

WADI CHANGING LIVES

Beneficiary Details:

Name - Shankar S/o Gautam

Village- Bodiya Talai,

Village Panchayat- Ratanpura, Block-

Anandpuri, District- Banswara, Rajasthan

Resident of village Bodiya Talai of Ratanpura Panchayat of Anandpuri block, Shankar is a marginal farmer. With a five-member family to support, he has a total landholding of 5 Bighas, out of which 3 Bighas is plain/moderately sloppy, whereas the balance is steeply sloppy. He also has a hut and a well with a dried bottom in the summers, dug under a government scheme.



Since he did not have any child with his wife, he got married again as per the local custom and became a father of son and a daughter. For a family of five like Shankar's, it was difficult to survive on such a small patch of less productive land,

which led them to migrate to Ahmedabad for construction work. During the sowing and harvesting times, the first wife would stay back home while the remaining would continue to live in Ahmedabad to earn livelihoods.

However, his fortunes started to change with his association with VAAGDHARA under NABARD's Wadi project, wherein 40 mango saplings and 100 others were planted on his 2 Bighas steeply-sloppy-barren-land. Since it was going to be a source of additional income for the family and was currently in dire need of hands, his second wife and children stayed back home to take care of waadi, whereas he along with his first wife migrated to Ahmedabad for wage employment. Mango production soon started to add around 15,000 per annum in the family

income and allowed his children to join the local school. In the year 2011, under NABARD's educational field visit program for farmers, Shankar got an opportunity to visit Jawahar (Maharashtra) and to learn about cashew cultivation. He liked the idea very much and developed cashew saplings for his wadi. He planted 5 of them in his field while sold the remaining at Rs. 50 each. He harvested around 3 KG cashews from these plants which added additional 5000 to his family income. This apart, in the year 2014, Shankar also earned around Rs. 9500 by selling mangos.

As a result of this initiative, Shankar and his family stopped migrating to Ahmedabad. Now, apart from the regular farm activities, they cultivate vegetables throughout the year. His children are today not only attending school, but are also contributing in Wadi development.

