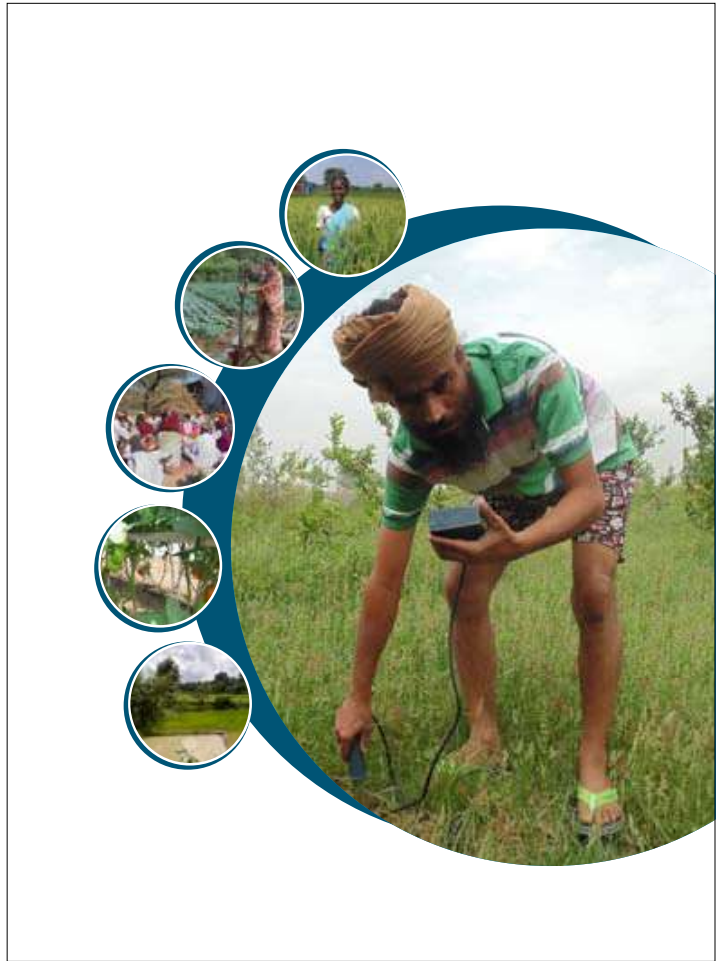




# Compendium

Best Practices on Water and  
Agricultural Sustainability





# Compendium

Best Practices on Water and  
Agricultural Sustainability

### **Centers for International Projects trust (CIPT)**

The Centers for International Projects Trust (CIPT) is a non – profit organisation based in New Delhi and is India affiliate of Columbia Water Center, New York. CIPT works on developing and piloting new models for effective water and energy management across different regions in India. It works towards performing applied research in the areas of agriculture, water, climate change, energy and related socio – economic perspectives and provide rigorous research based knowledge as the foundation for various field based initiatives.

With its strong institutional mechanisms and innovative approach CIPT aims at holistically addressing the issues of water and agriculture in the country through different low-cost precision technologies, nexus modeling and extension methods.

Published by : CIPT (May 2017)

Project Lead : Sandeep Dixit

Editor : Dr Indira Khurana

Co– editors : Dr Kamal Vatta, Parisha Budhiraja and Shweta Prajapati

Design by : Shweta Prajapati

Maps by : Swati Rawat

Photos by : Participant organisations represented in this compendium

**Citation:** Dixit, Sandeep, Indira Khurana, Kamal Vatta, Parisha Budhiraja and Shweta Prajapati eds. Compendium: Best Practices on Water and Agricultural Sustainability. New Delhi: Centers for International Projects Trust, 2017.

### **DISCLAIMER**

This compendium is an outcome of the information shared by various organisations pertaining to their work on water and agricultural sustainability. While utmost care has been taken to present accurate information, CIPT makes no representation towards the contents of the case studies profiled here. Also, this compendium is presented for informational use only and is not intended to be a substitute for professional, legal or technical advice or reference. Maps represented in this compendium are not to scale.

This product is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under Cooperative Agreement AID-386-A-12-00001. The contents of this report are the sole responsibility of CIPT and do not necessarily reflect views of USAID or the U.S. Government.

All Rights Reserved.

Any additional information can be obtained from:

Centers for International Projects Trust (CIPT)  
910-911, Pragati Tower, Rajendra place, New Delhi-110008  
Tel. + 91 11 40565989 | Website: [www.cipt.in](http://www.cipt.in) | Email: [director@cipt.in](mailto:director@cipt.in)

Printed by : Highlanders Communications Private Limited, New Delhi

## **Acknowledgements**

The completion of this compendium could not have been possible without valuable contributions of all the participating organisations shared successful case studies based on their pioneering ground work. Their enduring cooperation throughout the process of publishing this document is sincerely appreciated and gratefully acknowledged.







## Women step out for resolving water crisis in village

An initiative by Mewati women to overcome drinking water crisis in Haryana

### BACKGROUND

Mundaka village, in Mewat district of Haryana, is a small village with 109 households. It is an isolated and underdeveloped hamlet located at the far end of the state. The village community faced acute water shortage adding to the burden of the women who were primarily responsible for making water available for their families. The S M Sehgal Foundation initiated the formation of women's collectives in all five blocks of the district in 2014. These women collectives comprised women who are representatives in Panchayats, school management committees, village health sanitation and nutrition committees and other governance institutions. These women decided to build a water tank for resolving the severe scarcity of water in the village for which they collectively raised money.

### STAKEHOLDERS

- Financial support for construction of infrastructure was provided by Leo and Heather Smith, US-based philanthropists.
- S M Sehgal Foundation facilitated the project in both villages.
- The women's collective mobilised the community members to select the site of tank construction and also provided financial support. They have also taken responsibility to monitor the construction work and maintenance of the tank in the future.



## APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The Sehgal Foundation raised funds for the tank in Mundaka from Leo and Heather Smith. Community meetings at the village were held, which were attended mostly by men. Several disagreements among the village's men led to a lack of constructive communication. At this point, the Mundaka women's collective (mahila sangathan) took charge of the implementation of the project.



They had already been equipped to participate in the development processes of their villages through trainings and discussions held earlier by the foundation. In the case of the water tank, the women's collective went door to door and collected INR 6,000 from the community. They also raised a request with the sarpanch (village headman) for a contribution to the cost of the tank from the government fund. This request led to an allocation of INR 15,000.

Sehgal Foundation raised the remaining funds and designed the model for the construction of a water tank. The water tank consists of a bio sand filtration system for water purification and has a storage capacity of 50,000 litres. Construction was completed in two months.

## RESULTS AND OUTCOMES

The 109 households in Mundaka have continued using the tank water till date. This intervention has benefitted the community by ensuring constant availability of clean drinking water in the village. It has also reduced the economic burden on the village residents. The sequence of events in the project has helped women participate in the community and collectively solve the problems. They have promised to maintain the tank and have also opened a bank account in the name of a mahila sangathan member to manage the finances for future maintenance.



By  
Shruti Kapoor  
S M Sehgal Foundation