

## Salinity control in coastal regions of Gujarat

### Introduction/Challenge:

The land in selected coastal area is highly saline, the problem is further compounded by shallow water table and frequent tidal inundation. The area also faced heavy rainfall during Kharif which results in water logging that further impacts the soil health. High salinity affects agricultural practices and productivity of land in coastal districts.

### Intervention:

Problematic areas in 15 coastal district of Gujarat were selected for intervention. 12,100 hectare of land has been selected for reclamation. The major interventions include construction of structures for salinity prevention and ground water recharge and soil management for soil reclamation. Project interventions were carried out on 4437 hectares in 2015-16, wherein 90 farm ponds, 41 water harvesting structures, 132 sim talwadi were constructed. In addition, 6 village ponds, 27 percolation tanks and 111002 RMT of reclamation bunds were also constructed under this project.

### Impact:

- Creation of water harvesting structures including ponds and percolation tanks helped in ground water recharge
- Soil management practices helped in improving soil quality and better productivity, this has helped in increasing area under Rabi crop and checking migration to some extent
- Construction of salinity prevention structures helped in preventing salinity ingress
- Fodder availability also increased which helped in boosting milk production
- The interventions had overall positive impact on farmers' income

*Source: Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Success stories uploaded by State, 2018, retrieved from <https://rkvy.nic.in/Uploads/SucessStory> on 1st June 2020*