

WeSURE Program - Aurangabad - Implementation Phase - Demand Side Interventions - Water for Enabling Sustainable Reforms.

This phase aims at Improved Climate Smart Water Resource Management for Sustainable Livelihoods (2019-2020)

During the supply side intervention phase the study clearly shows despite undertaking various supply side measures, water resource crisis will prevail, and solutions need to focus on demand side alongwith enhanced awareness leading to a behavioural change. Further, there remains a need to move towards diversified agricultural practices, crop diversification, alternate crops, alternate techniques etc. and skilling / upskilling for the same that can positively impact the target beneficiaries.

This phase intended to undertake demand side management for climate informed decision making that can provide steady returns from agriculture.

- CII under the current Program is working towards promoting diversified livelihood options that are low on risk, less water intensive, with potential to scale up farmer incomes. Two major water saving interventions were identified that can provide steady returns from agriculture and thereby improve lives of the community- Sericulture and Shade nets;
- Sericulture is a multi-cycle 'crop' (4 to 6 'crops' in a year), low production risk livelihood, (low as loss of one cycle can be compensated by gains in other cycles, and farmers do not lose the whole annual crop as in case of other crops);
- Shade nets are believed to be beneficial on a variety of parameters. They help in the efficient cultivation of flowers, vegetables, fruits, medicinal and aromatic plants, spices, foliage plants, etc. Shade nets are extremely beneficial to farmers, requiring less land, less water and can cultivate healthier looking crops with a controlled environment;
- Soil health card of each selected farmers were made after the testing results providing much needed advisory to farmers undertaking mulberry cultivation. These cards were distributed to farmers in local language after training by the experts on use of these health card. Soil quality analysis will also help to understand if any amendments or mitigation may be used to make soil properties suitable for cultivation'
- Drip irrigation setup will also be provided by program to beneficiaries to promote micro-irrigation system which can save up to 60% of water requirement compared to normal irrigation.

Introduction of sericulture and shade net agriculture practice is being undertaken in the project area on pilot scale. About 15 farmers have been selected as beneficiaries for sericulture and 11 farmers for shade nets. These will act as demonstrating cases for other farmers in the villages that will be helpful in scaling up the activity in villages so that more farmers can be convinced to take up sericulture and shade nets.

