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Study on Sustainability of Watershed Programmes

The objectives of the study were to identify the various strategies / initiatives implemented by sustainable projects in terms of their mechanisms, operations and processes; assess the extent of sustainability of various components under the projects; and analyze the performance of operational mechanisms of the above strategies / initiatives. The study also aimed at suggesting measures for sustainability and withdrawal strategy for watershed projects. The study has been carried out in selected projects, in the states of Karnataka and Maharashtra where initiatives have been taken up for the sustainability of watershed components and mechanisms.

Findings revealed that sustainability has been consistently high in two interventions viz., women SHGs and book writers. Community oriented water harvesting structures have been functioning well in a majority of watershed projects. Construction of low cost water harvesting structures has also been found to be highly sustainable.

Some of the measures proposed for sustainability of interventions under watershed programme include integration of social resources management with natural resource management; Convergence of activities of different departments; linkages with credit institutions; capacity building of community based institutions and developing a withdrawal strategy.