

## **Watershed Project makes a young farmer a vibrant community facilitator**

The participatory approach followed in watershed project supported by NABARD and facilitated by CRD really provides a platform for many of the watershed community members to transform themselves as a community facilitator. Here is an example for this. Mr. Gireesh Kumar.K aged 39 from Neelimala watershed in Kallar Gramapanchayat of Kasaragod DT is a gulf returnee and a progressive farmer. After his return from Gulf country in 2002, he became active in cultivation of aracanut, rubber, banana and vegetables in 1.20 acres of his own land and 13 acres of family plot. He had invested his time exclusively for his farming activity barring all kinds of other activities till 2008.

The Nelimala watershed project under NHWDP was started to implement in the year 2008. Neelimala watershed is a hilly area with high slopes. Right from the beginning stage, Mr. Gireesh attended Gramasabha meetings and Training programmes. It was for the first time, Gireesh Kumar spared some of his time for activities other than agriculture since his return from Gulf Country. He became the member of the VWC on 14 May 2008. He has attended training programmes organized by the PFA viz. Centre for Research and Development (CRD) in the watershed and the FSR training organized by NABARD. The training programmes helped him to acquire knowledge and skill on watershed treatment measures, contour principles, marking of contour, technical parameters to be adhered while implementing the treatment measures.

Gaining confidence on various aspects of watershed project implementation, Mr. Gireesh Kumar started providing technical support to the watershed community together with the WDT in 2009 onwards. Within two months, he became popular as a community facilitator for watershed activities. He has provided his free assistance in marking contour, marking the site for constructing various treatment measures, taking lead role in organizing Gramasabha/organizing the community, assisted the VWC to take measurement of the treatment measures implemented and recording of it, clarifying the doubts of the farmers in soil and water conservation measures, etc. with this, he became a much needed person for the VWC, farmers and the WDT.

### **Gireesh Kumar measuring SPB constructed in the watershed**



For all these activities he has identified time without suffering his own agricultural activities. He is well versed with important watershed related terms, practical techniques and roles and responsibilities. He knows the area details of the entire watershed and the treatment measures implemented in CBP, IP and FIP. The service of Mr. Gireesh Kumar provided a good momentum to the watershed project and helped the VWC as well as the PFA to undertake almost all the activities in this high sloppy watershed with specified quality and within the approved time frame in various phases of the project.

The knowledge, skill and the self esteem he acquired out of NHWDP helped him to excel not only in NABARD Watershed project but also to associate with the MGNREGS activities, road construction activities, etc of the Gramapanchayat.