

EVALUATION OF WATERSHEDS IN INDIA

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PREFACE

Watershed is a shed of rainwater that drains to a common point and is a hydrological unit of surface expression. Sustainable land and water development is the primary objective in any watershed programme to promote socio-economic development through optimum utilization of natural resources like land, water, vegetation, that will mitigate the adverse effects of drought and unemployment, restoration of ecological balance at micro level through easily and affordable low cost technologies and improvement in socio-economic conditions of the resource poor and disadvantageous sections of the society. The basic components of watershed management programmes can be effectively implemented by targeting employment generation and poverty alleviation through effective institutionalized participatory approach.

The National Agricultural Technology Project “Impact of Watershed Management Practices on Sustainability of Land Productivity and Socio-Economic Status” carried out extensive survey at 37 watershed locations, involving collection of data, discussion with PIAs, farmers and other agencies with regard to watershed impacts in terms of regeneration of natural resources and socio-economic aspects. A detailed farmer opinion survey was also carried out through pre-designed proformae with regard to biophysical and socio-economic parameters from 31 out of 37 watershed locations. The data were computerized, analyzed and logical conclusions presented in the Report.

The Report contains data for various watershed impact indicators for 31 watersheds. The Team hopes, that, the Report would be useful to the Policy Makers, Bureaucrats and Scientists' Community for evolving suitable amendments for effective implementation of watershed management programmes in different semi-arid regions for mitigating drought effects, increase land productivity and enhance socio-economic status of dryland farmers.

PROJECT TEAM

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