

AKRSP(I), Dang Gujrat

Internship report Submitted to



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Development Management

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## Introduction:

Water management plays an important role in the agricultural sector, influencing farm efficiency, productivity, and income levels. Efficient use of water resources is very important in a region with an agriculture-dependent economy like the Dang district in Gujarat. The objective of this study is to explore the impact of water management on agricultural operations in this locality. Agriculture is important to the economy of Dang district, which is a means of livelihood and contributes significantly to prosperity. Sustainable and productive agriculture depends on effective water management, critical in the context of limited water resources and erratic rainfall.

The significance of this study lies in its potential to reveal insights that could revolutionize agricultural practices in Dang District. By evaluating the impact of water management on-farm efficiency, productivity, and income levels, we can identify optimal strategies that match the region's unique environmental and climatic conditions. Such findings can not only benefit local farmers but also serve as a model for other regions facing similar challenges. The primary objective of this study is to comprehensively analyze the relationship between water management and key agricultural indicators in the Dang district. By assessing how different water management practices affect farm efficiency, productivity, and income, we aim to provide evidence-based recommendations to local farmers, policymakers, and agricultural practitioners.

## **Objective:**

- To document the agriculture activities adopted by the farmers after farm pond activity in the Dang district.
- To assess the effect of farm ponds on crop productivity, frequency, crop diversification, and income enhancement
- To assess the farm pond intervention on irrigation pattern, water management by the farmers of Dangs

## **Organization Profile:**

As an intern I worked in the Aga Khan Rural Assistance Program (India) it is a non-communal, non-governmental development organization. AKRSP(I) acts as a catalyst for the improvement of rural communities by directly supporting local communities. AKRSP(I) is active in more than 3255 villages in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Maharashtra. It has affected the lives of 3.5 million people from marginalized sections of society. More than 80% of the families affected by the work of AKRSP(I) belong to marginalized communities like tribals, Dalits, and minorities. More than 60% of the beneficiaries are women who form the core group for the program intervention.

AKRSP(I) has pioneered various participatory development approaches in the country and has received various national and international awards for this. The backbone of AKRSP(I)'s work is the empowerment of rural communities, especially in disadvantaged communities and for women - through collectivization as well as promotion of individual initiatives. Building self-

reliant people's institutions for economic inclusion, livelihood enhancement, and improved rural governance is central to the organization's approach. At present AKRSP(I) has major interventions in the following areas:

- Agriculture and Climate Resilience
- Work and Enterprise
- Rural Governance
- Health and Nutrition

### **Mission:**

“AKRSPI exists to enable the empowerment of rural communities and groups, particularly the underprivileged and women, to take control over their lives and manage their environment, to create a better and equitable society”

**Vision:** The Vision "AKRSP(I) can contribute in India to the creation of an enabling environment in which rural people can identify their needs and priorities and with professional support, organize themselves to improve the quality of their lives"

### **Our Values:**

Empowerment, Collaboration, Transparency, Equity, Professional Excellence, Responsive to Change.

## **Background of internship location:**

A tribal population that makes up 94% of the district, the Dang district is controlled by tribes. It includes an in-depth examination of the Dang district, water, irrigation, and tribal paper tribal.

The Dang district's administrative center is located at Ahwa. There are three blocks in the Dang district: Ahwa, Waghai, and Subir. There are 311 villages in Dang district. The Dang has a total population of 2,28,291 and an area of 1764 km<sup>2</sup>. Of these, 2, 16,073 are tribal, making up approximately 94.6% of the entire population, according to the Census of 2011. From 2001 to 2011, there was a 21.44% increase in population and a 768.8% increase in literacy.

Bhil, Konkana, Varli, Kotwalia, Kathodi, and Gamit are the most numerous tribes. The Bhil (4 chiefs and 10 Naiks) controlled the Dang before the arrival of British authority. There were 7426 Bhil, 6517 Konkani, 2491 Varli, and 302 Gamit counted in the first census conducted in 1872.

While the other tribes migrated to the Dang in search of their means of livelihood, the Bhil have traditionally lived in the Dang. Although the tribes in Dang speak the native language, Dangi, they are literate in a variety of languages. Dangi is a language mix that includes Hindi, Marathi, and Gujarati. Of the approximately 94.65% of individuals who identify as tribal, 85% make their living from agriculture. Of that, 74% are classified as BPL. This essay explores the different irrigation techniques used in the Dang area and tries to estimate their economic impact on indigenous communities.

### **Services Provided By AKRSP(I):**

Through the AKRSPI, they have given many services to community development. and implanting them proactively. For improving livelihood opportunities and making self-reliant them.

### **Support for Agriculture:**

- 1)training farmers about modern methods of agriculture to increase crop yields and promote sustainability.
- 2)encouraging environmentally friendly practices including organic farming.
- 3)providing them access to better fertilizers, seedlings, and farming supplies.

### **Non-Agricultural Employment Opportunities:**

- 1) promoting and aiding alternative forms of employment like small-scale manufacturing, handicrafts, and vocational education.
- 2) establishing connections with markets to assist farmers and craftspeople in selling their goods at fair rates.

### **Water conservation**

- 3) Building ponds, check dams, and other water storage facilities to improve water supply throughout the year.

## Youth empowerment

- 4) providing youths with programs for skill development and vocational training to improve their employability and entrepreneurial abilities.

## Nutrition program

- 5) implementing nutrition awareness campaigns to inform local populations about the value of a healthy diet.
- 6) implementing programs into place to address malnutrition, particularly in children and pregnant women.

## Women empowerment

- 7) establishing and promoting SHGs to encourage women's income-generating initiatives, loan availability, and savings.
- 8) giving training in money management, leadership, and entrepreneurship.
- 9) Encouraging women's participation in decision-making processes at the community level.

## Capacity building

- 10) implementing workshops and training sessions to increase the leadership and capacity of local community members.
- 11) promoting neighborhood-based development initiatives that promote sustainability and local ownership.

All these areas are worked by AKRSP(I) in the Dang district in Gujarat. developed community and improved their livelihood opportunity on in which lives.

### **Key Activities during the internship:**

- 1) Weekly meeting with organizational mentor and discuss with my study,
- 2) Create questionnaires and Data collection for the research study.
- 3) In the second week they gave us a chance to visit a group of three blocks. And asked to understand the work of the cluster employees there.
- 4) Collected secondary data from the main Ahwa cluster and organizational mentor.
- 5) Meeting with the organization mentor and their program specialist.
- 6) Meeting with farmers and understanding how the AKRSPI helps them with their livelihood activities.
- 7) Visited two-gram panchayat in different blocks and discussion with the sarpanch,
- 8)** Attend the 5-day regenerative agricultural orientation,

## Key learnings:

- 1) How to outline mission, goals, and overall development strategy. By visiting villages, I saw how specific interventions fit into that larger framework.
- 2) Related to my classroom studies, (research *method*) I can use this method for writing for literature review, understand earlier studies required for my current study, and relate this study to the organization's mission and goal.
- 3) Bottom-up approach. The organization is working at the grassroots level on a needy basis. All activities are done sustainably.
- 4) I studied classroom equity and equality, but I learned practically how the Organization has focused on equity.
- 5) How to Transparency of the work.
- 6) PRI techniques, also used for community involvement,
- 7) Arrangement meeting Gram Sabha,
- 8) Regenerative agricultural practices.

### **Challenges in this area:**

1. Scattered households and villages, lack of transportation and communication facilities in remotest villages.
2. Being scattered results in high transactional and operational costs.
3. Lack of surplus income of community more dependence on external sources for investment.
4. Climate change and scattered rainfall since last 3 years (long dry spells in Kharif).
5. Tough geography and issues of drinking water post-monsoon.
6. Traditional package and practices of Agriculture and Monocropping (subsistence productivity).
7. Poor governance and lack of information exclude eligible communities from accessing government schemes and services.
8. Lack of microfinance services and poor understanding of Self-Help Groups, more dependency on exploitative money lenders.
9. Anemia, Malnourishment, menstrual hygiene, women's drudgery, and drinking water are major concerns.
10. Lack of Awareness among the community regarding health issues and taboos associated with women's health.

