Enlightening Rural Lives

Krishi Jyoti project or “enlightened agriculture” is a joint effort of S M Sehgal Foundation, the Mosaic Company Foundation and Mosaic India Pvt Ltd that is designed to help farmers move out of poverty and achieve greater food security in the semi-arid villages of Nuh district, Haryana and Alwar, district, Rajasthan. Krishi Jyoti builds capacities of farmers to increase farm productivity and promotes water conservation agriculture techniques. The project also improves school infrastructure in government schools so that schools have a welcoming environment for children.

Krishi Jyoti started its journey in 2008 with two villages in Nuh and reached sixty villages in 2017. The project has benefited more than 40,000 villagers till date. The beneficiaries include 5,000 marginal and smallholder farmers and more than 4,000 schoolchildren. The water infrastructure developed in villages harvests about 17 million gallons of rainwater annually.

Agricultural Development

Working in collaboration with farmers, the Krishi Jyoti project helps participants improve five key aspects of their agricultural production: soil health, seed and fertilizer, water management, agronomic training and market linkages. With the help of balanced crop nutrition (various macro and micro nutrients), agronomic expertise and financial support, farmers increased yields by as much as 35 percent over traditional farming practices.

Water Management

Water is a crucial component of agriculture and has a direct bearing on the productivity and sustainability of agriculture. Krishi Jyoti promotes water conservation in villages by supporting development of infrastructure in villages to harvest rainwater and encouraging farmers to adopt water efficient irrigation technologies. Krishi Jyoti has supported construction of six check dams. The check dams assist with capturing and storing rainwater, which is then funnelled into the underground aquifer, recharging groundwater levels and pushing back salinity so that water can be consumed and used for irrigation.

School Infrastructure

Education is the key to development. It helps to bridge the information asymmetry and supports skill acquisition. Krishi Jyoti promotes education among children in the villages by offering them a healthy school environment which entails provision of potable water, improved sanitary facilities and a safe building. The project has supported the renovation of twenty government schools in the project villages.
A Village School Undergoes Transformation . . .

Government Upper Primary School, village Doli, district Alwar, Rajasthan, was recently renovated under the *Krishi Jyoti* project. The school has classes from grade one till eight, and has 95 students (51 girls and 44 boys). Major renovation work included repair of the boundary wall, ceiling, walls, floors, doors and windows and kitchen; provision of separate toilets for boys and girls; installation of rainwater harvesting, drinking water system, and wash basin, plantation; beautification and leveling of the school playground.

**Before**

**After**