

## EVALUATION STUDIES

In order to have an objective impact assessment of RIDF projects, NABARD commissions impact evaluation studies from time to time. These studies are undertaken by institutions of national repute on various projects implemented under RIDF.

These studies were undertaken in 9 States namely Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Meghalaya, Assam, West Bengal, Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. These studies aimed at

- i) assessing the implementation process and adherence of technical specifications
- ii) examine the quality of assets created
- iii) quantify the post development benefits, income and employment generation and
- iv) to suggest policy recommendations and action points for various stakeholders.

Some of the major findings of these studies are given below :

### A) Irrigation Sector :

- The completed irrigation projects have benefitted the rural population in many ways and same are highlighted below :
  - All categories viz. weaker sections, marginal and small farmers have been benefitted.
  - There was improvement in productivity of crops (20% -Assam to 175%- Odisha)
  - There was change in cropping pattern (in favour of cash crops and vegetables) and above 50% increase in cropping intensity.
  - Increase in farm assets and increase of 141 to 164% machinery per household was observed.
  - Increased employment opportunities (36% Odisha to 46% Gujarat) • Increase in livestock holding ( 61% - Tamil Nadu to 88%- Gujarat)
  - Enhanced milk production (fodder availability) 27% - Punjab to 150% -HP
  - More than 30% increase in irrigated area.
  - Improvement in drinking water quality & availability.
  - Increased income for farmers ( 27% - WB to 60% - Odisha)
- Quality of life and standard of living has improved.