



Impact Assessment Report of SARAL Project

IndusInd Bank Limited

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Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants LLP

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List of Acronyms

Acronym	Full Form
ACF	Ambuja Cement Foundation
BPL	Below Poverty Line
CI	Confidence Interval
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
FY	Fiscal Year
GP	Gram Panchayat
IBL	IndusInd Bank Limited
IDI	In-Depth Interview
INR	Indian Rupee
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
OECD- DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development- Development Assistance Committee
OBC	Other Backward Classes
PW /PWCALLP	Price Waterhouse/ Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants LLP
RRWHS	Roof Rainwater Harvesting System
SARAL	Strengthening and Augmenting Rural Awareness and Livelihood
SC	Scheduled Caste
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SHGs	Self-Help Groups
ST	Scheduled Tribe
TDS	Total Dissolved Solids

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Executive Summary

IndusInd Bank Limited (IBL) engaged Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants LLP (PWLLP) to carry out the impact assessment of the **Strengthening and Augmenting Rural Awareness and Livelihood (SARAL)** Project with a purpose to evaluate the impact created on the community through the activities undertaken during the project period. The scope of work included reviewing the Key performance indicators (KPIs) as defined by the Management of the IBL under the framework for implementing the Projects for the outputs, outcomes and impact of the Projects. OECD-DAC framework was adopted, and recommendations were provided on the Projects' performance for their further evaluation and consideration.

A mixed methodology involving both quantitative and qualitative research methods was deployed to carry out the impact assessment of the project. As part of the quantitative approach, a sampling plan was implemented involving a survey with a **sample size of 340** (336 sample size + 4 as booster sample) beneficiary households which was estimated using 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error by considering the total number of beneficiaries covered under the key activities namely Construction of RRWHS individual and community level and construction of farm tanks.

As a part of the **qualitative assessment**, **7 interactions** including In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were also conducted to ensure holistic feedback on the project activities from the stakeholders.

OECD DAC Framework Assessment

Relevance

The project effectively addressed the community's pressing needs related to erratic rainfall, frequent droughts, and water scarcity by tackling issues such as soil erosion, inadequate rainwater retention, and insufficient irrigation, which previously resulted in low crop yields and limited clean drinking water sources. Beneficiaries confirmed **significant improvements in water management** at household level and for irrigation through the creation of water storage structures. Furthermore, excavation of village ponds enhanced water storage, infiltration, and groundwater recharge. The installed RRWHS successfully **met the primary water needs** of the community, including drinking (96%), washing clothes (95%), bathing (93%), floor washing (93%), provision of drinking water for animals (48%), and other miscellaneous uses (1%). Additionally, farm ponds proved effective for irrigating agricultural land, indicating the intervention's substantial impact on enhancing agricultural productivity.

Coherence

A participatory approach involving local communities in planning and implementation fostered ownership and responsibility, ensuring interventions were tailored to local needs. This approach was well-received, demonstrated by the substantial **community contribution** (83%) toward constructing water harvesting structures, which underscores community support and enhances sustainability.

This project aligns with multiple SDGs such as **SDG-1: No Poverty, SDG-2: Zero Hunger, SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG-6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**.

Effectiveness

The project significantly improved water security and accessibility for the community by constructing water harvesting structures and **rejuvenating traditional water ponds**. With nine strategically placed RRWHS systems boasting a cumulative storage capacity of 152.05 m³, and the revival of 47 village ponds, numerous households benefited from increased water storage capacity. The intervention notably enhanced water availability, as 49% of beneficiaries reported **improved access to water** for 10-12 months post-intervention,

a stark contrast to the mere 4% prior. Additionally, the construction of RRWHS within households greatly **benefited women by saving 6-7 hours daily** spent on fetching water, reducing the effort and cost associated with purchasing potable water, and providing a reliable source of fresh drinking water.

Efficiency

Beyond water management improvements, the project emphasized ecological restoration and community involvement. The **plantation of 1000 trees** contributed to increased cover, groundwater recharge, reduced soil erosion, and a decrease in surface runoff, aiding in water table recharge. Revitalizing 47 traditional ponds not only boosted water storage capacity but also enhanced ecological balance and biodiversity. A participatory approach was crucial, fostering community ownership and responsibility by involving local members in planning and implementation.

Impact

- **Water Security and Accessibility:** The construction of 1,145 individual Roof Rainwater Harvesting Systems (RRWHS) and 183 farm tanks provided a **storage capacity of 15,569.59 cubic meters** and **2,126.56 cubic meters**, respectively, ensuring access to safe drinking water and reducing dependency on unreliable sources.
- **Revival of Traditional Ponds:** The project revived 47 village ponds with a total **storage capacity of 3,11,537.62 cubic meters**, enhancing water harvesting and groundwater recharge, essential for ecological balance and biodiversity conservation.
- **Agricultural Productivity:** The installation of 27 farm ponds with a **storage capacity of 65,646.33 cubic meters** and **micro irrigation systems** (drip and sprinkler) for 34 farmers boosted agricultural productivity, enabling year-round cultivation and sustainable practices, thereby improving farmers' incomes.
- **Crop Diversification:** The project facilitated farmers in **expanding their crop variety** to include more profitable such as gram, sesame, and pulses. This diversification was enabled by improved irrigation facilities and consistent water availability, allowing farmers to shift focus from traditional food crops like bajra and moong and experiment with **high-value crops** such as black wheat and napier grass. This strategic shift not only enhanced resilience against market fluctuations but also opened new market opportunities, potentially **increasing farmers' income** and contributing to sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Enhanced Income and savings:** Construction of RRWHS saved costs incurred to meet water needs of the family, especially during summer. People had to arrange for private water tankers costing between INR 500-1500. The cost varied depending on the demand and despite spending considerable amounts for each water tanker, the water would only last a week per family. Basis the interactions with the beneficiaries, it is assumed that each household purchased tankers for at least 4-6 months in a year with a monthly expenditure of INR 4000 (i.e. INR 1000 per week on an average). This results in the total savings of approximately INR 16,000-INR 24,000 owing to the RRWHS project.

The availability of fresh rainwater from farm ponds has significantly boosted crop yields. For example, wheat yields have surged from 15–20 quintals per acre to 22–27 quintals per acre, while mustard yields have risen from 5–6 quintals per acre to 7–8 quintals per acre. This improved productivity has led to higher income levels for farmers, with reports indicating a 25–30% annual increase due to enhanced crop quality and yield. Additionally, the adoption of farm ponds and modern irrigation techniques has expanded cultivable land by 30–35%, enabling farmers to grow more crops and diversify into higher-value options. The SARAL project has played a key role in this transformation, directly contributing to farmers' increased earnings and agricultural prosperity.

- **Improved Hygiene and Sanitation:** Construction of sanitation complexes in seven schools addressed hygiene needs, contributing to health promotion and improved attendance among female students, as they no longer miss school during menstrual cycles. Moreover, renovation 193 household toilets led to healthier living conditions and reduced health risks associated with poor sanitation.

Sustainability

The project effectively engaged community members by involving them in the construction of RRWHS, which not only reduced reliance on external funding but also fostered a **sense of ownership and responsibility**, thereby enhancing the sustainability of the interventions. Additionally, by employing community members in water conservation activities, the project facilitated the **transfer of knowledge** on building water conservation structures at the local level. This approach not only empowered the community with valuable skills but also provided **financial benefits** to those who offered their services during the intervention.

Recommendations

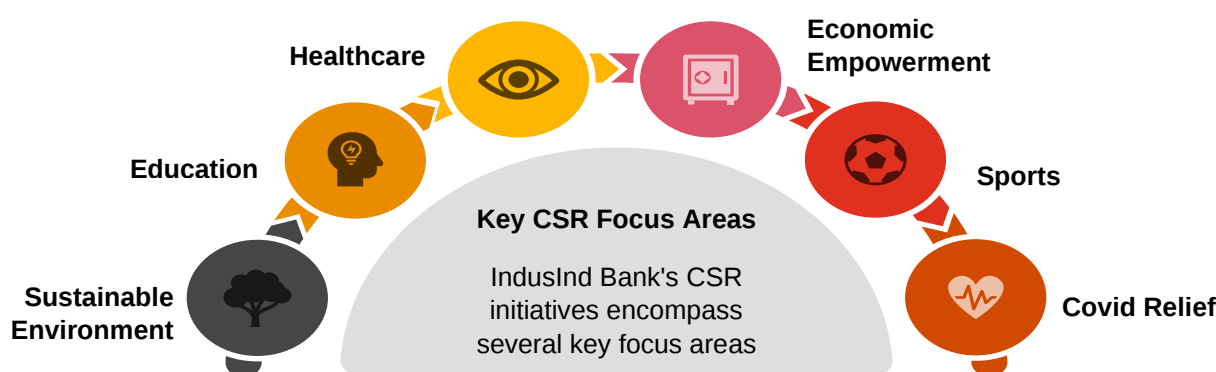
By incorporating the below recommendation, IBL can further strengthen the longevity of the impact created thus far.

- **Regular Maintenance and Cleanliness of Sanitation Facilities:** The students face issues with the cleanliness and maintenance of school sanitation complexes. Increasing the frequency of cleaning and ensuring proper maintenance can enhance the longevity and usability of these facilities, improving hygiene standards among female students.
- **Provision of Training to Farmers:** Farmers could further be trained on efficient water management practices, focusing on optimising the use of farm ponds for irrigation, maintaining soil health and fertility, etc. This can include sessions on scheduling irrigation, understanding crop water requirements, and using water-saving techniques like mulching. Exposure visits can be facilitated for the groups of farmers who are keen to learn best practices in agriculture, irrigation and soil quality management.
- **Hands-on learning Support:** It is essential to promote demonstration plots at the fields of progressive farmers and set up farmer field schools. These efforts will inspire the widespread use of sustainable methods and assist farmers in effectively managing their natural resources, resulting in enhanced agricultural productivity and resilience.
- **Generating employment opportunities for women:** With the alleviation of the burden of fetching water for their families, many women have voiced a keen interest in seeking employment. To support this newfound aspiration, targeted training programs could be initiated to equip them with necessary skills. Additionally, the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) would facilitate a structured approach, empowering women to achieve financial independence. These initiatives are poised to transform the socio-economic landscape, fostering greater inclusivity and resilience within communities.

1. Introduction and background

IndusInd Bank Limited (IBL) is a financial institution committed to sustainable growth, supporting community empowerment, environmental conservation, and stakeholder value through its comprehensive CSR initiatives. IndusInd Bank's CSR framework involves a long-term, impactful approach categorised into Flagship Programmes and Strategic Projects. Flagship Programmes focus on holistic rural development, aligning with national priorities like the NITI Aayog Aspirational Districts initiative, aiming to boost economic empowerment and resource efficiency over 5-10 years. The CSR budget supports various initiatives, underpinned by partnerships with government bodies, NGOs, and leveraging public-private partnerships¹.

Figure 1: Key CSR focus areas



1.1. About the projects under assessment

The **Strengthening and Augmenting Rural Awareness and Livelihood Project (SARAL)** (2018-2023), initiated by IndusInd Bank Limited (IBL) and implemented by Ambuja Cement Foundation (now Ambuja Foundation)² aimed to address water scarcity and livelihood challenges in **38 villages of Jaitaran block, Pali District, Rajasthan**. Launched in October 2018, the project focused on water harvesting and conservation to empower rural communities. Key interventions under this project included constructing Roof Rainwater Harvesting Systems (RRWHS), farm tanks, farm ponds, and reviving traditional ponds. Installation of micro irrigation systems and construction of school sanitation facilities for girls was also undertaken, benefiting 1,32,359 community members.

By constructing RRWHS and farm tanks, the project ensures access to safe drinking water, reducing dependency on unreliable sources and mitigating drought-induced challenges. Reviving traditional ponds enhanced water harvesting and groundwater recharge, essential for ecological balance. Agricultural productivity was boosted through farm ponds and micro irrigation systems, enabling year-round cultivation and sustainable practices, thereby improving farmers' incomes. School sanitation facilities for girls effectively addressed hygiene needs and contributed to overall health promotion in schools. The project's emphasis on water conservation aligns with environmental sustainability goals, aiding biodiversity and climate change mitigation. Ultimately, SARAL empowers rural communities with effective water resource management, fostering resilience and improving quality of life.

¹ Source: IBL website

² Source: <https://www.ambujafoundation.org/about-us>

2. Approach and methodology

IndusInd Bank Limited (IBL) engaged PW (Price Waterhouse) to carry out the impact assessment of the 4 Pragat Projects with a purpose to evaluate the impact created on the community through the activities undertaken during the programme period. The scope of work included reviewing the Key performance indicators (KPIs) as defined by the Management of the IBL under the framework for implementing the Projects for the outputs, outcomes and impact of the Projects. OECD-DAC framework was adopted, and Social Return on Investment (the 'SROI') and recommendations were provided on the Projects' performance for their further evaluation and consideration.

The assessment was undertaken using the quantitative and qualitative methods to understand the interventions undertaken under the CSR projects post mutual discussion with IBL. The scope of work involved conducting the desk review of the project documents, mapping of key programme stakeholders, developing research methodology and impact map, data collection and analysis and report writing. This is an abridged report created basis the impact assessment undertaken and a detailed report has also been submitted to the management. The overall methodology adopted for conducting the impact assessment study can be broken down into four stages as illustrated below:

Stage 1: Desk review

- A detailed understanding of the interventions was obtained through an inception meeting held with the IBL team.
- The scope of work was agreed upon, and IBL expectations were understood.
- A desk review of project documents was undertaken.
- Mapping of project stakeholders was carried out, based on the desk review and preliminary interactions with key stakeholders and in consultation with the IBL team, for interaction purposes.

Stage 2: Planning and tool preparation

- The data collection plan was finalised in consultation with the IBL team and the implementation partner.
- Key indicators and research tools were shared and finalised after the incorporation of feedback from the IBL team.
- The developed tools were digitised and translated in Hindi.
- The IBL team was apprised of the data collection plan for the field visit.

Stage 3: Data collection & field visit

- The field team was trained on the data collection tools.
- The field data collection process was initiated.
- A quantitative survey with programme beneficiaries was undertaken to record their feedback.
- In-depth interviews (IDIs) with beneficiaries and key stakeholders such as IBL team members, panchayat members, and block officials were conducted.
- Focus group discussions (FGDs) with beneficiaries were undertaken to gauge their views on the project

Stage 4: Data analysis and report writing

- The key findings were assimilated to better analyse the data.
- OECD-DAC analysis was conducted using primary and secondary data.
- The draft of the impact assessment report was prepared for the IBL team.
- Feedback received from IBL was obtained and incorporated.
- The final impact assessment report was prepared and submitted to IBL for their management's

2.1. Sampling Plan

A mixed methodology involving both quantitative and qualitative research methods was deployed to carry out the impact assessment of the project. As part of the quantitative approach, a sampling plan was implemented involving a survey with a **sample size of 340** (336 sample size + 4 as booster sample) beneficiary households which was estimated using 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error by considering the total number of beneficiaries covered under the key activities namely Construction of RRWHS individual and community level and construction of farm tanks.

As a part of the **qualitative assessment**, **7 interactions** including In-Depth Interviews (IDIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) were also conducted to ensure holistic feedback on the project activities from the stakeholders.

Table 1: Qualitative sampling plan

Sl. No.	Stakeholders	Type of interaction	No. of interactions conducted
1	Community members	Focus Group Discussion (FGD)	2
2	Female Students (Sanitation Complex Beneficiaries)	Focus Group Discussion (FGD)	2
3	Panchayati Raj Institution members	In-Depth Interview (IDI)	1
4	Block Level Officer	In-Depth Interview (IDI)	1
5	Implementing Partner	In-Depth Interview (IDI)	1
	Total		7

3. Impact Evaluation Details

3.1. Beneficiary details

Gender, age group and education background of the respondents:

The respondents belonged to three gram panchayats within the Jaitaran block. While 34% respondents hailed from Asarlai Gram Panchayat (GP), the Deoriya and Garniya GPs represented 33% respondents each in the sample survey. A detailed beneficiary profile of the respondents highlighting characteristics such as gender distribution, age distribution, education levels and social status is depicted below:



- Respondents were nearly evenly split among three gram panchayats—Asarlai (34%), Deoriya (33%), and Garniya (33%).



- A striking 91% of participants were female, indicating a female-centered intervention approach.



- 92% of respondents fell within the 31–60 age group, typically the age range with household responsibilities and homeownership.

Socio-economic status of the respondents:

- The overwhelming majority (91%) were agricultural cultivators; others were in animal husbandry, labor, or small businesses.
- Most participants (68%) belonged to the Other Backward Classes (OBC), followed by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- 38% had primary education, 28% attended middle school, while 25% had no formal education—pointing to a focus on inclusivity regardless of literacy levels.

3.2. Summary of the Impact Created

Relevance

The SARAL project was relevant to the local context of rural Rajasthan, where water scarcity, poor sanitation, and limited agricultural productivity posed significant challenges. The interventions were designed to address these issues directly, with rainwater harvesting structures (RRWHS), farm tanks, and pond rejuvenation tailored to the region's climatic and geographical conditions.

The project also responded to gender-specific needs, particularly the burden on women and girls to fetch water, by providing household-level water access. Additionally, the construction and renovation of sanitation facilities in schools and homes addressed hygiene-related health issues and absenteeism, especially among adolescent girls, thereby aligning with broader development goals such as gender equity, health, and education.

Coherence

The project demonstrated strong coherence with national and state-level policies, particularly the Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to ensure a minimum of 50 litres of water per person per day. Water availability increased from 20–30 litres to 50–60 litres per person per day, meeting national standards and reducing reliance on unsafe sources. SARAL's integrated approach—combining infrastructure development, ecosystem restoration, and sustainable agricultural practices—complemented other ongoing development efforts. The emphasis on community participation and co-financing reinforced local governance and ownership, while environmental conservation activities such as tree plantation and aquifer recharge aligned with climate resilience and biodiversity enhancement goals. The project's multi-sectoral design ensured that water, agriculture, health, and education interventions worked in harmony to produce synergistic outcomes.

Effectiveness

The project was highly effective in achieving its intended outcomes. Awareness of RRWHS structures reached 94% of respondents, and 80% were direct beneficiaries, indicating strong outreach and community engagement. Women's daily burden of fetching water was significantly reduced, freeing up time for employment and education. The repair of 171 handpumps and construction of soak pits benefited over 7,900 people, improving access to clean water and sanitation. School sanitation complexes improved attendance, particularly among girls, by addressing menstrual hygiene needs. Agricultural productivity also saw marked improvements, with increased crop yields and expanded cultivation during both Kharif and Rabi seasons.

Efficiency

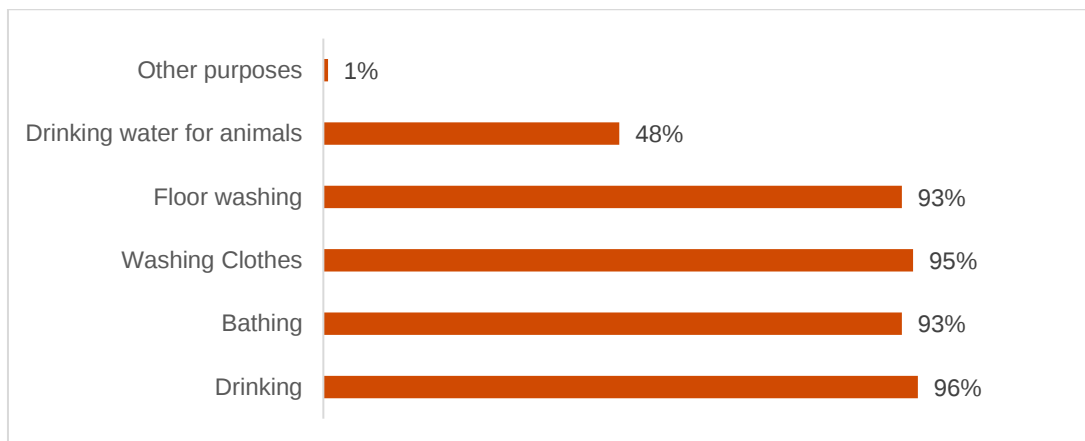
The SARAL project was implemented efficiently, leveraging community contributions to reduce dependency on external funding. For instance, IBL provided INR 25,000 per RRWHS, while the community covered the remaining costs, fostering ownership and cost-effectiveness. Fixed financial support for farm ponds and the use of poly sheets optimized construction expenses. Modern irrigation techniques such as drip and sprinkler systems reduced irrigation time from 15–18 hours to 7–9 hours per acre and lowered costs by 15–20%. The reuse and rejuvenation of traditional water bodies and community-led maintenance further minimized operational costs and ensured long-term viability.

Impact

Water Security and Accessibility

The SARAL project significantly improved water security through the construction of 1,145 individual Roof Rainwater Harvesting Systems (RRWHS) and 183 farm tanks, collectively offering a storage capacity of 15,569.59 cubic meters and 2,126.56 cubic meters, respectively. These interventions ensured consistent access to safe drinking water, especially during dry seasons, and reduced dependency on unreliable and often contaminated sources such as open wells and ponds. The availability of water within households not only improved daily convenience but also reduced the financial and physical burden on families, particularly women, who previously spent hours fetching water.

Figure 2: Use of water stored in RRWHS by beneficiaries (N=273)



Multiple coding question, responses may add up to more than 100%

Revival of Traditional Ponds

The revival of 47 village ponds, with a combined storage capacity of 311,537.62 cubic meters, played a crucial role in enhancing water harvesting and groundwater recharge. These ponds, once neglected, were excavated and desilted to restore their functionality. The rejuvenated ponds contributed to ecological balance, supported biodiversity, and improved the microclimate of surrounding areas. In some villages, the revitalization led to the recharge of nearby wells and the transformation of barren land into cultivable plots, enabling communities to grow crops and establish green spaces.

Table 2: Data on excavation of village ponds for revival

Year	Number of Ponds	Water storage capacity before excavation (M ³)	Increase in water storage capacity post excavation (M ³)	Percentage of increase in storage capacity
2018-2019	3	34,168	28,595	84%
2019-2020	19	1,60,032	5,86,883	367%
2020-2021	15	4,00,908	1,96,678	49%
2021-2022	4	3,08,840	1,25,463	41%
2022-2023	6	4,27,597	1,86,073	43%

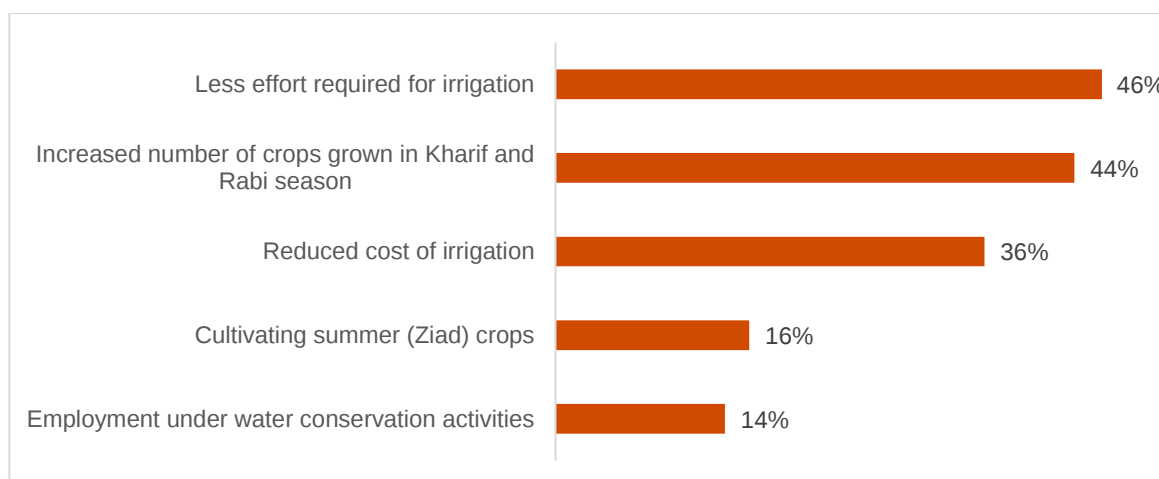
Above table is based on the information provided by the implementing partner

Agricultural Productivity

The installation of 27 farm ponds with a total storage capacity of 65,646.33 cubic meters, along with micro-irrigation systems (drip and sprinkler) provided to 34 farmers, significantly boosted agricultural productivity. These systems allowed for year-round cultivation, reducing dependence on erratic rainfall and enabling farmers to grow

crops during both Kharif and Rabi seasons. The improved irrigation efficiency also reduced water wastage and fertilizer runoff, contributing to sustainable farming practices. Farmers reported increased yields and better crop quality, which translated into higher market value and income.

Figure 3: Respondents' perception of impact of project activities on agricultural productivity (N=340)



Multiple coding question, responses may add up to more than 100%

Crop Diversification

Improved irrigation infrastructure enabled farmers to diversify their crops beyond traditional staples like bajra and moong. With consistent water availability, they began cultivating high-value crops such as gram, sesame, pulses, and even experimental varieties like black wheat and napier grass. This diversification not only enhanced resilience against market and climate fluctuations but also opened up new income streams. Farmers could now make strategic decisions based on profitability rather than water availability, marking a shift toward commercial and sustainable agriculture.

Table 3: Crops grown by farmers before and after project intervention

Season	Crops grown before intervention	Crops grown after intervention
Kharif	Pearl millets (Bajra), cluster beans (Guwar), Moong, Cumin (Jeera)	Pearl millets (Bajra), cluster beans (Guwar), Moong, Castor (Arandi), Sorghum (Jowar), Cumin (Jeera)
Rabi	Wheat, Mustard	Wheat, Mustard, Gram, Sesame, Pusles

Enhanced Income and Savings

The construction of RRWHS led to substantial financial savings for households. Previously, families spent INR 500–1500 per water tanker, often requiring weekly deliveries during summer months. With RRWHS in place, families saved approximately INR 16,000–24,000 annually.



Beneficiaries' spending on securing potable water via tankers,

now saved due to the Project SARAL

INR 1000/week * 4 weeks * 6 months in a year = INR 24,000

On the agricultural front, the availability of fresh rainwater from farm ponds improved crop yields—wheat yields increased from 15–20 to 22–27 quintals/acre, and mustard from 5–6 to 7–8 quintals/acre. These gains resulted in a 25–30% annual income increase for farmers. Additionally, the expansion of cultivable land by 30–35% allowed farmers to grow more crops and further diversify into higher-value options, reinforcing long-term economic stability.

Table 4: Change in yield of key crops (pre and post intervention)

Crop	Yield Before intervention	Yield after intervention
Wheat	15-20 quintals per acre	22-27 quintals per acre
Mustard	5-6 quintals per acre	7-8 quintals per acre
Bajra	5-7 quintals per acre	7-8 quintals per acre
Moong	4-5 quintals per acre	6-7 quintals per acre

Improved Hygiene and Sanitation

The project addressed critical hygiene and sanitation needs by constructing sanitation complexes in seven schools, which significantly improved attendance among female students. Girls no longer missed school during their menstrual cycles due to lack of facilities, contributing to better educational outcomes. Furthermore, the renovation of 193 household toilets improved living conditions and reduced health risks associated with poor sanitation. These interventions promoted healthier lifestyles, reduced the spread of waterborne diseases, and enhanced the dignity and safety of community members, especially women and children.

Sustainability

Sustainability was a core strength of the SARAL project. Community ownership, demonstrated through financial contributions and active participation, ensured long-term maintenance of water structures. Environmental sustainability was promoted through aquifer recharge, tree plantation, and reduced groundwater extraction. Institutional sustainability was supported by building local capacity and encouraging decentralized water management. Behavioral changes, such as improved hygiene practices and reduced reliance on open water sources, indicated lasting impact. Economic sustainability was evident in the increased agricultural income and reduced household expenditure on water procurement, which ranged from INR 16,000 to INR 24,000 annually per household.

Figure 4: Traditional Pond revived under the project



Figure 5: RRWHS constructed at home of beneficiaries in Devariya



4. Recommendations

1. **Regular Maintenance and Cleanliness of Sanitation Facilities:** The students face issues with the cleanliness and maintenance of school sanitation complexes. Increasing the frequency of cleaning and ensuring proper maintenance can enhance the longevity and usability of these facilities, improving hygiene standards among female students.
2. **Provision of Training to Farmers:** Farmers could further be trained on efficient water management practices, focusing on optimising the use of farm ponds for irrigation, maintaining soil health and fertility, etc. This can include sessions on scheduling irrigation, understanding crop water requirements, and using water-saving techniques like mulching. Exposure visits can be facilitated for the groups of farmers who are keen to learn best practices in agriculture, irrigation and soil quality management.
3. **Hands-on learning Support:** It is essential to promote demonstration plots at the fields of progressive farmers and set up farmer field schools. These efforts will inspire the widespread use of sustainable methods and assist farmers in effectively managing their natural resources, resulting in enhanced agricultural productivity and resilience.
4. **Generating employment opportunities for women:** With the alleviation of the burden of fetching water for their families, many women have voiced a keen interest in seeking employment. To support this newfound aspiration, targeted training programs could be initiated to equip them with necessary skills. Additionally, the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) would facilitate a structured approach, empowering women to achieve financial independence. These initiatives are poised to transform the socio-economic landscape, fostering greater inclusivity and resilience within communities.

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