biodiversity and people.

Your unwavering support has been the cornerstone of our success. Together, we try to make a lasting difference in the villages we work and we look forward to continuing this journey in the years to come.

With gratitude and hope.

Directors,

Aarangar Environment Action Foundation

Overview of the Programmes

Aaranagar was started with a vision of creating self-sustaining villages and communities through small, local nature based solutions for ecological and economical sustainability. The idea since inception has been of combining indigenous knowledge systems and modern scientific knowledge to derive simple yet impactful initiatives that increases local ownership in creating climate resilient communities for the future.

At the core of our environmental projects is to strengthen local rural livelihood opportunities and poverty alleviation with special focus on women and children.

‘Aarangaar foundation’ believes in result oriented efforts with clear and measurable scientific impact assessments of the interventions and knowledge documentation for replication and awareness.

- 1. Field Work& Awareness**
- 2. Research, Documentation and Publication**
- 3. Fund Raising**

Field Work & Awareness

About the Area:

The work is focused in Dausa and Alwar districts of Eastern Rajasthan. The area is surrounded by Aravali hills from all sides. Annual normal rainfall of the region is only about 560 mm, except the short duration of rainy season, the climate mostly remains dry.

There are no big rivers in this area; rather indigenous knowledge has been used to conserve rainwater through different traditionally made rainwater holding structures in the catchments which in turn would feed the wells, small local rivers and rivulets (nalas) ensuring a perennial flow of water and good health of the ecosystem.

This system, dependent on community action, over a period of time has vanished, leaving immensely useful water bodies of the area dry and ecosystem degraded. The adverse impact is visible in all aspects of life and its habitations.

The colossal impact on human lives, leading to increased migration, forcing people to bank on single kharif crop while also struggling with uncertainties of climate change has been insurmountable misery.

About the work:

The work is focused on the catchment area of a local seasonal river known as 'Syaluta wali nadi'. Through community participation it is intended to create sufficient rain water holding capacity in all the 21 villages situated in the catchment area. This will be followed by extensive plantation of local, native trees.

Bringing water back into a degraded catchment gradually heals the entire ecosystem. As soil becomes moist with water it creates an environment for the life to grow. As Flora and Fauna increases, hidden water streams flowing under that rich ecosystem start to become seasonal streams and eventually contribute in reviving a perennial river. The approach of the work is based on the principles of "Panch- J".

जन (Jana/People) – An envisioned society striving for excellence, self-reliance and self-respect.

जल (Jal/Water) – Water discipline, preservation and judicious use of water.

जंगल (Jungle/Forest) – To Take care of forests and rejuvenate pastures.

जानवर (Janwar/Animals) – To maintain balance between social and ecological conditions by using cattle.

ज़मीन (Jameen/Land) – To increase the fertility of soil by using traditional methods.

1) Community Awareness and Water Literacy



Our first intervention in the catchment area of Syaluta wali river started in the village 'Keetla'. Discussion was initiated in the surrounding villages around water related issues such as water scarcity, water conservation, culture and traditional methods of water conservation, role of communities in reviving dry landscapes etc. Community meetings were held to create awareness and the village was surveyed to understand the ground realities related to the water and its impact on lives and livelihood. Encouraging communities to mitigate water stress and ensuring their participation in such endeavours have also been one of the objectives of community engagement efforts.



**Fig 1 & 2. Informal community interaction at Keetla villag, Rajgarh, Alwar_(--
--Jan 2021)**



These community interactions led to the identification of the site to create a traditional water holding structure in the village. Community also pledged their full support in all the phases i.e. during creation of water bodies and later on in its management.

2) Community Action: Keetla Village, Rajgarh, Dist. Alwar, Rajasthan



The work was carried out entirely by crowd funding and community contribution.

Surrounded by Arawali hills, 'Keetla' is a small village. The water table in the village is about 200 feet, all the wells and hand-pumps are dry and only about 10% of the agriculture land is used for farming. Extreme water scarcity has not only affected the farming but also dwindled available traditional livelihood opportunities and forced people to migrate to cities and work as daily wage laborers.

This is the first village in the catchment area of Syaluta wali river wherein Aarangar Environment Action Foundation intervened and a traditional water conservation structure 'Johad' was created with full community participation.

The work started with the survey of 95 household from the village. The survey presented an understanding of the situation of ground water table in the village, condition of wells, individual agriculture land holding, annual income from agriculture, number of cattle owned, etc.



Fig 3: Resource Map of Keetla Village

A resource mapping exercise was also carried out in one of the community interactions (Fig 3). This was followed by ground work. In 'Keetla' every family has members working as daily wagers. During lockdown due to COVID 19 pandemic, most of them returned back not knowing when to start earning again. During this time women and men of different ages came together with a community spirit and worked for the creation of the 'Johad' in the community land. The work provided 22 People daily wage jobs worth 146 man-days.





Fig 4, 5, 6 & 7 Women were particularly enthusiastic as they bear the entire burden that come with water scarcity.

Overall,

1. A Johad has successfully been created in Keetla village of about 4276 m³ i.e. 42,76,000 Litre water storage capacity
2. Provided 22 People from Keetla village daily wage jobs of worth 146 days, 68% were women
3. 100 families in and around Keetla village will get benefits of the water body
4. The Johad will revive 13 wells and 2 hand pumps, 600 animals will get drinking water and 130 families will have improved livelihood options and opportunities



Fig 6,7,8 & 9 A traditional water body 'Johad' of 4276 m³ (42,76,000 Litre) was created by community of 'Keetla' village. Many migrant laborers who returned home because of COVID -19 became integral part of the work. Understanding the ground realities digging by hand was encouraged.

The entire work was carried out and managed by local community, thus it was an community owned endeavour. Amid COVID times, it created awareness in the community about importance of conserving rainwater and traditional local livelihood opportunities such as farming and animal husbandry.

Research, Documentation and Publication

A. Name of the Knowledge Portal in Hindi: पृथ्वी और पर्यावरण

URL: <http://degreecentigrade.in/>

B. Name of the Web Portal in English: Earth and Environment

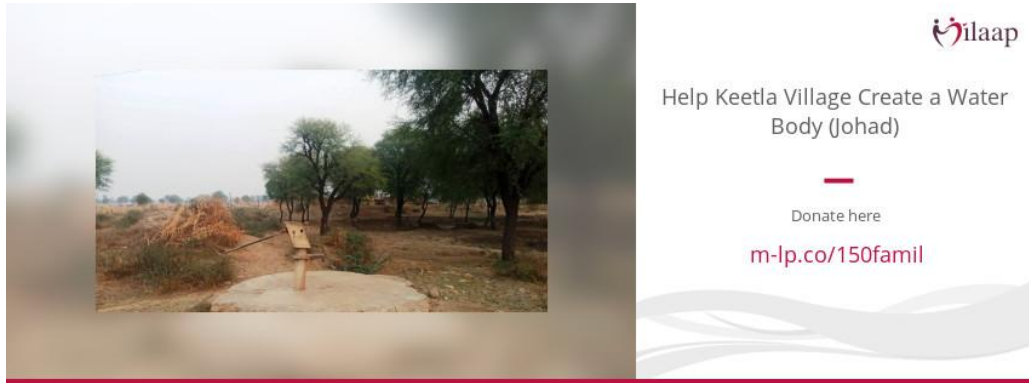
URL: <http://degreecentigrade.com/>

The knowledge portals were updated with the articles focusing on the water and biodiversity conservation.

The image shows two screenshots of web portals. The top screenshot is the Hindi portal 'पृथ्वी और पर्यावरण' (Earth and Environment) as of September 7, 2024. It features a navigation bar with a home icon and a search bar. Below the header, there are several article cards. One card is titled 'समुद्र के बढ़ते स्तर पर नजर रखने के लिए अंतरिक्ष यान 'सेटिनल - 6' माइकल प्रीलिच 10 नवंबर 2020 को होगा लॉंच' (Satellite-6 will be launched to monitor rising sea levels on November 10, 2020). Another card is titled 'पृथ्वी के पानी का सर्वेक्षण करेगा नासा का 'स्वोट मिशन'' (NASA's 'Swot' mission will survey Earth's water). A third card is titled 'शानदार 'गंगा डॉल्फिन' गायब न हो जाए!' (Don't let the beautiful 'Ganga Dolphin' disappear!). The bottom screenshot is the English portal 'EARTH & ENVIRONMENT' as of January 13th, 2020. It has a navigation bar with categories like News, Climate, Agriculture, Water, Biodiversity, S&T, and Blog. Below the header, there are several article cards. One card is titled '2018 - 6th Warmest Year on Record for India'. Another card is titled 'Greenland Ice Sheets are Melting From Below According to New Studies by NASA'. A third card is titled 'Why USA opted out of Paris Climate Change Agreement?'. The bottom screenshot also features a search bar and a 'Watch Online' button.

Fund Raising

Crowd funding campaign to create a Johad in Keetla Village



Fund Raising Campaign of Rs.1,25,232 was set up in the Milap Platform to create a Johad in Keetla village, Alwar to help it fight water scarcity. Milap is a popular crowdfunding platform in India.

Number of People came together to contribute = 106

Total funds collected through the Milap platform = Rs.1,25,457

The entire fund was used for the water conservation work at Keetla village.

Link of the campaign: <https://milaap.org/fundraisers/support-150-families-of-keetla-village>

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



6

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



AVOID WASTING WATER.

Water scarcity affects more than 40% of the world's population.