

# INNOVATING ADAPTATION THROUGH AGROECOLOGY

## Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR)

### India

Established in 1993, the Watershed Organization Trust (WOTR), is headquartered in Pune, Maharashtra State, and currently operates in seven states of India. WOTR pioneered the concept of a “people’s movement for watershed development” by mobilising rural communities, as well as governance and development practitioners, and facilitating joint initiatives towards building a healthy life, and robust ecosystems. The organisation promotes watershed-based ecosystem management that brings together a wide variety of sustainable development approaches.



© WOTR

## AGROECOLOGICAL PRACTICES

- ❧ Applying diversified cropping, and multi-layer farming methods, to preserve soil health.
- ❧ Using locally prepared organic manure and bio-formulations for crop protection.
- ❧ Increasing community participation in water stewardship initiatives.
- ❧ Applying a participatory water budgeting tool to guide the allocation of water resources, and ensure optimum, equitable, and efficient, use of available water.
- ❧ Co-creating knowledge and planning actions through the use of community-driven vulnerability evaluation tool, as well as conducting applied research studies.
- ❧ Recognising women’s roles as primary land and resource managers, and involving them in decision-making processes, information sharing, and knowledge generation.
- ❧ Using digital platforms, such as the mobile App ‘FarmPrecise’, to provide weather advisory services to farmers.

## IMPACTS

- ❧ Reduced farm input costs due to the use of organic manure and bio-formulations that reduce dependency on agrochemicals and increase net profit margins for farmers.
- ❧ Reduced crop losses due to improved access to real-time weather advisories for farmers.
- ❧ Increased optimisation of water use, and reduced water scarcity and vulnerability: between 2017 and 2018, 3,3 billion litres of water was saved thanks to the expansion of drip, and sprinkle irrigation practices.
- ❧ Improved food security and nutrition at the household level; with 49% less malnutrition for children under five years old in the areas covered.

## PERSPECTIVES

Building on its experience in watershed management, WOTR is currently expanding its activities on soil conservation, as the other key resource in agricultural systems.