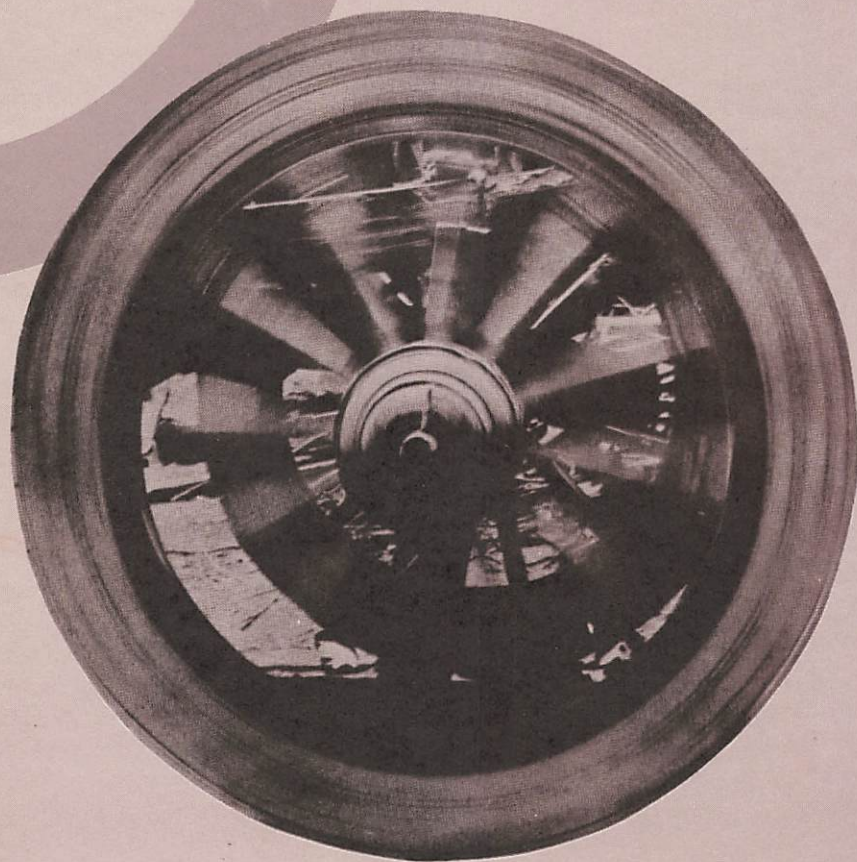


MALEGAON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
PROJECT

*Wheel of
Partnership*



The Institute of Cultural Affairs : India



The Institute of Cultural Affairs :
India is a voluntary
organisation working for
socio-economic renewal. It is
one of 35 nationally
autonomous affiliates in
developed and developing
countries.

The uniqueness of ICA's
approach is its emphasis on
human development—on
creating the desire and
methods whereby local people
themselves plan and bring
about lasting development in
their own communities.

ICA'S APPROACH TO DEVELOPMENT

The Institute's approach to development is based on the principle that the people of a community have the right, the ideas and the resources to plan and direct their own development processes with temporary help from the outside. The initiation of any ICA project, therefore, is a substantial participatory planning and consensus building event or series of events involving the entire community, assisted by those outside people the village invites.

In the implementation phase of the process, ICA staff work closely with the villagers so that they experience the work they do, understand the

methods and acquire the skills to do it themselves. While doing a project, every effort is made to involve all sectors (government, private industry, voluntary agencies, educational institutions) in roles of assistance in creating and implementing the schemes the villagers them-selves decide.

ICA staff play the roles of catalyst, facilitator, organiser and trainer and let the villagers do their own development. The focus is more on developing the Human Factor, making people able to understand and enlarge their capacities so that they become agents of their own development.

Basic principles have guided all ICA work for the past 30 years.

1. Concentrate development efforts within a de-limited geographical area.
2. Deal with all the problems, promoting a comprehensive approach.
3. Deal with all the people, all the ages, all the communities so everyone can participate.
4. Promote the self-image of the people as being confident and capable.

A community that has the opportunity to participate in the creation of its own development plan will be committed to the implementation of that plan, is a core belief of ICA.

SITUATION

The project area is 75 kms north west of Pune in an isolated area, pre-dominantly tribal with a population of 2590 villagers. Adult education is limited with the literacy rate for women being 9% and for men 34%. The local school teaches students upto the fourth standard. The villages are isolated and underdeveloped. Crops are rice and nachani. Quality of dairy animals is poor and income agriculture based with fewer than one percent of the population engaged in small businesses or home industries.

They are unable to raise crops in excess of their own needs due to infertile land and the absence of water sources for agriculture. Even drinking water becomes scarce in summer.

Both health and nutrition are poor, with malnutrition and stunted growth seriously affecting children and women. There is discrimination between boys and girls in nutrition and education.

With the active assistance of social institutions, private businesses and concerned government departments and the initiative of local residents, we set out to demonstrate that development is possible even in isolated areas. Some major problems were highlighted by the villagers during the session.

1. Inaccessible water for irrigation and drinking.
2. Inadequate transport and communication system.

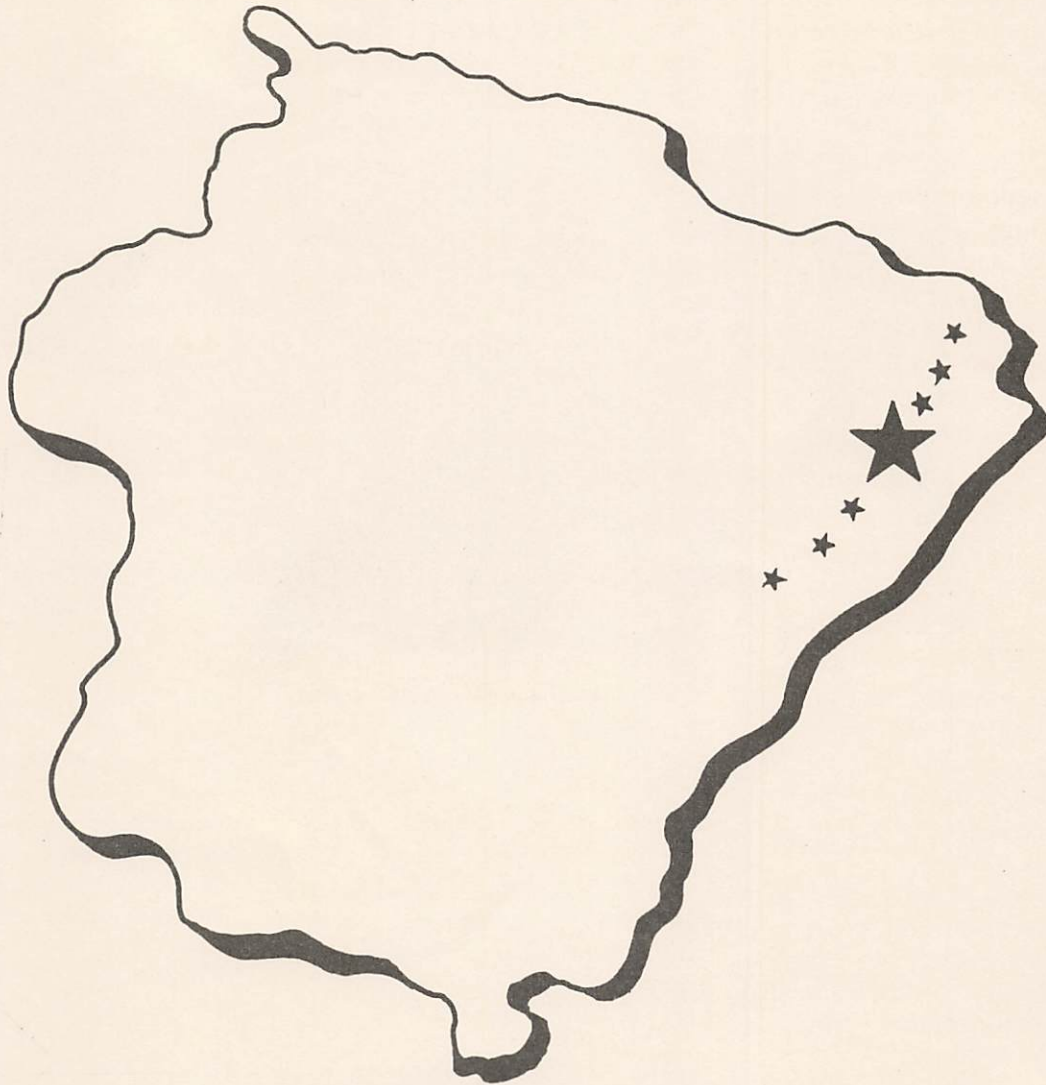
3. Inadequate education and training.

4. Non-cooperative attitudes among community residents.

When this project becomes self developing—economically, socially and politically—we hope that villages in the surrounding area will come and learn from the process of development that this project went through. Malegaon would then become a teaching village for the area.

Four voluntary organisations with different skills and resources are working to develop this area. They include the Institute of Cultural Affairs, Jankidevi Bajaj Gram Vikas Sanstha, Sevadham Trust and Bhartia Agro Industries Foundation (BAIF).•

MALEGAON HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT



ICA had just successfully completed its Jawale Human Development Project in Khandala, Satara District, and wanted to again demonstrate

its service and methods in Pune District by building a model, self-running development project. After visiting several areas in the district,

we chose Malegaon and six surrounding villages for our development work.

TWO YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

(May – 1989 to 1991)

FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE ACTIVITIES / ACHIEVEMENTS

TRAINING



PRIMARY attention in the early stages of the project was given to providing contextual and methodological training to residents and the leadership of the villages.

Thirty five people from 16 villages – working with Sevadham Trust as link workers in the area – participated in a 3 day leadership training programme held in September, 1989.

Twenty two people from the same group attended a 12 day Human

Development Training School conducted at the ICA's Chikhale village training centre in March, 1990.

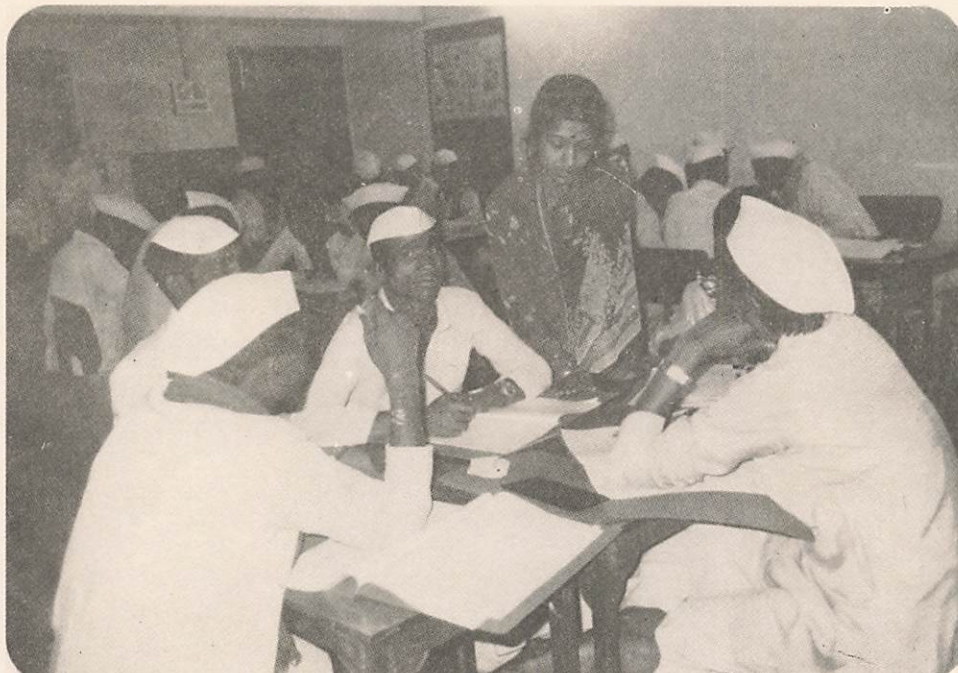
These programmes provided the skills and resolve to foster the spirit of cooperation within the communities.

In the second year, 32 people from seven villages were selected. This formed teams in each village of at

least 4 to 5 persons who would work together to guide the village development process.

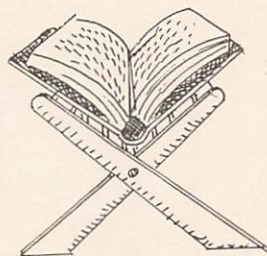
The intention of the training was to provide the techniques of development as well as bringing awareness and motivation.

Training also enabled people to expand their vision, see the problems from different perspectives and generate creativity in implementation. All of this built confidence.



Two 3 day residential training programmes were conducted at Lonavala and a third one in Pune. The first programme was to provide the participants with planning methods for use in their villages. After the training programme they were given homework to conduct a total survey of the village along with gram sabhas (village planning). The second and third training programme was focused on the techniques required for implementing their development plan, including conducting meetings, communication techniques, team building, leadership roles and facilitating style. The training sessions resulted in a creative way for people to initiate activities toward self development. These training inputs will continue as needed in the future.

EDUCATIONAL MOTIVATION PROGRAMME



This programme was conducted with Vadeshwar Ashram School : 3 days for the teachers and three days for 10th standard students. The scope of this programme was twofold.



VISIT TO JAWALE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

A group of 20 persons from Malegaon were taken to ICA's successful Jawale project in Khandala Taluka, Satara District. the visit enlightened them on how the people of Jawale manage their own development efforts. the group was impressed by the leadership in the village, the agricultural development, economic development through businesses and the excellent teamwork of those people.

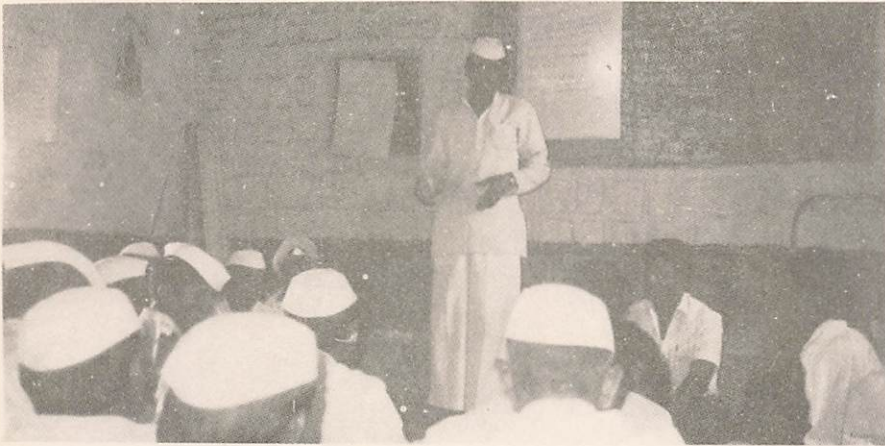
- To create an awareness of new changes, stress the importance of education, and demonstrate its changing role;
- To motivate both teachers and students to adopt new attitudes and methods to make education relevant in today's changing world.

We feel that this programme equipped the participants with functional skills and a cultural grounding that will help them participate effectively in their own individual development as well as the development of their community.



INVOLVEMENT

VILLAGE PLANNING (GRAM SABHAS)



As mentioned earlier, during the first training programme participants were assigned village planning sessions. They visited each village and conducted four hour sessions of planning, involving most of the village population. During the Gram Sabhas the victories and accomplishments of previous years

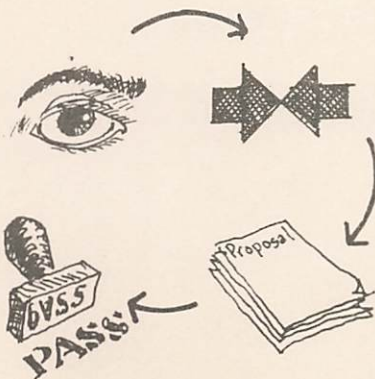
were shared, the current situation described by the villagers and everyone asked to visualise the next five years and think of the economic, social and human developments necessary for village development.

People were then asked to identify

the obstacles to the vision. An in-depth analysis was made to identify the root causes and to find creative solutions to overcome the obstacles. A one year action plan was then drawn up. These Gram Sabhas generated a new spirit and pride in the people because they could now not only plan their development activities but also implement them. They expressed their needs, stated the problems, found solutions themselves and were committed to implementing the plan.

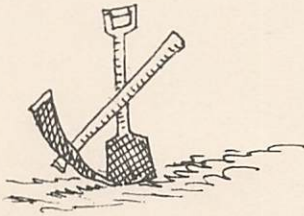
REGULAR MEETINGS

Implementation plans drawn up in the Gram Sabhas were discussed regularly which helped bridge the communication gap between the groups and the villagers. These meetings provide regular reports to each other, helps generate new ideas and builds team spirit.



SHRAMDAN

People are now coming together and contributing work days. Shramdan has helped put electricity in the village, construct two community centres, provide pipelines for the drinking water project, plant trees on community land, etc. This has helped them 'own' the schemes and assume responsibility for managing them.



QUALITY OF LIFE

CULTURE



Malegaon is a 100% tribal population of 6 villages. Their culture is strong and enriches the villagers. They enjoy bhajans and Bharud groups through which the great stories are sung and danced. We have encouraged them to conduct regular programmes. It is effective in bringing people together and maintains the value system of

the community. It also gives them pride in their community. Marriages and festivals are celebrated together. No financial help is needed for these programmes. They are simply arranged and the villagers participate in them.

HEALTH

Everybody lives in traditional homes which houses animals and people together causing health problems. Now when someone is building a new house we encourage him to build separate space for animals apart from the living space and work with them on construction designs. So far four houses have been built the new way.



TELEVISION

ICA donated a black & white TV to Malegaon Village. People now watch the news, serials, movies and other cultural programmes to get a new perspective of their own lives. They keep in touch with worldwide information and developments.



between the village and Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB). The villagers volunteered their labour to help install the poles with MSEB providing the materials. Today almost 80% of the families have electricity in their homes. Flour mills are also operating on electricity.

DRINKING WATER

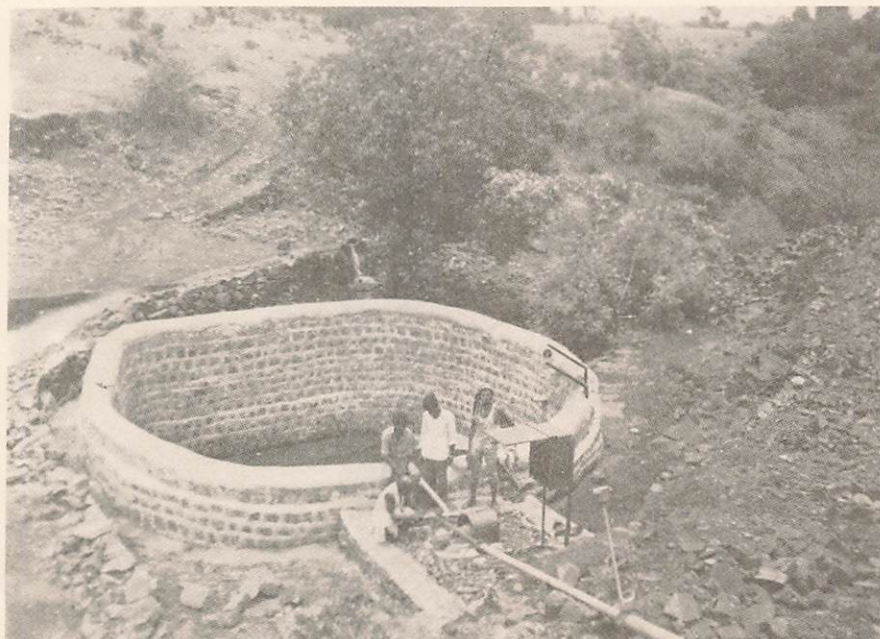
This is a severe problem in this area and so was given highest priority. During summer the local government provided water to the villagers in tankers. The villagers worked together to launch a drinking water scheme. During the first year of the project, a geological survey of Malegaon was done by government geologists to

COMMUNITY AWARENESS THROUGH CULTURAL PROGRAMMES

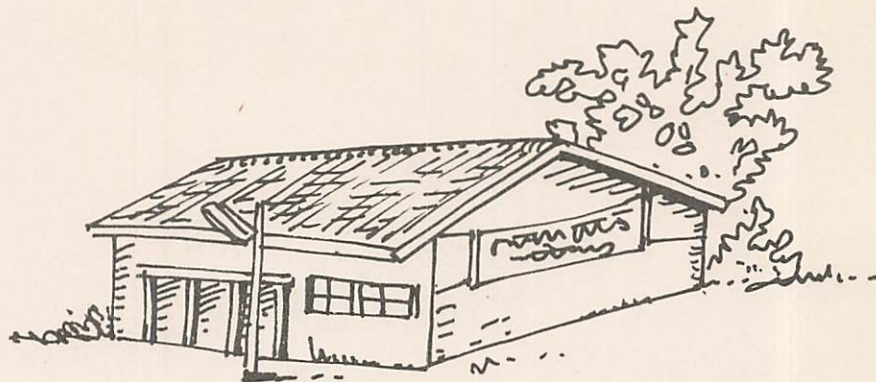
A group of 20 to 25 persons were invited from Malegaon to conduct cultural programmes including Bhajans, Kirtan, Bharud, Meditation, reading of Gita and so on. Each programme was for three days. Between 50 to 60 villagers participated. Two programmes were conducted in a cave on the mountain. These programmes were intended to awaken the villagers to what they have and bring acceptance of new things, and helped them examine their traditional beliefs.

ELECTRIFICATION

The electrification of Malegaon was achieved through the cooperation



experiment with a new scheme for water conservation. A geophysical ground water survey was conducted and an 80 foot bore drilled into an existing well and the existing bore well was hydrofractured. All these efforts, however, only served to show that the water in the area was insufficient but surface water could be trapped and stored in a larger dug well. This year, therefore, a large well was dug (30 ft long x 20 ft wide x 17 ft deep). 980 meters of pipeline were laid and water tanks set up in the village. Thus not only will clean water be provided but it will save the villagers from carrying water over long distances. The villagers and the managers and workers of Thermax Limited, Pune, played a key role in implementing the scheme by contributing voluntary labour.

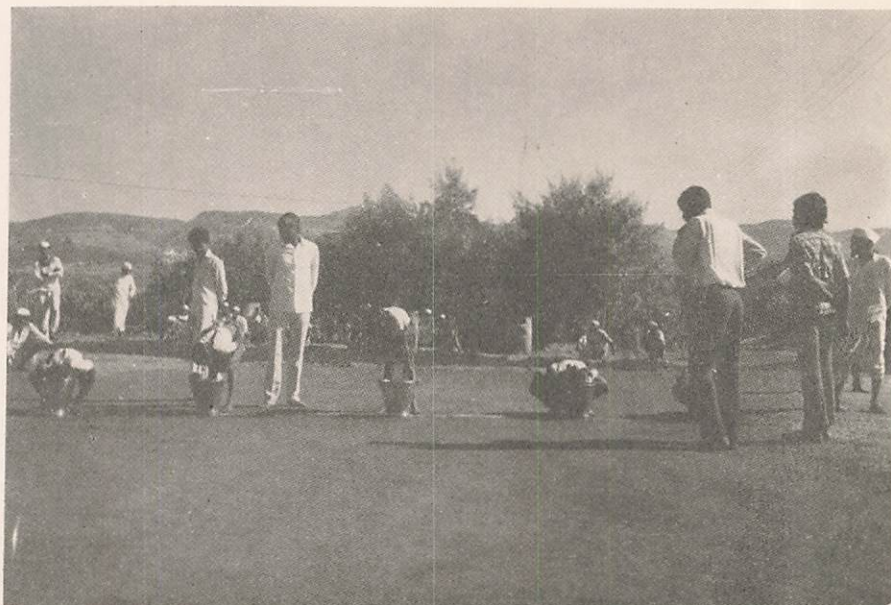
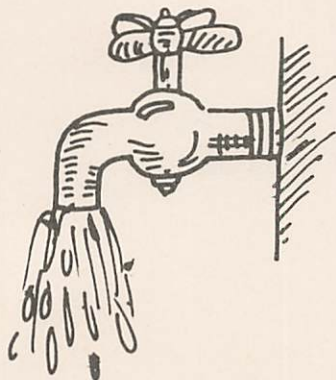


SPORTS

Schools are introducing sports activities to the students and holding occasional competitions. Students play volleyball, cricket and other games daily during the play hour. The village youth are being encouraged and volleyball is one of their interests.

COMMUNITY LIFE

In Malegaon, two community centres have been constructed using local resources and community work days. These buildings are used for community television, conducting meetings, Bhajan & Bharud programmes and to celebrate marriages and festivals.



TREE PLANTATION

Every Year trees are planted through work days (Shramdan) by the villagers. Thérmax provided sixty five tree guards made from scrap drums.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In 1989, the first steps to initiate non-agricultural economic activities were taken. Three small business were started in September comprising the making of bamboo baskets, raising poultry and operating a Kirana shop (grocery store). In 1990 five small ventures

that included a bicycle shop, iron smith, sewing and two businesses of raising goats were started.

In previous years these villages were totally dependant on farming with just one crop during the monsoon. Today these businesses have helped increase family income and about 50 villagers have benefitted directly. Youth and women have been given employment, local resources utilised and a new approach given to economic development.



DAIRY

Dairy can be a major source of income in Malegaon. We invited a volunteer dairy expert from Japan who thoroughly researched the dairy situation. She recommended the growing of green grass during the monsoon and store it for the summer months. She also recommended the purchase of Jersey cows to be crossbred with local cows.

Additionally, soil testing indicated that the soil was not fertile enough. Therefore, farmers were advised to increase compost fertilizer. This year the villagers will grow green grass with the compost fertilizer system. Four people were sent for dairy management training programmes at Tathawade Government Dairy Farm near Pune.

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