

## **Role of voluntary organizations (VOs) in Ground water Management of hard rock**

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VOs are mostly a Non-profit Registered units, either under Societies Registration Act 1860 and /or Bombay Public Trust Act 1950. They were mostly engaged in the Educational or Social and /or Religious Activities before 1980s but gradually turned towards the Rural Development Activities. Their contribution to the Society was mostly on the basis of development initiatives. During 1995-96, the Govt. of India, Ministry of Rural Development has revised Watershed Development Programme Guidelines and made a provision to engage Voluntary Organizations in implementation of the Watershed projects with the main objectives of Peoples Participation and involvement in implementation of the Projects. Further they got better performance of VOs in Implementation of these projects. The other Organizations like NABARD, CAPART, and the Foreign Funding Agencies like Indo-German Society etc. also adopted the Policy of engaging VOs in the Field of Watershed Development who ultimately got better results by engaging them in this sector.

The VOs adopted PRA Techniques, established Watershed Sangh, Watershed Committees, by holding the Gram Sabhas, meetings and finalized the Action Plan, and executed the activities through them. The Govt. Agencies found many constraints in Peoples Participation, 10% public contribution, as well as, implementation of the projects through the VWC Therefore, in many States, the policy of associating VOs was encouraged particularly by NABARD and /or other Foreign Funding Agencies at the National level after having found better output deserved for this project.

The experience of eminent personalities like Hon'ble Annasaheb Hazare, Vijay Anna Borade, Popatrao Pawar opined that even without much technical inputs, the VOs can show better performance in implementation of Watershed Development Projects provided the VOs are sincere and have development oriented approach. The basic reason for the success of any project is the sincerity in implementation, Transparency in financial Matters and record maintenance, as well as, People's Participation. If the above three elements are kept in mind while selecting the VOs by the Govt. Funding Agencies without any bias attitude, then the VOs can show their better results. Few problems are normally faced by the Voluntary Organizations are **1. Political interference in selection of VOs. 2. Financial constraints. 3. Less provision for administration and overhead. 4. Lack of Technical Man Power Support.** Basically, the VOs are mostly from the local place i.e. from the same block or districts, therefore they have understanding about their issues. Hence with a positive dialogue amongst them the disputes if any can be

settled immediately and the process of implementation becomes smooth. Therefore, they are appreciated by the people also.