Pasture Development

Deforestation, uncontrolled fires and increased grazing pressure results in the replacement of the natural perennial grass cover by weeds and other undesirable bushes in watershed areas. This reduction in cover causes an acceleration of the erosion process and loss of grass seeds. For the conservation of degraded pasture areas and improvement in forage production in the watershed area, treatment areas need to be fenced in with cattle-proof trenches or dry stone dykes and reseeded with suitable varieties of fodder grass.

Crop Development

Farmers in the watershed area have been using local seeds that over years of unchanged use have turned into low yielding varieties. Their farming techniques were also found to be inefficient. To improve crop yields and productivity, Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) of high yield varieties (HYV) were conducted on farmer's fields and neighbouring farmers were encouraged to substitute their old seeds after seeing the increase in productivity. Seed replacement was with seeds grown in the K.V.K. and through making certain farmers into seed banks, who exchanged 1 kg. of new seed for 1.25 kg of old seed from their neighbouring farmers. The concept of seed villages was also introduced in the watershed area.

Farmers were also taught that their fields gave poor yields because of the loss of top soil due to water runoff, and also due to imbalanced cropping patterns. To improve the soil condition, legume crops, such as cow pea, *dhaincha*, etc. were first grown and ploughed on the fields, as this increases the nitrogen and organic matter content of the soil. FLDs were then used to demonstrate the benefits of the correct use of fertilisers and *in-situ* moisture conservation.

Self Help Groups (SHGs)

With the objective of improving the socio-economic status of the people in the watershed area, Self Help Groups (SHGs) were formed