



Rajasthan Agricultural Competitiveness Project

Rajasthan Agricultural Competitiveness Project (RACP) is an initiative of the Government of Rajasthan for efficient water use, sustainable farming, promoting livelihoods for boosting economy, doubling farmer's income and bring self sufficiency.

Rajasthan faces problems in availability of water both quantity and quality wise. Covering approximately 10% of India's land area and about 5% of country's population, Rajasthan has only 1% water resources. Erratic rainfall/recurring droughts have exacerbated the situation. Rajasthan has limited water resources and increasing constraints on water availability, particularly for agriculture. Improving productivity per unit of water used in irrigated agriculture and achieving productivity gains in rain-fed agriculture could improve agriculture sector in the state.

With this objective, RACP was launched to ensure sustainable agriculture and increase farmer's income through water management, technological and market innovations. The project was approved in March 2012 for a period of 7 years. It was restructured in June, 2016 and implementation was effective from 2016-17 FY. As per

revised timeline, the project is closed on June 30, 2020 but the ongoing activities continued upto December, 2020.

The total project cost (as per project design) was Rs.832.50 crores of which Rs.545 crores was to be received from the World Bank, Rs.242 crores from the share of the State and Rs. 45.5 crores to be contributed by the farmers. The reimbursement pattern is 70:30 between the World Bank and Rajasthan State. However, after restructuring of the project, the total cost of project on closure is Rs. 712.84 crores. Out of this Rs. 398.23 crores has been obtained from World Bank, Rs.171.61 crore is state share and Rs.143 crores is farmers' share.

The Project was undertaken in 17 clusters in 17 districts. In 16 clusters it was implemented through the 6 Line Departments of the State Government and in one cluster of district Jaipur it was implemented by the District Project Management Unit. Selection was made as per three water scenarios viz., watershed, surface water and ground water, in eight agro-ecological zones. The project was targeted to benefit 1,37,607 households, predominantly small land holders by sustainably increasing their income levels.



The guiding principles of the project were:

- sustainable and efficient use of water resources, including improved on-farm water use efficiency, reduced water-intensive cropping patterns, and using the resultant savings of water from agriculture sector for economic purposes outside of agriculture in support of State's water policy objectives;
- increased private sector participation in the development of value chains in processing and marketing in support of the state's agro-processing and agri-business policy; and
- improved public sector capacity in delivering agriculture support services.

The key performance indicators (KPIs) include reduction in water used in agriculture, increase in water use efficiency and agricultural productivity; and increase in gross margins from crops and livestock products. Key intermediate level indicators were increased ground



water recharge, reduced siltation and increased efficient use of conserved moisture.

The 17 cluster locations are as shown in the map below:-

The Project Components can be briefly summarized under four broad headings:-

- i) Climate Resilient Agriculture: Improvement of water-use efficiency; technology transfer & market led advisory services; and livestock strengthening & management.
- ii) Markets and Value Chains: Agribusiness promotion facility; information & market infrastructure support; and agribusiness Support.
- iii) Farmer Organization and Capacity Building: Farmer groups & participatory planning; and Institution strengthening.
- iv) Monitoring and Evaluation: Project management, monitoring & evaluation; and convergence.

The Project activities were implemented by the Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Watershed Development, Water Resources

and Ground Water under overall supervision of project implementation unit at the State level. At District/ cluster level the project activities were implemented with the support of Non-Government Organizations deployed in cluster. Against the total outlay of Rs. 676.43 Crores, an amount of Rs.515.98 Crores has been utilized till June, 2020 in the project since its inception. In most of the activities 100% achievement has been achieved. Further, only 76% of the total cost is the financial assistance provided the rest 24 % has been contributed by the farmers, which is three times the farmers' share envisaged in the project design. This reflects the acceptability of the project.

A total of 6635 multi task groups (MTGs) of beneficiaries for agriculture, horticulture and 970 women MTGs for animal husbandry were formed. 84 water users association were strengthened in clusters. 30 farmer producer companies (FPCs) were promoted under the project, of which 28 FPCs were focused on agri-commodities/ products and 2 FPCs on animal husbandry activities. The FPCs focusing on agriculture are basically doing business through selling of input items like fertilizers, seeds, pesticides and animal feed. Also, agri processing centers with cleaning, grading



and sorting facilities have been established at 10 FPC locations, known as farmer common service centers.

Based on the result provided by monitoring and evaluation agency, the impact of the activities implemented in the project is very encouraging. The March, 2019 field assessment reveals that 57% farmers adopted improved agricultural technology, 99.2% farmers are satisfied with the project interventions, there is 21.2% reduction in water use in agriculture and 110.7% increase in water use efficiency. Further,

- a) The gross irrigated area has increased to 57.2% over the baseline of 20% with new/improved irrigation.
- b) The area under less water crops has increased from 15% to 53.2% due to proper selection of crops and change in cropping pattern.
- c) The volume of run-off water captured is 20.90 million cubic metres due to watershed management activities. On an average 78.4% farm produce has been sold out as per the survey over the baseline.
- d) There is an increase in productivity in bajra (27.91%), barley (34%), maize (22.6%), wheat (18.4%), mustard (24.8%), and gram (22.5%) over the baseline values.
- e) The goat weight increased from 15 Kg to 19.54 Kg per animal and milk yield increased from 0.8 liter to 1.09 liter per animal.

