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Socio-economic impact of reclamation of Chambal ravines through anicuts and afforestation

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ABSTRACT

Chambal ravines have challenged all efforts made so far to control and reclamation. Recently the Department of Forestry, Government of Madhya Pradesh, undertook a project to manage ravine land through construction of anicuts and afforestation, which not only reclaimed the ravine land but also saved farmers cultivated land downwards in two village *viz.* Bindwa and Himmatpur. The construction of anicuts and afforestation had a great impact on the economy of both these villages. The impact was assessed by collecting socio-economic data through pre-tested questionnaires and interviews. As a result of the project work, the net cultivated area increased 13% in Bindwa village and 6.5% in Himmatpur. There was rise in water-table in both villages and consequently the irrigated area and cropping intensity in these villages increased by 73% in Bindwa village and 45% in Himmatpur. Farmers started raising more remunerative crops including vegetables as well as fodder for milch animals and consequently their annual income increased more than 3 times. Also, there was a significantly higher employment generation and overall prosperity.