

PLANNING & STRATEGIES USED IN THE CHAKRA NALA WATERSHED PROJECT

Resource development technologies specific to the geography and requirements of the particular area were used in the project. These included soil and water conservation, water harvesting, pasture development, agro-forestry, etc. for conservation and management of hillocks, drainage systems, cultivable and marginal/waste land, and pasture development. A key to the watershed management strategy was the use of locally available material for the construction of the structures required. However, steel/cement was used where necessary, especially for the spillways (as shown on the back cover), where a re-inforced concrete central spillway was constructed on one of the four earthen check dams at the Karariya micro-watershed project.

RESOURCE BASE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Over-exploitation of forests for major and minor products, uncontrolled grazing, faulty crop management and inadequate soil and water conservation had resulted in a high rate of water runoff and soil loss in vast tracts of the project area. To face these challenges, and meet the needs of people within the watershed boundary, an integrated program of resource conservation, development and management was implemented under the Rajiv Gandhi Watershed Management Mission. The total area covered through the Chakra Nala Watershed Project was 12,536 ha through 17 micro-watershed programs. The major tasks were soil and water conservation, and the development of vegetal cover. The technologies adopted were:

1. Staggered contour trenches.
2. Contour/Field *bunding*.
3. Loose boulder check dams.
4. Gabion structures.
5. Water harvesting by
 - a). Earthen check dams.
 - b). Percolation tanks.
 - c). Farm ponds.