Kharif sowing amidst COVID-19 scare

The monsoon has arrived. Kharif sowing is underway in rural India. However, unlike previous years, the scare of COVID-19 looms large. India is witnessing an unprecedented surge in COVID-19 cases with over 19,000 deaths registered as we publish the June newsletter. Watershed Organisation Trust is doing whatever it takes to ensure that farmers in rural India are able to sustain planned agricultural activities, and COVID-19-related obstacles are minimised wherever possible. WOTR has helped 124,238 households in 657 villages across 26 districts in seven states so far. Keep yourself updated on our various relief measures by following us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, to help us spread the word by sharing stories that inspire you. Learn more about how we are mobilising support on the ground here.
Why a gender-sensitive policy is key to climate adaptation

Climate change has markedly different impacts on men and women in developing economies where women gather and prepare food, collect water and fuel. Amidst the climate emergency, these tasks are more difficult. In the event of repeated natural disasters, in patriarchal societies like India, women face greater health and safety risks, writes Abha Indurkar here.

Ecosystem-based adaptation keeps water running in Bhojdari

Bhojdari’s water self-reliance even withstood the return of migrants to their home village in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown. It proved that villages with an ecosystems-based adaptation (EbA) approach to agricultural policy are better placed to provide food security and livelihoods to returning migrant workers, writes Vinaya Kurtkoti in Mongabay India. Read the full article here.
WOTR in spotlight / Battling COVID-19 in Jharkhand

In India Water Portal, in the article titled ‘Battling Covid-19 in Jharkhand’, Sujaya Dangwar and Shyna Dudeja write how WOTR is helping tribals in Jharkhand during COVID-19 pandemic. The sudden spread of COVID-19 forced both state and Centre to impose a 2-month lockdown. As tribal communities could not work and sell their agricultural/forest produce during the lockdown, WOTR was on the frontlines providing support. Read the full story here.
WOTR featured in The Good Sight magazine. Take a peek

Post-COVID-19 Strategy
Our teams across seven states are working hard to help the communities we serve - sensitising on protective measures, sharing crucial COVID-19 information, providing essentials such as soaps, face masks and food kits to the vulnerable. Creation of employment/labour is another area where we are working in collaboration with gram panchayats. Besides those rapid response measures, we are adopting a medium-to-long-term strategy to support small/marginal households in agriculture, providing on-site and digital advisories, resource materials, marketing of farm produce, implementation of MNREGA, support for farm/non-farm-based livelihoods, watershed development and water management, capacity building of gram panchayats, local institutions and resource persons.

- Prakash Keskar
  Executive Director
  WOTR

WOTR blogs

COVID-19 decimated livestock sector and shattered livelihoods

COVID-19 and subsequent lockdowns dealt a severe blow to the livestock sector in India and exposed pastoralists and livestock keepers in the country to prolonged economic uncertainty, writes WOTR researcher Dada R Dadas. Read the blog here.

Loose Boulder Structures in a watershed / Photo essay

Loose Boulder Structures (LBS) are an important drainage line treatment. LBS is made up of loosely arranged boulders so as to arrest excess soil erosion and water loss during the rainy season. WOTR's Harshal Khade and Anshuman Panda shed light on this technique here.
WOTRian of the month / Sooraj Choudhary

“Growing up in a hinterland village, I experienced acute water scarcity. That triggered my desire to work in the development sector and use my education for the people of this country. From that time, I had a sense of purpose and was out to make a difference. After I heard about WOTR's work in Rajasthan as well as Madhya Pradesh, I felt that I could use my knowledge and skills to improve the quality of life of the people at large, if I get an opportunity to work with WOTR.”

Read more about Sooraj Choudhary’s journey with WOTR here.

(Pictured above) Sooraj Choudhary holding a session with villagers.
WOTR in pictures

(Right) System of Crop Intensification (SCI) seed sowing in a project village in Telangana. As the southwest monsoon advances across the subcontinent, this is a common sight across farmers’ fields. Image courtesy: Anand Ratkal, WOTR Telangana

A soilless nursery on display in Jharkhand. WOTR has implemented the soilless and shade-net based nursery model for farmers in Khunti district, so as to encourage them to take up vegetable cultivation and improve incomes. Image courtesy: WOTR Jharkhand.
(Right) A file photo of farmer Gaya Chandra Sahu and his wife, at his farm in Nimapadara village, Odisha. This is an image from our archives. Farmers like Sahu from across India stare at an uncertain future, exacerbated by the climate emergency and now the aftermath of COVID-19, as its spreads further into rural India.

A painting by a Class VIII student from the online competition organised by WOTR and Tata Steel BSL on the occasion of World Environment day on the theme ‘Biodiversity’ in Khalapur, Raigad, Maharashtra.
How to donate:

Your contribution matters to millions in rural India

www.wotr.org

So far, WOTR has helped 124,238 families in 657 villages across 7 states providing food kits, personal hygiene essentials and medicines.

This costs Rs 1.68 cr for 15 days of provisions. We bear manpower and administration costs.

Any assistance you can provide would be most welcome and gratefully acknowledged.

Donors in India can avail 80G tax exemption certificate. For this, email us with your name, address and PAN to accounts@wotr.org

If you wish to do a bank transfer in India, please address it to:

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A/c No: 500101010004592
Bank: Vijaya Bank
Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
IFSC code: VIJB0005001

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Ahmednagar, Maharashtra
IFSC code: SBIN0000303
SWIFT code: SBININBB507

To know more, read WOTR responds to COVID-19