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## Impact of CSS-RVP Projects in Southern Karnataka

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### ABSTRACT

Concurrent Monitoring and Evaluation study was carried out at selected watersheds of three Southern districts of Karnataka, to assess the impact on cropping pattern as well as cropping intensity due to interventions of soil and water conservation. Net cropped area of sample farmers increased by 21 per cent while the gross cropped area increased by 22.30 per cent with an increase in cropping intensity from 109 to 111.40 per cent. Further crop diversification with replacement of field crops (cereals and pulses) by high value commercial/plantation crops (oilseeds, mulberry, vegetables, mango etc.) was observed with the implementation of RVP. Significant increase in employment opportunities and standard of living after implementation of development was indicated by increase in consumption, health and hygiene expenditure. Many of defunct wells became functional (40 per cent) possibly due to ground water recharge, besides 17 per cent increase in the total number of functional wells and as a result irrigated area increased from 1.18 to 1.59 acres per well because of project implementation.

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**Key words :** Current monitoring, Evaluation CSS-RVP projects

## INTRODUCTION

The centrally sponsored scheme-River Valley Projects (CSS-RVP) were initiated during the third five year plan basically with the purpose of mounting a concerted effort to prevent the deterioration of the catchments of major irrigation reservoirs. An integrated watershed management in the catchments of flood prone rivers in the Gangetic planes was launched during 6<sup>th</sup> five years plan (Erappa, 1998; Joy and Suhas, 2004). Later, both the schemes were clubbed together during the 9<sup>th</sup> five year plan, renaming the project as soil conservation for enhancing the productivity of degraded land in the catchments of RVP's and flood prone rivers. The major objectives of the RVP schemes are: prevention of land degradation by adoption of a multi-disciplinary integrated approach of soil conservation and watershed management in the catchment areas, improvement of land capability and moisture regime in the watersheds, promotion of land use to match land capability, prevention of soil loss from the catchments to reduce siltation of multipurpose reservoirs and enhance the *in situ* moisture conservation and surface rainwater storage in the catchments to reduce flood peaks and volumes of runoff.

The River Valley Projects are directly implemented

by watershed Development Department in Karnataka. As a policy, all centrally sponsored schemes of the Government of India have a built in component of concurrent monitoring and evaluation (CME). The task of CME of RVP projects in the southern districts of Karnataka has been entrusted to UAS, Bangalore, with following objectives:

- The implementation of the project as per the guidelines.
- The role played by different agencies involved in handling the project.
- The quality of different field works carried out.
- The benefits accrued out of the assets created.
- The increase in knowledge level of the stakeholder.
- The increase in crop productivity and income level of beneficiaries.
- The changes in the groundwater level.
- The improvement in the socio-economic conditions of people.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The impact assessment study is based on the qualitative and quantitative information generated with