

## Visit Report of Development Support Centre, Ahmedabad

Following are the observations during visit of Development Support Centre, Ahmedabad:

- It is 20 years old resource organisation that provides knowledge based support to NGOs, government agencies and other stakeholders in the field of Participatory Natural Resource Management and sustainable livelihoods in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.
- It has its own office premises in Ahmedabad at DSC, Near Govt. Tubewell Bopal, Ahmedabad - 380058
- The centre is providing training to their stakeholders i.e. farmers, NGO groups. They have their in house training facilities including boarding and lodging capacities for 35 participants and a conference room & a training hall for 75 participants.
- DSC has broadcasted Radio programmes and they have their magazine named 'Divadandi'.
- They have their own network of 33 NGOs called "Sajjata Sangh" engaged in NRM covering 108 blocks, 5411 villages and approximately 8.5 lakh hectares.
- DSC is recipient of the INDIA POWER AWARD 2008 for its initiatives in Participatory Irrigation Management, Watershed Management and Agriculture Enhancement and is short listed for Times of India's "Social Impact Award-2015" for Livelihood.
- DSC with RBS Foundation India is involved in supporting "Krishidhan Producer Company Ltd." (KPCL) which is a company established by farmers of Gujarat for their own development. At present 4000 farmers from 170 villages, 11 blocks and 5 districts are benefitted.
- DSC has developed and disseminated Information, Education & Communication (IEC) material to motivate farmers and inform practitioners and in policy makers. It has produced more than 50 booklets, posters, stickers, panels, manuals and films.
- DSC has field implementation in the following areas:
  - Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM)
  - Integrated Watershed Management
  - Sustainable Agriculture
  - Integrated Water resource Management (IWRM)
  - Strengthening Local Governance

Summary of Field Visit at Lolasan, Himmatnagar:

- At Lolasan village DSC has built 2 check dams, 5 check walls cover under Guhai Dam cluster.
- Majority of the work done by the organisation at ground level is divided into various independent groups. These groups are engaged in different types of activities. Some of them are as under:
  - Kisan Club: The Kisan Club is working since last 3 years by farmers. The members of Kisan Club regularly meet and share their farming practices like production, usage of Bio pesticide and water resource management etc. Most of the farming practices are of Organic farming in nature. Also the DSC introduces various machineries useful to farmers.

- Piyat Mandli: The Piyat Mandli works in effective usage of water for their farms through the Canal Network available to them. DSC provides water meters to farmers through which they can analyse the usage of water.
- Sujal Samiti: The Sujal Samiti was formed 3 years ago. The members of the samiti are working with farmer's partnership in building of Check dams, maintenance and repairing of check dam, guidance about ground water level etc.
- Self Help Groups-Bachat Mandli: The group of women's is working in different activities like production & marketing of Vermi Compost (active since 6 years) and Bio pesticide, spices packing, grading & marking etc. They are running Bachat Mandli for their group members in which members deposit money as savings and if needed, they can take loan from mandli.





