



All About Change

Dear Friends,

If life is said to be in a constant state of motion, there is no reason why things simply shouldn't keep changing for the better. Tell this to many of the villagers in the most remote rural parts of Maharashtra (or for that matter, any other state in India) and the statement would be looked upon with skepticism. That's because for those who have tried to eke out a living as farm labourers or even worse, life has been nothing more than a saga of survival. This is not to say though that transformations cannot take place. As the many intervention projects of WOTR have shown, it is possible for landless labourers to turn into successful farmers and arid regions to become self-sufficient in water.

This issue of our newsletter provides such real cases. What it also does is to present the findings of a study conducted to see how the employment of machines can impact watershed development as against the use of physical labour. Ultimately, the focus does not have to be on machines replacing human skill but on how a combination of both can lead to fruitful results. Meanwhile, we have also found it very important to study how watershed development affects children because no progress in a village can be called complete if children continue to remain malnourished or suffer from poor health.

Another study has also indicated how the involvement of women in local governance has definitely improved the scenario in many villages. Their voice has helped usher in prosperity along with better utilisation of various resources. And finally, there are always the voices of people that must be heard to know how their lives have been affected by whatever has been done in their villages. Over to them for the real picture.

Editor

