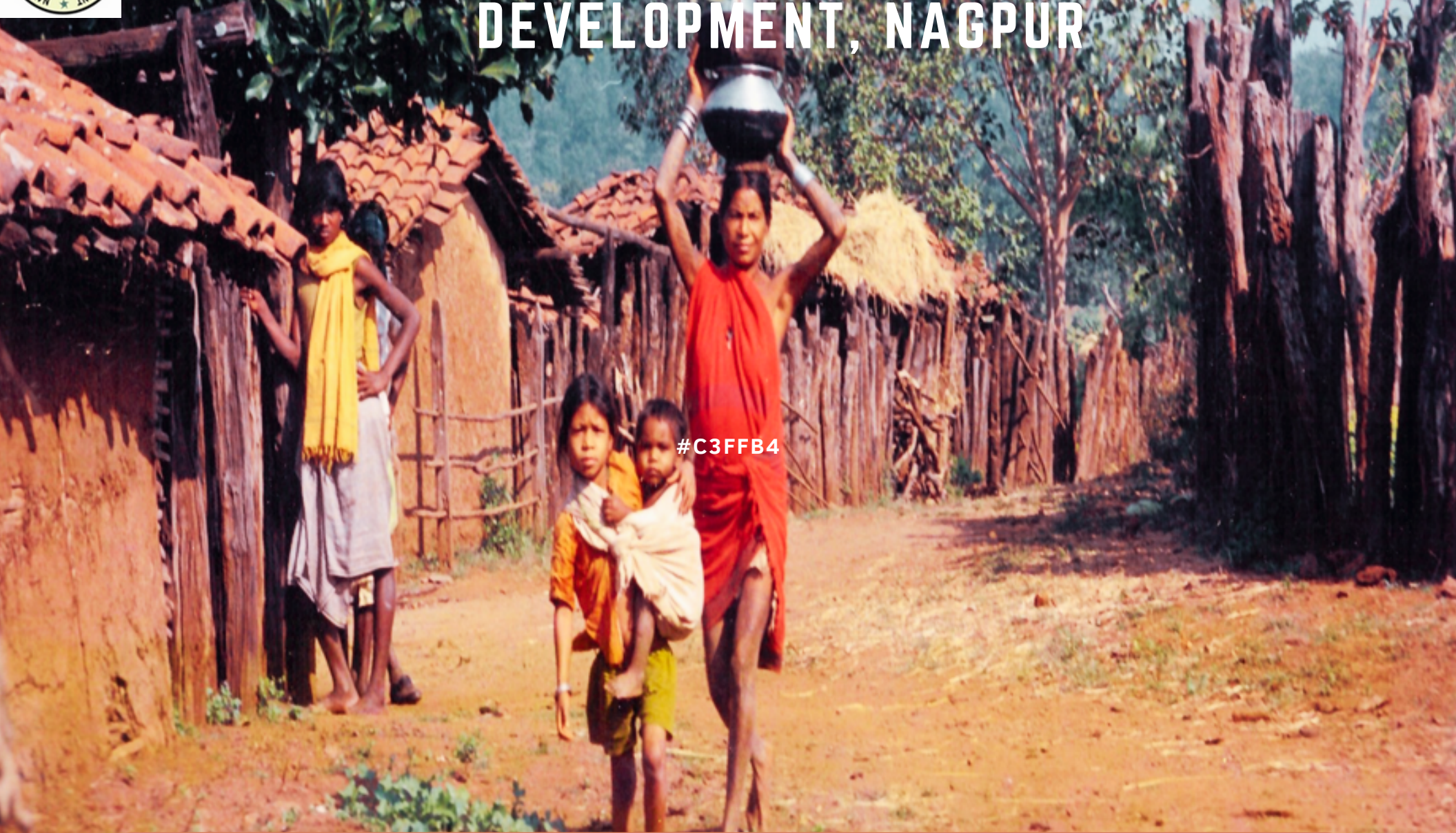


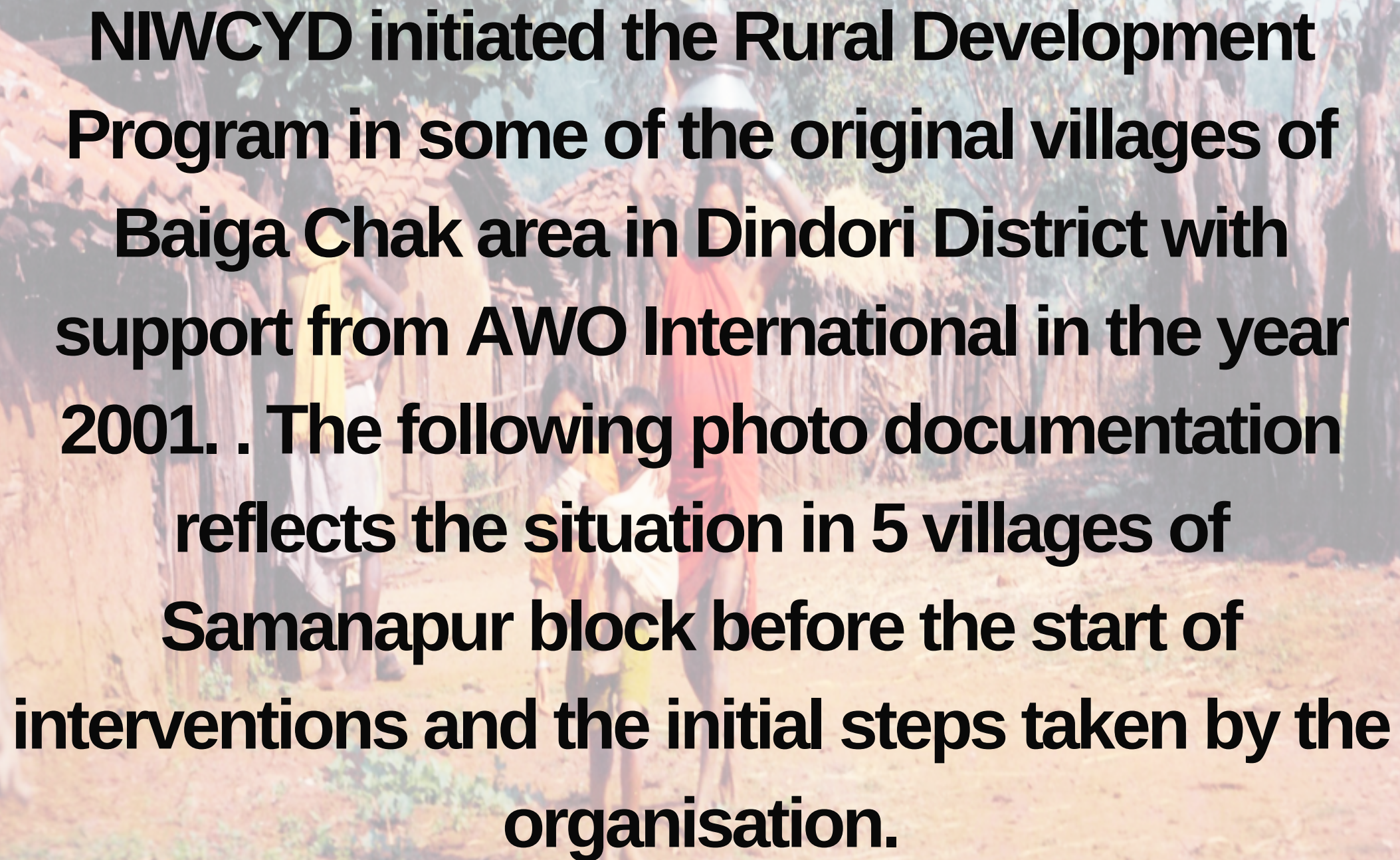


NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WOMEN CHILD AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT, NAGPUR



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**INITIATIVES IN BAIGA CHAK AREA OF
DINDORI DISTRICT, M.P (2001-2003)**

A photograph of a rural village scene. In the foreground, a woman in a red sari is carrying a large metal pot on her head. To her left, a man in a white shirt and yellow dhoti is walking. In the background, there are several people, including children, and a thatched-roof building. The scene is set in a rural area with trees and a dirt path.

NIWCYD initiated the Rural Development Program in some of the original villages of Baiga Chak area in Dindori District with support from AWO International in the year 2001. . The following photo documentation reflects the situation in 5 villages of Samanapur block before the start of interventions and the initial steps taken by the organisation.

The adverse living conditions in the forest villages were the part and parcel of the day-to-day life of the people living in the area.



Even the small girls were compelled to carry the overhead load of fire wood for selling in the local market. Women would cover the distance of 15-20 kms to sell the firewood, for which they used to get Rupees 10 to 12 after a day's hard work.

MALNUTRITION AMONG THE CHILDREN WAS RAMPANT IN THE AREA. AS THE ADULT MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY HAD TO GO TO THE FIELDS OR IN THE FOREST, THE ELDER CHILDREN HAD TO TAKE THE CARE OF THEIR YOUNGER SIBLINGS.



The primary facilities for the health were even not available in the area. Treatment was not available for the minor ailments, which led to the situations like Gangrene as can be seen in the photos below.





IN THE VILLAGES LIKE AJAGR, DHABA AND JEELANG, PEOPLE WERE DEPENDANT ON THE CROPS LIKE MAIZE TO MEET THEIR FOOD REQUIREMENTS.

MILLETS LIKE KODON, KUTKI WERE THE PART OF THEIR DAILY DIET. THE AGRICULTURE WAS RESTRICTED TO ONLY KHARIF SEASON. FOR THE REMAINING PART OF THE YEAR PEOPLE HAD TO BORROW FROM THE LOCAL TRADERS TO MEET THEIR DAY-TO-DAY NEEDS.





AFTER THE HARVESTING, THE PEOPLE HAD TO REPAY THE DEBT IN THE FORM OF PADDY AND OIL SEEDS TO THE LOCAL TRADERS AT VERY LOW PRICE, THUS CONTINUING THE VICIOUS CIRCLE OF DEBT.



TRIBAL AREAS LIKE BAIGA CHAK HAVE THE VERY CONFLICTING SITUATIONS. DURING THE RAINY SEASON, IT LOOKS LIKE A HEAVEN WITH LUSH GREENERY AND THE WATER STREAMS FLOWING IN ALL THE DIRECTION.



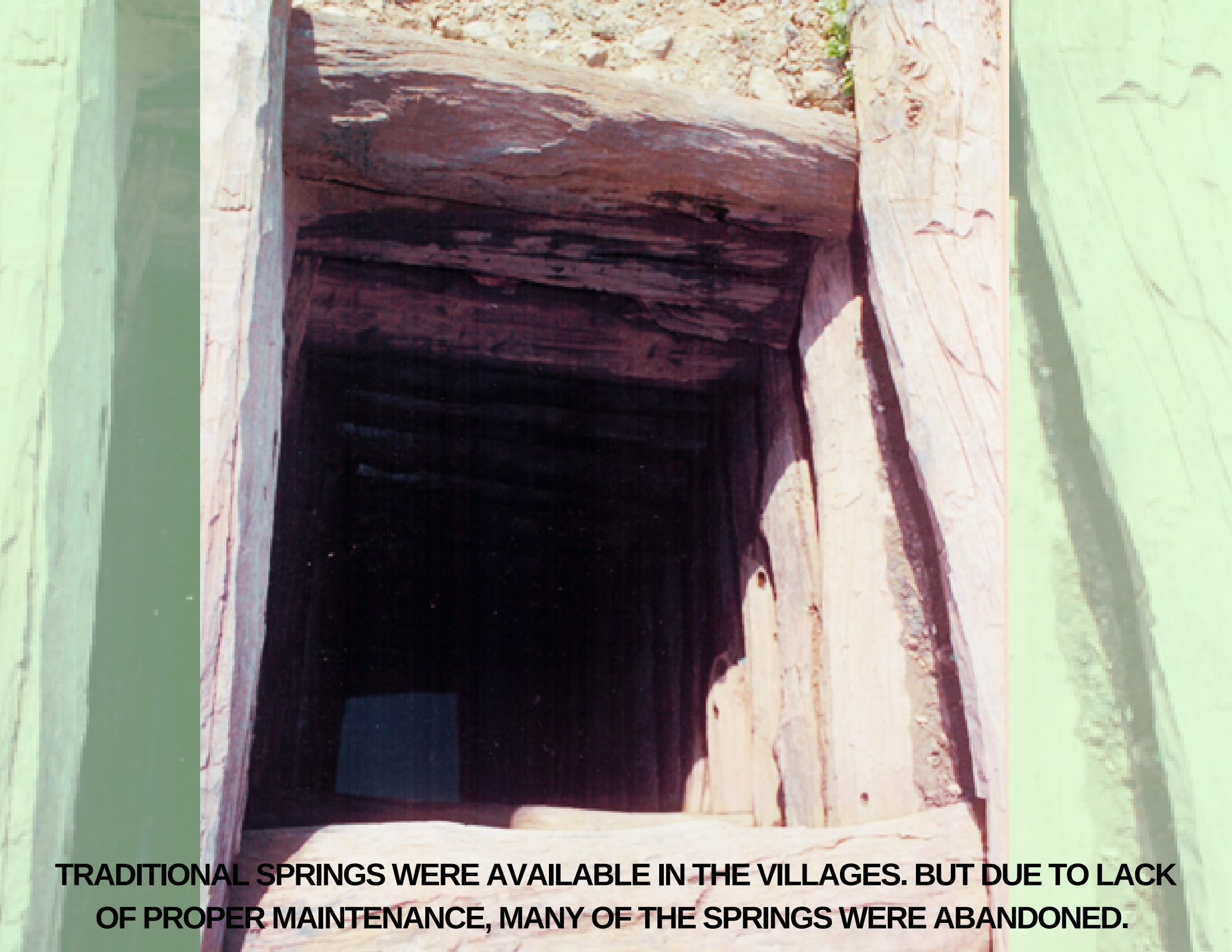
BUT ONCE THE RAINS HAVE GONE, VERY CRITICAL SITUATION IS REFLECTED. WHO HAS SOWN AND HARVESTED AND HOW MUCH IS AVAILABLE FOR THE FOODS?



THIS IS KUNJIBAI FROM VILLAGE JEELANG WITH KUTKI CROP. IN 2001, WHEN NIWCYD STARTED THE INTERVENTIONS IN THE VILLAGE, SHE COULD PRODUCE 7 QUINTALS OF FOOD GRAINS ON 7 ACRES OF UNDULATING LAND. HER FAMILY HAD 10 MEMBERS AND REQUIRED 18 QUINTALS TO FEED THE ENTIRE FAMILY FOR THE YEAR.



THE WATER SOURCES LIKE DUG WELL WERE NOT IN THE GOOD CONDITIONS. ALSO THERE WERE ALSO NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF DRINKING WATER.



TRADITIONAL SPRINGS WERE AVAILABLE IN THE VILLAGES. BUT DUE TO LACK OF PROPER MAINTENANCE, MANY OF THE SPRINGS WERE ABANDONED.



IN BAIGA CHAK AREA MENFOLK ALSO SUPPORT THE WOMEN IN HOUSEHOLD WORKS BY DOING WORK LIKE LOOKING AFTER THE CHILDREN BRINGING STUFF FROM THE FOREST.



BHADULAL FROM VILLAGE JEELANG HAD THE FAMILY OF 5 PERSONS INCLUDING HIMSELF, HIS WIFE AND 3 CHILDREN.HE HAD 3 ACRES OF UNDULATING LAND WHICH HARDLY PRODUCE THE FOOD GRAINS, SUFFICIENT FOR 3-4 MONTH. DUE TO DEFORESTATION, THERE WAS HARDLY ANY WORK AVAILABLE IN THE FOREST.

LITTLE AGRICULTURE PRODUCE ALONG WITH THE COLLECTION OF MINOR FOREST PRODUCE WERE THE ONLY MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD FOR THE PEOPLE





IN ONE OF THE OLDEST VILLAGE "AJAGAR" OF BAIGA CHAK AREA, THE TRADITIONAL HEAD "DAWAN" OF THE VILLAGE SHIKARISINGH BAIGA, BY BREAKING THE CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS, WANTED NIWCYD TO START THE INTERVENTIONS IN HIS VILLAGE, TO TAKE OUT THE PEOPLE FROM ABJECT POVERTY.



MUKADDAM AND DAWAN (TRADITIONAL LEADERS OF JATI PANCHAYAT) ORGANISED THE MEETING WITH NIWCYD IN THE YEAR 2001 TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITIES OF INITIATION OF INTERVENTIONS IN THE VILLAGE. PEOPLE DEMANDED THAT THEY SHOULD BE GIVEN THE FOOD GRAINS AGAINST THE LAND DEVELOPMENT WORK.

TO ADDRESS THE IMMEDIATE ISSUE OF FOOD INSECURITY, THE GRAIN BANKS WERE STARTED IN ALL THE FIVE VILLAGES IN THE YEAR 2001.

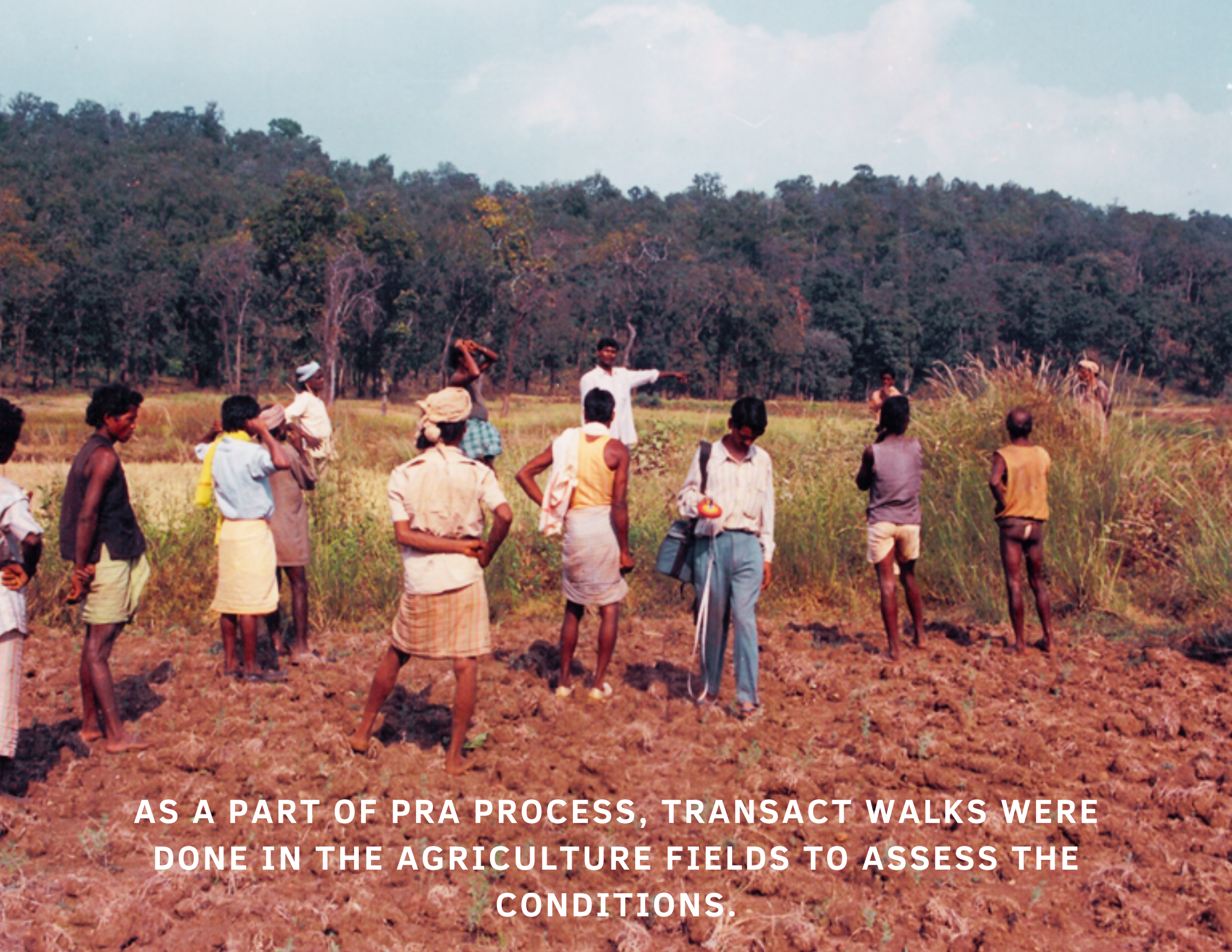




**TO IDENTIFY THE NEEDS OF THE PEOPLE,
PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL (PRA) WAS
ALSO CONDUCTED IN ALL THE VILLAGES.**

**Women were also involved in the
PRA process.**





**AS A PART OF PRA PROCESS, TRANSACT WALKS WERE
DONE IN THE AGRICULTURE FIELDS TO ASSESS THE
CONDITIONS.**



**PEOPLE THEMSELVES PLANNED LAND LEVELLING WORK
ON SUCH TYPE OF SLOPPY LANDS.**



AFTER PRA, LAND DEVELOPMENT WORK WAS INITIATED IN THE VILLAGES, VIZ. AJAGAR, DHABA, JEELANG, SAILATOLA AND KANDAWANI



**LAND DEVELOPMENT WORK DONE IN VILLAGE
JEELANG**



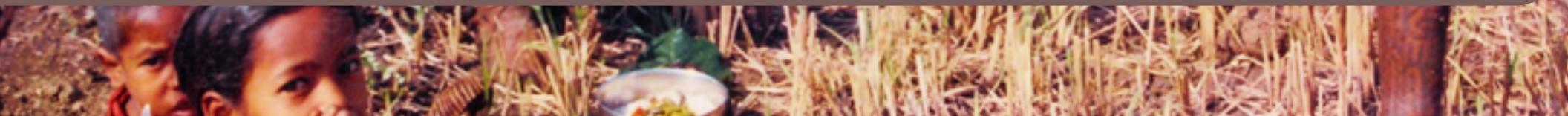
STONE BUNDING WORK DONE ACROSS THE STREAM IN VILLAGE KANDAWANI TO ARREST THE SOIL EROSION.

LAND DEVELOPMENT WORK DONE IN VILLAGE DHABA





**THE ENTIRE FAMILY USED TO WORK ON THEIR FIELD DURING THE
LAND DEVELOPMENT WORK.**





ALSO WATER RESOURCES LIKE FLOWING NALLA IN VILLAGE DHABA WERE ALSO PLANNED TO BE TREATED AS A PART OF WATER CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES..