

## 1.1 ABOUT DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT CENTRE

The Development Support Center (DSC) is a resource organization that provides knowledge based support to Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), government agencies and other stakeholders in the field of Participatory Natural Resource Management (PNRM) and sustainable livelihoods. The organization was established by late Shri Anil C. Shah in 1994, in response to demand from various eminent individuals and stakeholders concerned with rural development in Gujarat. The DSC provides a variety of services through multi-disciplinary team of professionals that directly implement projects, help in capacity building of key functionaries, carries out field studies and takes initiatives for appropriate policy changes.

## 1.2 KEY ACTIVITIES

### Field Implementation

The DSC is involved in implementation of various programme in rainfed and irrigated areas of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh (M.P.). It directly promotes Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM) programme in about **1 lakh** hectares of **4 major** and **4 medium** irrigation projects located in both these states. The organization has facilitated WUAs, branch and project level federations in more than **200** villages.

### Capacity Building

The DSC strongly believes that the success of participatory programme lies in the capacity building of various stakeholders including farmers, NGO representatives and government functionaries. The organization is recognized as a resource centre for PIM and watershed programme at the State and national levels. It has been collaborating with the Water and Land Management Institute (WALMI), Anand for providing support to promote PIM in selected irrigation projects of the State. So far, DSC has organised more than **600** training programme for PIM and watershed and has a full-fledged training centre in Ahmedabad which can host about 70 participants.

### Communication

The DSC has developed user friendly audio-video and print communication materials on Best Practices in Natural Resource Management (NRM) in Gujarati, Hindi and English that can be used for wider dissemination. These include posters, panels, booklets and video films on PIM, Watershed Management and Agriculture Productivity Enhancement. Various Governments and non-government agencies use the materials for information, education and communication with the farmers as well as practitioners. It had produced and broadcast **253** radio programmes on sustainable agriculture.

### **Research and Documentation**

The DSC carries out research studies based on issues emerging from the field. These include documentation of best practice case studies, impact assessment and thematic studies at the State and national levels. It has also published more than **50** research papers and best practices in participatory NRM.

### **Policy Influencing**

The organization believes that the lessons from the field should be shared with the policy makers at state and national level for further refinement of the programme. Through direct field implementation and research studies, DSC provides real time feedback to policy makers by active participation in the various committees at the district, state and national level. The DSC played a major role in formulating the guidelines for the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), the XI Five Year Plan's approach paper on rainfed areas and the recommendations of the Working Group on Major and Medium Irrigation and Command Area Development for the XII Five Year Plan (2012-2017).

### **Krushidhan Producer Company Ltd.**

Looking at the need for timely and quality inputs as well as better price realization of farmers in its operational area, DSC has promoted the Krushidhan Producer Company Ltd and a network of block level Farmer Producer Organisations to provide input supply, value addition and market linkages to farmers. The Company has members from cluster level federations and farmers' clubs of men and women engaged in production of vermicompost, bio-pesticides, spices etc. The Company promotes local and long value chains by providing technical know-how to these groups. Currently it has a Governing Board of 13 members comprising of farmer representatives from Visnagar, Modasa, Himatnagar, Meghraj and Dhari and an expert director.