

## FARM POND AT KOLWADI

A farm pond containing 4,15,000 litres of water was excavated in the Kolwadi village, selected as a part of Kolwadi watershed programme. This was possible due to the generous support of L&TTS and NAF that joined hands for the Watershed scheme. Mr. Baban Ghate is one such beneficiary of farm pond who has created a farm pond of size of 22 m \* 10.5 m \* 1.8 m (L x B x D).

The farm pond inspired others to emulate the example and there are already 66 such ponds, capable of providing water to 100 acres of agricultural land. This initiative has immensely benefitted agriculture and has become a strong alternate source of income for many beneficiaries. Formerly, prior to the intervention of L&TTS Integrated Watershed Management Programme, the farmers were unaware of the techniques to harvest rainwater in their farm and suffered due to lack of water for agriculture and their farm animals during the summer months. Kolwadi receives a good amount of rainfall during every monsoon. But, in the year of 2018, a rainfall of 300 mm lesser than usual rainfall took away the hope of the farming communities. Water harvesting activities had a huge impact on every aspect of the farming community, especially during less rainfall and dry season. Prior to it, farmers were distressed due to lack of assured irrigation clubbed with consistently bad monsoon.

Until the Integrated Watershed Management Programme, the farmers were unaware of the techniques to harvest rainwater in their farm. The Watershed development programme includes Farm ponds, Field bunds, Check Dams, Gabion Check Dams and Channel restoration.



This delays the draining velocity of the runoff water thus making it best to harvest and retain rain water. The very first year, farmers witnessed the transition from only single rain fed crop to additional second season crop during winter, using the water that was harvested in these ponds. Soon, more and more farmers were inspired to replicate the success of farm ponds.

The farm ponds increased the total irrigated area of the watershed and community started their second cropping for about 150 Acres. The yield of Paddy per acre has increased to 24 Bags (75 kg per bag) in 175 Acres of land from 20 Bags. Also, the ground water table has been raised to 10ft. These activities have enlightened the farmers regarding the importance of water harvesting structures and induced them to maintain the water bodies in their villages.

Apart from creating the structure, L&TTS has created awareness among the villagers about the importance of water harvesting structures. And through NAF continues to motivate them to effectively manage these structures.