

Recommendations for Updated Planning Guidelines

Field Visit Observations - Planning Issues

Bhidi, Akoli, Ganeshpur, dist. Wardha

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1. Wells Issue: In the villages, Bhidi and Akoli meetings were held to explain the importance of water budget. It is necessary that people understand the reason or limitation of groundwater as a common resource. There is need to create awareness regarding water budget. Both Agri and cluster assistant should take the meetings in the village and try to explain the water budget in the village



2. People should understand that with the limited amount of water only limited area can be sown otherwise it will lead to a reduction in yields. Meetings in the village should be conducted regularly for the generation of awareness regarding this with the help of the water budget.
3. In case of villages in command area - Information and maps for canal line diagram are not available in GP office/ with Krushi Sahayak. This information whether a village is in command area or not, should also be added to PoCRA database. Usually the Krushi Sahayak is unaware of canal details, rotation schedule etc. Planning norms for such villages should be delineated differently from non-command area villages and krushi sahayaks must be aware of canal details.
4. Water Balance Charts, LULC, Soil, groundwater, treatment maps should be available in the gram panchayat office as well as in the school present in the village. These should be explained to school children by krushi sahayak/krushi mitra.

5. Currently, Gram Panchayat Office does not have a copy of the approved DPR report, One copy should be kept in the gram panchayat office, as people remain unaware of finally approved structures.
6. All the resources (Existing and proposed structures, water sources, and other assets) should be marked on the Maps and kept in the gram panchayat and school).
7. Community well/farm pond is a good concept and villagers should explore this concept. Existing examples in the villages should be documented properly and should be shared by both agri and cluster assistant with the department. It will help in the promotion of water sharing as well as regulation mechanisms. E.g in both the villages there exists an example of community well where farmers are managing water-sharing arrangement themselves.



5. Land sharing arrangements if any exists in the village should be documented and shared with the department.
6. Well Interview at various locations have suggested that there is maximum 3-4 TCM of water is available only exception of one well where 10-12 TCM of water was available.



7. Few random cases of farmers with the help of graduates in the village should be documented on coping strategies deployed by farmers, absence of such strategies or technologies to farmers and how PoCRA is helping in improving the resilience of such farmers.
8. In Bhidi village, DSAO has proposed Compartment bunding in place of graded bunding as it fits into the norms of soil, rainfall, etc. other all work has been approved.
9. There is delay in approval of VCRMC committee and other work due to model code of conduct.
10. Concept of composite gabion with small cement structures should be promoted on first and second-order streams.
11. Deteriorating and poor condition of soils was observed during the visit. Silt from suitable locations should be added to farms to improve the quality of soils.



12. Issue of stability of CNB in clayey or black cotton soils: This is a technical issue which needs to be resolved. Field observations of CNB combined with Nala kholikaran has improved recharge in the area.



13. Community farm ponds are currently being provided to farmers having horticulture. In the project, we are promoting crops like cotton, tur, moong, and gram. They will also benefit by farm-ponds.

14. Level of the canal is higher and lower at many places. This is positively and negatively impacting the well water level in many places. Such impacts must be considered while suggesting interventions.



15. VCRMC committee should be called after a suitable number of the applications are received. Multiple meetings and fewer applications lead to the absence of committee members.
16. The incentives for good work should be provided to staff working in respective villages.
17. Small advance subsidy should be given to the PoCRA beneficiaries, as this will act to remove the conversion barrier.
18. One agri assistant gave feedback on the negative impact of BBF, especially during dry-spells. This needs to be investigated.
19. Well repair was asked to be included in PoCRA intervention list by many people in the villages.
20. Losses due to wild animals is a major factor. Fencing was asked to be added in PoCRA intervention list by many people in villages.
21. Improved formats need to be designed for community farm ponds, community wells highlighting proposed water management
22. People in villages are unclear about the usage of few interventions such as community godown. There is a need to explain the interventions and its usage to people.
23. Different kind of problem was seen in Akoli - In village the soil strata has hard rock at a depth of 15 feet, whereas canal has hard rock layer at greater depth than this. This results in GW recharge taking place from wells in village to canals. Permission has been given to villagers to extract water from canals.
24. In Akoli MSEB is refusing fresh applications for new connections. Instead they are promoting solar pumps, probably under a contract with solar companies. This leaves many villages out of access to electricity, thus affecting conversion from rainfed to irrigated.
25. FFS issue: One of the official pointed out the issue that the host farmer has to be kept constant in FFS for 3 years. Due to this, he has to take the same crop for 3 years, which becomes difficult to follow on field.
26. There was much variation in rainfall cited by people from that of selected rainfall circle. Rain gauges can be installed in the village from GPDP funds and school children can be engaged in rainfall measurement activity thus improving the awareness among people.