Mission Kakatiya

In the wake of water becoming a scarce natural resource with each passing day, experts have begun to throw light on the importance of traditional ways to store and conserve water. The Government of India has been increasingly placing water security at the forefront of its development agenda by promoting integrated water resource management as exemplified by the success of Namami Gange programme and the launch of Jal Shakti Abhiyan.

The States are also waking up to the urgency of effective water management – one such example being Mission Kakatiya launched by the Telangana Government in 2015 with an aim to restore all silt-filled tanks and ponds (minor irrigation sources) so that the rainwater could be harvested and used for agricultural and other purposes.

The historical importance of tanks, which have been the lifeline of the region but became extinct due to pressures of urbanization and industrialization, was kept in mind while launching Mission Kakatiya. The topography and rainfall pattern in Telangana make tank irrigation an ideal type of irrigation by storing and regulating water flow for agricultural use, particularly paddy cultivation.

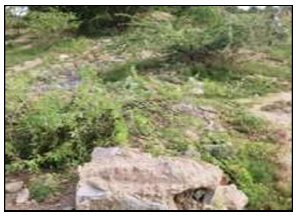
Before the launch of Mission Kakatiya, a census was conducted which found that there were 46531 water bodies with about 5000 chain link tanks in the State. The Mission envisaged to repair and rejuvenate 9,300 minor irrigation tanks every year through de-silting, restoration of feeder channels, re-sectioning of irrigation channels, repairs to cross masonry and cross drainage structures, repairs of bunds etc.

By 2018, about 17859 water bodies were restored and around 12.47 lakh acres of command area stabilized. This resulted in increased agricultural production, showing a record irrigation during the year 2016-17, irrigating an ayacut (the area served by an irrigation project) of around 16 lakhs acres through direct and indirect irrigation.

Till last year, around 8.25 TMC (thousand million cubic feet) of storage capacity had been restored and 2322 lakhs cubic meters of silt had been removed, with local people's help, from 26551 tanks, that saved Rs. 900 crore of public money.

Around 27 crores of fingerlings (a young and small fish, especially a small salamon) were dropped in 3939 tanks resulting in an approximate production of 85, 000 tonnes of fish, accruing an income of Rs. 480 crore to the fishermen community during the year 2016-17. About 20 lakhs of Eetha (Toddy) was planted on 8000 tank bunds. Mission Kakatiya has also increased the availability of drinking water for livestock during summer.

Additionally, one tank in each assembly constituency has been taken up and being developed as mini tank bund for providing aesthetic space to the rural population and for promoting cultural, traditional and tourism activities. Certainly, Mission Kakatiya is one of the best examples of going back to traditional water conservation systems to address the water security challenges of the present and the future.



Damaged Weir

Breached Bund

Damaged Sluice

Damaged Bund

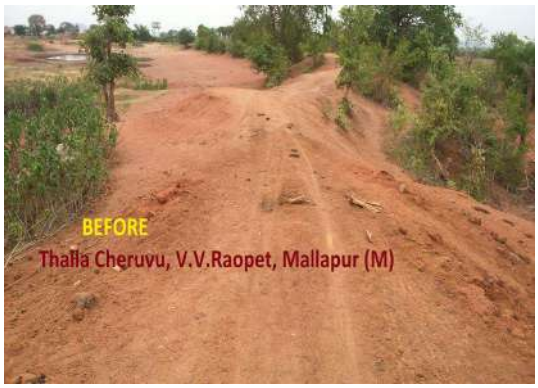
Damaged Bund

Dried tank full of silt

Before During After

Restoration/ Reconstruction of damaged sluices, damaged/non-existent screw gear shutters (water controlling arrangement),.

Before After



Before After


During the work


Before

After

Before

After

OUTCOMES OF MISSION KAKATIYA