

# Report on Convergence Initiatives in India An Overview



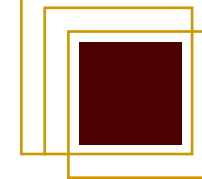


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Ministry of Rural Development  
Government of India



## Background and Status of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)



Evolving the design of the Wage Employment programmes to more effectively fight poverty, the Central Government formulated the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) in 2005. With its legal framework and rights-based approach, NREGA provides employment to those who demand it and is a paradigm shift from earlier programmes. Notified on September 7, 2005, NREGA aims at enhancing livelihood security by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment, in a financial year, to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. The Act covered 200 districts in its first phase, implemented on February 2, 2006, and was extended to 130 additional districts in 2007-2008. All the remaining rural areas have been notified with effect from April 1, 2008.

NREGA is the first ever Act, internationally, that guarantees wage employment at such an unprecedented scale. The potential of NREGA spans a range of possibilities. The primary objective of this Act is augmenting wage employment. The choice of work suggested in the Act address causes of chronic poverty like drought, deforestation and soil erosion, so that the process of employment generation is maintained on a sustainable basis. The Act acts as a significant vehicle for strengthening decentralization and deepening processes of democracy by authorising local governance bodies, that is, the Panchayati Raj Institutions.



**Unique features :** of the Act include time-bound employment guarantee and wage payment within 15 days, facilitating incentive-disincentive structure to the State Governments for providing employment, since 90 per cent of the cost for employment provided is borne by the Central Government or payment of unemployment allowance at the State's own cost is to be provided. The Act also mandates 33 percent participation for women.

**Why Convergence ?** Substantial public investments are being made for strengthening of rural economy and livelihood base of the poor, especially the marginalised groups like SC/STs and women. To effectively address the issue of poverty alleviation, there is a need to optimise efforts through inter-sectoral approaches. The convergence of different programmes like: Watershed Programmes, National Agriculture Development Programme (Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana), National Horticulture Mission, Scheme of Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dug well, BRGF, with NREGA will enable better planning and effective investments in rural areas. This convergence will bring in synergies between different government programmes/schemes in terms of planning, process and implementation. This will also facilitate sustainable development.

Convergence of funds from other sources can help in creation of durable assets. For instance, funds available with PRIs from other sources such as the National Finance Commission, State Finance Commission, State Departments and other Central or Centrally Sponsored Schemes such as SGSY, DPAP, DDP, IWDP, BRGF can be dovetailed with other rural development funds for the construction of durable community assets under the works permissible. However, core funds of nay schemes should not be used as substitute resources by different departments and agencies for their own activities.

The Ministry of Rural Development has developed and disseminated Guidelines for Convergence of NREGS with different schemes and specific programmes viz. Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Afforestation Programme and other schemes of the Ministry of Forest & Environment, Schemes of the Ministry of Water Resources, PMGSY (Department of Rural Development), SGSY (Department of Rural Development), Watershed Development Programmes (Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development). For this, 115 pilot districts in 22 states have been identified by the MoE&F, MoWR and ICAR.

### Perceived expected outcomes from convergence initiatives include:

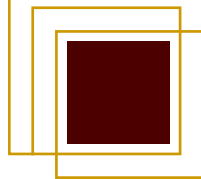
- Increase in Social Capital: Collective planning and implementation among different stakeholders will enhance social capital. This will improve management and work output.
- Increase in Physical Capital: The process will help in creating durable assets and will also improve land productivity.
- Facilitation of Ecological Synergies: Natural resource base regeneration through different Activities such as afforestation, drought proofing, flood proofing, and watershed will lead to effective use of Resources.
- Mitigating Effects of Climate Change: NREGA helps in addressing issues such as CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and industrial pollution and stemming.
- Enhancing Economic Opportunities: Income opportunities, savings and investments may be generated through activities such as pisciculture.

- Strengthening Democratic Processes: Convergence awareness and planning at the grassroot level will lead to greater ownership of projects.
- Facilitating Sustainable Development: Convergence efforts through creation of durable assets, rural connectivity, productivity enhancement and capacity development lead to sustainable development.

NIRD, Civil Society Organisations/ Professional Institutions having technical competence & resources are being enlisted for monitoring of convergence pilots. This report highlights the innovative experiments and good practices happening in pilots' districts. It also documents the lessons learnt in the light of the interactions with stakeholders in these states. In this regard, the salient features of NREGS and strengthening of PRIs, as well as CBOs have been considered as the bottom line.

### Some key issues considered in the status study are:

- What type of convergence (fund, institutional technical expertise, social mobilisation) has been attempted? How simultaneous convergence of all the dimensions can be achieved?
- How participatory was the process adopted? Whether PRIs or local bodies, in particular, have been involved in the planning and implementation of convergence initiatives?
- What is the scope for achieving multi-sectoral collaboration taking into account regional diversity to make a significant contribution to project sustainability and maximisation of benefits?
- What institutional arrangement would ensure the identification of convergence projects by the community for wider acceptance and ownership?
- Why the successful/innovative projects are not being replicated? How this can be institutionalized?
- How to address the various factors (capacity, commitment) hindering the convergence planning for achieving synergy and optimal use of resources?



## Some of the State Government's convergence initiatives

### Andhra Pradesh

State government has initiated convergence between NREGS and horticulture scheme (comprehensive land development programme of NABARD, AP micro-irrigation project and Schemes of Tribal Welfare department). Detailed government orders and instructions are issued on implementation arrangements. Mandal level teams have been identified as convergence resource groups. State Government has initiated remarkable convergence of NREGS with the SHG federations and this convergence is helping the SHG members to access all services under NREGS.



### Assam

In the state there has been convergence of NREGS with SGSY. The State has also implemented the project for Orange Cultivation and intercropping with Turmeric funded completely by NREGS, but work was done jointly by NREGS and ICAR (KVK). NREGS has also been converged with DRDA and Social Forestry Division of the State. MoWR has also provided technical support for works undertaken under NREGS to protect soil erosion.

### Chhattisgarh

Government of Chhattisgarh has undertaken convergence initiatives for optimising irrigation capacity of all major, medium and minor projects through construction of field channels, correction of system deficiencies and drains. Most of the districts are taking up works on water resource schemes under NREGA which were not provided under the State Budget. Some of the initiatives include Shakambari Yojana, Goan Ganga Yojana, District Development Plan through convergence. The district administration has weaved together the objectives of employment guarantee and overall objectives of the development schemes under state plan/ non- plan, and central plan in these sectors. They identify the resource gaps in these schemes and dovetail the labour component with EGS, and thus achieve synergy and optimise productive utilisation of resources.

### Gujarat

Government of Gujarat has initiated convergence between water resource department, environment and forests department and agriculture department with NREGS. The important activities undertaken through convergence are rainwater harvesting, dug wells, group irrigation wells, vermicompost, lift irrigation and other agricultural activities.



### Himachal Pradesh

Convergence in the State is being undertaken by involving Public works department, Forest department, Soil conservation department, Horticulture department, Silk Seed production department and KVKs. There are many GPs that implemented convergence process adopted by State level initiatives. Convergence has been made under various programmes i.e. SGSY, TSC & Watershed by generating awareness about NREGA during awareness camps and trainings under these programmes. Convergence has a huge scope in Himachal Pradesh as it enhances the livelihood opportunities of the people as road connectivity and water harvesting play a great role in this.

### Kerala

State government has developed convergence plan with a focus on natural resource management and eco-restoration. Expert professional agencies have prepared watershed-based District Perspective Plans. State-level convergence meetings were held and State, district, block and gram sabha level resources teams are in place. The convergence initiatives stress on overexploited, critical and semi-critical artificial recharge of groundwater, renovation of irrigation projects under NREGA-desilting, construction of field channels and also under large projects of eco-restoration of major rivers Bharata Puzha and Kabani. The pilot districts have also prepared detailed village plan and district technical manuals. The IEC and training module is based on State Government's Kutumbshree initiatives.



### Madhya Pradesh

State Government has formulated various sub-schemes under convergence of different schemes for increasing agriculture-related activities. The initiatives undertaken are Kapildhara, Bhoomishilp, Resham, Nandan Phal Udan and Sahastradhara. The state has undertaken such sub-schemes to provide irrigation facilities to SC/ST/BPL/LR & IAY beneficiaries through dug wells/farm ponds/stop dams/ check dams/minor tanks. Under the subschemes, there is provision to construct recharging structures with dug wells, plantation of mulberry and other fruit trees. The pilot districts have also undertaken NREGA watershed schemes in smaller areas in the pattern of watershed schemes.





## Maharashtra



In the State departments like Forest, Agriculture, fishery departments have utilized the NREGS fund and engaged the NREGS job card holders in different works. To help the farmers diversify crop production initiatives have been taken by some of the districts in the state by converging NREGA with NHM and NHB. By converging different schemes in villages, road connectivity has been undertaken like village to block roads, converting Kucha road to pebble road and to Tar road; CCT and pucca roads in SC colonies which connects villages to near by towns. NREGA has been dovetailed successfully with social forestry and irrigation department.

## Orissa

NREGS works have been converged with other departments like Forest for digging trenches and undertaking plantation, irrigation department for renovation of canal system, Sericulture, Pisciculture, Soil Conservation, Public works department, and Welfare Departments like renovation of play grounds and creation of water bodies inside ashram school by utilizing the NREGS funds and engaged NREGS job card holders. NREGS has been converged with TFC in making durable assets in shape of concrete roads in 15 blocks. NREGS is dovetailed with Backward Region Grant Fund for Excavation of pond

## Rajasthan

Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the pilot districts have provided plans for technical training on vericompost, improved rearing practices of goats, cattle and pig, poultry, production of planting material of vegetables and fruits, bee-keeping and seed production. State Government has under taken sub schemes, Harit Rajasthan for convergence of NREGA with other Department. Harit Rajasthan is basically initiated to cope with the drought conditions of Rajasthan, by collaboration of all the departments like Forest, PWD, Education, Health, Industries, Transport, Defense and Paramilitary, NGOs etc. It is implemented in all the thirty-three districts including both urban and rural areas



## Uttar Pradesh

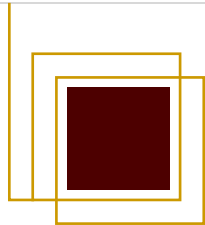


Detailed State Guidelines on convergence have been issued. The guidelines consist of specific projects and the methodology of convergence for sustainable development. The guidelines also consist of activity-wise format for convergence between NREGS and other development schemes. The state has undertaken 11 sub-schemes to provide irrigation facility to SC/ST/BPL/LR & IAY beneficiaries through dug wells/farm ponds/stop dams/ check dams/minor tanks.

## West Bengal

Pilot districts have developed district convergence plans which focus on natural resource management and eco-restoration. Like Kerala, the convergence initiatives focus on overexploited, critical and semi-critical blocks artificial recharge of groundwater, renovation of irrigation projects under NREGA-desilting, construction of field channels and also under large projects eco-restoration. The KVKs have provided training to block resource groups. The fisheries department is promoting pisciculture in the water bodies created under NREGS.





# State-wise Convergence Initiatives and Good Practices

## ANDHRA PRADESH

In Andhra Pradesh, the District Water Resources Management Agency (DWMA) is designated as the implementing agency for NREGS. The pilot projects initially have been envisaged for convergence with MoWR, ICAR and MoE&F. Convergence was envisaged in the eight districts – Karimnagar, Kurnool, Nalgonda, Chittoor, Khammam, Mahaboobnagar, Medak and Kadapa. However, the district administration has gone beyond these departments and explored the scope to build convergence with several other line departments.

### State Initiatives

A detailed and well-designed process is followed in the identification and design of convergence activities in the districts. Activities to be covered by NREGS and line departments/ agencies are discussed at the district level under the direction of the Project Director (DWMA) and communicated down the line up to the Mandal level. With regard to the funding arrangements, the NREGS has been the principal contributor and the line departments join with their technical inputs, (knowledge & expertise) and funds in a small way. Several training programmes and video-conferences are organised and meetings are held to make the officials more clear about the concept of convergence. Convergence with other departments is as follows:

### Comprehensive Land Development Programmes

In NREGS works, activities that can be taken up with machinery like bush clearance, removal of boulders, land leveling, creation of irrigation facilities, i.e., drilling of bore wells and erection of pump sets including energisation etc. are taken up in convergence with CLDP.

### State Horticulture Mission

Technical knowledge and subsidised inputs, including supply of saplings are provided from State Horticulture Mission (SHM), and these are extended to the small and marginal farmers under NREGS.

### Andhra Pradesh Minor Irrigation Project (APMIP)

Convergence with NREGS is worked out to provide subsidised drip irrigation facility to the small farmers on 30:70 ratio from NREGS and APMIP funds.

### ST Corporation

ST Corporation takes up lands belonging to tribals and executes works with its own funds and seeks support of CLDP for gap filling. The Mandals are tied up with NREGS for land development and horticulture and APMIP for drip irrigation.

### Watershed

Horticulture plantation is taken up with Watershed Development Programme before implementation of horticulture activity under NREGS and maintenance is being covered under NREGS.

### Irrigation Department

Comprehensive restoration of tank works at the rate of one per GP under NREGS. Hand works such as bush clearance, stumps removal etc., which require machinery is done with regular departmental funds. The works with manual labour and material components are met from NREGS funds. The technical support is extended by the irrigation, Panchayati Raj and rural water supply departments.

### Panchayati Raj

Construction of rural roads is taken up under convergence. The Superintendent Engineer monitors the execution of works involving all the Mandal Engineers, DEEs and EEs. The funds are provided by the Government directly to the PR Department. The software (technical support) required by them is extended by PD, DWMA.

### Forest

Forest nurseries are taken up under convergence. The DFOs take up works in the forest area for which software support is extended by Project Director, DWMA. Funds are directly provided by the Government to the DFOs.

### Indira Kranthi Patham

The DWMA has utilised the SHGs and their networks in the process of publicity of NREGS. Creation of awareness among wage seekers through village organisations in providing of 100 days of guaranteed employment is being done. In the process, the SHG members also come across the various information regarding government scheme, and therefore, it acts as a platform for capacity building for them. At the same time, it provides a broader citizen base for NREGS, as in most of the cases, either the spouse of the SHG member or the member only is a NREGS wage seeker.

### ATMA

Training is provided to all the horticulture beneficiaries with Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) funded through JD (Agriculture).

### Coffee Board and Rubber Board

Under NREGS, large scale rubber and coffee plantation has been taken up. This is an effort in the direction of changing the face of rural economy of the concerned place. The wage and material component is met through NREGS, whereas Rubber Board and Coffee Board are providing technical inputs. These projects are mainly taken up in the Tribal areas of Paderu, Vishakhapatnam (Coffee) and Rampachodavaram, East Godavari (Rubber).



### Chenchu Development Project (ITDA)

This is an innovative initiative taken up by the State Government to reach out to the most marginalised people. Before launching this project under NREGS, the coverage of Chenchus (a primitive tribe group) was merely 2 per cent, but after intervention, 80 per cent of the Chenchus are covered under NREGS.

Under this arrangement, there is a guarantee of 10 days of work under NREGS for both husband and wife. Village Organisation, a village-level agency under Indira Kranthi Patham (IKP), provides advance payment to the wage seeker, which is adjustable against the work done by the them. This is done to counter the problem of unavailability of financial delivery infrastructure in form of bank/ post office and, more importantly, to meet the consumption needs (food security) of Chenchus.



NREGS-VO Convergence: A PTG labourer demonstrating the measurement of work in Achampet Mandal, Achampet Village



Mango & Sweet Orange Plantations In Dhone Mandal

### Convergence between Minor Irrigation, NREGS and Horticulture Department

Small and marginal farmers have taken up horticulture for their livelihoods. Under the convergence programme, four to five farmers were constituted into a group. Each farmer contributed two acres of land. The group is called Common Interest Group (CIG).

The farmers are given training to cultivate the horticulture crops (Mango, Sweet Lime) by the horticulture department. Convergence is between the AP Micro Irrigation Department, the Horticulture Department and NREGS. Drip irrigation is provided by the Kissan group of APMIP (Micro Irrigation Project), which has provided the irrigation technology to the farm by laying the water pipes across the field. APMIP has also developed a small farm pond for the CIG group. Being subsidy-driven, the contribution of the Irrigation Department is 70 per cent, while that of the Horticulture Department (APMIP) is 30 per cent. The wage component in the project works is covered under the NREGS which includes digging pits, clearing the land etc. The farmers are also given Rs. 900 per acre towards intercropping wherein the farmers are given the plant material by the horticulture department. This initiative can be seen in other districts also.

## ASSAM

Four districts of Assam – Bongaigaon, Darrang, Lakhimpur and North Cachar Hills have been considered for convergence pilot projects.

The river Nonoi, a Northern tributary of the mighty Brahmaputra originates from Bhutan. The river is flashy in nature and carries a considerable amount of silt. The river is steep and therefore its velocity is very high. The rising trend of the river being very high and avulsion, erosion and inundation problems are very acute. Bank erosion is becoming severe day by day. So at the demand of the people projects have been taken up to protect and stop further progress of the erosion.

Technical assistance was provided by MoWR. Before initiation of work, Executive Engineer Water Resource Division, Mangaldai was contacted and design specifications were procured. Mangaldai Water Resource Division had already done some work under their project to pool resources convergence was welcomed in this village.

### Bongaigon

In Bongaigaon, artificial regeneration project was taken up in 100 hectares, cashew plantation in 50 hectares and afforestation in 250 hectares of land. These projects were completely funded by NREGS and implemented by social forestry division. The project was first initiated by DRDA, Bongaigaon with technical support from social forestry division, divisional forest office.



The project estimates were prepared by Social forestry division while NREGS was providing labour component and financial aspect. The details of the project are given in the table(at the end). DRDA monitors the job assignment to job card holders and maintains the Muster Roll of the workers.



The project was first identified by DRDA, Bongaigaon in consultation with divisional forest office. The DPC (district planning committee) is the top level body which approves a particular project. The programme director takes care of planning, implementation and monitoring of the projects. And agencies actively take part in planning and providing technical support for successful completion of project. The plantation project was taken in barren uncultivable land.

The project is ongoing and the old target of 100 hectares of artificial regeneration, 50 hectares of cashew plantation and 250 hectares of afforestation was already achieved. These plantations are now being extended to the surrounding barren lands. The hilly uncultivable barren land is brought into forestry plantation. Artificial regeneration also helped in drought proofing of the area.



Nursery rising for artificial regeneration



Job card holders engaged in nursery

“Orange cultivation intercropped with Turmeric at Rajgarh GP of Narayanpur block” in Lakhimpur is funded by NREGS and the technical input provided by Citrus Research Institute of ICAR. Water harvesting work is presently in progress.

**Podumani Park** in Lakhimpur is developed jointly by the Social Forestry Division and DRDA. Here, the activity viz., plantation was done by Social Forestry Division and land development was undertaken by DRDA under NREGS.



Orange cultivation intercropped with Turmeric



Podumani Park

### Tariyani Barbeel

Development and beautification of Tariyani Barbeel Scheme was taken up with Soil Conservation Department, basically for creation of permanent assets through Job Cardholders. There are seven villages near the project area, which covers 18 hectares. This scheme was initiated by the demand of the villagers dwelling near the large water bodies which possess huge potential as tourist or picnic spot. The local people will be benefited at the time of execution of the project and local skill labour also will get some works. The work to be undertaken under this scheme is basically excavation of pond, landscaping, floriculture, beautification, goat proof fencing, and provision for timber bridge, footpath and boating.



Development and beautification of Tariyani Barbeel in progress



## CHHATTISGARH

Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Kabirdham, Surguja, Dantewada and Bastar districts of Chhattisgarh have been selected for convergence pilots with different departments. The convergence of MoWR with NREGS is envisaged in five districts Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Kabirdham, Surguja and Bastar.

At the state level works in convergence mode with other line departments and schemes have been in place. Mainly, the converging departments are Water Resource Department/Irrigation, Forests, Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture and Rural Engineering Services. In convergence too, the works are proposed by the Gram Panchayats and consolidated at the block (Janpad Panchayat) by the CEO, and submitted to the Zilla Panchayat for necessary approval and sanction. A few successful and innovative projects, which may be considered for wider replication, are as follows:

### Self-reliance of Baiga Tribes through Sericulture

The state and district administration have taken some proactive and innovative steps under the convergence mode. The project is located in the areas inhabited by Baigas (PTG). The vision behind the project is to make them self-reliant. As a part of the strategy, the tribals have been imparted training. This project aims at livelihood security for 10,000 tribals. For instance, in Jhalmala GP of Kabirdham district, a Sericulture unit has come up using the funds of NREGS, Sericulture Department and BRGF. The approach road worth Rs.10.97 lakh has been constructed through the NREGS fund; besides land levelling has also been done through the NREGS funds. Using BRG funds costing Rs. 17.63 lakh, a building for Sericulture Unit is being constructed. To look after the activities and maintenance of this unit, the Sericulture department has posted a Junior Engineer at the site. A Stop Dam (Rs.10.80 lakh) constructed nearby, which serves the water needs of the plantation, is under NREGS.



Baiga Women with Silk cocoonsSilk Worm rearing



### Plant Nursery - Vermicompost Project

In the same district, a plant nursery has been raised and maintained utilising the resources from NREGS, Forest Department and SGSY. The cost of WBM approach road, land levelling and plantation is borne by the NREGS. The Forest Department, which maintains the nursery and grows plant saplings to be distributed for free plantation, helped in raising the nursery through funds of Rs. 31.20 lakh. In further development, Vermicompost pits were constructed to utilise the waste coming out of the nursery. This waste serves as organic manure for the nursery. These Vermicompost pits, constructed through NREGS funds, have been handed over to Jai Narmade Swayam Sahayata Samooh, a SHG of local people. Till date, 5 lakh plants, 1 lakh Sagaun, 2 lakh Bamboo and 2 lakh mixed varieties have been distributed for plantation. Around 400 quintal of compost is produced through the Vermicompost pits, which is then sold at Rs.500 per quintal, resulting in a profit of Rs. 2 lakh to the SHG members. Seeing its utility, this has also been replicated in the nearby Gram Panchayats.



Plant Nursery



SHG Members working in Vermicompost pit

### Bastar Haat (Eco tourism)

In Bastar, waste land is being converted into tourist spot 'Bastar Haat' using the funds from the NREGS, RSVY, SGSY and 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission and expertise of KVKs.

### Agro-Silvi-horticulture and Soil Conservation Model

A model for uplands and badies has been developed in Bastar. This is based on Agro-horti-silviculture with soil water conservation model and intercropping. The steps followed in taking up the projects are:

- SWC-CCT and Bunding to divide field in small pieces (10m width) and collection of water in percolation well at field bottom.
- Planting of fruit trees (Mango, Cashew, Aonla, Lemon, Litchi, Guava, etc).



- Adoption of indigenous micro-irrigation technique for fruit plants.
- Planting of multipurpose trees on farm boundary for vegetative fencing, fodder, fuel and green manuring.
- Intercropping of maize, cowpea, and vegetables.

### Output

This model helped in conservation of 6.4 t soil/ ha, whereas 8 t/ ha loss was recorded from untreated land.

### Vegetable Cultivation in Lowland and Utilisation of Harvested Water by the Paddle Operated Pump

A pond of 30x30x2.1 mtr size is dug for harvested water, after which paddle operated low lift pump were provided to the beneficiaries. These pumps come with a capacity to lift up to 3000-4000 litres/hr from the depth of 10-12 ft, Being userfriendly, these pumps can be easily operated by woman or even a child of above 14 yrs for more than 2 ½ hrs/day. The outcome of intervention was noticeable by the fact that vegetable cultivation of Cauliflower and Cabbage was introduced after rice.

This project, taken up in the financial year 2009-10, is still under implementation. Cashew plantation is done on 40 ha. land using DPAP funds, while maintenance such as pruning is done through NREGS funds for which Rs. 4 lakh are spent creating 1313 person days.



Dry land Cashew Orchards: An option for Income generation and Development of fallow lands in Bastar - A Success Story of DPAP & NREGP



### Pastureland Development under NAIP and NREGS. Vill.- Bhataguda, Jagdalpur

In this NAIP project, NREGS is providing essential inputs; Cattle Protection Trenches (CPT) and Continuous Contour Trenches are constructed by NREGS resulting in creating 811 and 224 person days, respectively.

At the same place, milch animals have been financed to a local women SHG group, who are rearing these cattle using this pastureland. The SHG is engaged in producing dairy products and selling it in the nearby Jagdalpur market.

## GUJARAT

Five districts of Gujarat have been identified for convergence pilot projects. Dahod and Dangs districts will take up convergence project with ICAR as well as MoWR, while Banaskanta and Sabarkanta are selected for MoWR convergence project.

### NREGS & MoEF (NAP)



The '**SWARNIM SOCIETY**' scheme has been taken up by the State Government, which is an initiative to create a decent habitation for the BPL of all the communities. This holistic development effort was made possible by the convergence of six different sources of fund. Under this, drainage lines, fencing and plantation, internal roads were taken up by NREGS; housing by IAY/SAY (Sardar Awaas Yojana), site clearance being funded by Gram Panchayat, basic infrastructure like drinking water pipeline and electrification through the 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission grants. The cost of CC road and Community Hall is borne by MP/MLA LAD. A Children park has also been raised by utilising 'Panchvati', a State Government scheme.



This concept is appreciable. Therefore, before taking up of any of such project, the socio- cultural milieu of the place must be studied in depth.

Conceptually the convergence projects such as 'Swarnam Society', 'Sparsh' and 'Suzlam Suflam' are very good and these need to be studied after their completion for replicability. In addition, there are two schemes in which waste water is being recycled through simple mechanism to be used for vegetable cultivation in Meta Gram Panchayat (Indiranagar area) in Vadgam taluq of Banaskantha district. The scheme is named as 'Waste Water Harvesting Structure Scheme'.

Another innovative step which has been taken by some districts is the **application of GIS technology** in the comprehensive planning, implementation and evaluation of projects. With the use of GIS, classification of the state into different watersheds is done. A survey has been undertaken to assess the problems and potential of the land survey number and identification of works in convergence. The steps carried out in this include:

- Using GIS Technology, the condition, limitation and potential of the land parcel is derived.
- Draft Action Plan is prepared on the basis of findings and prescriptions of Experts/Agricultural Universities/Research institutes.
- Ridge to valley approach is adopted.
- Final Action Plan is prepared based on PRA exercises at the village level.



Condition of the village before the project



Changes after the project

In a village called **Vajeriya**, participatory implementation of the convergence scheme under NREGS was done and it helped in the following:

- Encouragement of local people to participate in the adoption of improved technology.
- Increased green cover.
- Active participation of people in participatory planning and implementation of the project.
- People's commitment to convert unproductive/ fallow land into productive resource to supplement the family income.

Thus, a single project of NREGS implemented in a participatory mode has opened up new vistas in the livelihood pattern of the village community in the Narmada district.

Yet another innovative practice is the Solid-Liquid Waste Management which is carried out by the villagers' themselves and owned by the PRIs in Junagadh district in convergence with NREGS and other schemes.

Solid Waste - Collection, Transportation and Disposal

- Door to door collection
  - Cleaning of streets
  - Interim storage and final disposal of the waste at the outskirts of the village
- (Equipment needed - Tricycle, wheel barrow, containers, litter bins, broom, etc.)

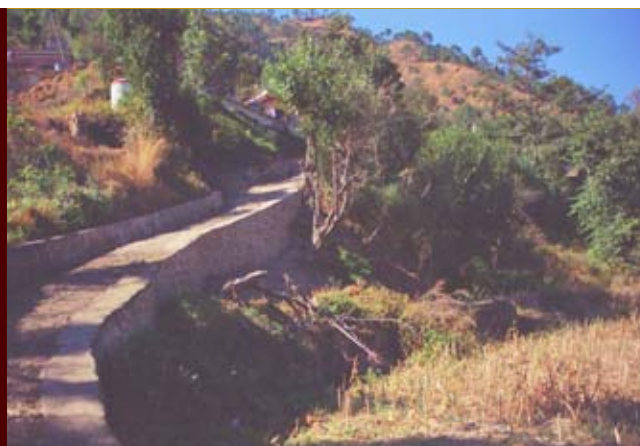


## HIMACHAL PRADESH (HP)

In HP, Kangra, Solan, Mandi and Sirmaur districts were selected for convergence pilots. The DPC, NREGS constituted a district resource group with the representatives from the Water Resource Department and Panchayati Raj. Similar resource groups at the block level are also constituted. These groups facilitate knowledge sharing, planning, communication, training, technical support, resource pooling. District level coordination committee meeting has already been held and proposal for NREGS has been received from PWD, Forest, and Soil Conservation Departments.

The process of convergence started in the Kangra district. These efforts are being met with positive outcomes. During 2008-09, the Department of Sericulture, Watershed Development Programme, and Forest Department converged with NREGS in the District. Efforts are also being made to ensure convergence of Departments like PWD, IPH Agriculture and Horticulture.

There are many GPs that implemented convergence process adopted by State level initiatives. Nauni Panchayat, is shown as an outstanding example of convergence. In the hilly terrain of Nauni, they have made small cemented roads under NREGA and below it they have the drainage system also through which all the kitchen waste is passed through (Photo-1). Mr Baldev Singh, Pradhan of Nauni GP, calls these NREGS rural roads as Jeevan Rekha (life line). As under this road there is also drinking water supply and also drainage of kitchen waste. In the Panchayat, a number of NREGS roads have been laid in the last few years. At present, it is possible to access any part of the village even by car. Incidentally, the panchayat had won the award of Rs.5 lakh from the state Govt. as Maharishi Valmiki Sampoorna Swachta Puraskar, and also Rs.10 lakh from the Central Govt under Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) earlier. Interestingly, even this award money is used for further convergence activity. Nauni is also known for getting maximum people insured under Beema Gram Panchayat (LIC).



NREGS rural road as "Jeevan Rekha"- Under the road there are pipes for drinking water supply and kitchen waste – Nauni Panchayat, Solan Block



Common Tank with 4,40,000 litre capacity under NREGS irrigating agriculture with user charges – Nauni Panchayat, Solan Block



Poly –houses constructed under Pandit Deen Dayal Scheme from agriculture department gets water by paying user charges from common tank developed from NREGS - Nauni Panchayat, Solan Block



Pradhans and Upa-Pradhans , PR officials, Line department officials working at village level attending the meeting on convergence with NIRD team and BDO - Solan Block Headquarters- 25th November 2009

In Nauni GP they have done work under NREGA worth Rs.13 lakh in 2008 and now for 2009 their target is Rs.40 lakh. Rain harvesting, construction of big tanks, tree plantation and water conservation are the main works done under NREGS. For this they have undergone convergence with the agriculture department. For water conservation they have constructed big tanks having capacity of 50 lakh litres under NREGS (photo-2). This common resource is used as irrigation tank for the poly-houses (photo-3) constructed under agriculture department scheme for farmers and interestingly GP earns money out of this source by charging some amount. This panchayat is also well aware about the solar energy. They have converged with solar energy department and provided solar lights in the village.

## JHARKHAND

Seven districts of Jharkhand East Singhbhum, Chatra, Koderma, Gumla, Palamu, Deoghar and Jamtara were chosen for the pilot projects under convergence with NREGS. MoWR convergence has been envisaged in all the seven districts.

The line departments under convergence have taken initiative in identifying and taking technical approval of the projects by their concerned department. These proposals are directly submitted to the DPC for administrative sanction. The Deputy Development Commissioner (DDC) issues the sanction order of all the approved shelf of projects including those submitted by the line department.

**East Singhbhum** - Daalbhum Forest Division is instrumental for successful implementation of convergence project. This resulted in saving about 70 ha of land in Ghoda Banda, adjacent to Jamshedpur city, by covering the area under Eco-restoration project during 2007.

This has helped in development of highly degraded large track of scrub forest into green theme bio-diversity park (with >100 species) by converging several schemes with NREGS. The park is connected by rural roads and three check dams, which were executed under NREGS. Development of highly degraded large tract of forest land to a green theme park by converging schemes of State Government as well as NREGS is an instance how resources from different sources can be converged for a common goal.

With NREGS, there is convergence visible in the form of convergence of National Afforestation Programme, National Bamboo Mission, Forest Development Agency of National Afforestation and Eco-Development Board, Eco-Restoration Programmes, World Food Programme, State Plan and other centrally sponsored programmes.

In Gumla, to create awareness among the community, capacity building programme for the economically backward tribes was taken up by the KVK of Bishnupur on cultivation of vegetables, niger, mushrooms, vermicomposting through SHGs.

In Salam Nava Toil village, Banari Gram Panchayat, small and marginal farmers have taken up cultivation of vegetables, which has greatly helped them in changing their cropping systems and cropping pattern. They have also learnt to adopt line sowing practice of broadcasting, shifting from mono cropping to multiple cropping systems. Farmers have also shifted from paddy to vegetable cultivation.

## KARNATAKA

In Karnataka, the districts of Kolar, Chikmagalur and Shimoga have been identified for the convergence pilot projects under NREGS and MoWR, while Gulbarga, Hassan and Gadag are under NREGS, MoWR and ICAR convergence pilot projects. Tumkur is chosen for NREGS and MoEF projects.

In Kolar, Gulbarga, Gadag, Hassan, Chikmagalur and Shimoga, convergence is planned to bring in the technical expertise of MoWR and minor Irrigation Department in identifying the water bodies that need immediate attention in terms of recharge of groundwater, dried up bore wells, desilting of irrigation tanks and restoration of feeder channels. All technical inputs for planning such as work identification, preparation of estimates, recording of measurements and quality monitoring are provided by the line department. In Tumkur, the technical support for planning and management of the work is provided by MoEF. In Gulbarga, Hassan and Gadag the technical support for planning and management of the work is provided by ICAR institutions and the Department of Agriculture.

## KERALA

In Kerala, Palakkad, Mallapuram and Trivendrum districts have been selected to take up convergence pilot projects with MoWR. Mallapuram is also identified for ICAR convergence, while Wayanad has to take up pilot projects in collaboration with MoE&F.

The process of convergence has taken off in Kerala. A state-level convergence meeting was conducted with the Heads of Departments, which discussed the possibilities, and need for convergence of Water Resource Schemes, Forest works, and Agriculture schemes with the NREGS. The State Government has issued the framework for convergence of Water Resources Projects, Forest works and Agriculture Development Projects with the NREGS in form of guidelines. The guidelines clearly spell out the roles and responsibilities of various functionaries of the NREGS and other departments.

Coordination meetings were organised by the District Programme Coordinators at District, Block and Village level between Local Self Government, Water Resource Department, Agriculture department and NREGS functionaries to take up the works under NREGS.

The process of planning, implementation and monitoring is quite decentralised in Kerala, as the identification of works generally done by the local committees along with ward members and officials of concerned department is put before the Gram Sabha (GS) for approval. Once the GS and GP approve the works, estimations are prepared either by Assistant Engineer/Overseer of GP or by the concerned department. Implementation of works related to other departments done by the Area Development Societies/ VSS/ Farmer unions (Community Based Organisations). These Community Based Organisations are only responsible for maintenance of Muster Rolls, site diary, and other documents. After completion of work, the technical persons from concerned department take the measurements and prepare the payment vouchers. After scrutiny of muster rolls and measurements, the GP makes the payment through the SB accounts of workers. All officials are given the responsibility of monitoring work during implementation. The State Government has fixed the responsibility to various state-level officers to monitor NREGS works in different districts.

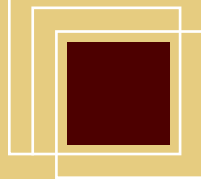
To make the process of planning, implementation and monitoring more effective, Kerala government has gone for formation of:

**District Level Technical Committee (DLTC):** It has been formed at district level for monitoring of water resource schemes taken up under NREGS and to provide training at the district level. The State Government has nominated the Chairperson of Technical Committee and four experts for each district. The convener for the group is Joint Coordinator of Poverty Alleviation Units and this office is the Secretariat for DLTC. The members of DLTC are Principal Agricultural Officer, District Planning Officer, Executive Engineer (Minor Irrigation), Executive Engineer (Kerala Water Authority) etc.

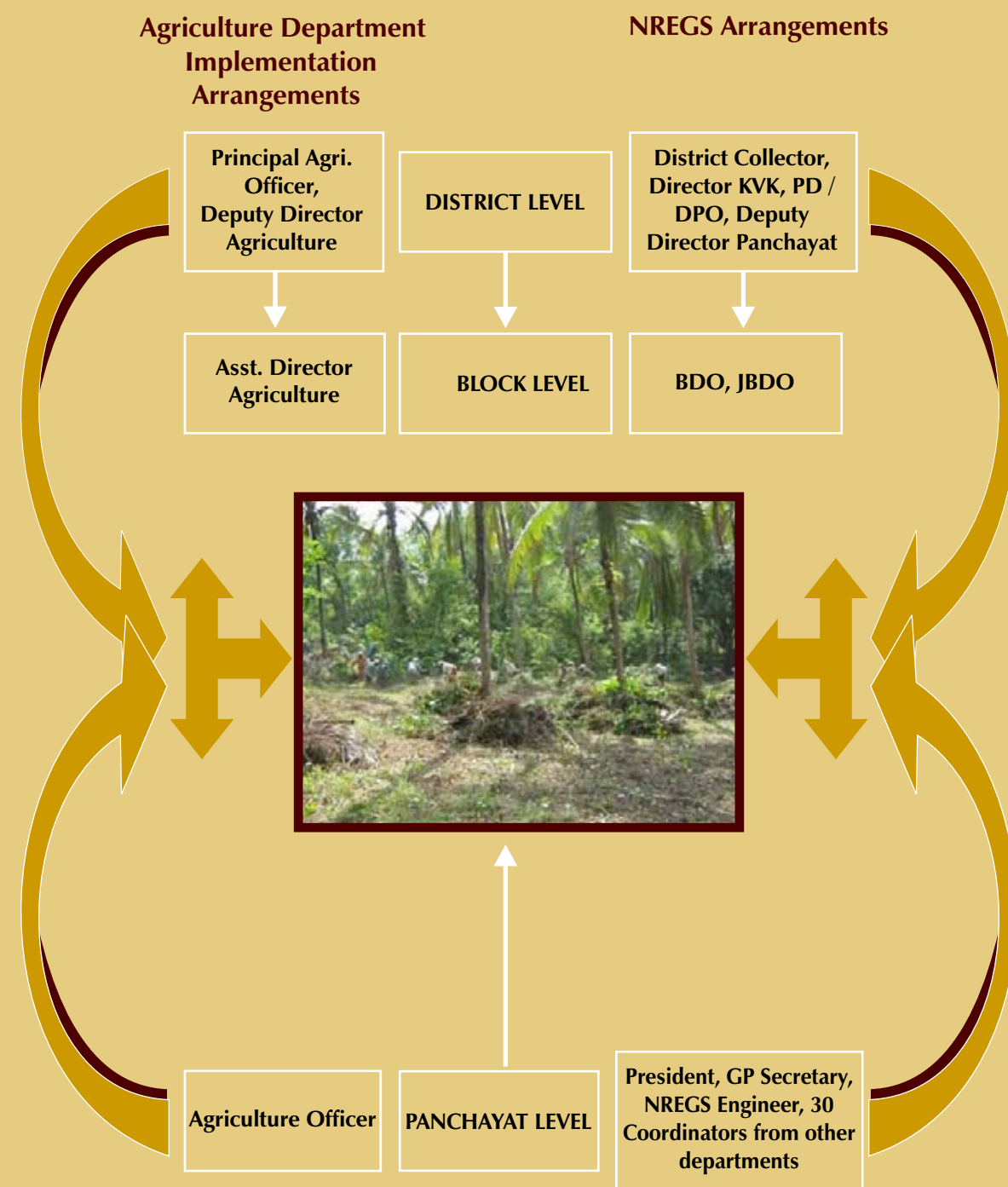
**Block Level Technical Advisory Group (BLTAG):** It has been formed to provide technical assistance at the block level. Overseer (soil conservation), Block Panchayat Assistant Executive Engineer and other experts are the members of the committee.

**Gram Panchayat Level Technical Advisory Group:** In each Gram Panchayat, an advisory group with 10-16 members has been formed. The Chairman of the group is Gram Panchayat President and the convener is the Krishi Officer, while Village Extension Officer, Assistant. Engineer/Overseer of Gram Panchayat, NREGS Assistant Engineer / Overseer etc., are the other members of this Group.

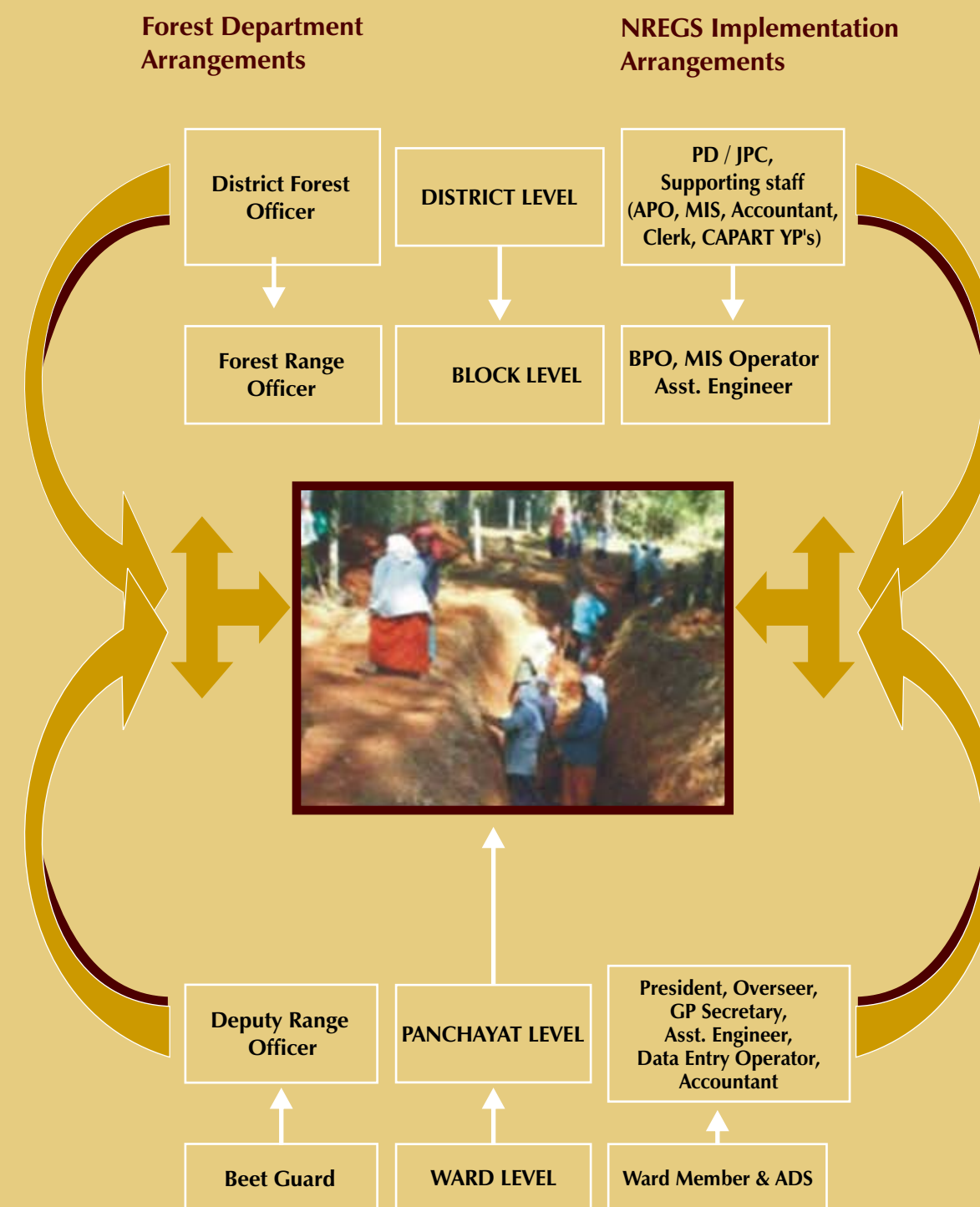




## Planning, Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements for Agriculture Works



## Planning, Implementation and Monitoring Arrangements for Forest Works



## MADHYA PRADESH

In Madhya Pradesh, six districts – Mandla, Panna, Dewas, Jhabua, Sehore and Betul have been identified for convergence with the Departments of Water Resource, Forest and Agriculture.

### CC Road (NREGS and MLA Fund)

Several works of construction of CC Road have been undertaken through convergence of NREGA and MLA/MP fund in the various blocks of Betul district such as Block Betul.. In this convergence, the land work is being done under the NREGS with 60:40 ratio of labour work and material component. Meanwhile, the MLA fund is being used completely for material component.

This is a clear example of how upscaling of works and creation of durable assets can be achieved through convergence.

### Irrigation through Wells (NREGS, Agriculture Department, Horticulture Department and Banks)

This model depicts the convergence of Kapil dhara sub-scheme of NREGS with different schemes/provisions of other line departments (Agriculture, Horticulture, etc.) and private entities (such as banks). It greatly facilitates in increasing the agriculture produce. Kapil Dhara helps in addition of an asset to the beneficiary. Banks can easily provide loan against this asset as it is not a moveable or perishable asset. This financial support helps the beneficiary for purchasing irrigation pumps, with additional subsidy from the Agriculture Department, SGSY/RKVY. Improved irrigation greatly aids in enhancing the overall agricultural production.

### Water Resource Department (WRD) and NREGS

The Water Resource Department (WRD) and NREGS have taken up the work of minor irrigation together in Convergence in the Betul district with funds of both the schemes being combined together for effective utilisation.

In this convergence initiative, one form of convergence is with the Sahastra Dhara sub-scheme of NREGS with the technical inputs of the WRD being provided for the construction of Water Course Field Channels, for improving the area under irrigation through canals in the various villages. Another channel of convergence achieved between NREGS and the WRD is through the pooling of financial resources of both the schemes towards extension of minor irrigation canals to bring water closer to the agricultural fields. In this, the earth work component is funded through NREGS, whereas the component of material and skilled labour required for the construction of permanent structures is made available from the WRD fund.

### Nirmal Vatika (NREGS) and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC)

Convergence between Nirmal Vatika sub-scheme of the NREGS and the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) has also been initiated in the Betul District, with funds of both the schemes being pooled

together for the construction of toilet structures. The brick work was carried out using the TSC funds, while the work related to digging for the creation of leach pits is being carried out using the NREGS funds. In this manner, effective utilisation of funds of both the schemes is achieved.

### Plantation (NREGA and NAP)

Convergence activities between the Forest Department and NREGS with respect to undertaking the works of Plantation is being planned in Betul District, for both, activities under the Working Plan as well those not under the Working Plan. Under the Working Plan activities, a total of Rs. 1036.703 lakhs from the NREGS fund has been released to the Forest Department. Meanwhile, for the Non-Working Plan activities, a total of Rs. 1208.547 lakhs from the NREGS fund has been released to the Forest Department.

In Mandla, a convergence project, in which NREGS collaborated with Sericulture Department, started in May 2008. The period of this project is of four years (2008 to 2012). Under this convergence, SGSY, Utpreran Vikas Yojna (state sub-scheme) and SHGs are involved.

Initially, the project started on government land which has been extended to private lands also. In this project, NREGS funds are used for field preparation, planting, weeding, application of fertiliser and pesticide and nursery management, while Sericulture Department provides technical assistance, training and also helps in marketing. Drip irrigation is provided by Central Government and Sericulture Department at 50-50 per cent share.

For rearing house, under 'Utpreran Vikas Scheme, a share of 25 per cent each is given by the State Government and SGSY, while the rest 50 per cent is share is provided by the farmers in case of private cultivators. In Mandla district, 12 Mulberry centres, 6 Tasar centers and some private cultivators (e.g. 22 farmers of Rambag village) have come together. This convergence is going on in smooth fashion due to good co-ordination between the departments. Farmers, who adopted sericulture, are in better position due to more income from same piece of land. SHGs are involved in the processing of cocoon to final product. Two SHGs group (all women) are working in sericulture processing unit under the guidance of sericulture expert.



SHGs working in silk processing unit



Value chain of Silk				
Pre Production (NREGS + Sericulture dept.)	Inputs (NREGS + Sericulture + NRGS)	Production/ Operation (Sericulture Deptt. + UVY Community )	Value Addition (SGSY SHGs)	Marketing (Sericulture Deptt.)
Field preparation	Planting & Weeding	Nursery Mangement	Processing	Buy Back arrangemnts.
Project Proposal (Seri.)	Labour and Equipments	Technical Knowhow	Reeling	
	Pesticides ,Fertilizers & Equipmnts	Rearing house (Sericulture Deptt. + UVY + Community)		
	Drip Irrigation (Seri. + NREGS)			

## MAHARASHTRA

In Maharashtra, the districts Satara, Nashik, Pune, Amaravathi, Akola, Nandurbar and Dhule have been selected for convergence of NREGS with various line departments. The progress of convergence pilots are in various stages. However, there are few examples of convergence which are worth mentioning.



Water tank with polythene sheet in the bottom

Under NREGS in the village Circle Wadi, 10 hectares land was identified and selected for development. For assured irrigation, for the summer crops, a tank was constructed under NREGS with the help of NHM and NHB, where 25 per cent subsidy was provided by NHM and 20 per cent by NHB. A tank was constructed measuring 44x44 meters with a capacity of 1 crore liters of water with irrigation potential of 10,000 hectares was constructed, besides a polythene sheet was spread at the bottom of tank to avoid seepage of water.

Using drip irrigation technique, the farmers are growing Capsicum, Strawberry, Potato, Tomato, Papaya, Pomegranate, Grapes and Beans.

Nandurbar - The ICAR has declared KVK, Nandurbar as the resource institution for convergence. The KVK has identified three major activities: Rain Water Harvesting, Seed Production and Vermicompost in three clusters of the district, and submitted proposals through GPs to converge the activities of KVK with NREGS. The KVK has submitted an integration proposal of all these programmes with NREGS. The KVK is also facilitating the activities of four farmers' clubs in the district, which are sponsored by NABARD and local banks.

The works in Mohugaon village under Sakri Taluka of Dhule district is a live example of convergence of four departments – MI, KVK, Agriculture and Forestry – under NREGS. The village is surrounded by hills and forest, and most of the inhabitants are Konkan tribals. The Village Development Committee (VDC) promoted by NABARD and ITC is working in close coordination with various departments. Under VDC, 15 Water User Groups are working for the watershed development in the village. In the village, Forest Department with the help of MI, local sector engineer has developed three Village Tanks. The village tanks were developed with the help of NREGS wage component. The KVK, Dhule has been working with the people of the village for fish cultivation. It has also formed a 21-member fishermen group in the village and started motivating the groups to go for fish farming and maintenance of tank along with forest and MI departments. The KVK organised various training programmes on fish production from its own resources for the tribal community. This year, the villagers have used 50,000 fingerlings of Rahu, Katla, Prawns and Jinga and expected to earn more than Rs.1,00,000/- from the community tank. The fisherman group has also involved the GP in this programme and they have planned to pay 10 per cent of their profit to GP as this tank is a common property of the community. They are also planning to involve all the villagers in this activity. In the lower area of the tank where the moisture level is high, the KVK has helped the farmers to go for improved Bengal gram cultivation. The KVK has planned to collect the seeds from Bengal gram growers of the village to propagate the same in neighbouring villages. Looking at the potential of the village, the KVK has declared this village as their adopted village. This could be viewed as a bright example of convergence of NREGS works with other department works to provide additional benefit to the community, besides providing employment. The efforts of the five institutions – Forest, Minor Irrigation, KVK (ICAR), NREGS and PRI – may be documented and could be a model convergence project for others. The KVK has taken a proactive role in the convergence process.



Plantation with the inputs from KVK

MANIPUR

Thobal district of Manipur has been identified for convergence with CADA (MoWR) and KVK (ICAR), while MoWR convergence projects are to be taken up in the Churachandpur district.

The District Programme Coordinator (DPC), NREGA constituted a district resource group (DRG) at the district level with representatives from the Water Resources department and the Rural Development department. Convergence of NREGA with MoWR programme in Churachandpur district i.e. Command Area Development and Water Management (CADA & WM), a state initiative, covers two blocks and 25 villages.

Command area development aims at efficient utilisation of irrigation water for optimising agricultural productivity and production from irrigated lands in a coordinated manner on a sustainable basis. Tackling the problem of water logging by bringing in newer technologies like sub-surface drainage and bio-drainage is under the realm of this programme. This convergence programme in Churachandpur district involves correction of system deficiencies above outlet up to distributaries of 4.25 cumec (150 cusec) capacity (other than earth work) and correction of system deficiencies above outlet upto distributaries of 4.25 cumec (150 cusec) capacity ( earthwork).it also include construction of field channels. The project is estimated at a cost of Rs.2 crores, of which 50 % cost will be undertaken under NREGS and the other 50 % by CADA. It is observed that there is a gap of six months between the completion of earthwork and subsequent pucca construction.



NREGS-CADA Convergence in Saikof Block

MEGHALAYA

West Garo Hills and Ri-Bhoi districts of Meghalaya have been selected for convergence pilot projects in the state.

Design of Pilot Projects and Implementation Arrangements

A few initiatives for Schematic Convergence in collaboration with departments were attempted. Damal Asim was a schematic convergence of NREGS and PWD (roads) to repair the road connecting many villages. NREGS provided the labour component and the PWD (Roads) provided technical input, supervision and transportation of material. The project was initiated by the people on demand and the work was taken up by 16 VECs.

Convergence between NREGS and PWD

	Progr- amme	Activity (2)	Year	Location of works		NREGS		Programmes at PWD roads division		Total	
				Blocks (No.)	G.P (No.)	Phy(km)	Fin.(Rs. In Lakhs)	Phy.	Fin.	Phy(km)	Fin. (Rs.in lakh)
	Road	Road repair	2009-10	Dadenggre	Damal Asim	10	3.92	-	Trucks for transportati on. Technical support and supervision	10	3.92

Public contributions:

- Stone aggregates i.e. sand, gravel and stones were collected from the river Diti and other smaller streams.
- Around 99 trucks of gravel, stone, boulders collected free of cost by people apart from 20 trucks provided by PWD were utilized in the road.



**Block's initiative:**

- The total amount spent for 16 VECs on wage was Rs. 3, 92,070/- creating 5,601 man-days paying Rs. 70/- per man-day.
- There was no expenditure on material component.
- This fishery pond project was initiated by the Asanang VEC and the RSVY financed the project.



Convergence with RSVY (Rastriya Sam Vikas Yojna) for Asanang Fishery Pond



	Programe	Activity (2)	Year	Physical unit (Ha. / Km. / No.) (3)	Location of works		NREGS		Programmes of RSVY		Total	
					Blocks (No.) (4)	G.P (No.) (5)	Phy. (6)	Fin.(Rs. In lakh) (7)	Phy. (8)	Fin.(Rs.in lakh) (9)	Phy. (10)	Fin. (Rs. In lakh) (11)
	Fishery pond	Construction of protection wall	2009-10	-	Rongram	Asanang	-	2.16	-	16.16	-	18.32
	Sub Total							2.16		16.16		18.32

- RSVY provided financial support and NREGS met the labour component
- 80-85 card holders worked daily on an average. Work started in May'09 and completed by the second week of November'09.
- Maintenance by the Asanang VEC.



ASANANG FISHERY CUM POND

The Damal Asim road was completed in 2009 and it become an asset for the villagers – the main connectivity to the local market to sell and buy local products. The Asanang lake cum fishery pond started in May 2009 and was completed in November 2009. It also added to their subsidiary source of livelihood.



ORISSA

In Orissa, Bargarh, Mayurbhanj, Balangir and Ganjam are identified for the convergence pilot projects. Mayurbhanj and Ganjam were identified for tie up with MoWR and ICAR, Bargarh with MoWR and MoE&F and Balangir with MoWR. The Panchayati Raj Department is the nodal agency for planning, implementation and monitoring of NREGS in Orissa.

In some places (like Ganjam) the pond desilted by the NREGS wage seekers is used for pisciculture by the Women SHG comprising the same NREGS wage seekers. Also the embankment of the pond is used for plantation of coconut and other trees by the Forest Department. The Forest Department is engaged in developing nurseries and avenue plantations, plantation around water bodies, and Jatropha plantation (in Bargarh Dist). Forest Department is engaged in free distribution of saplings from nurseries raised by engaging NREGS workers.

In Mayurbhanj, NREGS work is converged with BRGF in digging/renovation of ponds. BRGF fund is used in utilizing machine for lifting big stones and NREGS fund is used to lift the small stones and loose soils.

Many earthen roads constructed through NREGS have been made into CC road utilizing Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) or Departmental grants like PWD. Convergence plans to develop the Horticulture Nursery through NREGS wage component and utilizing NREGS job seekers is working well in Ganjam. These nurseries raise its seedlings for plantation in schools (particularly the fruit bearing trees like papaya and drumstick for utilization in Mid Day Meal)

Ganjam has been identified as pilot project under convergence with NREGS with MoWR and ICAR. It is a fact that other departments like Forest, Pisciculture, have utilized the NREGS fund and engaged the NREGS job card holders in different works.

Three cases are mentioned here.

Case 1:

- Convergence
- (a)

Departments - Panchayat Raj + Soil Conservation
- (b)

Activities :- Renovation of tank + Plantation +Pisciculture

In Basnaputi village of Kalipalli GP of Chhtrapur Block, renovation of a tank was taken up three years back with an expenditure of Rs.3 lakh. The tank used for bathing purposes has been divided into two. The nearby patch of land was dug as a tank. Digging work was borne from wage component and bathing ghat was constructed from material component of NREGS. Along the embankments of the ponds, coconut plantations have been taken up by the Soil Conservation Department. The same pond is used by the women SHG for Pisciculture. The members of women SHG were engaged in digging the pond also.

Name of the pond Ratnabandh

Coconut plants - 80 Nos.

Expenditure of coconut plantations

Rs. 40,000 (cost of coconut plants

and taking care of them for three years)



Case 2 :

- Convergence
- (a)

Departments- Panchayati Raj + Forest + Fishery + Bank (SBI)
- (b)

Activities Renovation of tank + plantation + pisciculture
- (c)

Funds- NREGS + Bank

In village Saru of Saru GP of Hinjilicut block, a six acre traditional pond was desilted two years back. The same pond is used for irrigation and other purposes. After desiltation and raising the embankments, plantation work was taken up along all four sides by Maa Mangala Women SHG (12 members)

Out of an estimated expenditure amounting to Rs 62038/-, an amount of Rs 25663/- has already been spent in plantation. 62 coconut plants and 200 other plants (Acacia menzium) have been raised along the four sides of the pond. The Women SHG members have done Pisciculture in the pond also. Rs.3 lakh loan has been sanctioned by SBI Saru to the SHG with Rs 1 lakh as subsidy component. The five year lease value of the pond happens to be Rs 51,400/- to be paid to the GP.





The last year fish production has yielded Rs 54000/- and the profit has been shared by all the members of the SHG

### Case 3

- Convergence
- (a) Departments- Panchayati Raj + Forest
  - (b) Activities Road connectivity + Preparation of seedling
  - (c) unds- NREGS + Forest

A nursery by Forest Department is raised in village Kumunda in Aladi GP of Jagannath Prasad Block. The road connectivity up to the nursery has been taken up under NREGS. The Central Nursery Kumunda, Buguda range-Ghumusor has raised Teak Stump, Neam stump and Bamboo Rhizome (layering Bamboo) from NREGS fund. About 30-40 NREGS wage seekers have been engaged here for this nursery. Located besides the Chamunda Minor Irrigation Project, this nursery is expected to supply a large number of seedlings for plantations in the coming years.



### PUNJAB

Rupnagar (Ropar) and Hoshiarpur districts of Punjab are in the list of identified districts for convergence pilot projects. Hohhiarpur district address unemployment problem through convergence approach and hence the district authorities have decided to constitute a team consisting of Senior Officials along with one Technical Officer in each block for concurrent monitoring on the development works especially for NREGS. The team also will handle the task of organising awareness programmes at required villages by integrating the departments such as Forestry, Irrigation, Social Welfare, National Rural Health Mission, 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan', 'Nirmal Gram', Provision of essential commodities under Public Distribution System and World Bank assisted programme of providing potable drinking water etc.

In Hoshiarpur district, two blocks namely Hoshiarpur-1 and Hoshiarpur-2 were selected purposively to see the impact of convergence pilots. In the village Satyal, the NREGS has been converged with forestry department that provide sustainable employment to the job card holders through establishing a Nursery garden. There were nine women and six men engaged for work and all of them got registered for job card. Since the work is in initial stage it is expected that the project will give more employment and sustainable income to the poor.

Similarly, an amount of Rs.11.70 lakhs was transferred to Irrigation department for construction of check dam at Chacksadu village of Hoshiarpur-2 block. There are 85 job cards were issued and the workers are drawing the wages through both Punjab Gramin Bank and Post office. The construction of the work is excellent that will help protection of flood and retain the ground water level too.

De-silting and bunding of canal work is implemented by the Department of Irrigation Government of Punjab in Harta, with the cost of Rs.11,43,642 by engaging about 400 manual labourers. The labourers showed much interest to work in the project as it helps to check soil erosion during flood situation.

### RAJASTHAN

Seventeen districts of Rajasthan has been identified for convergence pilot projects with various departments. Ajmer, Jalore, Dungarpur, Sikar, Kota, Tonk and Hanumangarh have been selected for MoWR convergence projects, whereas Ajmer, Jalore, Dungarpur and Hanumangarh have been chosen for convergence with ICAR.National Afforestation Programme (NAP) is implemented in some sort of convergence with NREGS in few districts of the state. Here, the fencing part is done by the NREGS workers.

#### Harit Rajasthan

Harit Rajasthan is a novel initiative. It is basically initiated to cope with the drought conditions of Rajasthan, in collaboration with all the departments like Forest, PWD, Education, Health, Industries, Transport, Defense and Paramilitary, NGOs, etc. It is implemented in all the 33 districts including both urban and rural areas.

Under Harit Rajasthan, plantation work is being taken up in the premises of the associated departments and in the areas where possibility of plantation exists as per the jurisdiction of respective departments.



Women carrying the plants to be planted under Harit Rajasthan in Sikar district



In the programme, the project implementation and work monitoring is being done by respective departments as per the NREGS guidelines with all budgetary resources being provided by the NREGS. The works are being sanctioned by DPC after inclusion in the annual action plan. The overall programme monitoring is being done by Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department at the state level. As per information, till January 2, 2010, around 274.88 lakh plants have been planted

## TAMIL NADU

Dindigul, Villupuram, Kanyakumari, Pudukkottai and Sivaganga districts have been identified for the convergence pilot projects in Tamil Nadu.

In the line of convergence, the State has issued a circular to the district administration to spend minimum 25 per cent of the allotted Rural Infrastructure Scheme (RIS) fund to upgrade or for gap filling of NREGS works already carried in the previous years. Like-wise, almost all the districts have carried out a number of works under RIS sponsored by the State. The types of works undertaken for upgrading or gap filling projects like paving of metal road on the mud road constructed under NREGS, construction of retaining wall in minor irrigation tanks or bund strengthened through NREGS and construction of steps in the community drinking water sources. In certain places, NREGS mud roads were converted into black top road through funding from NABARD.

In Dindigul district initial level of convergence practices took place between Health Department and NREGS. The health nurses come to the NREGS work site for giving medication and immunization vaccines to the people as well as children. Similarly, there has been convergence of SGSY with NREGS informally for making self help groups of women working under NREGS for availing benefits from SGSY.

## TRIPURA

West Tripura district has been selected as convergence pilot with MoE&F in the state. Convergence pilot project has been implemented from December 15, 2009 and is expected to be completed by February 1, 2010. This project will be taken up at Sepahijala Wildlife Sanctuary located at Bishalgarh Block which comes under West Tripura District.

In the district, the NREGS workers have organised themselves into a SHG and taken up the work of land development and converged with Agriculture/Horticulture department with the help of GP to start a nursery on their land. The DM is in the process of proposing the convergence of PMGSY with NREGS. There is also an ongoing project in convergence of NREGS with Rubber Board and Fisheries Department in the state.



Agricultural fields adjacent to Sipahijala Wildlife Sanctuary were convergence project is to take place between NREGS and MoEF.

## UTTAR PRADESH

Out of the 123 districts considered by MORD, 13 districts have been selected from Uttar Pradesh (UP) for implementing the convergence pilot projects. These include: Banda, Chitrakoot, Hamirpur, Hardoi, Jalaun, Lalitpur, Mahoba, Pratapgarh, Gonda, Jhansi, Allahabad, Auraiya and Pilibhit. Some fruitful projects which have unleashed a stream of benefits to poor include:

### Sericulture

A demonstration farm of 15 acres has been taken up under sericulture through NREGS and about 35 acres is being developed by funds from department itself. This initiative is to develop interest among the farmers for sericulture as livelihood activity which is remunerative in nature also.

This sericulture farm has been developed on undulated and rocky soil on land which was unused by Irrigation Department long back. It was leveled and made compatible for farming through NREGS work. Vermicompost was used as manure, bought from the farmer, who was trained in KVK.

Seeing the progress of the project and upcoming projects in mind, a nursery of Arjun plants has also been set up, through which it is aimed to provide better quality at low rates to farmers willing to take up the activity as well for similar projects going to take place in the district.

This project has completed its first phase, i.e. growth of plants and development of cocoons (amazingly this all has been achieved within a year, which was out rightly rejected and quoted as “impossible” by the Forestry Department). Second phase will soon begin with major focus on economic activities. Involvement of SHGs has also been envisaged.





Sericulture Project at Sahzad Dam, Lalitpur



Cocoons of silk being stored and selected for further processing



Pitting for Plantation of Arjun plants (through NREGS)



CC road was constructed through NREGS fund Block – Bar, District- Lalitpur

### Ambhedkar Gram Vikas Yojna

This mega scheme has been grounded in UP from June 2007-08. Under this scheme, the villages which have SC/ST population in majority are taken up for development. Better roads and closed drainage system forms an important part in development plans of Ambhedkar Grams, manual work like levelling (for road) and digging, KC drains, (for drainage system) are made through NREGS funds and further work like laying concrete is done through and by PWD funds.

### Forestry Project

As it is widely known that Bundelkhand region is a drought-prone area and Lalitpur is one among the six districts falling in this region. Afforestation has been taken up on large scale in the region of Bundelkhand. Many barren areas bear the fruits of hard work put in by NREGS workers. Resources for the project are pooled in from three different sources, i.e. Departmental Budget, State Budget and NREGS.

Target areas or coverage areas under reserve forest areas with crown density less than 0.4 are: degraded community land, road side, canal side, and railway track side plantations.

### BREL (Bharat Renewable Energy Limited)

Another interesting convergence that has been taken up in Uttar Pradesh is of Jatropha plantation, which seeks to revitalise as well as utilise the barren land so that some benefits can be derived from it. Barren land is identified by committee constituted by GP, called as Land Management Committee, after whose approval and identification the work starts. Land Management Committee acts as a monitor as well evaluator of the project. Technical support is provided by BREL while the finance is through NREGS funds.

## UTTARAKHAND

In Uttarakhand, the districts Champawat, Uttarkashi and Nainital have been identified for MoWR convergence projects. Champawat is also selected for ICAR convergence projects. Pauri Garhwal has been chosen for convergence project with MoE&F.

## WEST BENGAL

In West Bengal, five districts Burdwan, Bankura, Purulia, Birbhum and South 24 Pargana have been selected for the convergence pilot projects.

The convergence pilot in Burdwan district was initiated formally. Till October 2009, five programmes were proposed with MoWR, amounting to Rs.20.63 crore, eight works of MoE&F with an outlay of Rs.42.45 crore and six activities in the collaboration with KVK with estimated cost of Rs.3.03 crore were taken up as convergence pilot projects in the district.

There are several state-level initiatives in convergence mode which are worth mentioning. In Kanksa block of Burdwan district, a 46 acre orchard has been developed pooling together the funds





and expertise of NREGS, SGSY, NABARD, State Agriculture University (BCKV), local lab and Agriculture Department.

In the same district, a poultry training-cum-chick production unit for SGSY swarojgaries has been developed at Natungram village in Raina I block. The synergy of NREGS, SGSY, MLA-LAD, 12<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission Fund, Animal Resources Department and a local NGO (Shyamsunder Sister Nivedita Sangh) has been successful in making a perceptual impact on the lives of poor.

**Poultry Training-cum-Chick Production Unit for SGSY Swarojgaries at Village Natungram, GP Shyamsundar, Block Raina I**

Bankura district had tie up with other departments even before the Ministry's guidelines were issued. In Gopalpur Gram Panchayat of Hirbundh Block, Mango orchard has been raised with the help of National Horticulture Mission (NHM), Bidhan Chandra Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (BCKV) and PRADHAN. The total area of the orchard is 19.5 Ha. For this, NHM devised drip irrigation facility; BCKV supplied the Mango saplings, whereas the technical support for land development, trench and bunding was provided by PRADAN. Besides, the GP arranged a bore well with Backward Region Grant Funds (BRGF).

The following table depicts agency-wise particulars:  
An important resolution of Gram Unnayan Samiti on May 26, 2008, resulted in the project commencement. The GP also raised another Mango orchard through NABARD, PRADAN and

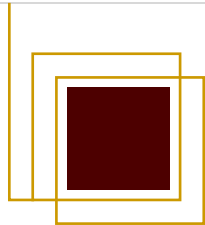
S.No.	Agency	Responsibility	Funds (in Rs.)
1.	NREGS	Implementation and Monitoring	247625.00 (in 4 Phases)
2.	NHM	Drip Irrigation	245925.00
3.	BCKV	Saplins	-
4.	PRADAN	Technical Assistance	-
5.	BRGF	Bore well Electricity (Planning Stage)	282504.00 125000.00
6.	SHG	Monitoring and Maintenance	-



Mango Orchard in Gopalpur GP, Hirbundh Block

BCKV collaboration. Based on its success, many other blocks in Bankura are also using this model.

The line departments except the Forest Department expressed their inability to handle the NREGS funds because they did not received necessary orders/circulars in this regard. The implementation of NREGS is facing the problem of inadequate hands/staff. And so the existing implementers have felt the need of training for carrying out the convergence projects.



Good Practices, Innovation/ Case Studies/  
Narratives and Practices for Replication

Case 1: Development of Panchayat Land

Beneficiary: BPL SHGs (4 no.s)  
Names of SHGs:  
1. Gadivan Devi SHG  
2. Perna SHG (women SHG)  
3. Jagriti SHG  
4. Laxmi SHG (women SHG)

Block: Chicholi, GP: Devpur Kotami

Description:

A total of 40 Ha of Panchayat land in the village was given to four SHGs (10 Ha each) of 10 members each, for carrying out the various NREGS works. Each of the SHGs was provided with a well for irrigation of their respective land through the NREGS sub-scheme of Kapil Dhara. Along with this, an electric water pump was also provided through the SGSY scheme. On this land, the SHGs have carried out the plantation of various trees which include Mango, Aonla, Jack Fruit (Kathhal), Cashew and Bamboo. The Mango trees (Desi variety) planted in the area have all been grafted with other high yielding varieties, with help from the Horticulture Department personnel.

The area also has a natural watershed in the form of a pond. This pond was also leased to one of the SHGs (Gadivan Devi SHG) for fishing activities. The group not only received technical assistance from the Fisheries Department for carrying out their activities in a better manner but they also received training in fishing net-weaving. The Fisheries Department has also provided the group with fishing nets, fish seeds, etc on loan. The group has also received a loan of Rs 2 lakh (with Rs 1 lakh as subsidy) from SGSY.

SHG, Jagriti, received assistance from SGSY for Dairy Development. Jagriti received a total of 18 cows at the rate of Rs 15,000 per cow (with Rs 1 lakh subsidy). The manure obtained from the animals is being used for the agriculture fields.

Another SHG Perna developed a Nursery on this land and profited by selling off the plants.

SHG Laxmi has also been involved with the Mid-day Meal Scheme. They also grow vegetables such as Tomato, Brinjal, etc. as well as Wheat and Maize on their land. This produce is later sold off through the MDM scheme.

The SHGs also undertake regular cleaning of the land through removal of excess grass, which is either used as fodder for their own animals or sold off in the market.

Convergence Initiatives Observed:

- 1. NREGS (Kapil Dhara) and SGSY (Electric Water Pump)
- 2. NREGS (Fodder) and SGSY (Dairy Development)
- 3. NREGS and SGSY (Loan for Fisheries)
- 4. NREGS and Fisheries Department  
(training in fishing-net weaving, provision of fishing nets, fish seeds, etc)
- 5. NREGS (Plantation) and Horticulture Department (Grafting)
- 6. NREGS and MDM (Labour for cooking meals and sale of vegetables)

Case 2: Construction of Toilets (Sanitation)

Beneficiary: Mr Kodharsingh Kutti (BPL/SC)  
Block: Chicholi, Village: Godhana

Description:

This case presents a convergence initiative between NREGS and the Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) for the construction of toilets. Here, the brick work for the toilet was carried out under TSC, while the leach pits and plantation of five fruit plants was carried out under NREGS, under the sub-scheme Nirmal Vatika. The manure prepared in the leach pits was later utilised for the agricultural fields.

The expenditure for the construction of toilets was borne by both the schemes together, with TSC's contribution of Rs. 2,200 towards the brick work, while NREGS contributed Rs. 4,100 for digging two leach pits and five pits for plantation. The leach pits were lined by a porous brick lining for water permeability.

Case 3: Extension of Canal and Construction of Siphons (Minor Irrigation)

Beneficiary: Ashish Arya, Shambhu Lal, Anand Ram Jain, Hans Raj Avlekar and Other Nearby Farmers  
Block: Chicholi, Village: Pathakhera

Description:

The Water Resource Department (WRD), together with the funding from NREGS took up the work of extension of the Left Bank Canal of the Pathakhera Dam by 1 km (existing canal was 2 kms). The earth work involved in the project was carried out by NREGS, whereas the construction of permanent structures (Siphons – 3 no.s) was carried out through funding from WRD. The technical expertise utilised in the work was also provided by WRD.

Through this minor canal extension activity, an additional 13 Ha of land has been brought under irrigation, benefitting a total of six farmers. Additional area is proposed to be brought under irrigation from the canal by the construction of water course field channels.



The canal is maintained by the local Water User Group (WUG), which also looks after the timings for the opening and closing of the canal. The farmers use water from the canal for irrigation of their fields on a payment of Rs 130 per acre of area irrigated.

**Case 4: Construction of Water Course Field Channels (Minor Irrigation)**

Beneficiary: 150 farmers  
Block: Multai, Village: Umanpet

**Description:**  
Water course field channels have been constructed in the village Uman pet, under convergence between NREGS (Sahastra Dhara) and the WRD. The earth work for the same has been carried out through NREGS, whereas the WRD provided the technical support.

The length of the water course so developed is 1161 m and the field channels measure 1139 m. In doing so, the additional area brought under irrigation was 29.149 Ha, benefitting a total of 150 farmers of this village. The total cost of Rs 1.957 lakh has been borne by NREGS, for this initiative.

A similar initiative has been undertaken in Village Pohar of the Multai Block.

**Case 5: Irrigation through Wells**

Beneficiary: Mr Rameshwar (SC)  
Block: Betul, Village: Shakadahi

**Description:**  
Under the NREGS sub-scheme Kapil Dhara, wells have been dug on the agriculture land of the farmers, with a total financial implication of Rs 1.42 lakh. To ease the process of drawing water from such wells, the beneficiary has been provided with a diesel water pump worth Rs. 22,000 through RKVY with a subsidy of Rs. 10,000. The beneficiary of this scheme is also the beneficiary of the Nandan Phalodyan sub-scheme of NREGS.

With help of the pump, the income of the beneficiary from his field has increased manifold, with the availability of regular supply of water for the crops (Wheat, Soyabean) as well as the fruit trees (Lemon, Aonla, Mango).  
The beneficiary has now requested for field bunding of his field to be taken up under NREGS as well as provision of agriculture seeds on subsidy.

Similarly, there are scores of other beneficiaries of the convergence between NREGS (Kapil Dhara) and SGSY/RKVY (electric/diesel water pump) for irrigation.

**Case 6: Irrigation through Wells and Cultivation of Vegetables**

Beneficiary: Ms Mamta Ramji Morshia (BPL/OBC)  
Block: Shahpur, Village: Kotami

**Description:**  
Similar to case described above, the beneficiary in his case has also benefitted from the convergence between Kapil Dhara sub-scheme of NREGS and provision of water pumps (electric/diesel) through SGSY/RKVY.

Prior to the digging of well on the land of the beneficiary, she used to work as a labourer under NREGS, with a maximum of 100 days of employment received. After the provision of well and the electric water pump (SGSY), not only has she been employed on her farm throughout the year, but rather she has also generated 124 days of employment for other labourers, by employing two additional labour on her farm.

On her 3 acre farm, the beneficiary has been growing Water Melon, Wheat, Garlic, Red Chillies, Brinjal, Tomato, Beans, etc.

**Case Study-7**

This is the story of Parwati Bai, w/o Dukhua, living in village Ram Bag, Gram Panchayat Sakwah, District Mandla. She managed to possess a Job Card (No. 116) under NREGA scheme. She has four members in her family. Parvati used her 2 acres of land to cultivate green vegetables. Being poor with hardly any money to invest even in the vegetable cultivation, she took a loan on higher rate of interest from a local moneylender. From then onwards, she along with her family devoted whole day in the field. But inspite of the hard labour and endeavour, she was unable to repay her loan. Sometimes she was even forced to migrate to nearby town in the search of supplementary earnings.

Parvati soon came to know about the benefits of sericulture cultivation from a reliable source. She immediately met the Gram Pradhan and disclosed her wish for adopting sericulture cultivation in her field. The Gram Pradhan acted accordingly and approached to the Sericulture Department asking for necessary support to Parvati. The Sericulture Department, which was already providing funds to other farmers in the same village under NREGA Convergence programme, happily accepted the request of Parvati and provided 5600 Mulberry plants worth Rs. 88,000/-. Additionally to cultivate the Resham, the Central Sericulture Department also provided Rs. 12,500/- and the State Resham Department provided Rs. 12,500/-. On her behalf, Parvati also contributed Rs. 25,000/- for cocoon rearing house. The State Resham Department organised an exposure visit in which they took Prawati to Banaglore. There the Department provided necessary training to her on the possible difficulties of sericulture cultivation, where she learnt how to overcome those difficulties. She was taught vividly how to get maximum production out of her cultivation.

She started cultivating Resham. Since the cultivation of Resham comes under the Scheme, she also started getting the wages from NREGA for doing work in her field. For the first time, she produced 145.50 kgs of Resham. She could easily assess the benefits of the sericulture cultivation as now she could well maintain her family, can afford for her husband's treatment and at the same time her children have also started going to school. Moreover, she has repaid her old loan and is living happily without any burden.

Case study-8

STRENGTHENING COLLECTIVE ACTION THROUGH CONVERGENCE

Mulbery Swayam Sahayata Samuh of Gajipur village presents a good example of convergence. This Group was formed by six landless women (Saroj, Ansuia, Sushila, Gomti, Lakshiya and Sushilabai) three years ago. The land allotted to this group was 6 acre near Resham Center, Tindani with each member possessing about 1 acre each. The Group was nervous due to end of plantation and losses of additional income of about 15-20000/- from each household. The Group women were landless and this cultivation being the only means of sustainable livelihood made them concerned about their future, since new plantation takes time to get approval.

The Group then came in contact with NREGA, which provided them employment of 100 days in a year for the same work. The Group has now become active and is regularly saving Rs 50/- per month by each member. Through mulberry plantation, they got 380 kg production in first year and may receive 1000 kg from second year onwards.

The work done on fields are land development, plantation, interculture and mixing the manure as shown in Figure-2, both pre- and post- land development under NREGA. Cocoon rearing is done under shelter of centre and all products are purchased by the State Sericulture Department. After processing, it is sold in market as Kanha Silk.

Now Group women feel happy and they are also getting 100 days employment with this work.

Case Study - 9

MULTI AGENCY VIGILANCE AND MONITORING

To ensure transparency in the NREGS, the district administration, in addition to the Gram Panchayats, has tried to involve multi agencies in the implementation of work including all the major line departments like Revenue, Public Works Department, Agriculture, Horticulture, etc. Further, 10,454 inspections have been done by the block-level rural development functionaries and 1,677 inspections by the district-level officials of the Rural Development Department. Additionally, 5,432 inspections are done by the Line Department officials. These officers are given a monthly

minimum target of five inspections. The administration closely monitors these targets during monthly review meetings of Revenue and other Line Department functionaries. For motivating and encouraging them, a revolving trophy has been introduced.

Every month, the trophy goes to the department and the individuals doing highest number of quality inspections. This multi-agency monitoring mechanism thus helps in keeping the village-level implementing machinery on a high alert, all the time. This has ensured correctness in Muster Rolls eliminating ghost workers.

Case Study -10

VILLAGERS BENEFIT FROM WATER MANAGEMENT

The village of Astapara suffers from severe water shortage which affects its farming. To benefit from NREGS, the villagers developed a participatory model for resource utilisation. A village map was painted on the ground to help the villagers identify and decide on what they saw as the priority for their community. After conducting an analysis of the local ecosystem, the findings revealed that their water problems would be solved if they were to re-excavate and revive one of the silted water harvesting bund, Raibandh. A meeting was then held with the District Magistrate. For the first time, the people of Astapara presented their development plans and were able to decide which development works needed to be undertaken.

The District Magistrate sanctioned the project and they received over Rs. 9 Lakhs under NREGS. The soil excavated from the project was of good quality and was used to improve the village roads without incurring any additional costs. The work involved active participation of the village Unnayan Committee, as well as the Gram Panchayat. Additional facilities for labourers including health camps were set up at each of the worksites. Regular monitoring was also conducted to ensure better transparency and accountability of the work implemented under the scheme.

Before the roll-out of NREGS in their community, decisions were always made by a few pressure groups and did not benefit the community as a whole. This participatory process has helped people have a say in the decision making and has empowered them.

Case Study -11

FACILITATING ADULT LITERACY THROUGH NREGA

Adult literacy is important in the context of rural economic development, enhancing quality of life and upgrading social equality. The target audience for the adult literacy is almost the same as the potential unskilled NREGA workers.

The district adimnistration has used the NREGA worksite for conducting functional literacy as well as making the workers aware of their rights and entitlements. The profile of the district is:



- Total number of rural household - 4,11,833
- Number of households registered till date - 2,88,130
- Percentage of coverage - 70%
- Number of Job Cards issued to individuals till date - 5,86,195
- Number of individual who attended NREGA's work till date - 3,97,265
- Maximum number of individuals who attended NREGA's work in a single day - 1,03,333

Among the above, **96,342** workers were found to be illiterate, to make them literate the district administration coordinated with the Continuing Education Programme officials. In the Cuddalore District, there are 681 preraks and 681 assistant preraks at the Village Panchayat level under Continuing Education Programme. They are involved in this program to identify the illiterate in the NREGA's work site by verifying the thumb impression found in the NMR. Till date, **11,372** illiterates have been trained to be literates and **15,845** illiterates are under training. It is being reviewed monthly by the District Administration. The aspiration is to see thumb impression - free Muster Rolls.

PROMOTING FUNCTIONAL LITERACY

I am KANIMOZHI. I belong to Kothangudi village at Prangipettai Block in Cuddalore District. I am an illiterate agricultural labourer. When I came to NREGA's work, I used to put my thumb impression in the NMR. The staff of the Continuing Education Programme identified the workers like me and trained us to put signature. Then we learnt about Job Card, NMR entries and entitlements of the workers. This is very useful and I take pride of it.



Ministry of Rural Development  
Department of Rural Development  
Government of India  
New Delhi