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Dear readers,

We are pleased to bring to you exciting new updates from our work in the month of February, 2019! This is a monthly digest to share updates of WOTR's work especially in the areas of watershed development and ecosystems restoration, adaptive sustainable agriculture, integrated water management and climate change adaptation.

Highlights of the month

WOTR felicitated by IMD on the occasion of IMD's 144th Foundation Day



WOTR was recently felicitated by the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on the occasion of IMD's 144th foundation day celebrations. Our Managing Trustee and co-founder, Crispino Lobo, received the felicitation on behalf of WOTR. The felicitation was for WOTR's contribution in the development of an IT-enabled

Agrimet Decision Support System (Agrimet-DSS) which enables IMD to automate the process of generating block level weather-based crop advisories. The Chief Guest at the ceremony was the Honorable Union Minister for Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Government of India, Dr. Harsh Vardhan. [Read more](#)

Paper presentation at the International Workshop on Earth observation for Agriculture



Our researcher, Vijayasekaran Duraisamy, presented a paper 'Sen2-Agri Crop Type Mapping Pilot Study Using Sentinel-2 Satellite Imagery in India' in the 'Technical Session I: Crop Area' at the International Workshop, New Delhi. This international workshop was jointly organised by

the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS) Working Group III/10, GEOGLAM and Indian Society of Remote Sensing (ISRS). [Read more](#)

Crispino Lobo receives Rotary Social Service Club Award



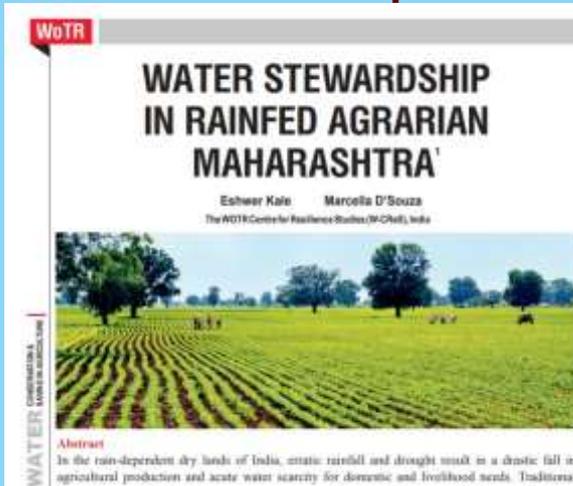
Social Service Club Award 2018

WOTR was felicitated by the Rotary Club of Bombay on February 12, 2019. WOTR's Managing Trustee and co-founder Crispino Lobo was presented with the Social Service Club Award for 2018-2019. He was awarded for his "dedication to resource conservation and community empowerment". The award was presented by President of the Rotary Club of Bombay, Vijay Jatia.

Speaking on the occasion

Crispino Lobo said the award was a recognition of the work WOTR had done over the past 25 year. [Read more](#)

Maharashtra govt. includes Water Stewardship initiative in its compendium on water conservation



[Water Stewardship in Rainfed Agrarian Maharashtra](#)

A chapter titled 'Water Stewardship in Rainfed Agrarian Maharashtra' was published in the compendium 'Water Conservation and Saving in Agriculture: Initiatives, Achievements and Challenges in Maharashtra' by the Water Resource Department (WRD), Government of Maharashtra (GoM). The chapter focuses on the approach, key concepts and

processes followed in WOTR's Water Stewardship Initiative (WSI) which has been acknowledged by the GoM, for its significance as a way of encouraging efficient and effective management of water resources. [Read more](#)

Latest blog posts

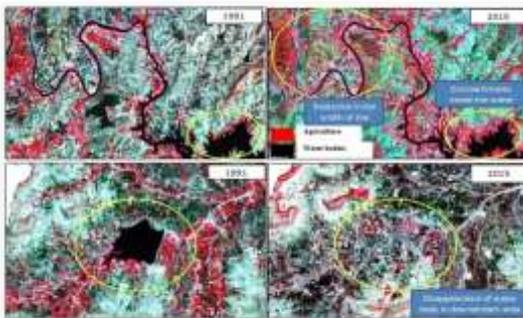
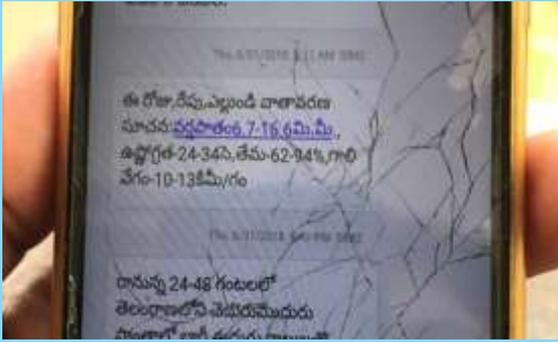


Figure 1: Wetland areas in Purna river basin between 1991 and 2015. Source: Sarojini Devi/Doan/et al.

[Wetlands - One of nature's most important gifts](#)

Wetlands provides invaluable ecosystem services to humans and billions of people depend on them for their livelihoods. On the occasion of World Wetlands Day, on 2nd February, our researcher Sarojini Boominathan wrote about the current

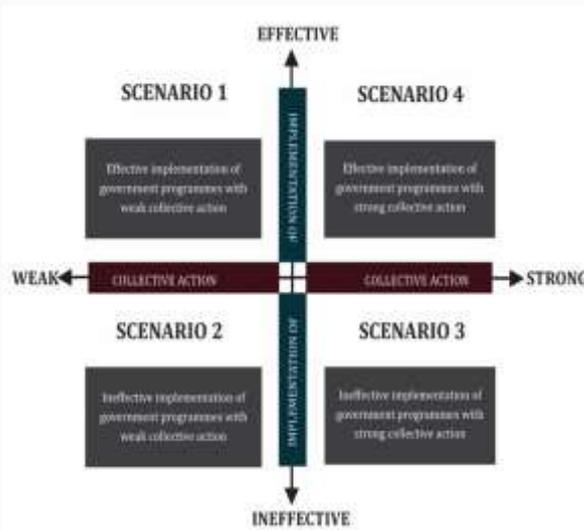
situation of wetlands in the Purna river basin, Maharashtra and emphasizes the importance of wetland conservation. [Read more](#)



Forecasts and advisories as a step to tackling climate variability

Agriculture employs over 50 percent of India's total workforce and is highly vulnerable to climate change. That's why, it is essential that farmers are better equipped to deal with variations in weather patterns. In this regard, one of the tools developed by WOTR for

farmers is agro advisories for providing farmers information about weather conditions. Read our latest blog post by Jyothirmayee Kandula to see the impacts of agro-advisories by WOTR in villages of Telangana. [Read more](#)



Rural inhabitants ask for village-level water use management

We are happy to share a blog 'Rural inhabitants ask for village-level water use management' published by ASSAR. It describes the experience of how Transformative Scenario Planning (TSP) in the district of Jalna in Maharashtra, motivated people to take action on water management. The Transformative Scenario Planning (TSP) exercise in Jalna district was on the topic: "The water

situation in rural Jalna in 2030: for domestic and livelihood needs." This ASSAR blog is written by our researcher Dr. Marcella D'Souza, Dr. Eshwer Kale and Hemant Pinjan. [Read more](#)

WOTR in News

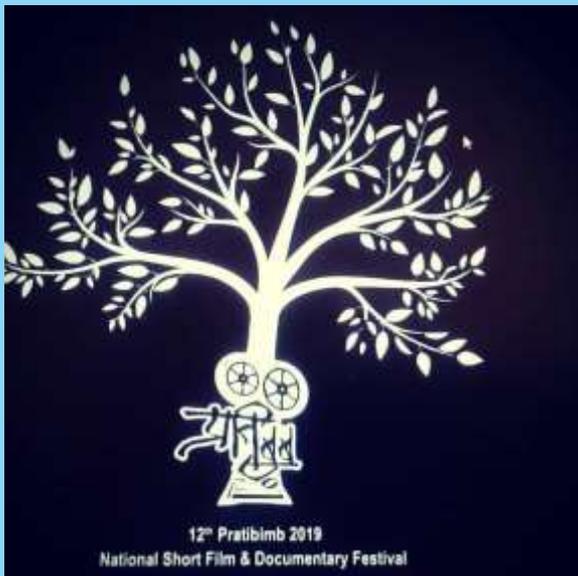


[Soil and Water Conservation activities through MGNREGA in Ambad](#)

We are happy to share a news published in Marathi Daily 'Sakal, Aurangabad edition', about our work in Kingaon village in Rohilgad cluster, Ambad block of Jalna district. People of the village

have got the opportunity to work in the village instead of migrating in search of livelihood opportunities. [Read more](#)

WOTR Films



[Screening of WOTR film at the 12th National Short Film, & Documentary Festival Ahmednagar 2019](#)

Our film "Save the Girl Child" was screened at the 12th National Short Film, & Documentary Festival Ahmednagar 2019. The film describes the adverse effects of rising plastic use and explains how even small steps, like using cloth bags for shopping, can reduce plastic pollution and ensure a greener world. [Watch it here](#)



[Social activist Anna Hazare's message on WOTR's 25th Anniversary](#)

In his message for WOTR completing 25 years of service, social activist Anna Hazare expressed his appreciation in Hindi for WOTR's work in the areas of soil and water conservation and water management. He

also lauded our co-founder Father Hermann Bacher, who, he says, was an inspiration for him. Listen to Anna Hazare [Watch it here](#)

WOTRian of the Month - Hemant Pinjan



Hemant Pinjan is currently a Manager in WOTR, working at the Pune office. He has been working in WOTR since 2002. He reflects on his interesting and purposeful journey with WOTR, from a Social Development Officer to a Manager. [Read more](#)

Photogallery for the month of February 2019



Livestock management training and vaccination at Sonpura village in Karauli district, Rajasthan



Stone bund construction at Chikiti village in Ganjam district, Odisha



National Rural Employment Gurantee Act (MGNREGA) 'Compartment bunding' work at Borkhedi Gayaki village in Jalna district, Maharashtra



Jalsevaks from Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh receiving training on 'sustainable management of the groundwater' from Andhra Pradesh Farmer Managed Groundwater Systems (APFAMGS)



Women from a SHG group in Mardi village, Ambad block participated at the district level exhibition at Jalna



Construction of 'Pokhar' - a rain harvesting structure at Dhandhuret Village in Karauli district, Rajasthan



We hope you found the updates for the month of February interesting. We would love to hear any feedback you may have about our work or the Communication tools used by us. We welcome you suggestions and queries on info@wotr.org. Further details of our activities are available on our website and also through our various social media platforms.

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