



The project is supported jointly by the Tribal Development Fund of NABARD and JBGVS, aims at establishing orchard of mango and another fruit species locally known as Amla (*Emblica officinalis*) on 900 acres (1 acre is equivalent to about 40,000 Sq. Ft.) of wasteland covering 900 poor tribal families in 18 villages of Pune District of Maharashtra. In addition, the project also covers 100 landless tribal families through livelihood development programmes.

In each acre, 50 fruit trees consisting grafted varieties of 30 mango and 20 Amla saplings are planted. In addition, about 500 forestry species are planted around the boundaries of the land. The forestry plants are expected to provide fuel & fodder to the family. This programme is also known as WADI (small orchard) programme.

Shankar Rama Dhonge, a small farmer from Savala village of Maval Taluka was looking for some kind of income generating activity as his three sons set their separate homes and he had to earn his and his wife's living. After division in the family, he left with hardly any source of income. Whatever little land he had was mostly barren land. He had a great struggle for survival. In 2009-10, when the AAMRAI Project supported by the Tribal Development Fund of NABARD was started, Shankar approached Jankidevi Bajaj Gram Vikas Sanstha (JBGVS) for an Aamrai so that he could use his unused land for income generation. As he used to work as daily wage laborer in some companies earlier, his experience in plantation activities made him confident to develop a good Aamrai that could generate a regular income in 4-5 years time.

Looking at his interest and poor financial condition, an Aamrai was given to him under the project with assurance from the youngest son that he would help his father in developing the Aamrai. The plantation was completed in 2009-10. Five years have gone, Mango and Aonla trees are now grown up and in last two years, Shankar has grown Jowar, Coarse Gram, Millet and Peanuts as intercrop for his own family's consumption. Shankar and his wife visit the Aamrai every day with small bucket of water to water the plants, clean them and loosen the soil etc. He is hopeful to earn a few thousands of rupees from Mango and Aonla in near future.

Natha Kisan Chimte, 33 years is now a busy man selling mangoes, first crop he has harvested from his Wadi. Second son of Mr. Kisan Chimte, a small farmer from Kusawali village stopped education after 10th std. as his father was unable to support him financially. Unable to find a job, he started working as a wage labourer in a poultry farm and occasionally in agriculture. His father had less than 3 acres of land out of which 1.5 acre was waste land. Paddy produced from rain-fed 1.5 acres was not enough to feed the entire family.

Natha came in touch with the staff members of Jankidevi Bajaj Gram Vikas Sanstha in 2009. After attending a number of motivational meetings on agriculture and horticulture, he agreed to be a partner of the Aamrai Project (Wadi) which had already started in Maval Block jointly with Tribal Development Fund of NABARD and JBGVS but not in his village. In the beginning, he participated in a study tour organized by JBGVS in BAIF's project in Jowhar area. After seeing the Wadis, his interest increased. The plantation of 30 Kesar variety mango plants and 20 Narendra varieties Aonla was completed in August in 2010, i.e. second year of the project on a piece of land full with rocks. With hard work, he dug the pits and did the plantation. He planted water melon, cucumber etc. as intercrop. In the third year, he planted jasmine flower as an experiment. After getting convinced that jasmine may give regular income, he now plans to extend it.

The flowering in his mango plant started in the third year itself but he removed them. This year (2014-15), he has harvested about 1400 good quality mangoes which he has sold partly and earned about Rs. 2,500/- and being the first year, distributed large quantity to his friends and relatives. The Aonla has also started fruiting. Now he says that he will be able to send his two sons to colleges for higher education in which he was deprived of because of poor financial condition.

JBGVS has implemented four cow projects in 27 villages for 360 Economically Weaker families from 2005-13 in four phases. The fifth phase has started in 2015 for 150 families. JBGVS has given technical guidance for construction of cowshed, purchase of cow, veterinary services, arranged training & study tour and coordinated the project. The financial effect of the project can be clearly noticed from these figures. **A poor farmer who was earning Rs 40,000 per annum almost doubled his income on purchase of a COW.** It increases by Rs 60,000 p.a. with a birth of new cow every year. Now from 360 cows which have increased by 586. **The yield as of today would be 2,250 liters a day generating about ₹ 45,000 a day in this area.**

The population continues to increase. There is adequate fodder and animal feed. We have organized a village dairy co operative society in each village. A milk collection center has been opened in each village where the farmers deposit milk for onward supply to dairy companies. There are co-operative as well as private milk companies in the area. The beneficiaries are very grateful. They owe their success to JBGVS & Rotary.



WOMEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP



An improved stove & a pressure cooker had been given to each of the participating tribal families to reduce use of firewood for cooking. 100 Landless tribal families were provided income generation sources like goat rearing, dairy, trading of grocery items, small shops in the village etc. The project implementation started in April, 2009. Plantation of 900 acres were completed, Fruiting has started in the wadis where plantation was done in 2009. Under landless categories, 56 villagers have started earning from goats, buffalos etc.



JBGVS has formed 53 Self Help Groups (SHGs) in Sikar district of Rajasthan for whom a revolving fund of Rs.1.5 Lakh has been created which the groups use to leverage their own fund while taking bank loan. So far the Groups have taken loan of Rs. 35 Lakh from the banks. The repayment rate so far is 100%. From the loans, the women members have started goat rearing, selling bangles, small shops etc.

