



Maharashtra, India

Securing the Future of 1.100 Families through organic farming and safe drinking water (Kinder-nothilfe-Project 22527)

For the most part, the rural areas of the Indian state Maharashtra are completely underdeveloped. Especially the natives of India live in bitter poverty. Many children lack access to safe water, sufficient nutrition, medical care and the possibility to go to school. Most families are dependent on agriculture to survive, but because of the soil infertility and the lack of irrigation systems a successful cultivation is nearly impossible. KINDERNOTHILFE has started a project for the small-scale farmers of ten villages of the Akola district. Organic farming and access to safe drinking water will secure the existence of 1.100 families. Furthermore, the project provides education for the children.

The situation in the villages

Located on a rocky high plateau, eight of the ten villages are seriously affected by soil erosion. The family farmers can harvest the crops only once a year. As a result, 80 percent of the little children under 5 years of age suffer from malnutrition. Water-borne diseases are very common, especially among the younger children. The next well is kilometres away. As it is often the children's duty to get the water and carry it all the way back home, many boys and girls don't have the time to go to school.

The project: safe water and organic farming ensure nutrition and income

KINDERNOTHILFE wants to provide safe water for the ten villages and strengthen 1.100 families for an independent future. Water pumps will make sure that fresh and clean water is directly available. To improve the cultivation of the land, irrigation systems will be installed. The project combines sustainable poverty reduction and ecological sustainability. The family farmers will be trained in organic farming and livestock farming. Crop combination, reforestation and alternative fertilisers can reduce the soil erosion. Protecting their environment by these measures, the families are able to increase their income at the same time.



Due to the project, the children won't have to walk several kilometres to the next well any more.

Enough time for school

As the children won't have to cover long distances to get water any more, they will be able to go to school finally. The project provides the schoolchildren with school supplies, school uniforms and the possibility to take extra lessons after school, if they need them. To improve the pre-school education, day-care centres will be established. Moreover, the project staff conducts awareness trainings in the villages to convince the families that education is absolutely essential for their children's future.