

113 Hectares of drought affected barren land brought under cultivation through collective efforts

To combat malnutrition in Sahariya community children, by making nutritional food available and affordable for the highly deprived and illiterate tribe, Prayatn is promoting sustainable agriculture development among them through trainings to the community farmers, undertaking soil and conservation activities in their field, developing alternative livelihood options through self-help group development and strengthening of community based institutions. Because of the initiative called 'Combating malnutrition through Sustainable Agricultural Development', 113 hectares of Sahariya community farmers, which was not being cultivated because of absence of availability of water for irrigation, has now been brought under cultivation. The change happened because of multiple soil and water conservation activities and land treatment which included bunding, development of mobile irrigation system, digging of open wells and farm ponds. Important part in entire initiative was the contribution of the community itself which was considered impossible in the past. The process of community capacity building through regular meetings, trainings, counselling by agricultural and natural resource management experts etc. has also contributed a lot in this success. The initiative is supported by Karl Kubel Foundation, Germany.