

## **Riduzione della vulnerabilità (alla siccità) attraverso la gestione comunitaria ed il controllo delle acque nell'area del Marwar in Rajasthan (India)**

La regione del Marwar, parte del Deserto del Rajasthan, con una popolazione che ha superato i 20 milioni di abitanti, è colpita da circa 50 anni, in forma ciclica, da lunghi periodi di siccità ed è considerata come una delle zone aride del mondo più densamente popolate. La regione del Marwar risulta particolarmente vulnerabile in forma ciclica a disastri naturali e ambientali quali la siccità e la carestia. Il fragile ecosistema comprende terreni sabbiosi carenti di materia organica, acqua sotterranea particolarmente profonda e spesso salina, vegetazione rada, piogge scarse e non costanti, basso tasso di umidità e alto tasso di traspirazione, alte radiazioni solari e regime di vento forte.

Il fabbisogno di acqua in questa regione, caratterizzata da una economia prevalentemente legata alla pastorizia e all'agricoltura, è essenziale ad ogni livello.

L'acqua in questa regione è inquinata da fluoruri con un tasso variabile dal 40 all'80% nei vari distretti della regione. Un alto contenuto di fluoruro causa un indebolimento della struttura ossea: un grave rischio per la salute.

Il prolungato periodo di siccità determina la riduzione dei livelli produttivi, l'immiserimento delle condizioni di vita della popolazione, l'emigrazione verso altre regioni e la morte di migliaia di capi di bestiame. Il livello di povertà, il degrado e la miseria sono in considerevole aumento e vanno a colpire in particolar modo le fasce più deboli e più direttamente coinvolte nelle attività produttive: donne e bambini.

Questi ripetuti periodi di siccità nella regione hanno portato un forte esodo di massa dai villaggi alle città, aumentando la pressione urbana e la creazione di nuovi slums.

Un'ulteriore conseguenza è la disoccupazione che conduce all'aumento del tasso di crimine. Inoltre le madri in gravidanza e nel periodo dell'allattamento non hanno un'adeguata nutrizione causando la morte del feto, del bambino e della stessa madre.

Negli ultimi 50 anni non si è mai affrontato il problema della siccità, per ridurre e mitigarne il rischio perché queste problematiche non sono mai state legate a regolari progetti di sviluppo; il management della siccità veniva considerato in modo isolato ed era impossibile trovare le cause originarie. Le pratiche tradizionali di conservazione dell'acqua, che erano critiche per sostenere l'equilibrio ecologico della regione, inoltre sono state trascurate e sono stati implementati dei sistemi moderni che hanno aggravato le condizioni dell'ecosistema locale.

Il progetto della Cooperazione Italiana focalizza la sua attenzione nel riavviare e bonificare le risorse comuni come per esempio: le masse d'acqua, le terre pastorali, i villaggi forestali e tutte le altre terre desolate, con particolare interesse alla rivalutazione delle tradizionali strutture di conservazione dell'acqua. Il complesso delle attività realizzate garantirà la disponibilità e l'accesso ad acque sicure nei periodi di siccità alle popolazioni che vivono nell'area interessata. Le migliori condizioni lavorative, la maggior produttività dei terreni incrementeranno la disponibilità di risorse alimentari e del mangime per il bestiame. Infine, l'incremento dei livelli di reddito determinerà un considerevole miglioramento degli standard di vita della popolazione.

Un aspetto che trova poco spazio nella discus-



sione dell'implementazione dei tradizionali sistemi per la raccolta d'acqua è il ruolo della donna nello sviluppo, nel controllo e nell'amministrazione dei sistemi d'acqua. Il ruolo centrale delle donne è ben noto; infatti sono responsabili non solo per i bisogni d'acqua all'interno del nucleo familiare, ma anche per l'irrigazione delle proprie colture. Tuttavia, come in altre sfere della società, il coinvolgimento delle donne nell'approvvigionamento dell'acqua si è sempre basato sull'iniquità. La loro subordinazione sociale, invisibilità dei ruoli produttivi e inabilità a reclamare i propri diritti nel controllo delle risorse naturali, ha contribuito alla loro esclusione dal decision-making.

Non c'è dubbio che il riavviare e rigenerare i sistemi tradizionali di raccolta dell'acqua ha avuto un enorme impatto sulle condizioni di vita delle donne, riducendo il tempo e lo sforzo per la raccolta dell'acqua. Inoltre il coinvolgimento delle donne in questa iniziativa è predominante, per la costruzione delle strutture di raccolta delle acque e per la loro gestione. Tutte le decisioni significative, come per esempio il luogo delle sorgenti d'acqua, le regole per il loro uso, l'applicazione delle pene per l'uso improprio, la distribuzione dell'acqua tra gli interessi dei diversi soggetti, sono prese dagli uomini o dalle organizzazioni dei maschi dominanti. Dove esistono comitati separati di donne, gli uomini sono preoccupati principalmente nell'imporre pene alle donne che violano le regole comuni per l'uso dell'acqua. Questi processi di esclusione si riflettono e si replicano in aggiunta ai tradizionali pregiudizi e gerarchie della vita quotidiana.

Il cuore della filosofia di questo progetto sta nella sua sostenibilità e nella capacità di rigenerarsi. Infatti, la sostenibilità è integrata ad ogni livello delle attività e dell'organizzazione del progetto. A livello del villaggio ci sono le associazioni Jal Sabha, integrate nelle principali organizzazioni a livello di Distretto; questo assicurerà continuità nel funzionamento di queste organizzazioni.

La partecipazione delle comunità dei villaggi alla pianificazione, progettazione, implementazione e costruzione delle strutture per la raccolta d'acqua, fa sì che dia loro un senso di proprietà e responsabilità per il futuro mantenimento.

Lo Jal Sabha forma un "gramkosh" ossia un fondo monetario, nel quale l'intera comunità contribuisce per il mantenimento delle strutture di raccolta dell'acqua e per le altre attività di sviluppo del villaggio. Questo fa sì che lo Jal Sabha abbia una continuità all'interno della comunità anche dopo la fine del progetto.

Le attività previste per i membri del villaggi e i

volontari comprendono: workshop, public meetings e consigli di villaggio; pianificazione, realizzazione e relativa manutenzione delle opere per la raccolta delle acque; creazione di networks per il dialogo e la collaborazione con le autorità governative a livello distrettuale e statale; organizzazione di conferenze annuali sul "community management" e sul controllo e gestione delle acque; realizzazione di workshops di formazione destinati a gruppi di donne volontarie al fine di creare e sviluppare capacità, competenze e leadership; educazione dei bambini nelle scuole; creazione di Self Help Groups, al fine di avviare attività di medio-credito. Punto cardine del progetto è la mobilitazione sociale in termini di "social awereness" e "capacity building" che sarà in grado di garantire una corretta gestione e sostenibilità dell'iniziativa.

Questa partecipazione delle popolazioni promuove una coesione sociale, un impegno partecipativo, ma soprattutto fa sì che la comunità diventi auto sufficiente. Una comunità illuminata e attiva rinforza l'auto disciplina per il bene comune del villaggio; i membri, infatti, rafforzano severamente le loro leggi per mantenere e preservare l'acqua e le risorse naturali e fermare la deforestazione, la caccia ecc.

Lo sviluppo della partecipazione comunitaria attraverso lo Jal Sabha, dà l'opportunità a tutti di discutere liberamente e prendere decisioni per il bene comune. Questo processo aiuta a riflettere sui problemi degli altri membri e aiutare nel risolverli. L'obiettivo finale di questo progetto è quello di attivare una comunità capace di "camminare da sola" nel sostenere il management delle risorse naturali e lo sviluppo in forma indipendente dal supporto esterno.

I beneficiari del progetto sono le comunità di 400 villaggi dei 7 distretti, in particolare le popolazioni più povere e svantaggiate, di cui donne e bambini costituiscono il più vasto numero. Viene posta particolare attenzione al coinvolgimento di caste considerate inferiori, tribù, minoranze etniche e religiose.

**Budget:** US\$ 4.43 Million - \$ 4.13 million from the Government of Italy and \$ 300,000 from UNDP

**Project Duration:** 2005-2009

**Project Location:** Luni and Agolai in Jodhpur districts, Pachpadra in Barmer District and Rohit in Pali District.

**Executing Agency:** UNDP

**Implementing Agency:** Jal Bhagirathi Foundation, Jodhpur, Rajasthan



## Project Description

The overall objective of the project is to promote community management and control over water and other natural resources as a means to reduce vulnerability and ensure sustainable livelihoods for poor communities, particularly women, in the drought prone areas of the Marwar region of Rajasthan.

The project has a two-pronged strategy comprising:

(a) Implementation of community-based drought proofing and natural resource management initiatives through a process of social mobilization and community empowerment.

(b) Fostering effective partnerships with networks of NGOs and CBOs working on issues of community management and control of water resources in order to influence the state and national policies and programs on water and drought.

## Project Area

Direct interventions are being presently supported in 80 villages in the four development blocks of the Marwar region namely Luni and Agolai in Jodhpur district, Pachpadra in Barmer district, Rohit in Pali district and will be extended to 400 villages during the period of the project to address drinking water requirements in the severely drought affected regions of the Thar desert.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### Community Mobilization

The project is committed to the principle of participatory management, where the work belongs to the community and the role of JBF is limited to that of a catalyst and facilitator. The basic pillar of the project is social mobilization and assistance in building people's organizations and subsequently building capacity of these organizations.

Regular meetings and padyatras (walks) are organized in villages of the project area and community is sensitised towards the common needs of the village.

During the meetings the community is mobilized to ensure their participation in the project activities and communities desirous of starting a project are encouraged to form a Jal Sabha or a water user association. The Jal Sabha is a forum

that provides an opportunity to community members to freely discuss, decide and implement decisions on construction of water harvesting structures.

The project aims to develop the capacity of the Jal Sabha to enable it to conceive a project, gather information on it, and compile it in a project proposal.

The project proposal is sent to the Jal Samiti (block development committee) for approval and endorsement. A Jal Samiti has representatives from the Jal Sabha of all the villages under the given development block. The project proposals are discussed in the Jal Samiti and those approved by are sent for final approval. It is endeavoured to develop the Jal Samiti as a forum that ensures equitable distribution of resources and sustainable development of the resources.

Subsequent to the Jal Samiti's approval, projects are presented in the Program Management Group (PMG) for final approval. The PMG has members drawn from senior staff, volunteers, community members, experts, officers of state govt, members of Panchayat institutions ecc. It is responsible for all the discussions on execution of project activities, approval and implementation of the micro-projects and monitoring of the project.

The project has been successful in organising and strengthening community groups and build their capacities to address issues of resource management particularly water. The community members are trained and supported in taking collective action, and encouraged to be involved in the conception, approval, implementation and maintenance of water harvesting structures. Women are encouraged to participate at every level of the program.

From January to August 2005, nine meetings of the PMG were organised in which projects were deliberated upon and were approved for implementation.

### Asset Creation for Local Communities

The main focus of the project is in facilitating the construction of traditional water harvesting structures like talabs, nadis, nadas, community and school tankas) and providing drinking water to the scores of water deprived people of the project area.

This year the Marwar region received good rainfall and all the water structures constructed under the project are replete with the recent monsoon showers. The water stored in the talabs



and nadis will be sufficient to meet the drinking water needs of the community till April-May 2006.

During this period community tankas were constructed on common village land situated between dhanis or house clusters. These tankas have an agor or catchment area on the ground and the run off from this agor is harvested. In period of drought these community tankas are also used as storage tanks for water supplied by tankers. Women greatly benefit from such tankas, as they do not have to walk long distances to the talab or pond everyday and have water available near their houses.

Roof top rainwater harvesting tankas have been constructed in school compounds. These tankas serve as a source of drinking water for children and provide good quality water in summer months. The program has been successful in increasing awareness among students on the need for water conservation and environmental protection.

A total number of 54 village micro-projects were completed from January-August 2005 and 27 micro-projects are under implementation.

For the first time exclusively female groups have taken up construction of water harvesting projects in the Rohet Block. Marudhar Nadi in Kakani was initiated by the women of the village and all the office bearers of the Jal Sabha were women.

### Alternative Livelihood and Income Generating activities (ALIGA)

The project strives to promote women's participation in various activities by promoting their access to economic resources. For this purpose Self Help Groups termed 'Jal Mandals' are constituted. The Jal Mandal members save and deposit money in a group fund on a regular basis. The members use this group fund to fulfil their every-

day consumptive needs and initiate income generating activities. The objective of the ALIGA program is to link all the groups with income generating activities (IGA).

### Award of ISO 9001:2000 Certification

The International Organisation for Standardisation or ISO is an international certification given to organisations having proper management systems, transparency and accountability. JBF has become the first NGO in India to be awarded an ISO 9001:2000 certification for this project's implementation. The certificate has been awarded for "Altruistic management of programs that promote sustainable levels of human interaction with natural resources and facilitate community empowerment to ensure their access to economic resources".

### Training and capacity building

A Resource Centre called the Jal Ashram in Jodhpur is the organizational entity concerned with all the training and information dissemination activities. The ashram promotes an active and enlightened rural community by training and building capacity of rural volunteer groups to mobilize communities to address their needs. This institution is the training ground for new volunteers by accomplished social workers and a conclave to exchange ideas and experiences by civil society groups from all over India.

### Training programs

Training programs are organized to ensure that the program remains dynamic, and continually evolves the most appropriate and practical strate-

Status of SHG as on 1<sup>st</sup> September 05

BLOCK	Agolai	Balotra	Luni	Rohet	Total
No. of SHG	2	4	2	4	12
No. of members	24	65	24	52	165
Total savings (Rs.)	1200	13080	7960	26300	48540
Bank accounts opened	2	4	1	3	10
Internal loaning	0	4	0	2	6
Bank Loaning	0	3	0	0	3
IGA	0	3	2	0	5



gies of implementation. The trainings organised this year were:

1. Capacity building of community members is undertaken to promote volunteerism, build local capacity for natural resource management and create awareness and ownership among the beneficiary community. Volunteers called Jal Karmis are given on-the-job training for micro-project implementation. A Jal Karmi oversees the construction work, keeps record of labour work and material used, and also participates in recording and raising community contribution. Some Jal Karmis have even initiated new micro-projects. This year thirty-four Jal Karmis / Field Workers have been trained. All Jal Karmis attended a training program at Jal Ashram, Jodhpur for sensitising them about the challenges of the project and their own role in the program.

2. From July this year an integrated one year Jal Karmi training program was launched in collaboration with Tarun Bharat Sangh. This program envisages to train young grass root workers in the concepts of rural management. In depth training will be given through theoretical sessions and practical experience in the field. After successful completion of the course the trainees will be absorbed in the organization. The aim of this program is to create a cadre of trained volunteers at grassroot level to address the need of natural resource management in the region.

**3. Training on Project Processes:** The aim of the training was to sensitize the staff and Jal Karmis about the role and objectives of the program. The process for micro-projects initiation was discussed, outlining the responsibilities of each staff member, and co-ordination mechanisms. The Jal Karmis interacted with staff and discussed their role and responsibilities.

4. A training program was organized to sensitize the non-technical staff about the technical aspects of WHS design and construction. In addition to this technical training program for Resource Persons (technical staff) was conducted on topics like design principles of earthen structures, rate analysis and project documentation of technical parameters ecc.

**5. PRA Training:** The objective of the training was to sensitize staff members about the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) concept and its application. In this training need, concept and methods of rural appraisal were discussed.

**6. Management Systems training:** The Management Systems Manual describes the organizational structure, role of the different project implementation forums, management systems, project ad-

ministrative procedures ecc. It will be useful in clarifying roles, responsibilities and procedures, and will increase transparency and accountability. The draft of this Manual was discussed with all staff members and volunteers with the aim to invite suggestions from them, before the final compilation of the Manual. A lively discussion ensued and the suggestions of the participants were incorporated in the final document which came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2005.

**7. SHG Training for ALIGA Staff:** In May 05 a process document for the ALIGA program was prepared detailing the steps to be followed in the formation of SHG's. The objective of the training was to sensitize the participants about the importance of SHGs, clarify SHG concepts, and provide training for execution of the ALIGA program. After this orientation the ALIGA staff will be able to formulate essential rules for group functioning, initiate internal loaning in the groups, identify income generation activities (IGAs) and train women groups to keep records of their transactions.

8. Inter block exposure visits are organized to share experiences and learn innovative and new ideas. Staff members and volunteers from one development block visit other blocks and exchange ideas. Exposure visits to other NGOs are also organized. This year a team spent 3 days at Tarun Bharat Sangh in Alwar, interacted with their staff and volunteers gaining immensely from their work. The aim of the exposure visit was to understand the process involved in the implementation of similar projects including the technical and social aspects.

### **Advocacy initiatives**

A sustained, organized, and high level advocacy campaign is required to further the cause of a clear water sector policy and related reforms – the voice of the people should be heard before policies are framed for their benefit; from objects of policies, people should become subjects of these policies. To further this cause conferences, seminars, symposiums, meetings and workshops have been organised.

### **Italian development cooperation project launch and national conference - Looking to the future - Groundwater Management in Rajasthan: Issues, Perspectives & Policy**

A two-day conference at Jaipur was organized



on 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> February 2005 to discuss the water policy with particular focus on groundwater management. International and national experts presented papers at the workshop and discussed issues relevant to Rajasthan with participation from central and state government, research institutions, NGOs and community representatives. The conference triggered a statewide debate on institutional and legal reforms required to regulate and manage ground water. This conference focused attention on critical issues and generated a consensus that all stakeholders have to participate pro-actively in developing a unified water regulatory policy. A draft of recommendations was prepared.

The Conference was inaugurated by Smt. Vasundra Raje, Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Dr. Leonardo Gastaldi from the Italian Development Cooperation, Dr. Maxine Olson Resident Representative UNDP, and Maharaja Gaj Singhji, Chairman Jal Bhagirathi Foundation. The conference started with the launching of the Italian supported project for "Vulnerability Reduction through Community Empowerment and Control of Water in the Marwar Region" and execution of the project document between UNDP and Jal Bhagirathi Foundation. This was a very high profile event, which received wide media coverage and was reported in all prominent daily newspapers and television channels of Rajasthan. The Italian Development Corporation was highly appreciated by the politicians, bureaucrats media and other participants for providing support to the cause of water in Rajasthan which is the most crucial need of the hour.

Subsequent to the Conference JBF was invited by the Government of Rajasthan to be a member of the high-powered Expert Committee to develop an integrated water policy for the State of Rajasthan. Experiences of the Italian Development Cooperation supported project have been discussed in the meetings of the Committee and have been incorporated in the draft recommendations.

### **Workshop**

Mr. Rajendra Singh, Vice Chairman of Jal Bhagirathi Foundation with Mrs. Prema Gera attended a workshop convened by the Italian Government to give a presentation on this project at the UN Commission for sustainable development in New York during April this year which was very useful as it provided global visibility to this project.

### **Solution Exchange Network**

The Solution Exchange network is a network sponsored by the United Nations with support from DfID (UK Department for International Development), GTZ (German Agency for Technical Cooperation), SDC (Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation). The network offers development practitioners a forum to benefit from each other's knowledge and experience. Through the network, members will have timely access to the advice shared by their peers. This network has many communities for discussion on different themes and this project has been enrolled as a member of the Water and Environmental Sanitation community. Such interactions provide an opportunity to discuss issues relevant to the project and gain experience from international initiatives.

### **AWARENESS GENERATION**

#### **Annual Stakeholders Conference**

This Conference is organised every year and is attended by all the stakeholders, community members, volunteers and staff. The objective of the conference is to review the progress of last year and draft the work plan of the current year. This conference acts as a platform for exchange of ideas and gives an opportunity to community members to voice their concerns. At this conference a calendar of the year is released and distributed to all the participants. This calendar has colourful pictures of the project with messages in Marwari and Hindi on the importance of conservation of water, empowerment of women and other social issues.

#### **Special Cover**

The Indian Postal department released a Special Cover on World Environment Day (5<sup>th</sup> June 2005) at a State function in Jaipur depicting the project activities being implemented under the Vulnerability Reduction through Community Empowerment and Control of Water program in the Marwar Region.



## Shiv Ganga Peyjal Pariyojna- Drinking Water Program

In the summer months of May and June there is severe water crisis in the Marwar region. All the water-harvesting structures are dry and drinking water is not available in the villages. This summer it was decided to supply drinking water for humans and livestock in villages of Balotra, Luni, Agolai and Rohat blocks of Barmer, Jodhpur and Pali districts respectively. This initiative called the Shiv Ganga Peyjal Pariyojna (drinking water program) was launched on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2005 from the Jal Ashram with a padyatra (walk) in which a large number of eminent persons, stakeholders, community members and media persons participated. The Jal Kosh funds were utilized for this program. The Jal Kosh is a fund earmarked for village development activities including maintenance of water harvesting structures and to sustain development activities beyond the project period.

In the program water was collected from various sources and was distributed through hired tankers to the public storage structures and the community tankas in villages and dhanis. Jal Sabhas were formed in the villages for grassroot implementation of this program and village volunteers and Jal Karmis actively monitored the equitable distribution of water among all castes.

### Visitors

There has been a lot of interest in this project and there have been regular visits by eminent people to the project area. Such visits provide an opportunity to showcase the project supported by the Italian Development Cooperation.

- Dr. Leonardo Gastaldi from the Italian Embassy visited Kalali village in Rohet Block in Jan'05. The Chairman of JBF and Maharani Hemlata Rajye were present and addressed a gathering of 2500 villagers.

- Mr. Richard Weingarten-Honorary advisor to The Prince of Wales International Leaders Forum (IBLF) his wife Ms. Carol Weingarten and Maharani Hemlata Rajye, visited Balotra and Luni Blocks on 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan.'05. Mr. Weingarten has been commissioned by the IBLF to prepare a proposal for supporting rain water harvesting projects in Rajasthan. He visited the program area to gain experience and ideas on the method of water harvesting and conservation in Western Rajasthan. They also inaugurated a health camp at Newai in Balotra block.

- Dr. Nicholas Grey, Chief Executive Officer of the Wells for India Project, visited the Balotra and Luni blocks on 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> of Jan. '05.

- The European Union (EU) is in the process of giving a grant of 80 million euros to the Government of Rajasthan for State – wide water sector reforms leading to sustainable and integrated water resources management. Consultants from this team visited JBF project area in February 2005 to study the nature of water problem in Western Rajasthan and the possible solutions.

- Mr. Hemant Joshi, representative from UNICEF, Jaipur visited projects in Agolai & Balotra Block. He had discussions with the community members on their role and the steps followed for maintenance of projects. He was impressed with the involvement of women in the program.

- Mr. Rajendra Pawar an eminent politician from the State of Maharashtra and son of Mr. Sharad Pawar, the Union Minister of Agriculture visited the program area and took keen interest in the various activities carried out under the project. He was accompanied with the Mr. Rajendra Singh.

- Mr. Pankaj Khanna and other representatives from Development Alternative (DA), a New Delhi based NGO, visited the project sites of Chiradiya and Godawas (in Luni and Balotra) where wells have been dug. These wells have been dug upto a depth of 400 m but only saline water was found in these wells. Representatives from DA held discussions on using the flushing methodology for improving water quality in these wells.

### Documentation

Documentation work including photo documentation of on-going field interventions, preparation of a training manual and other publicity material has been carried out.

A document titled 'Evolution of water rights' has been published. The document traces the history of customary and legal water rights in Rajasthan through medieval, colonial and post-independence periods. It also studies the regulatory mechanisms and their effect on status of the natural resource i.e. water. Emerging conflicts, issues and challenges in water management are also discussed.

Two new documents "Harvesting Dreams" and "Miles-stones" are under print. The former retraces the genesis of this project from the conference in Nagaur attended by Dr. Rosario Centola and Mrs. Anu Dhindaw of the Italian Development Cooperation and up-scaling of the work of Jal



Bhagirathi Foundation with the support of the Italian Development Cooperation, with a backdrop of the various phases of social development in India from a historical standpoint while the latter will document the progress made in the project during the last financial year.

## **FUTURE PLANS**

### **Action Oriented Advocacy Program**

Efforts are on to establish an extensive network of State and National level institutions and people working in the water sector with the unanimous goal of alleviating the 'water crisis' faced by the state of Rajasthan.

Through this network it will endeavour to sensitize and expose policy makers to rights issues and undertake an extensive public awareness campaigns for promoting sectoral reforms in water policy laws, regulation and institutions.

### **Conferences**

A series of grass root conferences are being in the State with the aim of discussing water policies in Rajasthan, rural-urban water conflicts, ground-water and the recommendations of the Vyas Committee. These small gatherings will culminate in a large Conference on 29<sup>th</sup> October 05 in Jodhpur and 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 05 in Jaipur. These two conferences will be attended by senior policy makers, opinion makers, politicians, NGOs, CBOs, community members and other stakeholders. It is expected

that a consensus will be arrived on the nature of policy reforms required in Rajasthan and a successful campaign will be launched to initiate policy changes.

In February 2006 a Water Summit in Jodhpur will be organized which will be an international level convention on Water and will be attended by delegates from countries of the Asia Pacific and Dr. Hafiz Pasha, the Assistant Secretary General of the United Nations.

The convention will be a detailed 2- day dialogue, analysing and sharing water sector scenarios and experiences of the participating countries.

### **Web Site and Multi Media Presentation**

The website of JBF will be used as a key tool to propagate advocacy issues. A new website is being designed and will be tailor made to act as a one-stop-shop for all water related news & views, disseminating news on regional, national & international water scenarios, and then inviting people to post their opinions on the site, endeavouring to create a wealth of opinions via a databank. It will detail the work carried out in the Marwar region by efforts of the Italian Development Corporation (IDC), UNDP and other agencies.

To generate the right kind of impact in various forums such as conferences, seminars etc, an attractive, slick, self-explanatory multi media presentation that is image heavy, text light and interesting to the viewer is being prepared. The presentation showcase the work done in the project and the various achievements since its inception.