

1239. **Rama Mohan Rao, M.S., Padmaiah, M., Math, S.K.N., Chandrappa, M., Ayyappa, B., Reddy, K.K. and Govind Prasad. 1997.** Impact of watershed management on resource conservation and economics. *Indian J. Dryland Agrl. Res. & Dev.*, 12(1):25-33.

Impact of watershed management programme on resource development, initiated in 1983-84 was regularly evaluated upto 1994-1995. The treated agricultural catchment recorded runoff of 6.91 per cent of annual rainfall compared to 12.83 per cent from untreated catchment. Graded bunds in arable lands reduced runoff by 47 per cent when compared to untreated areas. Consequently, the number of wells increased from 47 to 159 and the water levels improved by 0.5 to 1.5 m with increase in command area from 88.52 to 384.4 ha. Fodder yields increased from 0.83 to 21.25 tonnes/ha in the non-arable areas. In arable lands, the yields of groundnut and *jowar* increased by 1.74 and 1.98 times. The employment potential enhanced to the extent of 15,048 and 38,074 mandays per year on temporary and permanent basis deflecting the migration of landless labour to the urban areas. The benefit:cost ratio provided economic worthiness of the programme.