



— Workshop on —
**Revival of Traditional Water Bodies
in the Bundelkhand, MP**
Organized by AIGGPA for Govt. of MP

Venue- Betwa Retreat, Orchha, MP | Date: 19 July, 2019





Bundelkhand Initiative for Water Agriculture and Livelihood

Workshop on “Revival of Traditional Water Bodies in the Bundelkhand region, MP”

Venue : Orchha Date : 19th July, 2019

BIWAL (Bundelkhand Initiative for Water Agriculture and Livelihood) is an attempt to revive Bundelkhand to its ancient glory by reviving the traditional water bodies and the surrounding ecosystem through community's engagement. At one point of being major source of water, these tanks over period have moved into disuse after centuries of neglect and apathy. A large number of these tanks are either silted, encroached upon or are being used for purposes other than water harvesting. It is the coming together of multiple civil action organisations, water conservation experts, authorities and the community to bring back the culture of water harvesting and conservation. This consortium led by SRIJAN works on a large and comprehensive, economic and social development initiative, commencing with the first task of desilting the ponds and work ahead with a planned repair and restoration of the entire water harvesting structure, and its associated components, both on supply and demand side.

SRIJAN has fostered partnership with other like-minded Civil society organisations like Centre for Advance Research and Development (CARD), Haritika, Action for Social Advancement (ASA), Bundelkhand Sewa Sansthan, Arunodaya, Yuva Koushal Vikash Mandal, Akhil Bhartiya Samaj Sewa Sansthan, Vrutti and Development Alternatives. A significant beginning was made with a grant support from Hindustan Unilever Foundation along with the necessary convergence support from the Government. The first season has seen a successful phase of restoration of 54 odd tanks, commencing with the first task of desilting the tanks resulting in excavation of 4.24 lac cubic meter of silt which resulted in creating water potential of 4249.47 lac litres and farmers transported the silt to their field on their own. 2757 farmers transported the silt and applied to their fields covering an area of 1352.27 Ha

Recognizing the complexities involved, including technical and socio-economic factors, which shall have to be studied and learnings brought to bear upon the entire effort, the **Atal Bihar Bajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis (AIGGPA), Bhopal, is the knowledge partner for the project.** With an objective to amplify the impact through a strong collaboration with Government and facilitative partnership with the district administrations and the Panchayati Raj Institutions a workshop was organized by **Atal Bihar Bajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis (AIGGPA), Bhopal** on 19th July at Orchha. This one day event organised in collaboration with department of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development explored the avenues for scaling up the initiatives of the Tank restoration. Chaired by esteemed dignitaries like Mr. R. Parasuram (Director General AIGGPA), Ms. Gauri



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Singh (ACS, Department of Panchayat and Rural Development), Mr. A.K Sharma (Divisional commissioner, Sagar), Ms. Reshma Anand (CEO, Hindustan Unilever Foundation), Mr. Mohit Bundas (District Collector, Chhatarpur), Mr. Akshay Singh, (Collector , Niwari), Mr. K. G Vyas (Chair – Technical Committee), Mr. Vivek Dave (Joint Commissioner, Watershed Mission and MGNREGA), Mr. Jacob John, (General Manager- Programmes, Azim Premji Philanthropic Initiatives), CEO, Zila Panchayat of all districts falling into Sagar Division. This one day workshop encouraged inter departmental coordination to undertake the restoration of the traditional water bodies. District collectors, representatives of CSOs and the CSR agencies, Official from district and state administrations, were the participants of the workshop.

A video illustrating the program objective.

The video tells the story of BIWAL (Bundelkhand Initiatives for Water, Agriculture and Livelihood), a collective effort to restore the traditional water bodies in Bundelkhand through joint civil society actions, deep community engagement, strong Government collaboration and facilitative partnership with local and district administration.

In highlighting the farmer's distress and the miseries of women where they have to spend larger part of their day securing drinking water, this short audio visual talks about BIWAL's approach to drive water security in the villages of Bundelkhand.

Link to video - <https://youtu.be/PbvzJtrhDvs>

Link to BIWAL brochure -

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fwx1k7h1dpRhSo1z1Yh6pN8ak5uxpui8/view>



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KEY SPEAKERS



Shri. R. Parasuram
(Director General AIGGPA)



Ms Gauri Singh,
(ACS, Department of Panchayat and
Rural Development)



Ms. Reshma Anand
(CEO, Hindustan Unilever
Foundation)



Shri. K G Vyas
Chair – Technical Committee



Shri. Mohit Bunda
(District Collector, Chhatarpur)



Mr. Prasanna Khemariya
CEO, SRIJAN



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GROUP DISCUSSION





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PRESENTATIONS



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GROUP PHOTO

