

Watershed Programme: Impact on Socio-agricultural and Socio-economic Spheres of the Farmers

K . Prabhakar*, K. Lavanya Latha and A. Papa Rao***

**Department of Anthropology, Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati 517 502, Andhra Pradesh, India*

***Department of Business Administration, Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, India*

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ABSTRACT Watershed programme is an integrated one, addressing the problems in rain-fed areas. It addresses the environmental and ecological problems like deforestation, over-utilization of water and most importantly it seeks to convert unsustainable agriculture to sustainable agriculture besides tackling unemployment and under-employment faced by the farmers as well as landless people. Of all the beneficiaries, the most benefited under watershed programme are the farmers of all types, like large, small and marginal farmers. Watershed brings them many favours like improvement in the ground water levels, restoration of eroded soils, crop rotation, improved agricultural technology, increased and improved animal husbandry, more green fodder to their milch and draught cattle etc.. Hence, the present study focuses on the management of watersheds by the NGOs (Non-Government Organizations) claiming success and the impact on farmers in Prakasam district of Andhra Pradesh, India.