

Disaster Management

Voltas's CSR policy emphasizes on serving the local, societal and national interest. Keeping in line with this, we decided to undertake groundwater recharge activities in Osmanabad, which falls in the perennially drought affected region of Marathwada.

The project applied a multi-pronged approach that began in January 2016 to provide immediate support to drought affected families and to create sustainable water harvesting conservation methods in order to mitigate the drought situation in the future. These approaches were extended to 15 villages in the area with the help of the Samaj Vikas Sanstha, a local NGO.

Local villagers participated in an in-depth hydro-geological study of 3 villages to provide a scientific base for future groundwater management activities. Based on the studies recommendations, area treatments like de-silting of public percolation tank and streams as well as the deepening of wells was undertaken.

A Hydro-geological study was conducted in 3 villages with participation of villagers, to provide scientific base to the groundwater management activities including area treatments for soil and water conservation. It has helped in generating deeper understanding on groundwater management and has helped in bringing in further clarity on the possible area treatments.

The management efforts proved fruitful when in the summer of 2018, the villages of Hipparga, Malegaon and Pandhari were tanker free. In Hipparga, 35 wells are recharged, 10 farmers used the excavated silt over 15 acres of land, leading to increased fertility. Water availability of more than 65 wells was increased in Malegaon and Pandhari.

The program laid an emphasis on the formation and strengthening of farmer's clubs to institutionalise the initiatives at a village level. Due to the increased awareness and the facilitation of farmers clubs families are now in a better position to mitigate risks. 3470 farmers in 10 villages were able to insure their crops and entitlement to different development schemes were received by 31 needy families across 5 villages thanks to the program.