

## Harmonizing Nature and Necessity: The Delicate Balance of Waterbody Restoration

Mr. Raju, hailing from Sharekhanpally village in Sangareddy District at Telengana state is the bread winner of a small family. His main source of income is through the farm land that he possesses in his village. The water bodies in Raju's village, mainly Bushavani tanks, became quite shallow over time. Their original potential for water storage had significantly diminished due to a lack of proper maintenance. Unfortunately, no de-silting or deepening activities was carried out for the past decade.



In this situation, the Bushavani tank was rejuvenated by Asian Paints Ltd with the water holding capacity of 5589 KL. However, with the recent increase in groundwater recharge, they have started to meet out the irrigation needs of the area. The de-silting and deepening of the water bodies, along with the reinforcement of their embankments, have significantly improved their water storage capacity. This development has proven to be highly beneficial for all the villagers and farmers in the region. The outcome of the waterbody work has resulted in an improvement in storage capacity. Previously, the waterbody had water for only 3 months, but now it increased to 6 - 7 months. As a result, 20 families and 25 acres of land were directly benefited.

The increased storage capacity allows for the collection of runoff water, which in turn recharges the bore wells. This has led to an increase of approximately 10 feet in the groundwater level. The availability of this water has proven to be beneficial for our cattle, small ruminants, and agricultural purposes. The interventions made have the potential to greatly benefit the agriculture and allied sectors. Specifically, they will be particularly helpful for the second season crops.

Similar to Bushavani tank, another tank named Karnaponi Kunta was rejuvenated in the village of Royapally in Sangareddy district at Telangana state. Mr. N. Vital is one of the many farmers who got benefitted because of the intervention.

He owns 3 acres of land and living with a family of four. His main source of income was through agriculture and allied activities.



Availability of water for the irrigation of second season crop was very low. Hence, the Karnapone tank was desilted and deepened to increase the water holding capacity upto 8918 KL. Following table gives the list of water body rejuvenated,

| <b>S.No</b> | <b>Waterbody name</b> | <b>Water potential created in KL</b> | <b>No. of Beneficiaries</b> | <b>No. of Acres Benefited</b> |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1           | Bhushavani Kunta      | 5589 KL                              | 20 Farmers                  | 25 Acres                      |
| 2           | Karnapone Kunta       | 8918 KL                              | 35 Farmers                  | 30 Acres                      |
| 3           | Chintala kunta        | 8005.8 KL                            | 20 farmers                  | 50 Acres                      |