



Annual Report 2021-2023

**Aarangaar Environment Action
Foundation**

Message From the Directors

Dear Supporters and Friends,

This year, we are proud to report another year of impactful work as we continue our 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. Extending the work of the previous year, this year we worked with the community of Kakrali Rampura village. One of our major interventions in this year has been the awareness campaign in the village about the sustainable rain water conservation practices and traditional methods. This led to the creation of a traditional water holding structure in the village with full community participation.

Through this intervention we touched the lives of 200 families of the village and nearby area which will get direct benefit of the water conservation effort. We are grateful of the 34 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 infusing indigenous knowledge systems and modern scientific knowledge to derive simple yet impact initiatives that increases local ownership in creating climate resilient communities for the future.

At the core of our environmental projects is to strengthen disaster risk resilience, 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 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 river'. 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.

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

1) Community Awareness and Water Literacy

The work started with initiating discussions in the villages around water covering 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 many villages of the catchment area of Syaluta wali river such as Kakrali Rampura, Dundpuri, Rampura, Tilwaad, Boorja, Baldev Garh and Kakrali have been surveyed to understand the ground realities related to the water and its impact on women and education of children especially girls. Encouraging communities to mitigate water stress and ensuring their participation in such endeavours have also been one of the objectives of community engagement efforts.

These community interactions helped in spreading awareness about water conservation and livelihood. Community interaction led to the identification of the sites to create/renovate traditional water holding structures. Community also pledged their full support in all the phases i.e. during creation of water bodies and later on in its management.



Fig 1. Awareness programme at Kakrali Rampura Rajgarh, Alwar (25 Oct 2021)



Fig 2. Community interaction at Kakrali Rampura (29 November 2021)

Kakrali Rampura is one of the villages wherein the local community showed enthusiastic participation in the awareness interactions. Facing acute water stress the community showed immense interest in creating traditional water holding structure known as 'Johad' in the village.

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

Surrounded by Arawali hills, 'Kakrali Rampura' is a small village. The water table in the village was at 300 feet, all the wells and hand-pumps are dry and only 11% of the agriculture land was under farming. Unavailability of water has ruined all the locally available traditional livelihood opportunities and forced people to migrate to cities and work as daily wage laborers.

This is the second 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 efforts to get a holistic picture of the village with respect to the water related stress and its possible impact on lives and livelihood of the community. With this intention 135 people from the villages were surveyed. 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 Kakrali Rampura Village

A resource mapping exercise was also conducted with the community in one of the community gatherings (Fig 3). This was followed by ground work. In 'Kakrali Rampura' village each family has members working as daily wage worker. During lockdown due to COVID 19 pandemic most of them returned back not knowing when to start earning again. During this time we met the villagers and explained about the work and its benefits for the whole village. Women and men of different ages came together with a community spirit and were rewarded financially for the efforts contributing to their sustenance. The work provided 11 People daily wage jobs worth 60 days.



Fig 4: Women were particularly enthusiastic as they bear the entire burden that come with water scarcity





Fig 5,6 & 7 A traditional water body 'Johad' of 7926 m³ (79,26,000 Litre) was created by community of 'Kakrali Rampura' 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 work was entirely owned by community. It created awareness in the community about importance of conserving rainwater. Amid COVID times the people understood the importance of traditional local livelihood opportunities such as farming and animal husbandry as these are dependent on availability of water.

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

Research, Documentation and Publication

1. Video documentation of the work at Keetla, Alwar Rajasthan by Aarangar Environment Action Foundation

Title of the You tube video: Traditional Water Body 'Johad' @Keetla Village, Alwar, Rajasthan, Uploaded on 03/09/2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fc93L-Jbs2U>

2. The Knowledge Portals of Aarangar Environment Action Foundation focuses on Water Conservation - Its art and Science' to make its knowledge available in the form of easy to understand articles. The platform also covers activities and interventions that bring climate change resilience, and create sustainable livelihood opportunities.

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/>

A visit was made to the village Teerol, Gogunda, Dist Udaipur, Rajasthan to understand the work carried out to revive the pasture land by the community. The useful insights of the work are documented and resulted in an article on pasture land conservation of Teerol village. This has been published in the knowledge platform in April 2022. This article is a useful knowledge resource for many other communities and community based organizations who want to replicate the work.

‘तीरोल ने प्रकृति आधारित समाधानों को अपनाया’,

<https://degreecentigrade.in/2024/09/05/nature-based-solutions-udaipur-rajasthan/>

‘Teerol’ opts for nature-based solution to fight water and fodder scarcity

<https://degreecentigrade.com/2024/09/05/teerol-opts-for-nature-based-solution-to-fight-water-and-fodder-scarcity/>

September 7, 2024

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Fund Raising

Crowd funding campaign



Fund Raising Campaign of Rs.3,05,000 was set up in the Milap Platform to create Johads in Nangal Chandel and Kakrali Rampura villages to fight water scarcity. Milap is a popular crowdfunding platform in India.

Number of People came together to contribute = 34

Total funds collected through the Milap platform = Rs.73,797

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

Link of the campaign: <https://milaap.org/fundraisers/support-families-of-nangal-chandel-and-daroga-wala-villages>

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION





AVOID WASTING WATER.

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