

GHANDIVAN

Toda Ladi, India

The area around Toda Ladi in Jaipur was a wasteland, totally barren and uncultivable. Because of lack of vegetation and water scarcity, land degradation and desertification were on the rise. Villagers, mainly women, would cut down the already scarce vegetation, to collect wood for cooking and fodder for their cattle, leading to worsening deforestation.

Key stakeholders from the local target villages were invited to be part of the Project Implementation and Monitoring Committee (PIMC). Trainings on planting trees and harvesting rain water were provided to youth volunteers and women, and other awareness activities were carried out to sensitize villagers to environmental conservation. Through collaborative engagement, the overall management of community fisheries has improved tremendously. Increased levels of environmental protection and restoration driven by the local communities have resulted in protection of 6,000 hectares of fish sanctuary area; preservation of 25,000 hectares of flooded forest; and re-establishment of fish stocks. Illegal fishing has decreased thanks to enhanced engagement of community committees in governance. Economic resilience of target communities and especially of women has also increased, thanks to collective action and cooperation.

By making women and youth aware of their pivotal role in protecting and strengthening the environment, over 100,000 trees of various indigenous species were planted; 6 ancient step wells re-established; 5,000 villagers got access to potable water; and 3,000 hectares of degraded land were restored since the beginning of the initiative in 2000. Thanks to the successful results, the initiative has since been supported by different actors, including the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Government of India and the private sector.



Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS)

www.gbsjaipur.org

Bhawani Shanker Kusum, GBS: bskusum@gmail.com

