



Agricultural and Water Management Support for Alleviating Farmers' Distress

Development Alternatives and Marico India are working to alleviate the water crisis in the villages of Bundelkhand. One of the initiatives in this programme focusses on the rejuvenation of tanks. The farmers in Urbura village, Niwari district have been facing obstacles in agricultural activities and one of the main reasons has been the unavailability of water. Thus, the Gochar tank in the village was chosen for rejuvenation to alleviate the farmers' distress.

After a consultation with the local elected officials and farmers, the team at Development Alternatives started the work of deepening and cleaning of the tank. JCB machines were used for the deepening of the tank. During this process, a large amount of soil was extracted which was given to the farmers to enrich their fields. The team encouraged the farmers to build bunds in their fields with this soil as it is rich in nutrients and quality which will further enhance agricultural output.

After this the tank was filled with rainwater which in turn increased the groundwater level. The farmers were happy with the increase in the availability of water for their agricultural use.

The farmers were also given forestry plants such as bamboo, neem, sheesham, sagaun, and munga for their fields. Additionally, 4kg of jawar and bajra seeds were given to the farmers to sow them in a 1-acre area. The team also provided support in terms of imparting techniques for sowing and using vermicompost to promote organic farming.