



Before



After



Before



After

Rejuvenating Water Tank Ecosystems

Development Alternatives and HCL Foundation is working on rejuvenating the lost tank ecosystems in five villages of Dadri, Gautam Buddha Nagar District, Uttar Pradesh. Environmental degradation is leading to water stress, loss of green cover, soil degradation, and disturbing natural resource-based livelihoods. Since water is critical for human life, crop security, and the development of agriculture, it is necessary to rejuvenate the traditional tanks for water management. This endeavour is aimed at cleaning of 10 tanks in five villages to conserve the water bodies along with their ecosystem and to build the ownership of the community towards its management.

The revival of the existing tanks in the cluster of 5 villages around Kacheda Varsavad village is done through a participatory assessment, planning, and conservation interventions like strengthening of bunds, waste wear, plantation around tank boundaries, and bunding around tank boundary. A step-by-step process has been followed for this initiative. Initially, rapport was built with Gram Pradhans (Gram Panchayat elected leaders) and the community. This was followed by a baseline survey, conducted for 354 households in the five villages to attain the basic knowledge about the place, tanks, and level of awareness, and willingness people show towards this intervention of tank rejuvenation.

After this first level of primary research, the tank cleaning was started from 25 August 2020. At first, two tanks in Dujana village were cleaned which was followed by the cleaning process of tanks in other villages. Till now, five out of ten tanks have been cleaned completely (two located in Dujana village, two in Bishnoli, and one in Kachera Varsabad).

These tanks have been cleaned with the help of JCB and Pocklane machines. The tanks were completely filled with water hyacinth and other weeds which were uprooted. The Initial phase of cleaning was done through human labour, and then machines were introduced to remove the plants and other waste such as garbage, clothes, plastic material from the tanks.

So far a positive impact has been observed in the villages. Besides cleanliness and water-related issues, this intervention has also focused on community participation to initiate change by generating awareness and influencing behaviours. The leaders of the community have also come forward to ensure that through community ownership the tank ecosystem will be kept clean.

For ensuring long term change, DA is focusing on the sustainability of this initiative by focusing on the development of a water body management committee at the village level, construction of water filter to filter the sewage water coming from houses into the tanks, de-siltation of tanks to increase their water-holding capacities and construction of bunds and plantation.