

Introduction

The jatha was organised to cover two grama Panchayats covering 15 villages led by 10 members. Following villages from Mittur grama panchayat were covered - Chitteri, Bandahalli, Nagasandra, Oorukunte, Kothuru, Marakalagatta, Batlabhavana halli, Veerashe-ttahalli, Minijenahalli and Mitturu. Villages from Agondahalli grama panchayat were Gandhipura, Yedahalli, Honaganahalli. Bommasandra and Reddihalli,

Members and staff who participated in the jatha 'promising water for the community' are

1. Smt. H M Lakshmamma, President - GMO
2. Smt. M G Pappamma, Secretary - GMO
3. Smt. Gautami, Member - GMO
4. Smt. Anjali, Member - GMO
5. Smt. Gangamma, Member - GMO
6. Smt. Sudha, Staff - GMO
7. Smt. Pushpalatha, Staff - GMO
8. Smt. Sumithra, Staff - GMO
9. Smt. Jyothi, Staff - GMO
10. Vijayamma-Member

This jatha was conducted for two days beginning from 7.30 am to 6 pm on both the days with an objective to create awareness to save tanks and a promise to give water to the community.

Objectives:

- We will focus on building back the confidence of the community owned de silting can happen at a large scale across all the water bodies



- In order to do this, we will facilitate the entire process of getting permissions, co-ordination with farmers, facilitation for de silting operations, documentation for government
- As this gets done, it can be shown that it is possible to carry out as well as this will restore the confidence of farmers and community. They can take the silt as per their requirement and need
- The facilitation process ensures an equitable system and sees that all farmers who want silt will get it
- Additionally, the cost of running the operations to be distributed across all the farmers who take the silt and to see that it is made affordable to each one of them
- We will also work towards bringing in some donor support to bear part of this cost - this will allow the farmers to build their confidence that they can fully restore their traditional process of taking silt
- Create replicable models of tank system restoration and management projects in order to impact on government policies and strategies of tank de-silting

- Network with other NGOs, CBOs and common interest groups believing in criticality of tank restoration as a core strategy for rural development and sustainable agriculture
 - Attempt de-silting tanks in partnership with people by raising public donations and with cost-sharing from communities
 - Taking the community into confidence to de-silt tanks in order to strengthen the water systems
1. To create opportunities for the farmers to access fertile silt from the tanks. This scheme of tank de-silting will retain water and will tend to see that all communities feel the promise of water
 2. Grameena Mahila Okkuta being a people's organisation, there is good participation from the community as they have been working with them from a long time. They were able to take community into confidence in those villages where jatha had taken place. People have shown interest as the issue being tanks which would help them strengthen their permanent properties



What needs to be done?

- Traditionally farmers used to take the silt periodically from the water body - this kept the promise of water alive
- Farmers did all of this on their own, with the support of the village elders to make sure all got access to the silt
- Even today, farmers want to continue to do so because they valued this silt. However because of the difficulties of permissions and documentation to show they are following government norms, this happens sporadically
- Additionally while MGNREGA and other schemes promise to do so, and it does happen once in a while, the numbers are too low to preserve all the water bodies
- To fix it, if we can facilitate a process where it becomes easy for the farmers to take the silt they want, then the removal of silt at scale can again be restored and every community will get back their promise of water
- If we can start facilitating de-silting at large scale, then we can restore the community and farmers confidence and also use this momentum to get other repair works completed
- Community management of water focused on community ownership, control and equity relating to ground water resources
- Raising awareness of communities on dangers of overexploitation
- Intra-generation and inter-generation equity issues

Condition of tanks:

Looking at the condition of the tanks farmers felt, this scheme is useful and convenient,

1. Tanks have been filled with maximum silt
2. Tanks have been damaged, tank bunds also not in good condition
3. Tanks are encroached
4. Plants being planted in the tanks

Impressions of the Jatha team

- Community participation in meetings varies in numbers due to their agricultural work during Jatha
- The De silting work can be implement in most of the villages and take forward as farmers agreed to participate in the de-silting of tanks except one or two villages
- None of the government schemes had come, hence this was good

Which are the community members or groups could be involved in this work?

1. Grama panchayat members/ grama panchayat
2. Village elders
3. Members of SHGs
4. Farmers

Questions raised by the people

- Is there any chance of reducing costs from farmers end
- Transportation of silt charges to be reduced

Risk during the programme

- Un expected Rains

Summary of the Jatha programme

In the villages of two GPs where Jatha programme was conducted, the work can be taken forward in those villages where people have agreed.

Observations:

- Encroachment of tanks
- Repairing of tanks and feeding canals
- Chennapura tank's soil is are not fertile
- No tanks in Gandhipura village
- Farmers have shown interest in transportation of silt
- Agreeable to the rules and policies
- Farmers had informed the organisation to clear the encroachment
- Grama panchayat members had participated
- Poorest of the poor farmers may not participate
- Formation of Tank committee should organised by Community Anchor. Monthly meetings should become a norm to regularise savings which will help farmers to use it for their share of cost.
- Women owning lands are very less
- Youths have shown great interest
- Farmers have shown interest because the organisation is in continuous contact with them and had worked on tank related issues
- K C Valley / yetina hole yojane had been given only to Marakalaghatta tanks
- No other organisations have come forward to take up tank related works

- Women have shown more interest

1. Chitteri

Programme started with a song about tank by Pappamma and Lakshmmamma. They spoke about the tank de-silting works to the community and how it could increase the ground water. Thereby how the water level in the bore-wells would go up and could be utilised for irrigation, for cattle, animals and birds. In total they spoke about the importance of de-silting tanks. Related to water.



They said the objective of GMO is to see that tanks are de-silted, so that there would be water in the tanks and it could be utilised for irrigation by the poor farmers. Silt could be used for mango groves and agricultural fields.

Your tank is your property. It will be helpful for all villagers as the lands can be irrigated. GMO informed about the tank de-silting works

- JCB and tractors should function from 7 am to 6.30 pm and per day approximately 240 to 250 loads of silt should be removed by the JCB. Villagers should pay Rs. 30/

per load towards tractor rentals. Form 6 and NRM should be taken from PDO of grama panchayat

- Water should be saved, fertility of land to be increased
- GP member Venkateshappa took the responsibility to discuss this subject with the farmers and to list out possibilities of doing this work and to submit it to GMO. The work should be completed within 10 to 20 days
- Members of the Chitteri village after discussion were of the opinion that they would do the work instead JCB
- Tank de-silting to be done 30 mts away from the bunds
- 26 members from the village participated

Village details

- Area of the tank: 50 acres
- No. of households in Chitteri village : 73
- Total population of the village: 750
- Tanks of Bandahalli and Oorunkunte joins Chitteri tank

Some of the slogans made by GMO

- Save water / increase groundwater
- Save tanks / victory to movement
- Save water / save the environment
- Save lakes / grow crops
- De-silt tanks to get water
- Promise of water to the community /victory to Jatha
- Your tanks are your property

- Tanks soil are farmers eyes
- Protection of tanks are our responsibility

2. Bandahalli Village

The programme started with a tank song by Pappamma and Lakshamma. Gangamma told about the objective of the programme taken up by GMO regarding the promise of water and tanks jatha to create awareness about the importance of tanks and water.

- GMO will take the responsibility for one JCB and 6 tractors as well as the rent of JCB
- The rent of the tractor has to be borne by those farmers who are involved in removing the silt and using it for their land. Rent is Rs. 30/- tractor load
- In this way the work was taken for about 10 to 20 days
- Work has to be done from January to June
- This programme has been taken up with an objective to create awareness about tanks, finance and time management
- Tanks were highlighted
- 25- 30 people participated in the programme from Bandahalli

- Pramilamma GP member participated in the programme

Village details:

- There are 140 households with a population of 560.

Area of the tanks

Two tanks - Dodda kere - 50 acres, Mavina kunte - 20 acres

Problems of farmers

- Village head Mr. Nataraju said that there is no proper tank construction and the path to tank is not there
- Auction was taken to rear fishes in the tank a year ago and one more year's time is there. Nataraj said that village member has looted the money and he questioned the member regarding it
- Member replied back saying that the money was not misused. Pamphlets, drum beating to announce about the fisheries programme was taken up
- Member asked them to inform their problems to panchayat PDO. All these information were given by GMO



3. Nagasandra

To create awareness regarding tanks, a jatha on tanks and promising water for the community was taken up as it is one of the objectives of GMO. This it to improve the life of poor farmers and those with small landholdings, as well as to have quality food and water and it helps to maintain a good fertile soil

- One JCB can remove 260 loads, 6 tractors will be used for this work
- Rs. 30 / tractor load is the rent and it has to be borne by the farmer who will require and carry out that day's work
- The work has to be taken up within 10 to 20 days
- Work period is from January to June
- Details of the tanks, finance and time requirement has to be taken and informed to GMO

Village details

There are 96 households in this village with a total population of 420. 26 members participated in this programme

Area of the tanks

There are four tanks in this village. They are Subramanya kere, Sudugunte kere, Baban kere and Kemkalammana kere. Subramanya kere is 15 acres, sudugunte kere is 40 acres, Baban kere is 5 acres and Kemkalamman kere is 5 acres respectively.

Villagers informed that they would take the responsibility of one tank for de-silting work.

Farmers' problems:

- GP member of the village Sri Ramanna

asked whether his tractor can be rented out for this programme

- He also expressed that they would take up the tank de-silting work and use the silt and GMO to help them out
- GMO asked them to prepare a list of the farmers requirement of the silt and how much each one needs and to submit it to GMO

4. Veerashettihalli

The programme started with a song by Pappamma and Lakshamma. Gangamma told about the objective of the programme taken up by GMO regarding the promise of water and tanks jatha to create awareness about the importance of tanks and water.

To create awareness regarding tanks, a jatha on tanks and promising water for the community was taken up as it is one of the objectives of GMO. This it to improve the life of poor farmers and those with small landholdings, as well as to have quality food and water and it helps to maintain a good fertile soil

How to take the programme forward

- One JCB requires 6 tractors to carry out the work
- GMO will take the responsibility of the JCB's rent
- Rs. 30 / tractor load is the rent and it has to be borne by the farmer who will require and carry out that day's work
- The work has to be taken up within 10 to 20 days
- Work period is from January to June

- GMO is giving this information to the farmers in order make the necessary financial arrangements
- Tanks survey is done
- Within 10 days the list of the farmers and their requirements to be submitted to GMO

Tank details: Nelaguttakere - 14 acres

Farmers' issues

- Member Narayanaswamy wanted to know whether GMO will be paying for JCB and tractors
- Lot of bamboos / weeds have grown in the tanks
- GP PDO is not directly taking up any issues related to the village. GMO informed them that if we take up this work, afterwards GP and ZP and related departments have to get involved to carry it out.
- 8 members participated

Village details : 48 households having 280 members

5. Oorukunte village

Importance of this jatha is to create awareness among villagers about tanks and promise of water for the community. Programme started with a song and the objective of GMO was specified. Through de-siltation of tanks the aim is to see that everyone get good and clean water for consumption and irrigation.

- 6 tractors are used for one JCB to carry out the de-silting of tank
- GMO is responsible for JCB's rent

- Tractor's rent is farmers' responsibility. Rs. 30/ per load for the tractor to be paid by the needy farmer
- The work has to be taken up within 10 to 20 days
- Work period is from January to June
- One of the objective of GMO is to discuss with the farmers regarding financial requirements, so it enables them to arrange
- GMO requested them to prepare the needy farmers list with their requirements and submit it
- Tanks have been surveyed

Village details

There are 120 households with a population of 500 persons. Dodda kere belongs to seven villages and they are Kothuru, Marakalaghatta, Gopasandra, Chitteri, Nagasandra, Oorukunte and Mitturu. Hundred families have lands.

Dodda kere has a total area of 92 acres of which 40 acres belongs to Oorukunte village.

Farmers' Issues:

- Sri. Manjunatha one of the villager asked whether they will get any grant for the tanks and it is not possible to carry out the work in 10 days time

6. Kothuru village:

Programme started with a kere song by Pappamma and Lakshamma. They spoke about the tank de-silting works to the community and how it could increase the ground water. Thereby how the water level in the bore-wells would go up and could be utilised for irrigation, for cattle,



animals and birds. In total they spoke about the importance of de-silting tanks.

They said the objective of GMO is to see that tanks are de-silted, so that there would be water in the tanks and it could be utilised for irrigation by the poor farmers.

- One JCB requires 6 tractors to carry out the work
- GMO will take the responsibility of the JCB's rent
- Rs. 30 / tractor load is the rent and it has to be borne by the farmer who will require and carry out that day's work
- The work has to be taken up within 10 to 20 days
- Work period is from January to June
- GMO is giving this information to the farmers in order make the necessary financial arrangements
- Tanks survey is done
- Within 10 days the list of the farmers and their requirements to be submitted to GMO

Tank details: OT kere is 25 acres

Problems faced by the farmers

- We do not have a proper lake, only OT kere is there
- That is so infertile and do not have proper structure and systems are not in place. Hence water does not collect in it and just flows in various directions. Nobody has any lands near the tank
- O.Kotthuru member Rajendra Prasad visited the households and informed them regarding the rules of the jatha. His phone number is 8095360010

7. Batlabhavanahalli village:

The programme started with a song by Pappamma and Lakshmmamma. Gangamma told about the objective of the programme taken up by GMO regarding the promise of water and tanks jatha to create awareness about the importance of tanks and water.

- GMO will take the responsibility for one JCB and 6 tractors as well as the rent of JCB
- The rent of the tractor has to be borne by those farmers who are involved in removing the silt and using it for their land. Rent is Rs. 30/- tractor load
- In this way the work was taken for about 10 to 20 days
- Work has to be done from January to June
- This programme has been taken up with an objective to create awareness about tanks, finance and time management
- Tanks were highlighted

Farmers' problems:

- Participants discussed the problems as the members of the village, GP representative and village elders were not available for the programme
- Participants informed that they would discuss it in their village and call back GMO and inform their decision

8. Marakalaghatta village:

The objective of the programme taken up by GMO is regarding the promise of water and tanks jatha to create awareness about the importance of tanks and water.

To create awareness regarding tanks, a jatha on tanks and promising water for the community was taken up as it is one of the objectives of GMO. This it to improve the life of poor farmers and those with small landholdings, as well as to have quality food and water and it helps to maintain a good fertile soil

- One JCB requires 6 tractors to carry out the work
- GMO will take the responsibility of the JCB's rent
- Rs. 30 / tractor load is the rent and it has to

be borne by the farmer who will require and carry out that day's work

- The work has to be taken up within 10 to 20 days
- Work period is from January to June
- GMO is giving this information to the farmers in order make the necessary financial arrangements
- Tanks survey is done
- Within 10 days the list of the farmers and their requirements to be submitted to GMO

Village details:

There are 120 households with a population of 1000 persons.

Area of the tanks: Dodda kere is 65 acres and sana kere is 20 acres.

Farmers' Issues:

- To continue the works related to K C Valley
- Due to politics this kind of good works are not happening

9. Minijenahalli Village:



Objective of the programme taken up by GMO regarding the promise of water and tanks jatha to create awareness about the importance of tanks and water

To create awareness regarding tanks, a jatha on tanks and promising water for the community was taken up as it is one of the objectives of GMO. This it to improve the life of poor farmers and those with small landholdings, as well as to have quality food and water and it helps to maintain a good fertile soil.

How to take the programme forward

- One JCB requires 6 tractors to carry out the work
- GMO will take the responsibility of the JCB's rent

- Rs. 30 / tractor load is the rent and it has to be borne by the farmer who will require and carry out that day's work
- The work has to be taken up within 10 to 20 days
- Work period is from January to June
- GMO is giving this information to the farmers in order make the necessary financial arrangements
- Tanks survey is done
- Within 10 days the list of the farmers and their requirements to be submitted to GMO

Farmers' problems:

- They informed that the rent of the JCB and tractors to be borne by GMO
- They wanted to know how many loads to be removed

Village details: there are 150 houses with a population of 1200 persons.

Tank details: Badavanakere is 11 acres, mavina kere is 16 acres, Kallukere is 11 acres.

Participants were of the opinion that they will take the programme forward after putting forth their problems.

10. Gandhipura village:

Main objective of the programme taken up by GMO is regarding the promise of water and tanks jatha to create awareness about the importance of tanks and water.

To create awareness regarding tanks, a jatha on tanks and promising water for the community was taken up as it is one of the objectives of GMO. This it to improve the life of poor farmers and those with small

