and harvested multiple crops every year. He sold his vegetables in the market at Gonda and with his earnings, had built a small house in the town, which he had rented out. He was leading a contented life. I was enthused by his story.

On the following day, I went to the village where the elderly farmer had told me not to waste my energies. I said to him: "Baba! Yesterday, I witnessed a wonder. A gardener named Banasi is leading a happy life with just one acre of land". As it happened, the old man was well acquainted with the gardener. He replied: "Nanaji! You city-dwellers cannot understand rural situation. That gardener's father had acquired that land, which has a well, from his in-laws. So the gardener is enjoying the benefits of irrigated land. If all of us had the benefit of irrigation, we would be equally contented". The old farmer had shown me the path to rural upliftment and I began to look for ways and means of irrigation.

In every village, apart from one big landowner, the bulk of farmers have small tracts of land. These small farmers cannot individually afford own means of irrigation. Only if the farmers work collectively can they organize irrigation for all their fields. But litigation and groupism among them is a barrier to collective effort.

As a result, government-sponsored schemes like the "Rajiv Gandhi Jalprabandhan Yojana" never take off on the ground. Rural folk are not familiar with this scheme. The Deendayal Research Institute (DRI) decided to take up this project. In village after village, we held meetings and explained the scheme. The farmers agreed to work collectively. The efforts bore fruit and some villages were fully irrigated. The lives of the villagers were transformed thanks to irrigation. Where once they depended on a single, rain-fed crop, they now harvested two crops with ease. The advantages of collective effort were there for all to see.

Denizens of virtually every village had on-going cases in the district courts. Petty quarrels came in the way of mutual cooperation. DRI's samajshilpi