

Community-led Water Management

Part 2 - Getting Involved



What need does the playbook address?

Large swaths of the country are facing severe water stress, largely due to over-exploitation of groundwater and surface water resources. Lower water availability leads to unequal distribution of water resources, lower crop yields during dry months, and issues of salinity and aridity of the soil. Addressing this issue requires community participation and behavioral change.

Rather than designing top-down schemes for agrarian water use, DSC emphasizes on community planning of water resources. The design of field assessments, community mobilisation, village-level water budgets, water recharge structures, monitoring and the participatory approach to water security planning best exemplify this.

Who can use this playbook?

Practitioners, Trainers, Community Resource Persons,
Progressive Farmers, Subject Matter Specialists,
Local Governance Representatives

This playbook is designed using the expertise of **Development Support Centre (DSC)**, which works on participatory water management and judicious use of water in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

These solutions by DSC have been designed and pioneered under the leadership of Anil Shah, founder chairman; Mohan Sharma, executive director; and Sachin Oza, former executive director. These community-empowering participatory technical and social processes in DSC's 30-year journey led to the evolution of the approach to promoting community-led water security.

Today we have gathered to talk about the water situation in our village. Let's see how deep is the water.

Did any of you notice that the soil is getting arid because water is saline?

How many of you had lower crop yields in this dry season?

Did some of you feel you received less water than your neighbouring regions?



If we manage our water properly we can solve these problems of irregular water supply and quality

In this book you'll learn to

- Understand your village's water needs and resources
- **Get involved in water management**
- Prepare water budgets
- Plan for water security
- Replenish groundwater by building recharge shafts
- Monitor water resources
- Cooperatively manage irrigation

** This playbook is **Part 2** of a 7-part playbook series on cooperative water management. Find the complete set here: [link](#)*

2.

Getting Involved

People from the village are the best to manage their water situation. There are various roles you can take to participate in the process.



You can become part of your village's water management in several different ways

1. **Join the Village Water Committee**
A committee of people who are actively involved in solving water issues in the village

2. **Become a *Jal Saathi***
Jal Saathi are trained para professionals from the local community

3. **Volunteer**
Volunteers support in creating awareness, monitoring water issues, and giving ideas to solve them

Village Committee



How to select members for the village committee?

- Committee size can be between 9 and 13 members
- Ensure equal representation of women in the committee
- Representatives from all major communities in the village should be included
- Include CBO representation like SHG members & Panchayat representatives
- Ensure representation from all hamlets/areas in the village
- No person with direct political affiliation should be taken

Jal Saathi



Are you enthusiastic to monitor water issues in your village?

Are you well-versed with the village?

Are you good at reading and writing?

Do you have education till 10th or 12th standard?

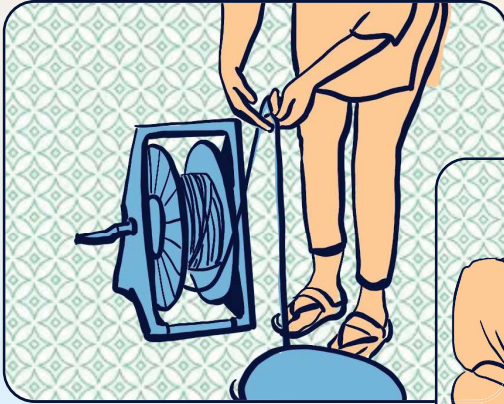
Are you below 40 years of age?

Apply to be a Jal Saathi today and steer the water management of your village

All genders encouraged to apply!

What you will get as a Jal Saathi

- Per-day honorarium to compensate for your time and efforts
- Training for 6 months to become a Jal Saathi
- Capacity building, skilling recognition and networking in social circles which helps in career growth
- Exposure to work with government departments and other stakeholders



What you will do as a Jal Saathi

- Gather and maintain data of water sources and consumption in a village
- Geo-tagging
- Monitor overexploitation of groundwater, pollution issues
- Monitor impact of salinity, hardness, alkalinity, acidity on agriculture and drinking water
- Present findings to the village committee
- Assist the organisation in other convergence activities with government departments and other stakeholders

Volunteer



Do you have ideas on how to solve water issues in your village?

Want to oversee the solutions for water management?

Volunteer with the Village committee
and help the village achieve our water goals!

RESOURCE PERSONS

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