

rural participation fully in mind.

Such rural participatory programs succeed in bringing all sections of society — including women and landless labourers, to a common meeting ground, where villagers are apprised of their problems; educated about the rural development project, and their need for the project to alleviate their problems. This further ensures a surge of voluntary participation by them. The objective of the PRA is to gain the confidence of the villagers, who will then divulge basic information regarding local conditions relating to farming, schools, wells, ponds, flora & fauna, roads, forests, and a variety of other data that can help in devising solutions to their problems. Such people's participation has ensured the smooth and successful functioning of watershed management without any difference of opinion, misunderstandings or difficulties.

### **Problems Identified in the Watershed Area**

The major problems faced by people in the watershed area were:

- Very low crop productivity.
- Lack of irrigation facilities and decreasing ground water table.
- Unavailability of drinking water during summer months.
- Degraded forest and declining vegetal cover.
- High rate of soil erosion, poor soil fertility, and an undulating topography.
- Low milk production, due to inferior breeds and poor health of the animals.
- Poor marketing facilities and low purchasing power of the villagers.

### **Formation of Watershed Development Committees**

To achieve maximum involvement of the people, and effective implementation of project work, Watershed Development Committees (WCs) were constituted at each micro-watershed level, consisting of at least 9 members, in which each member was a representative of each activity/beneficiary group. The responsibility for the execution