

PRESS RELEASE

CLP India and Watershed Organization Trust partnership helps resolve water woes of over 20,000 people in 15 villages of Maharashtra

Maharashtra, June 8, 2021: CLP India, one of the largest foreign investors in the Indian power sector, joined hands with the Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR) to address the water issues faced in 15 villages of Ahmednagar and Beed districts in Maharashtra. Water is one of the most fundamental enablers for human development and considering a potentially water stressed future, a project was introduced under this partnership to improve local water security for villages through community-led water resource development. So far, the project, has benefited over 20,000 people and led to additional 49.5 million litres of water storage capacity in the span of three years.

The Ahmednagar and Beed districts have traditionally been a drought-prone region, and do not have any major irrigation projects. The key interventions as part of this project included the repair and construction of more than 100 water harvesting structures such as check dams and sunken ponds, benefitting 264 hectares of agricultural land. The repair of check dams enabled conservation of water for over two months as compared to eight days earlier. The development of sunken ponds solved the issues of faster water run-off and improved the recharge rate of groundwater aquifers.

Special focus was given to address the drinking water related issues through social development activities for women. The project started off with phase 1 in 2017, following its success, phase 2 and phase 3 began in 2018 and 2019 respectively.

Commenting on the initiative, **Mr Abhay Poddar, Senior Vice-president - Renewables, CLP India**, said, "As a responsible company, we have been undertaking several initiatives in areas around our operations to ensure that the villages have enough water supply, and don't suffer the effects of a drought. So far, we have carried out water security programmes in 35 villages across our business assets. Additionally, we also aim to equip the local community with methods to create social and economic opportunities. We would like to thank WOTR for their continuous efforts in helping us in solving the water woes and facilitating the development of these villages."

Other achievements under the project:

- Trained more than 3,000 farmers in modern agricultural technologies, sustainable farming methods, and water budgeting through the Farmer Field School.
- Higher education scholarships were awarded to 107 students
- 37 self-help groups with a total of 454 members were set up to allow them to speak out and support each other on key issues.

- Around 600 women participated in 10 health camps where they learnt about issues affecting women's health, such as anemia.
- Over 100 soil testing were carried out with the intention of giving guidance to farmers on choosing the right crops for their soil.
- A community hall at Khandke was renovated and opened for villagers to rent it for functions at a nominal price.

The WOTR is a globally recognised organization dedicated to transforming the lives of millions across India in participatory watershed development and eco-systems restoration, adaptive sustainable agriculture, integrated and efficient water management, and climate change adaptation, with a special emphasis on vulnerable communities, farmers, and women.

About CLP India

CLP India is owned by the CLP Group, one of the largest investor-owned power businesses in Asia, and Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec (CDPQ), a global institutional investor. Founded in 2002, CLP India has gradually grown its footprint to become one of the largest foreign investors in the Indian power sector. Its diversified portfolio comprises over 3,000MW of electricity generation capacity including wind and solar energy projects across seven states, as well as transmission assets.

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