

Drought Mitigation



Drought has always been a part of life in Rajasthan but over the last few years the severity and frequency of the droughts has increased beyond all imagination. The lives of the rural poor are at risk- they are not able to eat properly; not able to drink safe, portable water and are not able to access health services. Because of this many are living below the poverty line and away from shining India.

GVNML has adopted a unique strategy of building Village

Information Centres that instead of being a spoon feeding exercise, will give these rural communities the opportunity to develop themselves, coordinate themselves and facilitate them to change their situation by themselves. Using this approach may have less short-term visible results, but the sustainability of the project is very high. Each centre provides information on a variety of issues including the government's relief work, implementation of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREG), information on animal health and also agricultural practices. Villagers now have a habit of going into the centres for information about livelihoods, and young men especially are using them to stay updated on employment opportunities. Newspapers are available in the centres, as well as details of government announcements regarding drought mitigation, new areas of development work and the location of fodder depots.

Manohay Singh from Itakhai village, found information in the centre about a government scheme providing subsidies for purchasing agricultural equipment. After getting more detailed information from the block office in Dudu he submitted an application to the local Panchayat (village council) and was successful in receiving a contribution to buy a seed planting tool for his tractor. This in turn inspired another villager, Banwarial, to apply for a subsidised sprinkler system to water his crops.