

Project Update: June 2009

River conservation is possible only when there are organized efforts based on holistic ecosystem approach. Keeping this basic assumption in mind my efforts are going on in the Adan river basin. For rivers of our area, we have a basic problem of siltation. The destruction of the vegetation in the river basin leads to siltation. Abundant silt entering in the river chock-up springs and pools converted into other type of habitats. In this situation watershed development is an important work to be carried out. The National Rural Employment Guaranty Scheme (NREGA) of the Government of India can be utilized to restore the degraded riverine resources. Through the RSGF grant I am concentrating my attention on the wise implementation of the NREGA for riverine resource conservation. This initiative generates 15 small ponds on the streams entering Adan river basin. People of the Dhamani village got a total of 300,000 Rupees (about £4400) of employment up to 15th June 2009 divided amongst about 200 labourers. They have also established a union and are helping us to conserve the river. The union also decided to take water bodies on leas for the aquaculture purpose in the coming monsoon so that they can lower their dependency on riverine fish and can get sustainable livelihoods.

On 5th June 2009 (World Environment Day) a popular awareness programme was arranged at the local K.N. college in which people from the all class of society, NREGA labours and fishermen from the various villages gathered.

Sakhli River, an important tributary of river Bemble (North-eastern Godavari basin) originates at the village of Manbla (20°30'35.66" N 77°37'.52.01" E) in Karanja taluka (near out field station). The river has been encroached upon by a wealthy person of the area due to which, there is a danger of flooding to the village. A social movement has been raised by our team with local villagers to save the river. On 23rd June 2009 local people with consensus removed encroachment.



Left: People gathered to study present condition of river Sakhali. Middle: Summer view of the Bhan Doh (Fresh Water Protected Area) along Adan river. Right: World Environment Day programme.