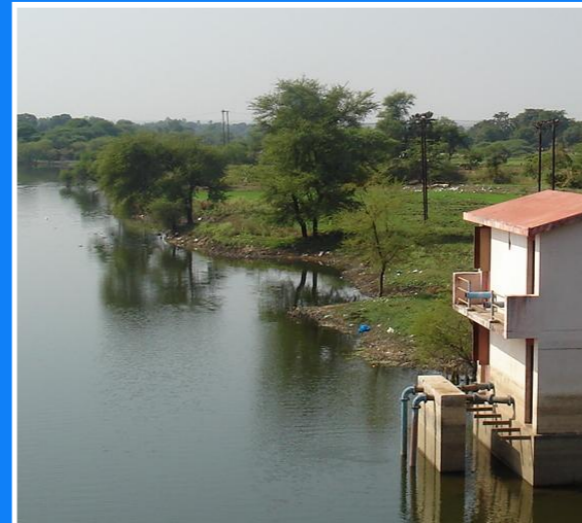


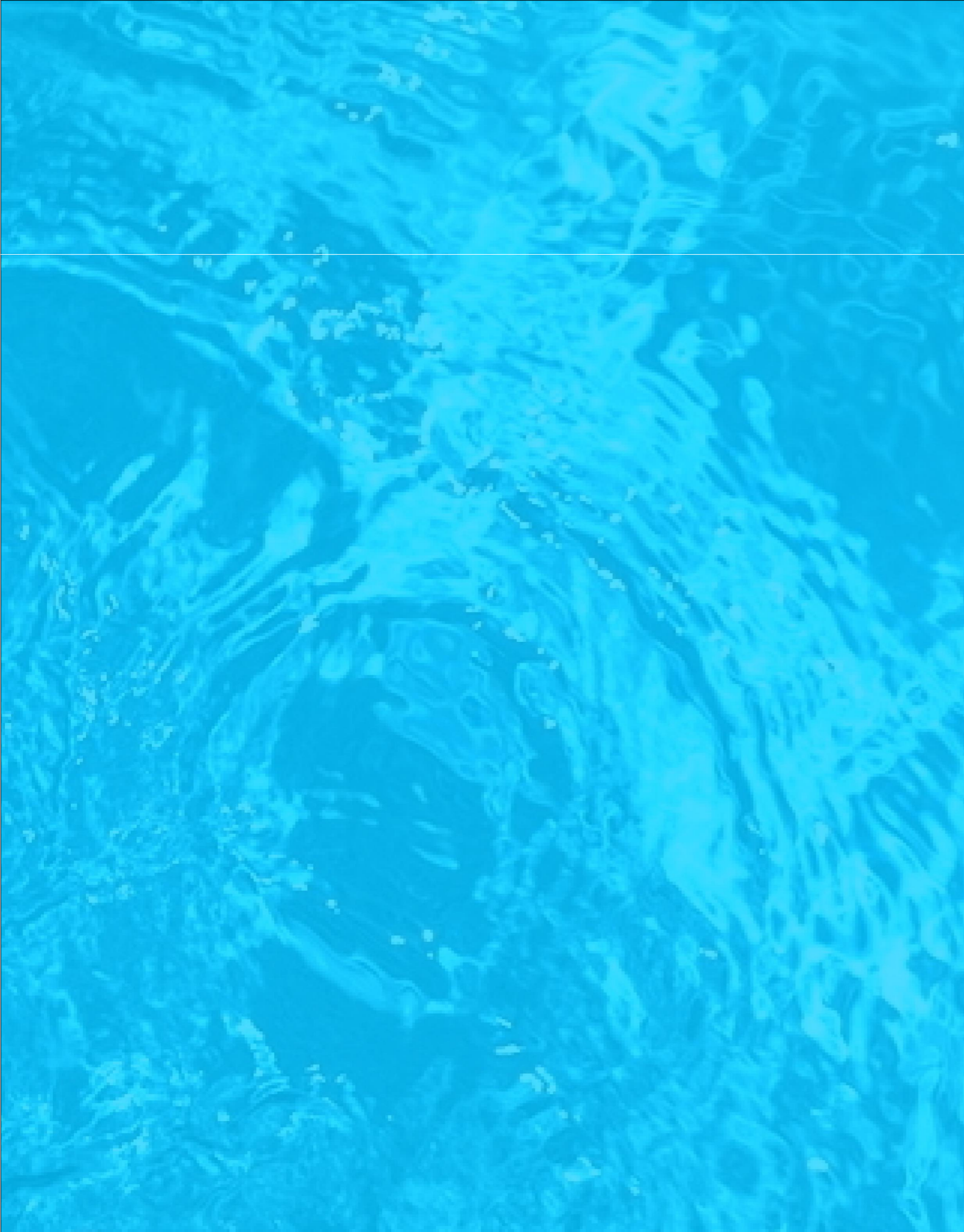
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## CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



## ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Arghyam is a public charitable foundation setup in 2001 with a personal endowment from Rohini Nilekani. Arghyam seeks to drive strategic and sustainable efforts in the water sector that enhance equity in access to water for all citizens.

Our vision is "Enough water, safe water ...always and for all"

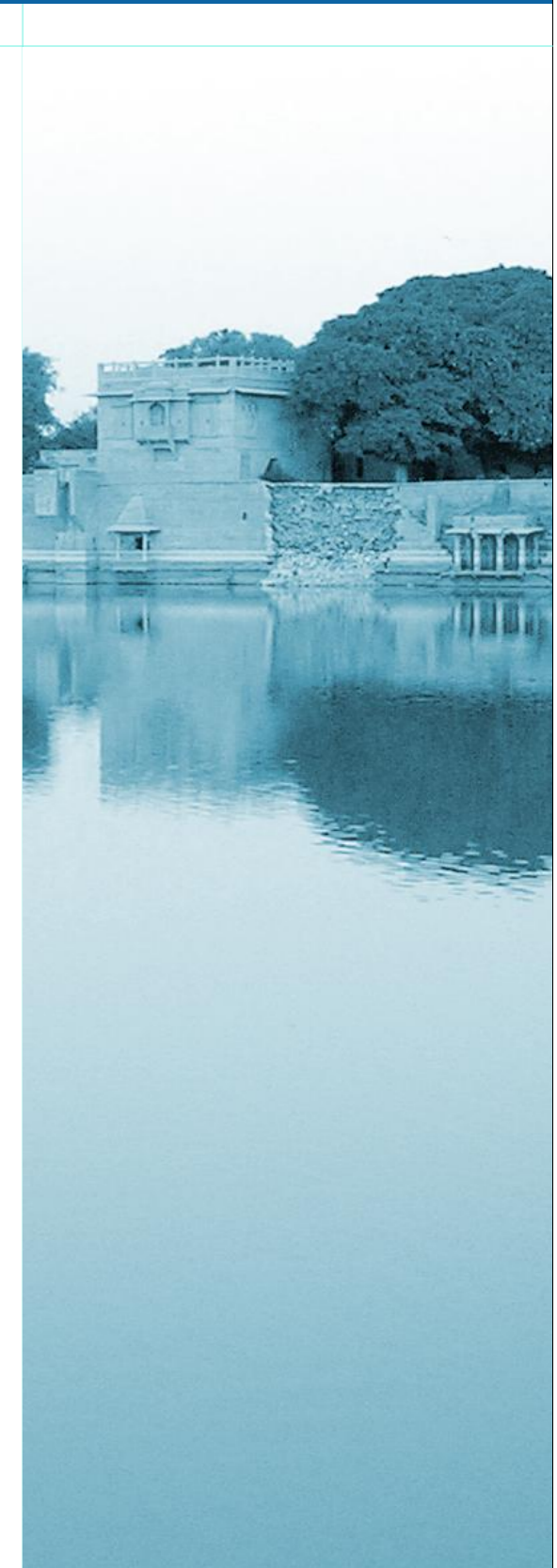
Arghyam seeks to support strategic and sustainable efforts in the water sector that enhance equity in access to water for all citizens. We emphasize sustainability - environmental, financial, social and technical - as the key desirable outcomes in all projects we support. Working with diverse partners, including NGOs, research institutions and government agencies, we give special attention to people's participation, capacity building, awareness and education with a potential for scale in our work. Current project areas include Integrated Domestic Water Management, Rainwater Harvesting, Groundwater Management and Water Quality

The interventions we participate in will be scalable, will strive to improve the governance of the projects, and may use technological innovations for greater impact. The underlying themes that we emphasize are sustainability through people's participation, leveraging appropriate technologies, soft-infrastructure development (i.e. building capacities) of local communities, demand-responsiveness in projects and

professional project management for high-outcomes.

We are working with several partners to develop the India Water Portal, which is an open, inclusive, web-based platform for sharing knowledge, information and data on the water sector in India.

The objective of the Portal is to create a collaborative space for those interested in water and related issues like sanitation, agriculture, wastewater management etc. Through this effort, we want to leverage knowledge to address equity and sustainability issues in the Water Sector and we will actively support alternate outreach methods that make this knowledge work for those on the ground who need it most.



*Our vision is  
"Enough water, safe water ....  
always and for all"*



## THE YEAR THAT WAS



The year 2005-2006 ended with the First Annual Conference of Arghyam. The Conference brought together leading players in the water sector in India together to discuss and shape the activities of Arghyam in the near future. While the focus of the conference was to get inputs on how to go about the India Water Portal, the interactions led to the initiation of many of Arghyam supported projects.

Most of the MoUs with our project partners were signed in this year. The projects range from long-term to short-term and from resource-intensive to otherwise. Our partners in projects have also become our partners in our Portal initiative. The grants given for these projects are related to different aspects of water like groundwater, rainwater harvesting, integrated water management, watershed management, etc. While Arghyam does not support the administrative costs of an institution, this year saw an exception. Arghyam decided to support the Chennai Rain Centre that has been doing excellent work in rainwater harvesting, but needed some support to sustain itself.

This year also saw Arghyam getting into a public-private partnership with the Government of Karnataka (GoK) in the Suvarna Jala project. The project has been initiated by the GoK and involves the construction of rainwater harvesting structures in about 23,000 government-run schools of Karnataka. Arghyam is supporting and driving the IEC component (Information, Education and Communication) of the project. While the

Suvarna Jala project is spread across the entire state, Arghyam's effort is in eight districts with the help of four key NGO partners in these areas.

Some projects like the Maegh Pyne Abhiyan were short-term project and have come to a close. But the partnership continues. With more projects on hand and with the portal dissemination on, Arghyam is going full-steam towards its mandate of providing safe, sustainable water for all.

On the Portal front, first of all, partners helped Arghyam decide on the content for the portal. Then technology partners were identified for different components of the portal. Then began the Herculean task of collecting information and data from different sources and creating a knowledge bank. Some content had to be formatted to be of use in the portal. Other content had to be developed. In all, it took about a year after the conference to get the portal in shape and get it ready for the launch.

The Launch of the Portal by the Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh was the high point of the year. The Portal was launched on 12th January 2007 at the Prime Minister's residence in New Delhi. Rohini also got Dr. Singh to autograph on a brochure developed for the Portal!

On the whole, the year was a fairly successful one that saw enormous activity on all fronts. We hope to continue working towards our goal of safe, sustainable water for all with greater enthusiasm and make a difference in the lives of many more.

*We hope to continue working towards our goal of safe, sustainable water for all*

## PROJECT GRANTS

Funding innovative and sustainable projects in the water sector is the primary mandate of Arghyam. Towards this end, Arghyam has supported 19 projects in the year 2006-07. A short summary of these projects is mentioned below. The projects are listed according to the date of signing of the MoU.

### Improving Understanding of Groundwater Resources through Field Research: An Initiative in Purandar Taluk and Other Areas around Pune



This project is being implemented by Advanced Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (ACWADAM). The project intends to develop scientific understanding of groundwater systems based on field studies in Purandar taluka of Pune district and to provide inputs to improving micro-level groundwater management practices (or implementing new ones) to organizations working on water management issues in Purandar taluka.

This research project aims to unpack the concept of managing aquifers/groundwater systems located within various geological systems in the proposed region of about 10-15 villages in Purandar taluk of Maharashtra, through a systematic study followed by defining a set of groundwater management protocols

based on the characteristics of the aquifer and strong community participation. Findings from this project clearly have the potential to influence small-scale appropriate approaches to groundwater / aquifer management techniques in rural areas.

The project started in June 2006 and is expected to be completed by May 2009.

### Additional Activities in the Sachetana Fluoride Mitigation & Drinking Water Project

The SACHETANA project aims at adopting sustainable approaches for mitigating the Fluorosis related afflictions in the population of the target areas. This project has been approved for implementation by the GoK. The project is being implemented by BAIF Institute for Rural Development-Karnataka (BIRD-K).

While attempting the implementation of the above project, both BIRD-K and Arghyam realized that there is scope for taking up a systematic investigation and documentation of various related aspects linked to Fluorosis. Hence, Arghyam decided to incorporate certain additional activities & interventions to supplement the Sachetana Project. In addition the information generated in implementation of SACHETANA project will be utilized for documentation and analysis.

The Project will be implemented in four years starting from June 2006 till end of May 2010.







**Implementing Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting**

Arghyam took up a pilot project in 2 schools in Bagalkot district. The project involved setting up rainwater harvesting systems in these schools. The maintenance and ownership of the RWH system lies with the SDMC (School Development Monitoring Committee) and student cabinet (exclusively formed for the purpose).

**Translating a Book on Indigenous Water Harvesting Practices**

In 2005-06, CDL undertook the research, compilation and documentation of 20 traditional practices in water conservation in Karnataka. Each of the systems is based on local practices, which have not only sustained communities through centuries, but also ensured that water continued to be managed and conserved in an equitable manner. Each article outlines the system of management, impact, history, evolution, variations, similar practices and the role of the community in managing the system as well as the voice of the community. The articles are supported with technical drawings, line diagrams and photographs, where appropriate and the book is titled "Nashisuttiruva Neerina Gnana Karnataka Paaramparika Jala Samrakshana Vidhaanagalu" (Dying Water Wealth - A Know-How of Karnataka's

Traditional Water Harvesting Systems)".

CDL proposed to translate the content and publish the book in English for a wider audience. While there is keen interest amongst the English readers for information of this nature, it is important that the concept of traditional management systems of water and the importance of this approach is reiterated and propagated. Arghyam felt this knowledge could be disseminated very well through the Portal.

The translation of the book has been done and it is now in the final stages of its development.

**Holistic Water Management Project in Bundelkhand Region**



Arghyam is supporting a holistic water management project in 10 villages in two blocks of Tikamgarh and Jhansi district in the Bundelkhand region. The Project will put in place the integrated approaches for water & wastewater management in select villages in the region. The project is being implemented by Development Alternatives (DA).

The project involves producing a status report to serve as base line covering present water sources, availability quality, stakeholder profile, existing institutional management systems etc.

DA will also provide Infrastructure and establish suitable Institutional Systems for assured water supply in a sustainable manner in the selected villages. Finally, a set of reliable and sustainable options for water augmentation, assured supply and wastewater management in an enterprise mode with a potential to create livelihoods at local level will be developed.

The Project will be implemented in two years starting from July 2006 till end of June 2008.

**Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting in Bodhgaya Block, Gaya District, Bihar**

Arghyam has supported a Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) Project in five villages of Bodhgaya block, Gaya district in the state of Bihar. This includes a storage tank, pipe system for water collection (gutters, valves, bends etc.) and water filtration unit. Building the capacity of the Disha field staff and the beneficiary community in the selected villages, forms part of the Project. In the first year, Disha itself will be responsible for the technical maintenance of the systems.

This project was designed to catch the rainfall of the year 2006 starting from June to October (Ashadh, Sawan, Bahdo and Asij). This is to fulfill the water requirements at individual level throughout the year. Excess water is being recharged into the ground through recharge tube well.

The project stands completed.



**Facilitating Community Management Practices for Ensuring Sustainable Domestic Water, Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu**

Arghyam is supporting Gandhigram Trust in its effort towards ensuring community management practices on a sustainable basis for providing domestic water to the communities in 4 Panchayats in Athoor Block. This project aims at creating sensitivity towards the maintenance of water supply installations at village level. This is to be addressed by capacitating the Village Panchayats to perform their duties and to enforce the Acts and Government Orders. Training in village administration, financial management at village Panchayat, health and hygiene, environmental protection, maintenance of hand pumps, operation of power pumps are some of the areas where the project would focus.

The Project will be implemented in 15 months starting from November 2006 till end of January 2008.

**Organizing a Conference on Integrated River Basin Management**

The Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act (MWRRA) 2005 holds immense promise as the first step towards institutionalizing IWRM in India. The key transformation through the Act is the restructuring of Irrigation Development Corporations (IDCs) into River Basin Agencies (RBAs) and managing water use entitlements. World over, River Basin Organizations (RBOs) are paving way for equitable and sustainable water resources development. Many RBOs have also initiated ecosystems approach to Water resource management.







This was made possible only through repeated discussions and negotiations with a multi stakeholder forum that sought participation from all strata of society.

Hence, Arghyam is partnering with Gomukh Trust for organizing a Conference titled "Dialogue on negotiated IRBM and enabling legislative instruments"- with reference to Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act (MWRRA).

The conference is being organized from 9-11 April 2007.

**Implementing Sustainable WASH initiatives through PRIs & Women Federations**



Arghyam is supporting Gramalaya in its effort towards provision of protected water, water resources management, and maintenance of assets with the active cooperation of the Panchayat level federation and Panchayat Raj Institutions in the 28 Panchayats in Thottiam Block of Tiruchirapalli district. Gramalaya is already working in the same block providing drinking water and sanitation and training in health education with funds from WaterAid, Delhi. Panchayat Raj Institutions and the Panchayat level federation in this block will be involved in planning, execution and supervision for the development of water sources and health and social upliftment of the target community.

The Project will be implemented in one year starting from November 2006 till end of October 2007.

**Research Fellowship for Water-Related Research**

Arghyam is supporting water-related research through KVN involving Post-Graduate Students from the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS), Bangalore. The Project is titled "Water in agriculture: Development of technologies for conservation, recycling and efficient utilization".

The work proposed in this Project is expected to generate information/technology that will potentially serve a large population. The experience gained would have application in other parts of the state too. The project has two sub-projects that would be carried out in Bangalore-Rural district. The two sub-projects proposed in the Project would lead to development of approaches/technologies that would lead to:

- 1) Non-consumptive use of water in rice cultivation through development of suitable rice-cultivars for semi-irrigated condition.
- 2) Utilization of human liquid waste as source of plant nutrients in agriculture.

The total duration of the project is three years starting from the academic year 2006-2007.



**Integrated Domestic Water Management Project**



Arghyam is supporting an Integrated Domestic Water Management Project of MYRADA. The need for developing an integrated approach to domestic water management is basic idea of the project. The objective is to ensure all the domestic needs (not just a few) are met fully. The project also involves constructing household eco-san toilets for the target group.

The major limiting factor in many villages is the availability of water. The strategy therefore includes

- a) Provision to increase the supply of water in cases where all the needs are not met; this can be done through roof water collection, increasing the capacity and improving the quality of surface water sources for domestic use and replenishing underground water sources,
- b) Education - including sanctions to ensure that water is not wasted. This also includes metering and volumetric tariff to be set up based on the Operation and Maintenance costs incurred.
- c) Equity - provision of water to all households and to all members within a household the issue of gender bias emerges here.

The Project will be implemented in 18 months starting from August 2006 till end of January 2008.

**Maegh Pyne Abhiyan**

Maegh Pyne Abhiyan (Cloud Water Campaign) was planned to inculcate the habit of adopting rainwater harvesting as a low cost technology with high returns. This is particularly helpful during water stress circumstances at times of floods amongst the temporarily displaced communities. It also encourages innovation for meeting potable, non-potable and agricultural water needs.

During floods, women are the worst hit. Lack of clean drinking water and sanitation facilities along with inadequate health facilities (especially during pregnancy) makes it an inhuman existence for them. The death toll among women and infants tends to increase during the floods. According to people one of the most serious problems faced by them was of their inability to access safe drinking water. Most of the existing hand pumps during floods get submerged in water or else get silted up or are damaged by the gush of the floodwaters.

Since the displaced families were living in restricted space on embankments, constructing new structures for RWH was not viable. Hence, the project used simple methods to divert water falling on the temporary shelters (built using polythene sheets and bamboo rods) into containers like pots or buckets.

The project was completed in December 2006.







**Providing Drinking Water to Tribal Villages**

Arghyam is supporting a project by NM Sadguru Foundation for Providing Drinking Water to Tribal Villages. A well has been built downstream of the checkdam that is used to supply drinking water to tribal village. The aquifer is isolated and used for drinking water (DW) purposes only, not for agricultural purposes. A component of the system, a checkdam built for agricultural purposes, is being used conjunctively for DW purposes.

NMSWDF has proposed to develop a community managed sustainable rural water supply model for Dahod and Jhalawar districts of Gujarat and Rajasthan respectively. The proposed model is aspiring to institutionalize a community based water supply system that will ensure perennial water availability to the local habitation by tapping the existing water harvesting structures, for instance masonry check dams that were constructed by NMSWDF in their previous interventions. In this programme, NMSWDF proposes to renovate and construct open dug wells downstream of the already existing check dams. The purpose of selecting this strategy is twofold

High possibility of accessing perennial water source, which can be used throughout the year by the habitation for drinking purpose

It will be instrumental in reviving and restoring open dug wells, the traditional local water system

The Project will be implemented in 9 months starting from January 2007 till end of September 2007.

**Providing Decentralised Domestic Water to Households in Abdasa Taluk**

In 2005 the Secretary, Water Resources, Government of Gujarat, mandated that WASMO and Sahjeevan undertake the development of Abdasa taluka (the last taluka of 161 villages to receive Narmada waters) as an experiment and an example. Along with five implementing partner NGO's of WASMO; Sahjeevan and ACT first put together a status report of all the villages of the Taluka, followed by an implementation plan in consultation with the people. To implement the plan Sahjeevan and ACT have also developed a training programme for the local youth that equips them in the ability to understand the geological and engineering aspects of the region to identify potential water sources and help the Panchayats and Pani Samitis implement their plans.

The government of Gujarat, through WASMO will implement the plan based on the planning developed by ACT and Sahjeevan. The competent Panchayats and their Pani Samities will be invited to submit proposals based on the Planning document and be supported to implement the plan. In other villages NGO's will be the facilitators for the Pani Samities. However, GoG will cover the hardware costs of the programme only. Arghyam plans to support for the social mobilization, technical and institutional capacity building and advocating the concept for replication. Arghyam will also support for the technical monitoring of the programme after the implementation is completed.

The Project will be implemented in three years starting from January 2007 till end of December 2009.



**Suvarna Jala**

The Rural Development & Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department, Govt. of Karnataka has initiated a massive Rooftop Rainwater Harvesting Programme called Suvarna Jala, in 23,683 schools across the state. The aim of this programme is to provide safe drinking water for school children as a sustainable alternative in areas where there is scarcity and water quality problems.

In this Public-Community-Partnership, Arghyam is facilitating a network of Rainwater Harvesting experts and NGOs who will be involved in capacity-building and monitoring the programme in 8 districts of Karnataka.

A baseline survey of all 3505 schools in the 8 districts was the first activity taken up. The resulting data is presented through GIS maps, with pictures and charts through an easy-to-use interface. By placing this on the Portal, all stakeholders of the project, from district-Government officials to Gram Panchayat members, from NGOs to state bureaucrats can access the information on every participating school simultaneously.

**Case Study on Waste Water Disposal Practices and Treatment Options in Textile Processing Units in Tamil Nadu**

Dyeing and bleaching of cotton yarn is spread over six districts of Tamil Nadu. Coimbatore district alone has 160 bleaching units, 486 dyeing units and 70 sizing units. The small scale units largely cater to the needs of the handloom sector. These units contribute to both air and water pollution by burning firewood inefficiently in poorly designed stoves and by discharging process water without treatment into water bodies. This issue is very complex because the sector operates on slender profits.

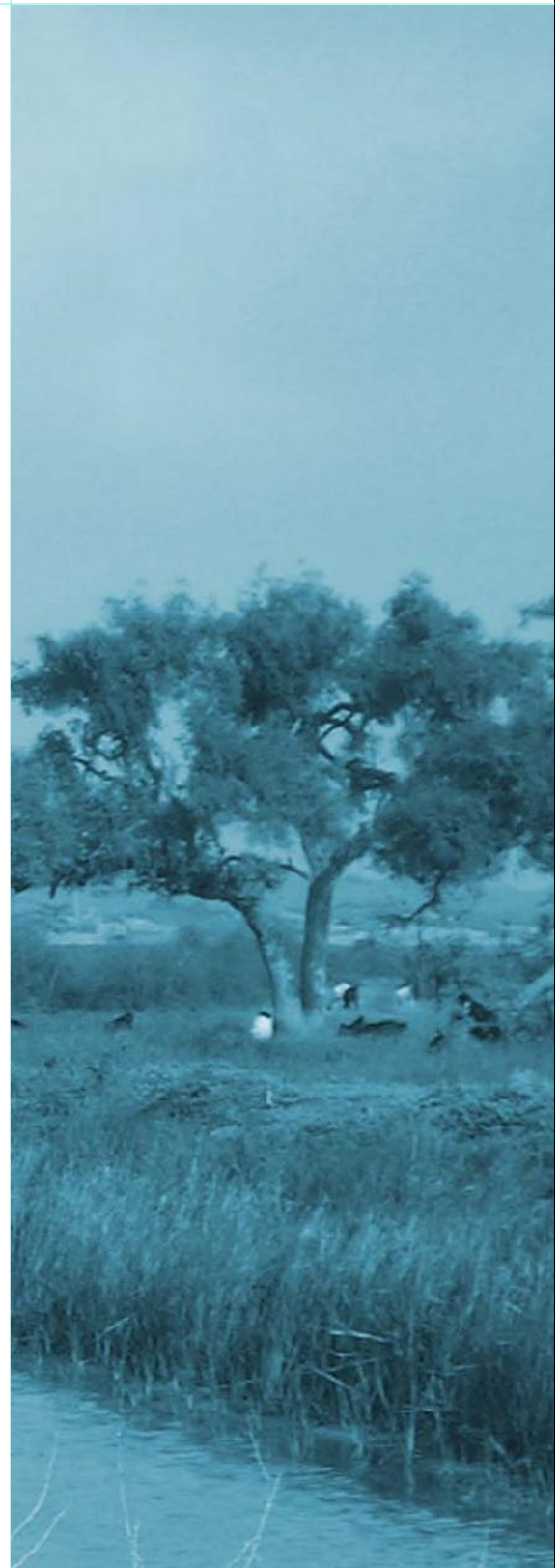
A detailed case study of the sector is planned focusing on water use. The project entails collecting information on the effluent load being discharged from textile processing units for each operation (bleaching, dyeing, and sizing). It also involves getting a clear understanding on the current treatment and disposal practices and the implication of the options on ground and surface water. Finally, a detailed review of the technology options for reduction of pollution load to the limits recommended by the Pollution Control Board including a techno-economic assessment of the options will be conducted.

The Project will be implemented in 6 months starting from December 2006 till end of May 2007.

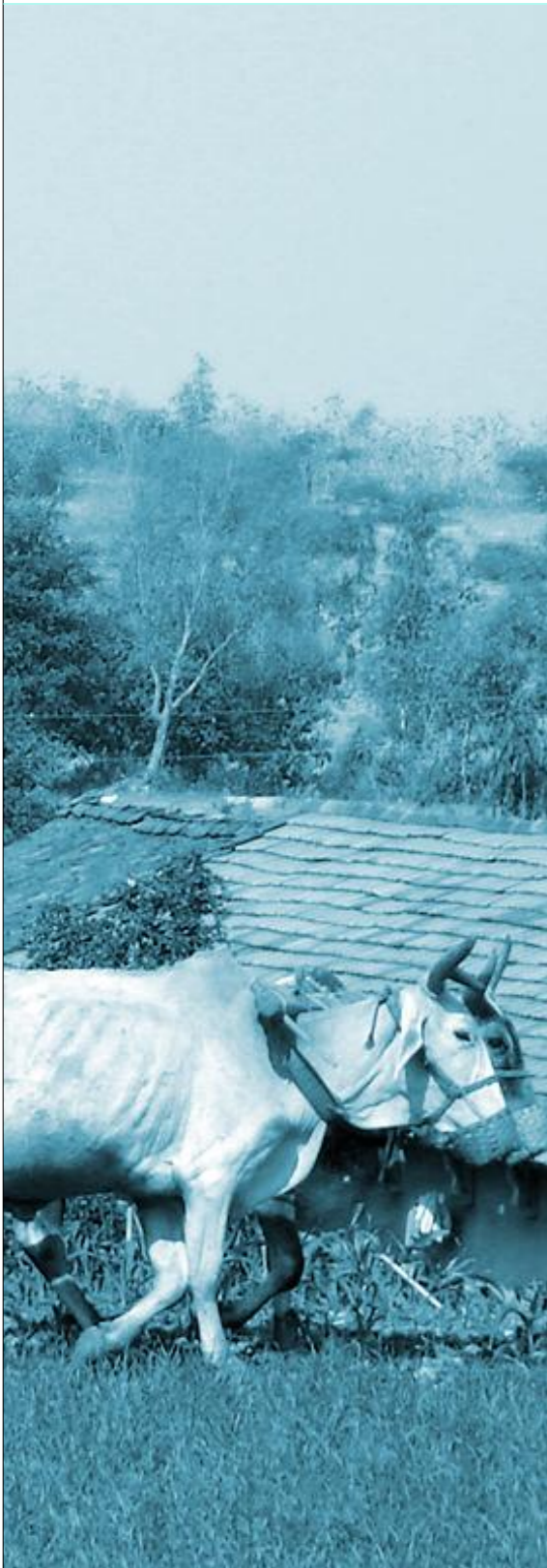
**Chennai Rain Centre**

The Chennai Rain Centre is the country's first one-stop place to learn about various RWH designs, cost estimates and a list of contractors to implement RWH in urban residential and commercial buildings.

The objectives/goals of the center are three fold:







- i) Creating awareness regarding the importance of rainwater harvesting in cities both within India and abroad
- ii) Helping the citizens to implement rainwater harvesting in an efficient and cost-effective manner
- iii) Carry out studies on various aspects of and related to water, their sources, its post-monsoon improvement due to RWH, soil profile, RWH systems that have been put up etc.

The Centre has working models of RWH and screens films on RWH. Posters on traditional RWH and the need for and method of RWH are also displayed. The concept of RWH is explained to the visitors through a simulation of rain in the centre.

Arghyam is supporting Chennai Rain Centre to cover its administrative expenses from September 2006 to August 2008.

**Knowledge development and Dissemination through Learning Organizations**



The project addresses the need for building "learning organizations" at the grass-roots in India. Learning organizations are organizations that can assimilate and bring together insights from diverse sources and contexts and further disseminate fresh knowledge to the most effective agents of change at the grass-roots. They also search, identify and select partners at the grass-roots who could become the vehicles of transmission of this knowledge in diverse contexts across the length and breadth of India. For becoming these vehicles, the learning organization equips them, builds their capacities and goes on to hand-hold these partners in the field for a number of years.

The Project is being implemented by Samaj Pragati Sahayog (SPS) in Bagli, Dewas district, Madhya Pradesh. The project duration is three years, from June 2006 to June 2009.



**Reviving Traditional Water Harvesting Structures in Rajasthan**

The Traditional Water Harvesting Systems of Western Rajasthan is a whole science elaborated by the people of Rajasthan to translate their experience into practicality. For harvesting each of these types of waters, they engineered various structures. Some of these structures prevalent in Western Rajasthan, especially in Barmer are:

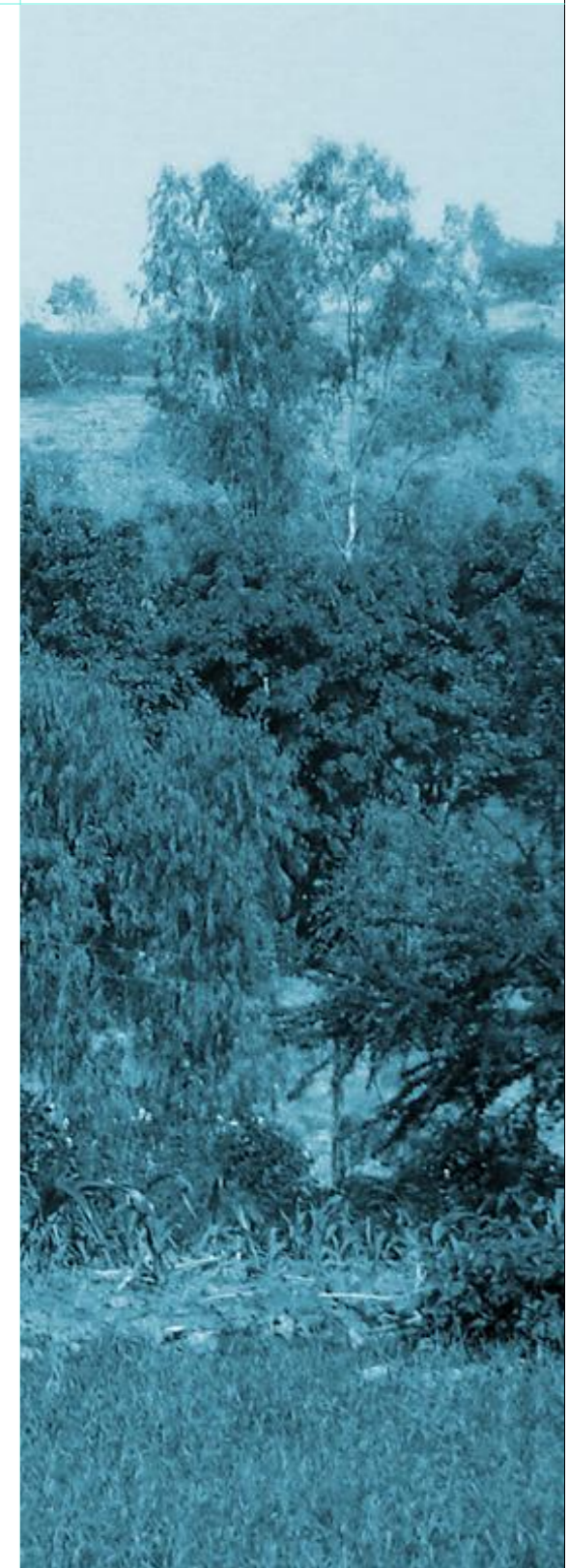
For collecting Rainwater (Palar Pani) Tanka, Tankli, Nadi, Kund

For collecting Groundwater (Patal Pani) Kua

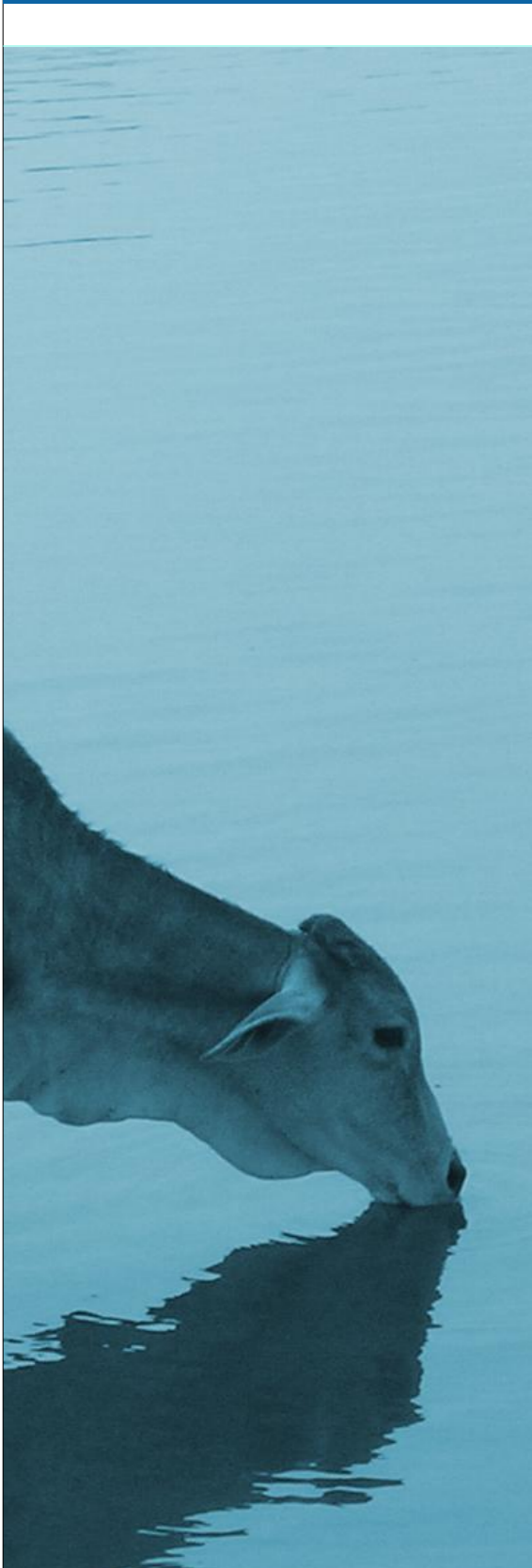
For collecting Percolated water (Rejani Pani) Beri

Heavy rainfall amounting to 723 mm in this season of which 509 mm was recorded over a period of 3 days resulted in severe floods in the region. Due to this a large number of water harvesting structures have been damaged or washed off. As a makeshift arrangement drinking water is made available to the people through tankers and is stored in PVC water tanks for usage. This however is not viable for a long duration. Moreover it has an adverse effect on health through water-borne diseases. Hence a plan to repair and construct traditional water harvesting systems is being implemented.

The duration of this project is one year, from November 2006 to October 2007.







## Rainwater Harvesting & Water body Restoration in Bodhgaya Block, Gaya District, Bihar

The project will include setting up RWH systems in 200 households with a storage tank, pipe system for water collection (gutters, valves, bends etc.) and water filtration unit. In this phase the project will also focus on installing RWH system in the schools in five villages for providing safe water for children. In addition, reviving traditional water bodies like Ahars, Pokhars and open wells will also be taken up in these villages. Capacity building of the beneficiary community in the selected villages forms part of the Project.

The present proposal is an extension of the earlier project. DISHA proposes to work in the same five villages from the first phase Badki Babhani, Jahan Bigha, Badki Padaria, Ilra, and Bagdaha and proposes to install 200 RWH structures in five new villages in Bodhgaya block in Gaya district in Bihar namely Hariharpur, Bakraur, Shekhvara, Narkatiya and Ganeshchak.

The project duration is 10 months starting from first week of March 2007 till end of December 2007.

## Tackling Water Issues in the Mountains

The proposed model is aspiring to institutionalize a community based water supply system that will ensure perennial water availability to the local habitation by tapping the existing water harvesting structures. In this programme, HSS will take up the following:-

Research and Documentation of different systems of Water Harvesting and Management in the Mountain systems.

Construction of Chaals (Small ponds) for an effective recharge zone

management.

- Roof Water Harvesting
- Construction of Water Canals
- Water quality testing and treatment
- Construction of slow sand filters
- Organizing Water Forums "Pani Panchayat".

The Project will be implemented in for two years starting from March 2007 till end of February 2009.

## Taking up Maegh Pyne Abhiyan- II (Propagating RWH) in North Bihar

The second phase of the Abhiyan has been designed based on the inputs derived from the experiences, observations and learning of the first phase along with the crucial inputs from the villagers. The core principles of the Abhiyan remain the same just that the approach has become slightly broad based.

The Project "Maegh Pyne Abhiyan II" will be taken up in five Panchayats each in Khagaria, Saharsha, Supaul & Madhubani districts in North Bihar where it has already started and a new one in Bettiah district.

The 'Maegh Pyne Abhiyan- II' Project will be carried out from February 07 to May 2008.

## Providing Decentralised Domestic Water to Households in Abdasa Taluk

In 2005 the Secretary, Water Resources, Government of Gujarat, mandated that WASMO and Sahjeevan undertake the development of Abdasa taluka (the last taluka of 161 villages to receive Narmada waters) as an experiment and an example. Along with five implementing partner

NGO's of WASMO; Sahjeevan and ACT first put together a status report of all the villages of the Taluka, followed by an implementation plan in consultation with the people. To implement the plan Sahjeevan and ACT have also developed a training programme for the local youth that equips them in the ability to understand the geological and engineering aspects of the region to identify potential water sources and help the Panchayats and Pani Samitis implement their plans.

The government of Gujarat, through WASMO will implement the plan based on the planning developed by ACT and Sahjeevan. The competent Panchayats and their Pani Samities will be invited to submit proposals based on the Planning document and be supported to implement the plan. In other villages NGO's will be the facilitators for the Pani Samities. However, GoG will cover the hardware costs of the programme only. Arghyam plans to support for the social mobilization, technical and institutional capacity building and advocating the concept for replication. Arghyam will also support for the technical monitoring of the programme after the implementation is completed.

The Project will be implemented in three years starting from January 2007 till end of December 2009.

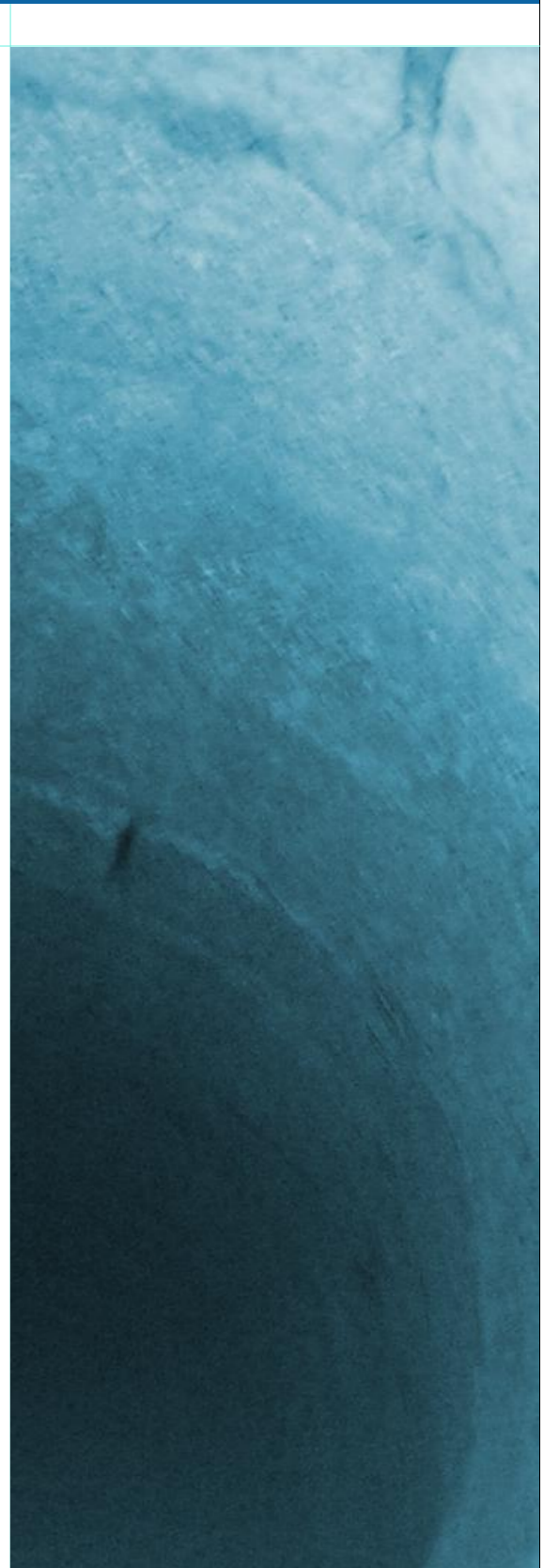
## School Rain Water Harvesting

The available water facility is not enough to meet the regular water need, especially in winter and summer months. Thus there is an urgent need for drinking water supply. In this connection there is an urgent need for harvesting the rain water with support of donor agency and public. This could decrease the problems of scarcity of drinking water. The approach is:

- Constructing a one lakh liter capacity water tank

- Awareness building regarding preciousness of water
- Building awareness about the importance of rain water and its preciousness

The project will be taken up in S.D.M. Mangala Jyothi Integrated School Vamanjoor, Kudupu village. The Project will be implemented in 3 months before rainy season say March to end of May 2007.







The India Water Portal is an open, inclusive, web-based platform for sharing water management knowledge amongst practitioners and the general public. It aims to draw on the rich experience of water-sector experts, package their knowledge and add value to it through technology and then disseminate it to a larger audience through the internet.

We see the knowledge asymmetry amongst stakeholders of the water sector as a critical factor hampering the sustainable management of our water resources. The Portal seeks to address this asymmetry by sharing best practices, advocating sustainable approaches, bringing transparency of public data and information, and by spreading awareness.

The ultimate objective of the Portal is to address equity and sustainability issues in the Water Sector. Therefore, we are actively pursuing alternate outreach methods like print media, radio and workshops, to ensure this knowledge reaches those on the ground who need it most. We believe that the India Water Portal has the potential to catalyse change on a large-scale by this sharing of knowledge leading to improved practices and informed debates.

The Water Portal grew out of the felt need for a single location pulling together various resources in the area of water. This was one of the themes that came out of the First Arghyam conference held in February 2005. The National Knowledge Commission has been a strong proponent of the idea of knowledge portals in various areas, including water. NKC has been a strong supporter in the creation of the water portal.

The Portal is a voluntary effort being coordinated by Arghyam, a non-profit trust that works in the area of water. More information about Arghyam is at [www.arghyam.org](http://www.arghyam.org). The Water Portal is created in a spirit of sharing and openness

by a wide range of partners including technical water experts, research institutes, NGOs, Government departments, historians and hydrogeologists, IT specialists, educators and others

**The following organizations worked closely with Arghyam and made significant contributions to the Water Portal.**

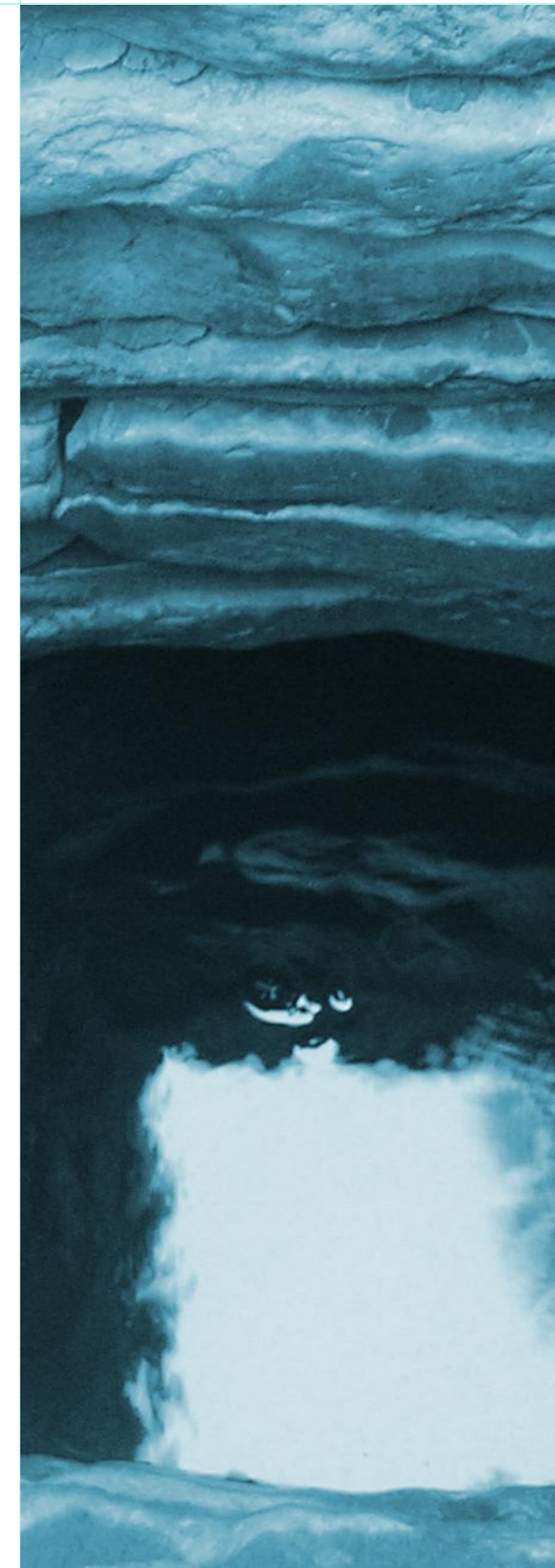
**Samaj Pragati Sahayog** is a voluntary organization working in the area of water. Its central goal is to develop a new vision of development for the drylands of India based on the principles of equity, sustainability and people's empowerment. SPS worked with Arghyam to custom-create some of the multimedia courses on the Water Portal.

**ATREE** (The Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, [www.atree.org](http://www.atree.org)) Mission is to integrate rigorous natural and social sciences with policy, education, and socially responsible conservation. ATREE has partnered with Arghyam on providing some of the base maps and the data for the GIS applications.

**ACWADAM** (Advanced Center for Water Resources Development and Management, [www.acwadam.org](http://www.acwadam.org)) aims to become a premier Research and Training Centre catering to action oriented research for finding solutions to current and future problems pertaining to water resources.

**BIRD-K** (The BAIF Institute for Rural Development- Karnataka, [www.birdk.org](http://www.birdk.org)) is a non-government organization working on rural development, poverty alleviation, primary health-care and conservation of natural resources since 20 years.

**eGovernments Foundation**, Bangalore ([www.egovernments.org](http://www.egovernments.org)) is a



not-for-profit trust that provides Municipal eGovernance systems to improve the functioning of City Municipalities. eGovernments Foundation is the main technology partner in the creation and maintenance of the Water Portal.

**Trina**, Hyderabad ([www.trina.biz](http://www.trina.biz)): Trina worked with Arghyam to create some of the sophisticated multimedia courses on the Water Portal. Trina's aim is to make e-learning work for the customer, in their context and within their framework.

**Apparatus Media Lab**, Bangalore ([www.apparatusmedialab.com](http://www.apparatusmedialab.com)) Apparatus Media Lab is a brand communication and interactive design studio headquartered in Bangalore. AML created the information architecture, the design and the User Interface of the Water Portal.

**The following organizations and individuals contributed material to the Water Portal in the form of software, case studies, courses, data etc.**

**Auroville Village Action Trust**, Auroville is working on technology based solutions for sustainable water management.

**Barefoot College**, Tilonia. The Barefoot College began in 1972 with the conviction that solutions to rural problems lie within the community. They have contributed some of their movies for the portal

**CDL** (Communication for Development and Learning, [www.waterjournalism.org](http://www.waterjournalism.org)) has made their book on traditional water harvesting structures of Karnataka available for the Portal.

**Chennai Rain Centre**

([www.raincentre.org](http://www.raincentre.org)) has been active in the area of water harvesting. They contributed material on rainwater harvesting to the portal

**CISED** ([www.cised.org](http://www.cised.org)) has provided articles and papers on bio-diversity and forests for the Portal.

Development Alternatives Development Alternatives ([www.devalt.org](http://www.devalt.org)) which aims to promote sustainable national development has provided information on their network of partner organizations working on water.

Development Promotion Group, Chennai ([www.dpgsulo.com](http://www.dpgsulo.com)) put together the Sanitation Manual for the website

**Dhan Foundation** ([www.dhan.org](http://www.dhan.org)). The Dhan Foundation has provided content on tank management for the Portal.

**DISHA** ([www.dishaindia.org](http://www.dishaindia.org)), working with rural communities in Bihar has provided material on their work in rainwater harvesting.

**Gandhigram Rural Trust** ([www.gandhigram.org](http://www.gandhigram.org)) is working on rural water issues and has provided content based on its work.

**German Agro Action** ([www.welthungerhilfe.de/home\\_eng.html](http://www.welthungerhilfe.de/home_eng.html)) has provided its book of case studies, Best Practices in Water Management- Case Studies from Rural India for the Portal.

**Gramalaya** ([www.gramalaya.org](http://www.gramalaya.org)) has provided content based on its work in urban and rural sanitation.

**IDCA** ([www.idc-america.org](http://www.idc-america.org)) Members of India Development Coalition of America have provided content and access to water experts.





**India Together**, Bangalore (www.indiatogether.org) gave permission to link to articles on their site

**Indianngos.com** -Information on organizations working in water was obtained from this site

**Megh Pyne Abhiyan** Members in this project have provided brochures and fliers on rainwater harvesting in flood-affected areas.

**MYRADA** ( www.myrada.org ) has provided content on rainfed agricultural practices which has been compiled into a manual.

**Rainwater Clu**, Bangalore, (www.rainwaterclub.org) Bangalore has provided a large amount of content and photographs on water for the Portal.

**Sadguru Foundation** (www.nmsadguru.org) has provided content based on its work for the Portal.

**Sahajeevan** has provided content based on its work for the Portal

**Sirithulli** (www.siruthuli.org) has provided a slideshow and movie on reviving urban water bodies based on its work in Coimbatore

**Spinfo** (www.spinfosoft.com) has provided mapping data that made it possible for some of the GIS applications to work.

**TIDE** (www.tide-india.org) has provided content based on its work in wastewater management.

**Tyndall Center for Climate Change Research**, Norwich, UK, ( www.tyndall.ac.uk) provided the data for

the Meteorological Data application

**WRI** (World Resources Institute, www.wri.org) has provided maps and content on the major River Basins in India

**The following government agencies have provided material and data for the Water Portal**

**CGWA** Data on ground water like depth, recharge and abstraction were obtained from the CGWA site.

**CPCB** Data on water pollution like BOD, COD and other contaminations were obtained from CPCB documents.

**Planning Commission** of the Government of India has provided their database of NGOs for the Organization Locator application

**Rural Development** and Panchayati Raj Department, Government of Karnataka has given the village-level data for all of Karnataka to be used on the Portal.

**State Resource Center-Karnataka**, Mysore has provided a book on Rainwater Harvesting

Survey of India . Base maps for the GIS applications.

**The following individuals contributed to the portal:**

**Anupam Mishra** He has contributed his books for the Portal. His talk in Bangalore earlier this year was made into a course for the portal

**Claire Arni** and Oriole Henri They have contributed the culture write ups and photographs for the Cauvery Basin

**Subramaniam Sastry** wrote the software for the News portion of the website. Reinier Kernkamp also helped with this

**Vishal Kiritkumar Mehta** created the Meteorological Data application as part of his Ph.D research work at Cornell University, USA, with assistance from a fellowship from Arghyam.

**Suvarna Jala Partners:**

Partners in the implementation of the Suvarna Jala are Geo Rainwater Board, CART, Prerana, BIRD-K and several other NGOs and organizations.





## THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Arghyam's first Annual Conference, held on 23-24 February 2006, saw participants from all over the country giving their inputs. As a new player in the water sector, we were seeking to learn from those with experience, and to incorporate feedback into our future endeavors.

Our goal in organizing this conference was to bring together the collective wisdom of leaders in the water sector to answer several questions: What is the knowledge that you would like to see shared from your experiences? How do you think this sharing should happen? How would you address the knowledge asymmetry in your area? How is the last woman to be reached? How can disparate groups work cohesively to achieve immediate community objectives and broader national objectives? Can the digital medium provide a platform for experience exchange? Does this all actually tie into addressing the essential human right of safe, sufficient water for living?

The conference had three main components:

1. Presentations by Arghyam staff about our vision and the India Water Portal effort, followed by participant feedback;
2. Breakout group discussions and presentations within the 3 topic areas of Agriculture, Domestic Water, and Research; and
3. Presentations by several professionals about their work and insights in this field.

The work of the three breakout groups was well moderated, summarized, and presented by the Chairs for each respective group: Dr. Mihir Shah of SPS for Agriculture, K.J. Joy of SOPPECOM for Domestic Water, and Dr. Sanjiv Phansalkar of IWMI for Research.

The presentations made were very insightful. Sunita Narain of CSE, Dr. Vaidyanathan of MIDS, Dr. L.C. Jain, Dr. Sadagopan of IIIT-B, Rajendra Singh of TBS, Harnath Jagawath of Sadguru Foundation, Anil Shah of DSC, Ramya Gopalan of UNDP, K.J. Joy of SOPPECOM, George Varughese of DA, Prashanth Hedao of Auroville, Dr. Hegde of BAIF, A. Gurunathan of DHAN Foundation, Vanitha Mohan of Siruthuli, and Eklavya Prasad were some of the speakers.

Dr. Sharad Lele of CISED, Vasudha Pangare of the World Water Institute, and Dr. Ashok Jaitly of TERI took on the role of session moderators.

The feedback to Arghyam on the Water Portal Concept was extremely helpful. Because of the diverse experiences and perspectives of the conference participants, we received feedback from many angles.

## THE WAY FORWARD

Arghyam intends to begin the next financial year (2007-2008) with its second Annual Conference. The Conference is titled "Urban Water 3600: Envisioning appropriate models for Indian cities". For Arghyam, this 2nd Annual Conference is the beginning of a commitment to the Urban Water Sector. We intend to use the conference outcomes as inputs into our strategy for the Urban Water Sector which we intend to sustain over a period of time.

Towards the end of FY 2006-2007, we have been receiving several proposals for interesting projects. With several considerations in mind, these projects are being evaluated and we hope to be able to fund more projects in the coming year.

Post-launch, we have been working on a dissemination strategy for the Portal. We hope to reach out to a larger group through the internet as well as other media. We also realize the need to enrich the content on the portal. We are keen to involve many more partners to expand the knowledge base and the reach in the water sector. We are presently in the process of talking with several existing as well as prospective partners to help us with the content generation and dissemination on the Portal.

With the Conference focusing on urban water sector, we hope to take our first step forward in this sector. The past year has seen us getting into many meaningful partnerships. We look forward to working with these and other partners in the coming year.





## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Ms. Rohini Nilekani, Chairperson

Ms. Nandita Chandavarkar

Ms. Renuka Rajarao

### The Team

1. Sunita Nadhamuni - Chief Executive Officer
2. Mr. S. Manohar Rao - Manager, Projects
3. Dr. Shashi Kad - Manager, Water Portal (upto January 2007)
4. Mr. S. Vishwanath - Advisor
5. Mr. Ravi Narayanan - Advisor
6. Ms. Nirmala Janardhan - Administrator
7. Mr. Vijay Krishna Manager, Portal
8. Ms. Nandini Ram Documentation Officer
9. Ms. Kavita Sahany Project Officer
10. Mr. Kumar Office Assistant
11. Ms. Bhuvana Manager, Portal (upto March 2006)
12. Mr. Santhosh (upto January 2007)
13. Ms. Debbie (upto August 2006)

### Interns

Mr. Reinier Kernkamp

Ms. Martine

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS