

# Conservation to Governance of Water as a Common Resource



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- Conceiving of minor water bodies and groundwater as a common pool resource
- Improving the democratic functioning of the village institutions for good governance of land and water resources
- Integrating water conservation and demand side management of water into existing work
- Promoting water efficient agriculture interventions, with emphasis on access to water for poor and marginalised
- Engage with discussions on Land, Water, Forest policies so that conservation of water is the fundamental objective

# Experience of working with Communities

- From 7 farm wells renovated in Bargoth village 24 household has been assured crop worth INR 78030 in 4.25 acres of land
- Cropping area increased by 8.5 acres in Jayantinagar, 13.5 acres in Kumuri and 30 acres in Kantabeda watersheds
- The construction of a water harvesting structure in the downstream enabled 54 households of Sundhikateni village to evolve rules and regulations for effective use of water as commons to cultivate in the rabi season earning them benefits valued at Rs.52,000 per year.



## We need:

- Better information gathering and sharing on the state of water availability, on the nature of demand and its use
- Better systems for measurement and control at the local and national levels and promoting integration of water conservation and demand side management of water existing work
- To build capacities for governance of water as commons at the habitation level, at a sub basin level and at the basin level. We need to build water issues into education.
- Governments, the private sector and civil society to work together and to integrate water conservation and equitable distribution as an intrinsic part of planning at micro and macro levels.
- To strive to work in building strong evidence on effective management of water resources by local communities and community institutions and legitimacy of community tenure as another viable option.
- Reorient Land, Water and Forest policies so that conservation of water is the fundamental objective.