

PATNI VILLAGE — A MODEL FOR MICRO WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Four villages were short-listed through information obtained in the Block Development Office (BDO) for selection as the first micro watershed project of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra (K.V.K.), Majhgawan, managed by Deendayal Research Institute. Scientists from the K.V.K. first visited all four villages, namely, Majhgawan, Devlaha, Kanpur and Patni. The criteria for selection of the village included:

- a). Acute shortage of drinking water.
- b). Low crop productivity.
- c). Lack of viable cropping patterns.
- d). Low percentage of cultivatable land, and high percentage of marginal/waste and barren land.
- e). Easy availability of manpower.
- f). Lack of economic resources.
- h). Feasibility of watershed treatment.

Patni village was selected as it fulfilled all the above criteria, and the socio-economic status of the village was well below the average for Majhgawan Block, with all the villagers living below the poverty line. It was also situated close to the K.V.K.

Contact with the villagers for implementation of the micro-watershed project was first made in January, 1996. The team from the K.V.K. consisted of an agronomist, horticulturist, agro-forestry specialist, animal husbandry scientist, agricultural engineer, a home scientist, and 2 field workers. The composition of the team was 6 males and 2 females. In the first 3 visits by the team the villagers refused to come to meet them as they had seen too many official Government teams that had come to the village with projects that were of no use to them, and thought that this would also be another fruitless exercise.

The major difference between the Rajiv Gandhi Watershed Mission and other governmental schemes is the use of a tool called 'entry