



Prem Narayan: A farmer with Hope

Prem Narayan, a resident of Manpura village in Shivpuri district of Madhya Pradesh lives with his wife and a 14 year old son. With 1.5 acres land and managing a single crop, life was not easy for Narayan and his family. Poor productivity of the land further aggravated the struggle for daily survival. With traditional agricultural techniques, he could not yield good results.

In areas with existing watershed infrastructure, the emphasis of Development Alternatives (DA) was on promoting agricultural practices that utilise water more efficiently. The capacities of Village Development Committees and Watershed Committees were enhanced for participatory and sustainable management of watershed infrastructure. For effective land and water management, 586 soil conservation structures, over 25,000 running metres of farm bunds and 80 water conservation structures were constructed.

The Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) which were formed were provided with training to engage profitably with the market by aggregating their farm produce for better realisation of prices and farm inputs.

Pren Naraan was introduced to vegetable farming. Initially, with some inhibitions he cultivated cabbage, tomato, chilli, lady finger and brinjal only on one part of his land. Gradually, things changed as he started yielding good produce and better income. He was soon motivated to invest more in vegetable cultivation. As he started earning profits, his income improved. He is now a leader in his village and has rekindled the faith in land amongst his fellow farmers.