



**TRIBAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT
OF DIMBHE DAM, DIST. PUNE, MAHARASHTRA, INDIA**

By: Anand Kapoor, Budhaji Damse

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Dated 30 Dec. 2009

ABSTRACT

The Dimbhe dam is situated on the Ghod river, surrounded by the remote, difficult to access, steeply sloping Sahyadri hills with thick forested areas and high annual rainfall. 19 dam-displaced villages populated almost completely by tribals are situated on the fringes of the reservoir which has average fishing area 1278 hectare. The fishers were unorganized. There were no boats and they were catching fish on rubber tubes with barely about 50 kg of fishing nets in all. There was no proper stocking. Explosives and poisonous substances were used for fishing.

Our voluntary organization SHASHWAT helped the 201 fisher families from these villages since 2003 to organize themselves into a fishing coop society which was registered in 2006. The fisherwomen have also formed 32 women's self help groups. We feel that the local community has the first right to the local natural resources, and their involvement in the development of the local resources is a must. The Dimbhe Tribal Coop. Fish Soc. was offered the lease of the reservoir in 2006 and the reservoir came under the control of the local tribals for the first time.

Shashwat introduced the first boats of Madhya Pradesh type in 2003. Shashwat put forth a catchment development program which was taken up and enlarged by the Div. Commissioner Pune. Now the no. of boats has reached 134 and the fishers have over 2000 kg of fishing nets. Proper stocking of IMC is being done since 2006. The fish catch has increased from 20,537 kg in 72 fishing days of 2006-07 to 34020 kg in 139 fishing days of 2007-08. CIFE started guiding us and later introduced Cage Culture technology for growing advanced fingerlings in 2006 with 4 cages; further 16 cages were introduced in 2008. The community has shown good results with the cage culture experiments. Excellent growth of Goldfish in the cages is also seen. Pen Culture is introduced in 2009 and nursery ponds have also been recently commissioned.

In order to increase aquatic water productivity, Shashwat introduced the plantation of the green manure crop *Dhancha* with 5 quintals seed in 2007. The Dhancha seed was planted with the first rains in land which gets inundated under the rising waters of the reservoir. The wide mouthed fish Catla etc were seen to come and eat its green decomposed leaves. When the reservoir water level falls in the winters, these fields are used by the farmers for planting wheat etc. and farmers got substantially increased production. In 2009, 40 quintals of Dhancha seed was sown in such drawdown cultivation fields of 42 fishers of 7 villages and they have paid for half of the seed.

The fishing community of Dimbhe and their Fishing Coop. Soc. try to keep their activities transparent and open. No poison or explosives are permitted and net size regulation is strictly maintained. No fishing is permitted in the closed season. Accounts are meticulously maintained. The Directors of the Fish Soc. regularly review the fishing activity. The Fish Coop and Shashwat share the progress with CIFE and take their advice several times a year.

The Tribal Dev. Dept has extended valuable financial support and also the Fisheries Dept., Revenue Dept. and Irrigation Dept have been supportive. The continued advice and strong support of the CIFE, its director Dr. Dilip Kumar and its learned and experienced team of scientists, has been very important for us.

Dated 10th March 2010

ABSTRACT

Our voluntary group has been working with the Mahadeo Kolis, Thakars (ST) and the Katkaris (primitive tribe group - PTG) in the remote, difficult-access, high rainfall, steeply sloping, heavily forested Adivasi area of the Western Ghats - the catchment area of the Dimbhe Dam, District Pune, Maharashtra, India, since 1981. SHASHWAT was registered in 1996.

The 'backlash of development' has hit hard at the Adivasi of this area, with the Dimbhe dam and the Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary most seriously affecting them. While trying to formulate a holistic area development plan, we feel that the local community has the first right to the local natural resources as a means of sustainable livelihood, especially of the dam oustees, the people who sacrificed their lands and homes for the development of the nation. Putting all our suggestions together, the Divisional Commissioner Pune Division formulated the Dimbhe Dam Area Poverty Eradication Program in 2006. Fisheries is one of the main activities of this program, besides irrigated farming of land which becomes available when the water level goes down in the reservoir, making paddy terraces on steeply sloping farmland and forestry.

Fisheries: 19 dam-displaced tribal villages are situated on the fringes of the reservoir of average fishing area 1278 hectare. Only about 30-50 fishers were catching fish on truck rubber tubes with barely 50 kg of fishing nets. SHASHWAT helped the 201 fisher families from these villages since 2003 to organize themselves into a fishing coop society which was registered in 2006 and took the lease of the reservoir. The first three boats of Madhya Pradesh type were introduced in 2003. Now the no. of boats has reached 137 and the fishers have over 2000 kg of fishing nets. Proper stocking of Indian Major Carps – Catla, Rohu & Mrigal is being done. The Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) Mumbai has guided us since 2006 and introduced advanced fish culture techniques like Cage Culture and Pen Culture. The community has shown good results with the modern technology. The annual fish catch has increased from 20,537 kg in 72 fishing days of 2006-07 to 34,020 kg in 139 fishing days of 2007-08.

Padkai Program: Making paddy terraces of 400 –500 sq. meters area each, with stone bunds on steep hill slopes by all the farmers coming together and working on each other's fields turn by turn, is a traditional participatory self-help activity called *Padkai* here. We partially supported about 200 families of 4 villages to make one such terrace each year during 1989-93. This led to increase in food availability for the average tribal family from 6-7 months to about 11 months per year. The tribals then put forth this scheme for consideration of the Govt. In June 2002, the Govt. of Maharashtra sanctioned this scheme on experimental basis for four tribal villages but with only one-third wages. Work was completed by 2004. A four year long exercise by the Revenue Dept. and Shashwat in 39 village level camps has led to the names of the present day descendants being reflected on land ownership documents. Govt. of Maharashtra finally sanctioned this Padkai program under EGS in July 2009 for 38 villages after 9 years of efforts.

Drawdown Land Cultivation: When the dam waters recede, about 400 hectares land becomes available for the winter & summer crops. Shashwat organised 21 farmer groups comprising 134 farmers of 12 villages. Irrigation Dept. and WALMI chipped in with reduced land use charges and training. 13 sets of lightweight diesel pumps and pipelines were made available to as many farmer groups. In 2008-09 these 65 farmers could grow food-grains 273 qtls and vegetables 20 qtls. Without pump-sets & pipelines, the total production would not have exceeded 50 quintals.

These livelihood options could be explored in similar areas as sustainable livelihood options for the tribal people. The coming together of the local people, a voluntary organization, various govt departments and a renowned research institute like CIFE have been the strong point of this effort.

SHASHWAT

Registered under the Societies Registration Act 1860 &
Mumbai Public Registration Act 1950. Donations exempt u/s 80G of the Income Tax Act

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Dated 03 Apr 2010

Some information about Fisheries in Dimbhe reservoir, Dist. Pune

Sl. No.	Particulars	Details
1.0	Name of the Reservoir:	Dimbhe
2.0	Name and address of the Lessee:	Dimbhe Jalashaya Shramik Adivasi Macchimar Sahakari Sanstha Maryadit, Digad, Taluka Ambegaon, Dist. Pune, Maharashtra. Tel. Nos.: (PP) (02133) 223608, 224107
3.0	Details of the Coop. Society:	Lessee is a Coop. Soc. with Regn. No. PNA/ AGN/ AGR/ (O)/ 2892/ (D) 2006/07 dated 29/ 5/ 06
4.0	Details of the reservoir:	
	a) State:	Maharashtra
	b) District(s):	Pune
	c) Taluk(s)/ Mandal(s):	Ambegaon
	d) Revenue village(s) located on the reservoir:	1. Phulawade 2. Old Ambegaon 3. Borghar 4. Vachape 5. Panchale (Bk) 6. Adiware 7. Amade 8. Panchale (Kd) 9. Digad 10. Kushire (Bk) 11. Kusire (Kd) 12. Mhalunge tarfe Ambegaon 13. Patan 14. Sakeri 15. Pimpri 16. Saverli 17. Megholi 18. Kalambai 19. Jambhori 20. Koltawde
	e) Ownership right	Lease hold
	f) Duration of the lease:	2006-07 to 2010-11
	g) Reservoir water spread area: High Flood Level (HFL): Full Reservoir Level (FSL): Max drawdown Level (MDDL):	2202 ha 720.360 metres RL 719.645 metres RL 682.750 metres RL
	h) Average water spread area:	1278 ha
5.0	Details of facilities for stocking of seed:	
	a) Hatcheries:	a) Nil
	b) Rearing facilities from spawn to fingerling of 100 mm size, including pen culture:	b) i) Unused stone quarry near dam site, area about 0.8 ha. ii) Village pond at Ughadewadi

		(Phulawade), area about 1 ha. iii) 20 cages provided by CIFE (3m x 3m x 3m) iv) Pen culture tried out at Bendharwadi village in 2009 v) Rearing ponds 0.06 ha size at Kushire Khurd village															
6.0	Whether the Lessee is in default of payment of any Financial Institution/ State Government:	No															
7.0	Details of craft and gear and other facilities available with the Lessee:	<p>Nets & Boats in 2009-10</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Boats (nos.)</th> <th>Nets (kg.)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2003-04</td> <td>0</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2004 - 06</td> <td>63</td> <td>476</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2007 - 09</td> <td>105</td> <td>703</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2009 - 10</td> <td>137</td> <td>2000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Boats (nos.)	Nets (kg.)	2003-04	0	50	2004 - 06	63	476	2007 - 09	105	703	2009 - 10	137	2000
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	a) Fish landing centres with facilities:	There are 14 fish landing places but with no facilities.															
	b) Boats, their type and number:	<p>1. Manual boats, of total length about 12 ft, depth 1.5 ft and max width 4 ft, made of G.I. sheet (20 gauge) which is fitted on a on a wooden framework: Total 105 nos. (Details as given above.)</p> <p>2. One motor boat of fiberglass make of length 24 ft, depth 3 ft and width 8 ft, with 10 hp diesel marine engine has been made available to the Fish Coop Soc. by the NGO Shashwat for collection of the catch from the interior villages.</p>															
	c) Net units, their type and number:	At present gill nets of mesh size 150-165-180 mm are used. In certain specific season only, mesh size 20 mm is used for the local 'chela'. Presently total about 2000 kg nets have been provided to the fisher families and some they have procured themselves.															
	d) Fish transport vehicle(s):	During 2006 to '08 the Coop Soc. had hired a vehicle to take the fish to the Pune market. Since 2008-09 the catch is being directly sold to a contractor at the reservoir and his vehicle picks up the catch.															
	e) Other facilities, if any at the reservoir site:	Office space and office staff are provided by the regd. voluntary organization Shashwat in the buildings rented by them from State Govt. at the Irrigation Colony of the Dimbhe Dam.															
8.0	Existing production/ ha/ year from the reservoir:	<p>2006-07= 20,530 kg in 72 fishing days</p> <p>2007-08 = 34,020 kg in 135 fishing days</p> <p>2008-09= 27826 kg in 175 fishing days</p> <p>This includes Catla and local fish <i>chela</i> etc.</p>															

9.0	Annual lease rent fixed by the State Government:	Rs.1,21,000/-
10.0	Mode of payment of annual lease amount by the lessee to the State Government:	By Demand Draft every year
11.0	Technical Guidance:	Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Versova, Mumbai
12.0	Background & General Information	<p>This is a tribal fisheries coop soc. and the members are mostly illiterate. Further, about half the members are from the Primitive Tribe 'Katkari'. The regd. voluntary organization 'Shashwat' has been instrumental in organizing and motivating them in starting the fisheries work in an orderly manner. Shashwat has helped in the formation of the Fisheries Coop and is legally the <u>Permanent Advisor</u> to the Fish Coop. Soc. Till now they have supported the Fish Coop in keeping the records, providing the know-how, collecting donations for provision of boats & nets, helping the tribals to access the Govt schemes, supporting the Govt Fisheries Dept, Revenue Dept and Tribal Dev. Dept etc to get the schemes implemented. Shashwat is also the lead agency in the Dimbhe Dam Area Poverty Eradication Program started by the Div. Commissioner, Pune Division, Pune, through which the fisheries development programs were undertaken from 2004. Shashwat has supported the tribal fisher-folk and their Coop Soc. by motivation, experimentation, keeping records and all support. We have received technical guidance and strong support from CIFE since 2006. Shashwat has supported and helped in the execution all the field activities taken up by CIFE and maintenance of records also. The Dimbhe Tribal Fish Coop. Society and Shashwat operate together in the field with the consultation and guidance of CIFE.</p>

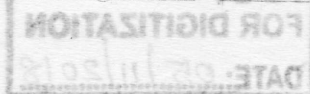
We welcome your guidance, support and help.

Date: 03 Apr 2010

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Indragree 26-28 May
 Anna Foundation - Pillai

27 May - 2nd May - Policy issues
 "Issued that decrease
 policy intervention"
 Bulletin print

9.0 Annual lease rent fixed by the State Government 10.0 Mode of payment of annual lease amount by the lessee to the State Government	Rs. 21,000/- By Demand Draft every year
<p>Background & General Information</p> <p>The Tribal Fish Coop. Society and Shashwat Tribal Fish Coop. Society are operating together in the field with the maintenance of records also. The Dange activities taken up by CIFE and helped in the execution all the field since 1986. Shashwat has supported and guidance and strong support from CIFE support. We have received technical experimentation, keeping records and all folk and their Coop. Soc. by motivation. Shashwat has supported the tribal fisher programs were undertaken from 2004 through which the fisheries development Commissioner, Pune Division, Pune. The Tribal Fish Coop. Society is the Dange Dam Area Fisheries agency in the Dange Dam Area. The implemented. Shashwat is also the lead Dev. Dept. to get the schemes Fisheries Dept. Revenue Dept and Tribal Govt schemes, supporting the Govt & net, helping the tribals access the collecting donations for provision of boat records, providing the know-how, supported the fish Coop in keeping the to the fish Coop. Soc. Till now they have helped in the formation of the Fisheries work in an orderly manner. Shashwat has been instrumental in organizing and motivating them in starting the fisheries voluntary organization 'Shashwat' has Primitive Tribe 'Kankari'. The total about half the members are from the members are mostly illiterate. Further this is a tribal fisheries coop. soc. and the (CIFE) Verava, Mumbai Central Institute of Fisheries Education</p>	

ICSF FOR DIGITIZATION
 DATE: 05/11/2018