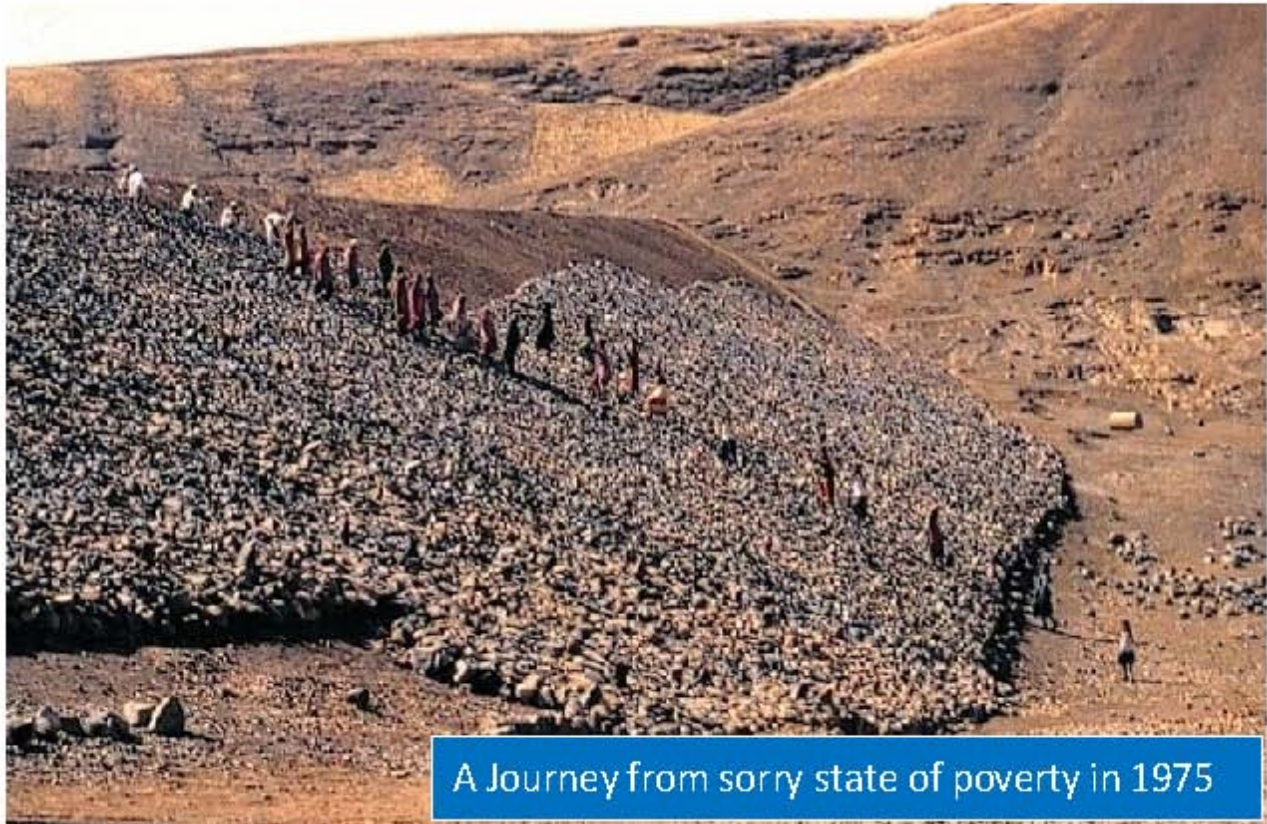


Ralegan Siddhi

CASE STUDY-1

RALEGAN SIDDHI

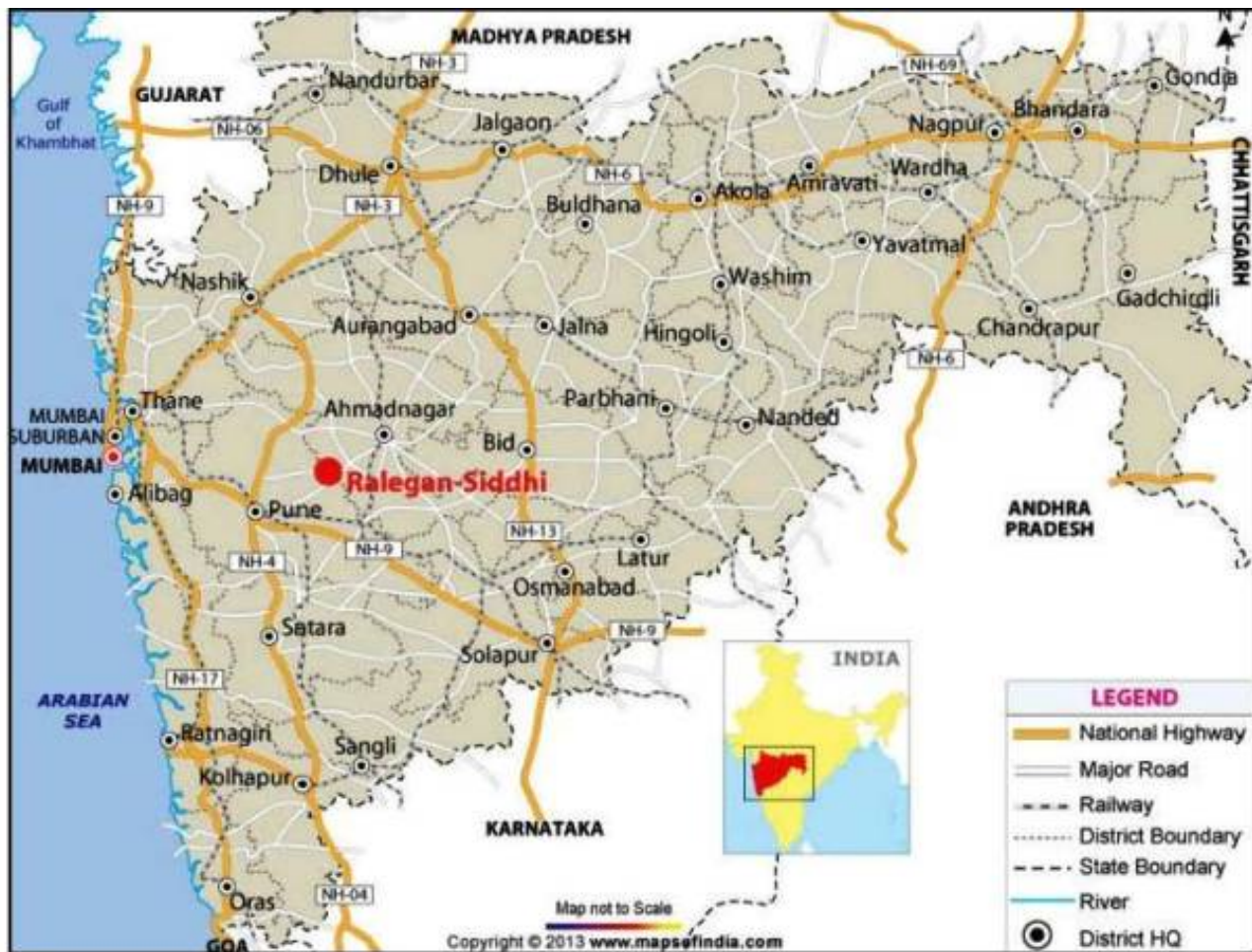
Success story of Rural Watershed Development



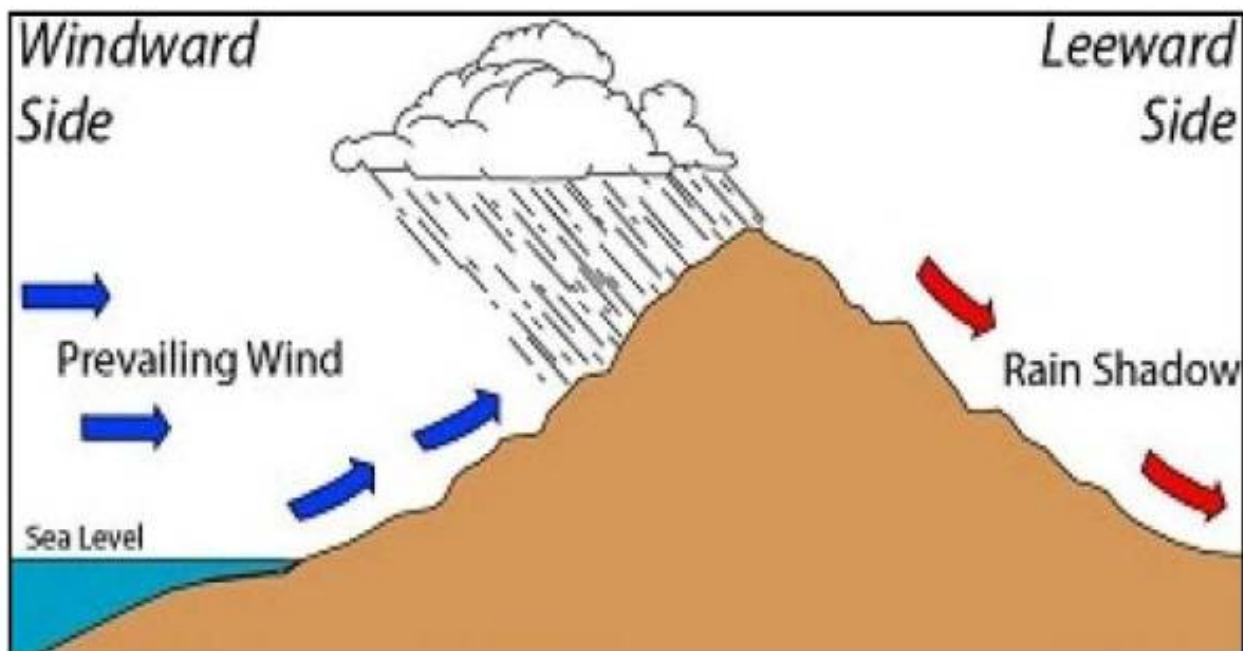
A Journey from sorry state of poverty in 1975



To Present State of prosperity & development



Ralegan Siddhi is Located in Ahmadnagar district of Maharashtra



Ralegan Siddhi falls in Drought prone Rain Shadow area of

Central Maharashtra characterized by erratic and scanty rainfall, ranging between 450 and 650 mm per annum

Ralegan Siddhi – 1975

(Before Watershed development)



- Most rain water used to run off taking fertile soil with it.
- This resulted in rendering cultivable land poorer in productivity.
- Crops grown: Millet, Sorghum.



- Being a rain shadow area, rainfall was scanty.
- No storage and scarce ground water resulted long haul to fetch water for household needs.



- Poverty due to Low Productivity in Agriculture led to migration of population.



- For alternate of living, village was caught in a web of illicit liquor trade.

Watershed development Post 1975

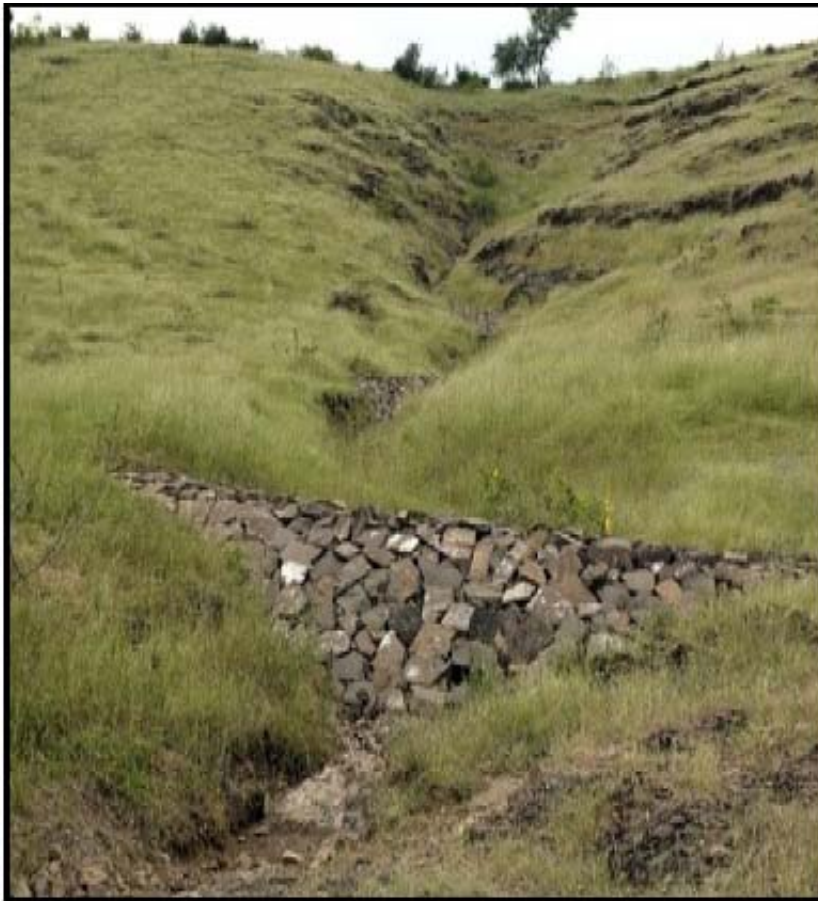


Water Harvesting by Contour Bunds adopting Ridge to valley approach for soil & water conservation. It checked the fertile soil runoff & aided in water percolation.

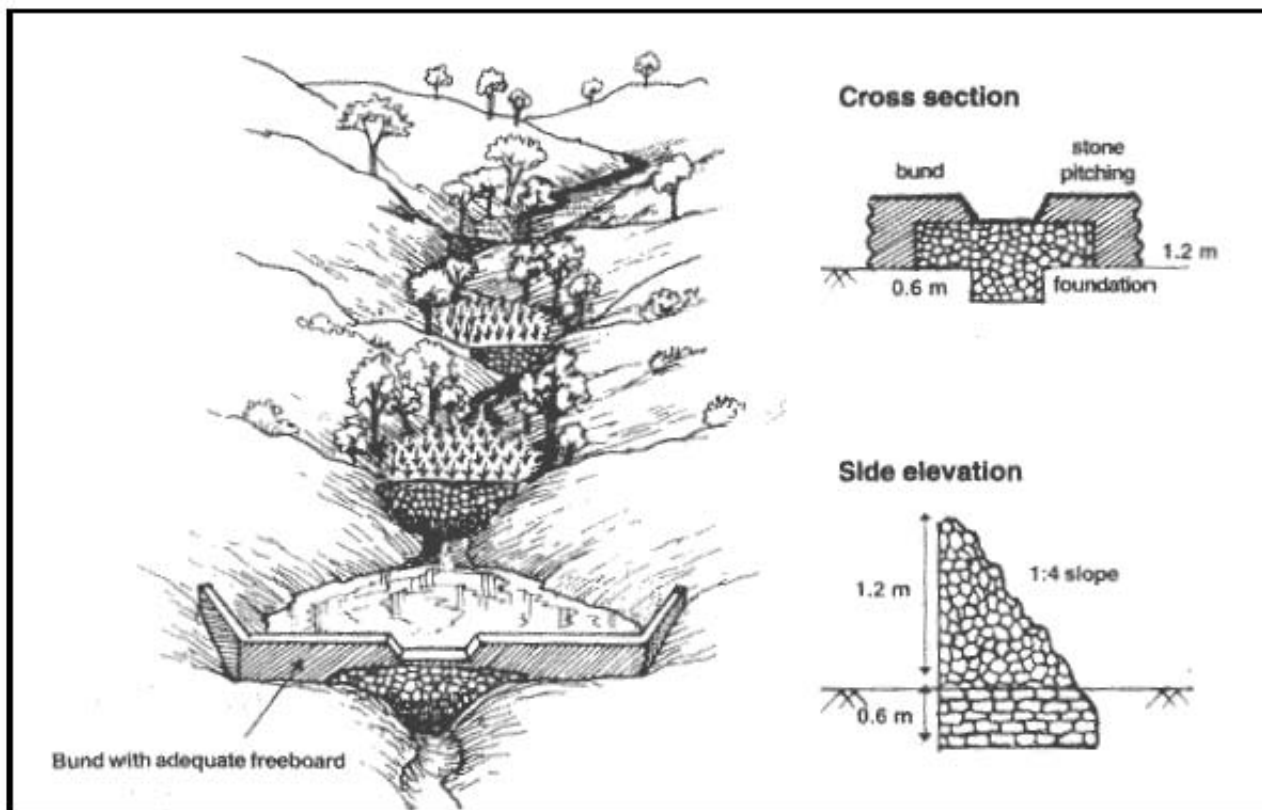


At present : 2 nos Percolation tanks

Restoration of leaking Percolation Tank by providing core wall through digging of puddle trench up to level of hard rock. Successful retention of water had induced rise in water table and ensured availability of water in surrounding wells.



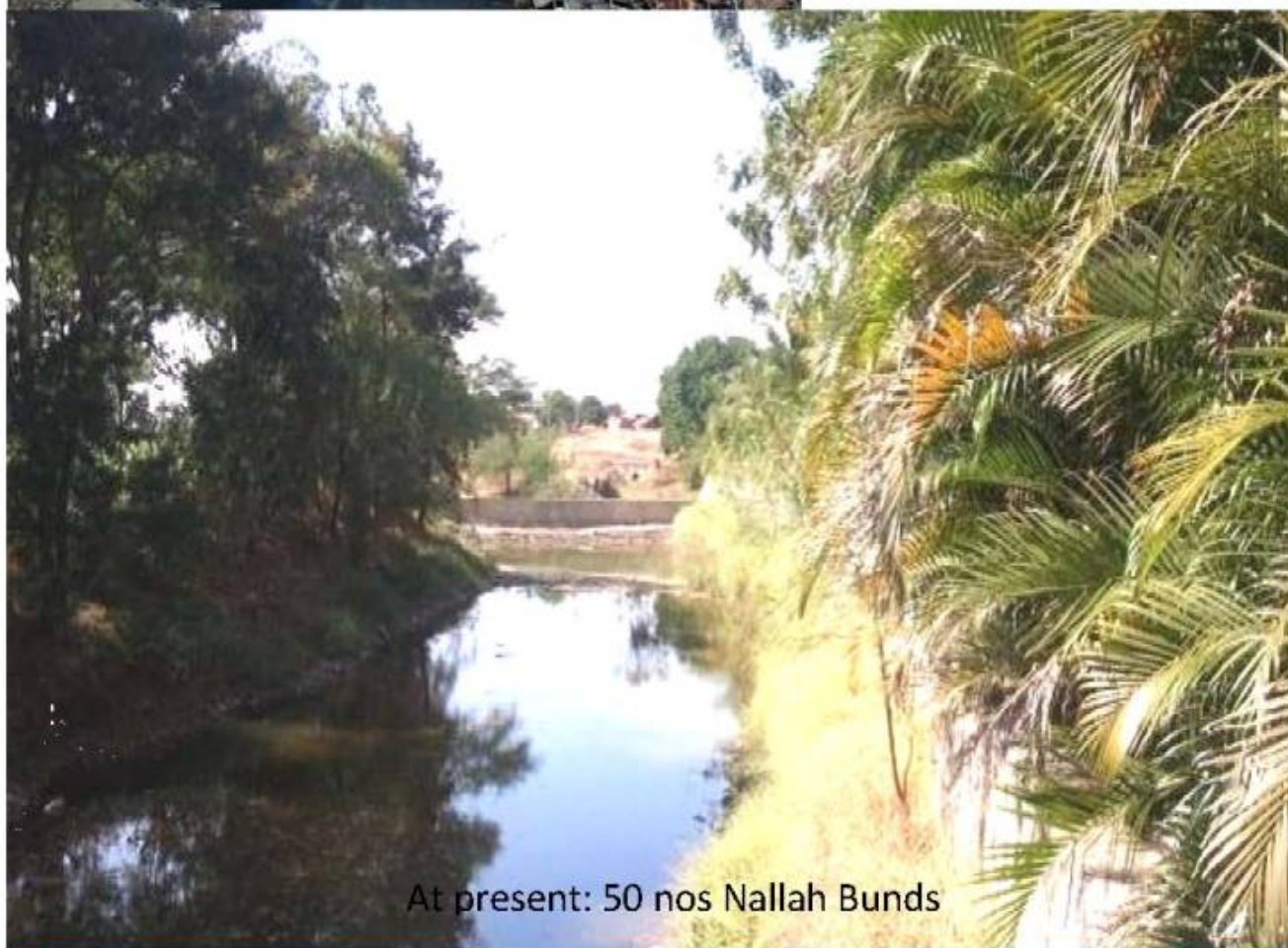
Gully Plugging for Soil & Water conservation



Typical Gully plug adopted at Ralegan Siddhi

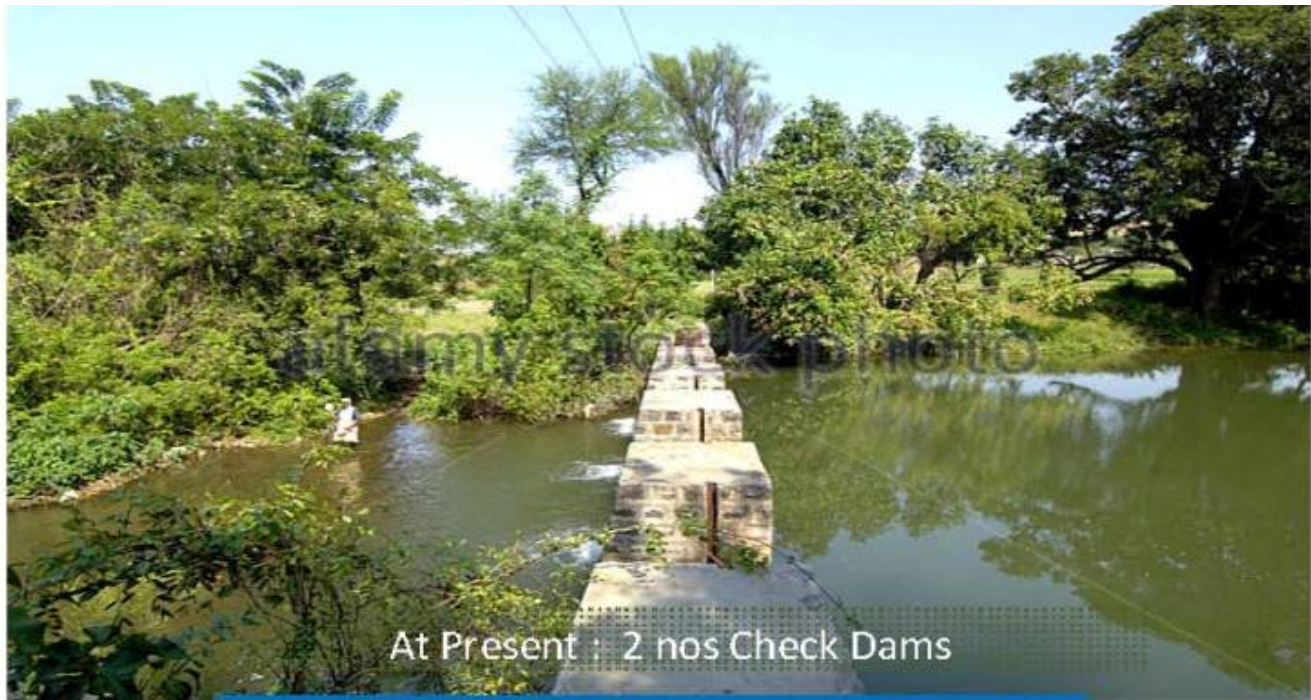


Nallah Bunding and construction of Check dams helped in Recharging of ground water aquifers causing remarkable increase in ground water table.



At present: 50 nos Nallah Bunds

Water Retained in Nallah Bunding



At Present : 2 nos Check Dams

Water retention by Check dams



Increased Ground water table through Nallah Bunding, Check dam boosted agriculture. More land was brought under cultivation. Double cropping, change of farming system, horticulture plantations, vegetable cultivation and dairy farming was promoted.



*Water Conservation
by Plantation &
using Drip Irrigation*



IMPACTS OF SUCCESS IN WATER SHED DEVELOPMENT



- Ground water recharge increased from 20 m (in 1975) to 6.5 m depth.
- It ensured water availability round the year.



- Irrigated Cultivable area increased from 543 ha in 1975 to 651 ha.
- With increased irrigation it caused 4.7 fold increase in agriculture production.



- Uncultivable land reduced from 241 ha to 122 ha.



- Reserved Forest area went up from 100 ha to 136 ha.



- Earlier women had to go 2-3 km to fetch water.
- Now drinking tap water is available in every 100 m.



- Average yield per hectare increased by 19 times.
- Variety of crops, vegetables and fruits are now produced due to availability of water



- By Indian standard Ralegan Siddhi is a rich village.
- As per 2008 study 25% household earn > 5 Lac yearly.
- No person depends on drought relief fund since 1990.



- Per capita income increased 6 fold from 1975 to 1985.
- Apart from income living standard and access to basic facilities & education improved remarkably.
- Village witnessed reverse migration.



- Increased fodder availability ensured by water boosted dairy business.
- Average milk yield increased from 1.58 Ltr to 4.96 Ltr.
- Village earns Rs. 1.5 crore per annum from dairies.



- Before 1975 village school up to Standard 4 only. Only 10% population going to school.
- Now school with hostel facility established. 95% village children complete Standard 10.



- Pre 1975 water borne diseases were common.
- Good health indicators at present. No epidemics in last three decades.
- Health centre, dispensary exists. All children are born in hospital, very low Infant mortality rate.



- Model village for public participatory development.
- Voluntary Shramdaan for all development activities.
- Participatory governance in regulation and maintenance of water resources.

Inspiring journey of Ralegan Siddhi in establishing it as a model village in field of Watershed development is best defined in words of the World Bank Group

The village of Ralegan Siddhi was transformed from a highly degraded village ecosystem in a semi-arid region of extreme poverty to one of the richest in the country. The Ralegan Siddhi example, now 25 years old, by demonstrating that it is possible to rebuild natural capital in partnership with the local economy, is a model for the rest of the country.

Next Case Study>>
Hiware Bazar