

## **RAJASTHAN RURAL INSTITUTE OF DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT**

Rajasthan Rural Institute of Development Management (RRIDMA), with its headquarters in Udaipur, was formally established in 1979. RRIDMA is implementing the integrated rural development programme covering livestock development, watershed development, agri-horti-forestry through wadi and empowerment of women in 20 districts, benefitting 300,000 families from 6000 villages.

The livestock development programme is being implemented in 19 districts through 247 cattle development centres and serving 270681 families from 5456 villages. Realising the plight of goat keepers, RRIDMA has developed an innovative programme to improve the breed and productivity, while involving the community to control the population, depending on the carrying capacity of the pastures. Further efforts in health care and feed management through self help groups demonstrated the feasibility of enhancing the income by three folds without denuding the eco-system. This programme is now being replicated in other states.

The integrated watershed development programme covering 6906 ha is benefitting 2501 families from 15 villages through 6 micro watersheds. Silviculture development has been promoted on community pastures through active involvement of the local communities. The programme has demonstrated economic viability, conservation of soil and water and promotion of biodiversity. These encouraging results have motivated the Government of Rajasthan and other donor agencies to take up wider replication of the programme.

The horticulture development programme, benefitting 16052 families from 158 villages is being implemented on 4815 ha through the establishment of amla and mango orchards. The Saheriya Wadi project in Baran district covers 500 primitive tribal families through the establishment of amla plantations, goat development and promotion of rural non-farm sector enterprises. The Amla Tribal Producers' Cooperative has processed 92 tons of amla in 2007-2008 and marketed 14 products under the brand name *Vrindavan* in the country and abroad. Looking to the quality of the amla produced, the district administration has ordered distribution of these amla products to school children with the mid-day meal. Now, traders are offering better prices.

Wasteland development through cultivation of jatropha plants has been promoted in 62 villages covering 3443 families.

A comprehensive study was conducted to identify the problems and opportunities of small farmers in desert areas which emphasised the need for conservation of native breeds of cattle, silviculture management, goat development and dryland horticulture promotion.