

## Revived Water Bodies Fuel a Village's Sustainable Future

Mr. Mayank is a resident of Sultanpur village in Bulandshahar district at Uttar Pradesh state. He comes from a medium-sized family and owns a small piece of land in his village. The water bodies and tanks in the village were generally shallow in nature. Unfortunately, the pond in the area has been used as a dumping yard by the villagers, resulting in it being filled with waste. Also, there was no proper channelization to handle stormwater, as the pond was separated from its surrounding inlets.



It had much lower water holding capacity than its original potential. This was primarily due to the improper maintenance and lack of connection of supply channel to the water body. Desilting or deepening of these water bodies has never been carried out for the past few years.

The water holding capacity of the pond was increased by 4200 KL of water. However, with the increase in ground water recharge, it is now able to support the irrigation requirements of the surrounding farm lands. Sultanpur pond was desilted and deepened, & its embankments was also strengthened through the project funded by Asian Paints Ltd and implemented by National Agro Foundation. As a result of these efforts, the water storage capacity has become truly beneficial for all the villagers and farmers. The outcome of this work was witnessed through the increase in storage capacity, leading to the prolonged duration of water availability in the water body from just 3 months to 6 - 7 months. It has the influence in the 25 acres of land located nearby. The runoff water that flows into the water body replenishes the bore wells, resulting in an increase of approximately 10 ft in the ground water level. This water is now being used for cattle, small ruminants, and the cultivation of additional vegetable crops increasing their changes of higher income.