

## **Genesis**

NABARD has been implementing watershed development projects since inception of Indo German Watershed Development Programme (IGWDP) in India during 1990s. The participatory watershed development concept and the methodology had been proved to be a successful initiative in enhancing the productivity, production and improving livelihood security of rural community in rainfed areas. In order to further replicate the initiatives in the drought prone areas of the country, the Union Finance Minister, in his budget speech for 1999- 2000 had announced the creation of a Watershed Development Fund (WDF) in NABARD with broad objectives of unification of multiplicity of watershed development programmes into a single national initiative through involvement of village level institutions and Project Facilitating Agencies (PFAs). In pursuance thereof, WDF has been created in NABARD with a contribution of Rs.100 crore each by the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Government of India and NABARD.