

MAGAM SOIL CONSERVATION PROJECT 2002-03 TO 2008-09

A S U C C E S S S T O R Y

The low hills in Magam range of Langate Forest Division are considered to be one among the most degraded and highly fragile agro eco system in District Kupwara. The problem is so serious that in these highly exploiting hills 04-06 Cms of top soil disappears with heavy shower. The degradation of large chunks of land is basically attributed to the increasing pressure in absence appropriate management practices to augment and conserve precious land and water resources.

Magam project is a typical representation of one such barren and denuded compartments of said forest range which suffered heavy loss due to ruthless felling of trees during the turmoil period of valley due to which hundreds of hectars of Forest land were rendered barren and exposed to heavy grassing and weather conditions. The project falls in Micro water Shed-P₄ b₂. with total area of 2150 Ha. of which treatable area was 645 Ha. when surveyed in the year 2002-03. The department of soil conservation took over the area for treatment measures against a stiff resistance from offenders and succeeded in building and eco friendly committee by involving the local village heads in the process of Conservation measures for restoration of eco system.



Water Shed Interventions:- These included

1. Planting of fast growing, hardy and soil binding plant species.
2. Sowing and razing of good quality fodder like red clover for supplementing the fodder requirements of locals .
3. Plugging all big and small gullies by engineering and bio-engineering techniques.
4. Checking of biotic interference of all types with in the catchment.

In this way from 2002-03 to 2008-09 an area of above 100 hac. has been successfully brought under treatment and works are being extending to the adjacent parts of the Water Shed.



Impact evaluation:-

1. The hydrological investigation revealed the sub surface flow was a major component (45-48%) and surface flow comprised only (4-5.2%) of the average run from the treated water shed.
2. Bio engineering measures in the degraded portion of the catchment have resulted in increase in base flow and minimized the chances of occurrence of land slips and slides and improved vegetative growth of plants and grasses.
3. Ground water recharges has ensured sustainable crop production with in the boundaries of water Shed particularly in Agri/ Harti. Fields situated along lower contours.
4. Yield of improved fodder from the catchment to meet the fodder requirements for the live stock in adjacent village.
5. Natural re-generation of Deodar and Kail including native bushes and shrubs in the fenced area after check on biotic interference.