



Agricultural Development Trust Malegaon Tal Baramati

On hearing the word “BARAMATI” one thinks of water fed villages, modern agricultural technology, co operative sugar factories, wine yards and blossomed lives of villages. But that’s not all with Baramati. Let us go back 40 years.

Fact:

The whole Baramati teshil is a drought prone area.

- Only 22 villages receive the water from Neera River left bank canal, few more villages are fed with the water from Karha River, which presents a picture of prosperity and happiness.
- In glaring contrast to this, 43 villages which are at mercy of fate and famine, with neither any hope of river nor any water resource around.

Year 1967:

- Group of farmers (trustees) came together to do some concrete rural development work in the baramati teshil.
- Trustees started various activities of rural development like construction of percolations tanks, providing loans for digging wells, blasting units, supply of seeds & fertilizers of improved variety and also agricultural equipments
- Few locals and foreign missionaries’ donations which was used to undertake drought relief jobs every year. This was temporary measures to manage the existence of human and animal
- Baramati receives merge average of just 16 – 18” of rainfall for whole year further the entire water used to go down the drain.
- Mr. Sharad Pawar and other workers were restless , they started exploring the ways and solutions and thus the idea of “ percolations tanks” make up
- The water flowing through the steams should be stopped and stored in the form of water reservoir.
- Drought sufferers called forward and asked to work shoulder to shoulders to share their dream of self sufficiency. They were paid in kinds (wheat and rice).

AGRI TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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Year 1968

- Tandulwadi Village: selected for 1st percolations tank.
- The work actually completed much earlier with less expenses than estimated.
- This not only solves the problem of drinking water but also provided the irrigation to thousands of acres of agricultural land. It also resulted in the rise of water levels of thousands of wells. People realized the value of work and the new direction of development were thus sought.
- With the help of CASA (foreign missionary) during the span of 1967 – 1981 more than 250 percolation tanks were executed and completed
- Thus a new life- giving movement was started.

To give an impetus to the work accomplished by these group of farmers, to make work permanent and on larger scale, the trust was form on June 22, 1971.

Agricultural Development Trust was registered with the purpose of speeding up the projects undertaken prior to registration as well as following aims and objectives.

1. To popularize and spread through actual demonstration the cultivation of new varieties crops.
2. To test and spread the use of improved seed varieties.
3. To improve methods of crop cultivation.
4. To help develop vocations supplementary to Agriculture.
5. To undertake various projects of water supply.
6. To train and provide skilled workers for industries.
7. To undertake afforestation in barren and fallow land.
8. To spread the use of cross bred cows.
9. To educate and provide facilities to poor, promising and deserving women for earning their livelihood.
10. To encourage small scale industries in rural areas.
11. Agricultural research laboratory to guide farmers. And library providing books to update farmer's knowledge.
12. To organize seminars, workshops, and tours on agricultural activities.
13. To arrange group Marriages to cut and save cost exorbitant expenses on marriages.

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Digging Wells

To utilize the water from the subsoil of the downstream of the percolation tank for agricultural land from drought prone areas, digging well was very important.

To save farmer from being crushed under heavy debts from banks and other co-operative societies. Trust collected Rs 10 lakhs and deposited it with central bank of India on permanent basis as security.

On recommendation of the trust bank advanced the loans up to Rs 40 lakhs to the farmers for the purpose of digging wells, in this way hundreds of wells were dug up as the loans installments were received in time, bank provided more loans to more farmers.

Kirloskar Oil Engines supplied sixty oil engines, pumping sets to farmers at half the market rates

Thus the lands which were once barren and uncultivable now presented a picture of eternal greenery.

Boring and blasting unit

Percolation tank gave encouragement and confidence to farmers.

To utilize this water for agriculture, new wells had to be dug and old wells needed to deepen. The trust started boring and blasting unit for this prupose, this service was provided on NO LOSS NO PROFIT basis, farmers from rain and irrigated areas was benefited by this scheme.

Supply of Seeds

In order to supply farmers high quality seeds to augment grain production, the trust took agency of the National Seeds Corporation through which kharif and rabbi crop seeds were provided to farmers, beside these facilities of ploughing the fields, providing fertilizers were undertaken to help poor farmers.

This scheme was immensely helpful to both the farmers from irrigated and drought prone areas, today trust provide seeds, saplings, and grafts prepared in its own agricultural farm. This project has been a blessing to the farmers not only from baramati teshil, but many others too, both in terms of crop and money.

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Conservation of Forest and Afforestation

Rainwater was flowing through the catchments area not only causes soil erosion, but it also takes the soil to the percolation tanks.

The sedimenting soil decreases the water holding capacity of the tanks. Thus productive life of the tank goes on decreasing.

To prevent this plantation was very necessary. A long term plan was prepared by the trust and village people prone to drought and those with hard rocky soil such as Villages like Saval, Undavadi, were identified.

Today this region presents a green carpet as it were.

Agricultural Implements and Fertilizers.

The Baramati teshil has been rendered agriculturally fully developed today

Collective efforts by Hon'ble Sharad Pawar, Late Dr.Appasaheb Pawar and group of farmers ,has beard the fruits thanks to percolation tanks , which have stored rain water, the wells dug and old wells which have been dug deeper with the aid of blasting , the aid of kirloskar oil engines, and pumps.

What next As the poor farmers cannot afford to buy the ploughs, agricultural implements and cannot till their soil for wants of implements, the trust extended to them at their cost on “ no profit- no – loss” , basis, the use of tractors , trollies , ploughs, for some years.

Mobile dispensary for animals

- To extend medical assistance to all kinds of animals..
- To upgrade native cows with use of proven sire semen.
- To provide information and training to farmers about cross –breed cattle.
- To provide information of animal nutrition

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The mobile dispensary of the trust used to visit 4 villagers daily and about 30 villages derived benefit from the trust. Later with initiative taken the trust teshil got the veterinary hospital.

Model demonstration Farm.

The trust did not rest on its laurels with the aforesaid achievements, India's progress rests on the development of farmers, who form 70 % of the population and earn their livelihood by agriculture.

Year 1970

The developments of agriculture depend of application of science and technology. More than bookish knowledge, practical knowledge proves useful, with this view.

Late Dr.Appasaheb Pawar visited Israel and toured the country during his four months stay. He was astonished and impressed with Israel's progress in agriculture despite its natural calamities and scarcity of water. Dr returned to India determined to explore possibilities of raising Indian Agriculture.

To prove and convince the people in our country, the trust acquired 110 acres of land. In Malegoan near Baramati.

This Land was so far rocky and uncultivable came to be active when dynamites were used to break rocks.

Out of wasteland emerged a fertile track of cultivable land on which grow today various crops, fruits trees, and fodder for cattle. Improved varieties of seeds were used and modernized drip irrigation was implemented for the purpose of demonstration to the farmers, under the aegis of ideal agricultural farm. Thus the model demonstration farm was established

New Irrigation scheme.

The lesson was learnt from the droughts of 1972, 1976, 1978 in Maharashtra, it became clear as crystal that proper management of water available and augmenting the recourses of water was the only way.

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A proper irrigation system had to be evolved, with this aim in view; Dr Appasaheb visited Israel second time in 1980 and returned after one month's training in water management.

About one third of land area in Maharashtra is denied water and adding to this the geographical fact of elevated and uncultivable land, leaves scarcity of water, grains and cattle fodder.

Dr gave up traditional & conventional method of irrigations and adopted new successful irrigation schemes to provide source of water for farms and fruit farms.

Agricultural Division

Today trusts undertakes following work

1. Practical demonstration of various experiments on crops and fruits.
2. Various Modern methods of irrigation demos.
3. Large nursery of fruits to help grow superior grade fruits trees and supply of fruit sapling and grafts.
4. Supply improved and processed sugarcane sets.
5. Irrigation water and soil analysis, fertilizers plants and animal feed & to guide the farmers accordingly.

Horticulture Unit.

The trusts orchard presents a beautiful sight of multi-colored, attractive and orderly arrangement and plantation of fruits trees on large scale, which captures the hearts of small and big farmers and agri tourism tourists.

Variety of fruits such as west coast coconuts, ganesh and Muscat pomegranates, sweet orange, sapota, custard apples, myrobalan (aonala) ber tamarind, jackfruit, guava, mango, papaya, jamun, have been nurtured under special supervision of an expert from agricultural university. It is considered as important horticulture centre for farmers intended to have their own orchards.

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Supplementary Business unit.

Population of India has increased four times than that existed in 1947, after partition.

The land got divided and subdivided per generation currently only one fourth of the land is available on an average per person as compared to year 1947.

Agriculture as a business is becoming more and more expensive that many farmers are not affording it. Add to this the gradual loss of fertility of land that is giving diminishing yields. Unless and until the farmers start business of any form to compliment and support to their income from land, they shall be doomed to eke out a bare existence below poverty line.

In order to encourage farmers to established small and viable business units on the farm in the villages, guidance assistance committee has been formed to tender advice and technical know how.

Dairy Division

Cow Farm:

Trusts' dairy unit demonstrates to the farmers the techniques in cattle management. This dairy farm comprises Holstein – Friesian and Jersey Breeds and Heifers born of cross breeding are provided to farmers.

Dr Appasaheb Pawar conducted training courses and workshops in dairy farming and demonstrated to farmers that a cow can yield up to 20 litres of milk daily.

It is no exaggeration to say that BARAMATI teshil which some years ago yielded only 125 litres a day, today yields more than 10 lakh litres of milk daily

Sheep & Goat Farm:

Trust conducts workshops and trainings to make the farmers aware of sheep and goat breeding and rearing practices. Cross breeding of different varieties is demonstrated and hybrid issues are provided to the farmers, desirous of this supplementary business.

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Trust obtained breeds such as Jamunapari, Sirohi, Angra, Barbari, and Sanen, of goats and breeds such as Dorset & Merino of sheep and male kid are provided to farmers to upgrade the local sheep and goats.

Poultry Unit:

Trust undertook training for farmers in poultry farming as well as procured loans to the farmers for this purpose. The care of chicks is very trying task, medicines feeding and watering schedules, vaccination have to be taken special care of, a little negligence or error might entail heavy losses. To assist farmers intending to start poultry farming units, trust buys one day old chicks from reputed hatcheries and sells them to the farmers after 16 weeks of scientific care and feeding, these birds are provided on profit no loss basis. Under this scheme about 1 lakh birds at egg laying stage are sold each year.

Training:

After providing seeds, birds, and animals to the farmers it becomes necessary to impart training to them in scientific methods. Following activities are undertaken for this purpose.

1. Livestock supervisor's training Class:

One year course recognized by MPKVR, under this useful information in applied animal husbandry is imparted

2. Poultry farming training class:

One month course recgn by MPKVR, provided complete poultry farming training

3. Goat Rearing

Three day workshops are conducted for the benefit of the poor women to them in care of goats, the proper medicines to be administered and so on..

The objective of this scheme is not to breed many goats but to teach the women how to employ scientific methods for this purpose. This inculcates self employment and a source of earning to women.

4. Gardener's Course:

One year course recognized by MPKVR, under this useful information on how to tend and care for lands, gardens, plants and so on is imparted.

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Sericulture unit:

Trust earmarked this project in 1990, to provide source of employment to old age, men, women, young men, and women, who can work without much of the training. Preparatory tillage was undertaken for the mulberry plantation, a self contained and well equipped unit or centre for sericulture has been set up at the trusts malegoan farm

Where right from the mulberry cultivation one can see rearing of silk worms from production of cocoons, reeling doubling and twisting of silk up to the weaving of cloth, The trusts silk cultivation unit it perhaps the first of its kind in this country.

Bee Hive Unit:

Bee keeping is very lucrative and profitable business as supplement to agriculture, it is reported that in USA about 3 lakh farmers provide bee on loan for the purposes of pollination, as a result of bee keeping it is view of experts that the yield from agriculture increases by 10% to 15%, trusts started this experiment.

Alternative Energy unit

The conventional modes of energy generation such as electricity, coal, petrol, cannot be depended upon in the long run, as an alternative to electricity the trust has installed solar, wind mill, bio gas, and other unconventional modes of energy generation.

New Research:

It is well known fact that Indian farmers are wary of adopting modern scientific technology for the fear of incurring heavy losses, should the experiment fail.

They are not financially well provided; the trust therefore has all along provided their land for any and every kind of technological innovative and experimental projects, Some of them are:

- Green House under Israeli technology to help maximum production from agriculture.
- Sugarcane planting as per tissue culture method.
- Plantation of Rosa glandulifera to counteract cancer.
- Bio logical method of insect control.

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Krishi Vigyan Kendra:

The central government's Indian Council of agricultural Research extends help to established a "Krishi Vigyan Kendra" at district level, we feel honored that in July 1992 the central government accorded sanction to established such a centre at the trust.

This centre is boon to many poor farmers and affords opportunities to employ science and technology on their farms.

Analytical Laboratory

In 1991 trust established this AL. This AL provides information to farmers about weather forecast, velocity of wind, maximum and minimum temp, and the like, daily and on the basis, of this info farmers are guided about various crops

AL undertakes analysis of soil, water, fertilizers, animal feed, plants, etc, for the benefits of the farmers at cheaper rates and affords valuable guidance to them.

Rural Women Empowerment

Dr Appasaheb Pawar was devoting his attention to the study of social life in rural areas simultaneously with his activities in agriculture field, Dr was grieved to observe that a woman in rural society has been a much neglected and deprived component of life, in order to improve the women's lot and ameliorate their existence in life.

Dr Pawar focused his attention on women's education; In June 1990 Women's Education received a new Impetus in "Sharadabai Pawar Educational Complex"

Recognition

The Manifold service programs undertaken by Dr Appasaheb Pawar have become so popular that he has endeared himself to the villagers. Dr Pawar established such a rapport with the people of this region that nay individual feels free to apprise him for his problem, or difficulties albeit of a personnel nature and goes away happy with assistance assured or immediately offered. Dr Pawar provided to farmers irrigation facilities, loans, plots in industrial areas and so on thereby solving every problem of villagers.

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1. Awarded by Government of India

Conferment of 'Padma Shri' – In 1990 Dr. Pawar was conferred the title of 'Padma Shri' by Hon'ble Shri Venkatraman , President of India ,with Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri V.P.Singh being present.

2. Awarded by State Government

Krishi Bhushan:

1988 Dr Pawar was awarded the title of 'Krishi Bhushan' a citation , a gold medal, and cash prize of Rs 5000/- by the then Governor , Hon'ble K.Brahmananda Reddy.

Outstanding Performance Award

1986 Dr was awarded the prize for outstanding performance by the then chief minister of Maharashtra Mr. S.B.Chavan

3. Awarded by Agricultural Universities

Degree of Doctor of Science (D.Sc.)

This degree was conferred on him **MPKVPR in 1992**

Krishi Ratna

This honorable title was conferred on him by **PKV, Akola in 1990**

Late Raobahadur Shembekar Prize

This prize was awarded by UOP, Pune, in 1993.

4. Awards / Prizes from various Institutions

Vasantrao Naik Prize

This cash prize of Rs 1 lakh was given to Dr by former Loksabha Speaker Hon'ble Mr Balram Jakhar.

Jamanalal Bajaj Award:

This award comprising a gold medal, citation, and cash prize of Rs 2 Lakh was presented to him in 1993 by **Bharat Ratna J.R.D. Tata.**

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To Conclude:

- 70 to 75 % of Indian Population lives in rural villages.
- On realizing their difficulties and needs we feel there is still many things than can be done for these people.
- The trust has been concentrating its efforts all along for the overall upliftment of the farmers in rural villages.
- 90% of the rural community earns it's livelihood from agriculture directly or indirectly.
- To improve the standard of living of the rural people there is need to improve and increased the per capita production from farmers land. for this new science and technology will have to implemented in their farms.
- The rural youth particularly the school drop outs and educational backward neglected rural women constitute more than 50% of our rural population.
- Unless we undertake welfare activity for this section of the community social upliftment remains uncompleted.

The **Agricultural Development Trust** has always been diverting its efforts as per the changing needs of the section of the social fabric; the trust shall continue to do the same...

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