



Government of Rajasthan
Forest Department



May 2026, Volume 5

Newsletter

RFBDP INSIGHTS



KEY HIGHLIGHTS

RFBDP Newsletter | May 2026

- ▶ **SHG AND LIVELIHOOD - WOMEN-LED SHGs AND MARKET-BASED LIVELIHOOD PROMOTION**
- ▶ **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING**
- ▶ **PLANT MICRO RESERVES (PMRs) - PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**
- ▶ **MONITORING AND EVALUATION - GIS**
- ▶ **SOIL & MOISTURE CONSERVATION - INTENSIVE FIELD-BASED TECHNICAL APPRAISAL VISITS**
- ▶ **GENDER EMPOWERMENT - TRAININGS AND GENDER SENSITIZATION**

Message from Project Director

It is my pleasure to present Volume 5 of the RFBDP Quarterly Newsletter, highlighting the continued progress of the Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project in advancing conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and strengthened community institutions across project districts.

This quarter witnessed achievements in livelihoods, with Women Self-Help Groups demonstrating entrepreneurial success at State level Van Mela 2026, and through market linkages such as spice processing initiatives.

Community development efforts were strengthened through digital monitoring of village institutions and ongoing preparations for agroforestry promotion. Progress was made in biodiversity conservation. Continued focus on GIS-based planning and gender inclusion further enhanced the effectiveness and inclusiveness of project interventions.

I appreciate the dedication of field staff, partners, and communities driving these outcomes. We remain committed to conserving biodiversity while promoting inclusive livelihoods.

Rajesh Kumar Gupta, IFS
Project Director, RFBDP

SHG & Livelihood

Women-led SHGs Shine at Vanmela 2026

10 women-led SHGs participated in the Van Mela held on 9-10 February 2026, showcasing and selling locally made products such as pickles, papad, herbal items, toys, and handicrafts. The mela provided an excellent platform for rural women entrepreneurs to promote their products and strengthen livelihood opportunities. The participating SHGs achieved an impressive sale of approximately ₹1.28 lakh, reflecting the growing success of women-led community enterprises under RFBDP.

Linking Women-led SHGs with Market-Based Livelihood Opportunities

As part of efforts to enhance sustainable livelihoods for rural women, 15 SHG members in Bassi Block, Jaipur have been linked with a Spice Processing Centre to promote entrepreneurship and local income generation.

Under this initiative, women-led SHGs procure processed spices from the centre and undertake local-level marketing and sales within their villages and nearby localities. Through this market linkage model, the women can earn supplementary household income while also gaining exposure to small business management and marketing practices.

The intervention is contributing towards women empowerment, strengthening of community-based enterprises, and promotion of value-added livelihood activities under RFBDP.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & CAPACITY BUILDING

From Data to Development: Supporting 300+ Village Institutions

A supportive supervision exercise of village-level institutions (VFPMCs/EDCs) was initiated using a digital tool (Kobo Collect). Through this effort, more than 300 institutions were assessed across key parameters, including organization of village meetings, committee registration, record maintenance, afforestation, biodiversity conservation, and income-generating activities.



Strengthening Livelihood Through Agroforestry

Under the project, preparations for promotion of Agroforestry activities during the current year have been initiated. Discussions with the Centre of Excellence (CoE) are underway for technical guidance and implementation support. A field visit was also conducted in the Kota region for identification of potential Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and assessment of farmers' demand for saplings and agroforestry interventions. Preliminary consultations with stakeholders have indicated encouraging interest in adopting agroforestry practices.





PRESERVING BIODIVERSITY, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



Plant Micro Reserves (PMRs) Update

This quarter, we are pleased to report the development of additional plans for Plant Micro Reserves (PMRs). These additional PMR sites have been selected based on their botanical significance and ecological value.

Ranthambhore-Ramgarh Vishdhari Corridor Initiative

We have initiated groundwork for conservation of the Ranthambhore-Ramgarh Vishdhari wildlife corridor to enhance habitat connectivity for big cats and other wildlife.



Oran Conservation Efforts

Site identification surveys in Bhilwara and Karauli have highlighted the presence of traditional community conserved dryland forests that are vital for biodiversity, soil conservation, and local livelihoods.



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Monitoring and Evaluation- GIS

GIS specialised hands-on desktop-based training was given to the senior forest officers (ACF's and Range Officers) (28-30 Jan 2026)

A 3 day training on the "Basic principles of GIS, GPS and Remote Sensing and its application in Forestry" was conducted at RFWTI, Jaipur. The training was attended by senior forest officers (ACF's and Range Officers) from Jaipur division.

Trainings aim to:

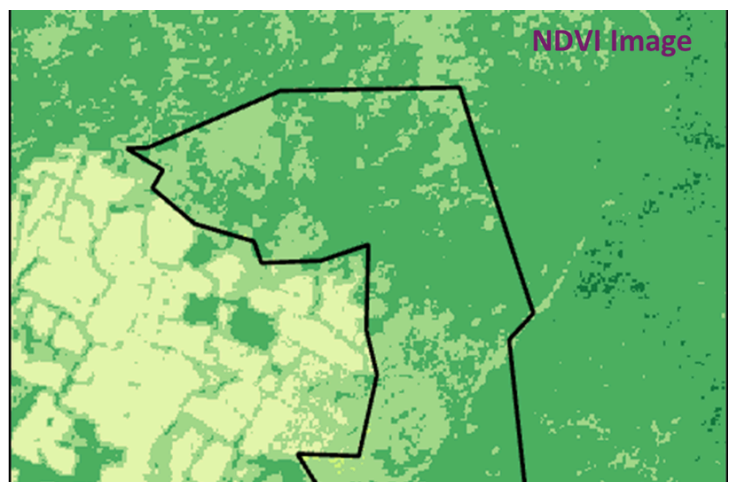
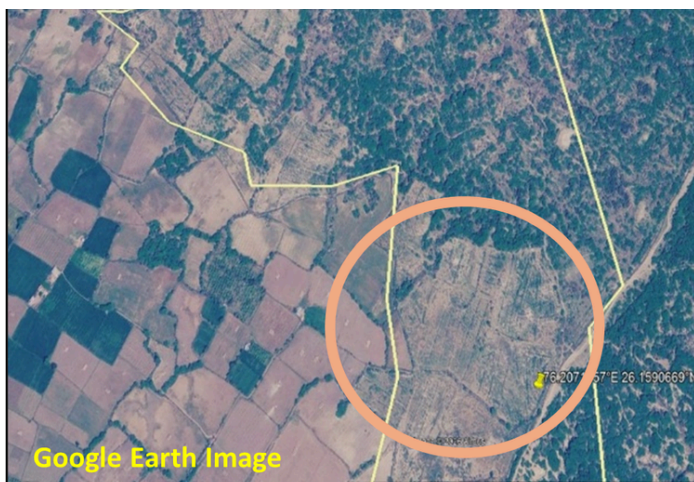
EQUIP FOREST PERSONNEL WITH DIGITAL TOOLS AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES FOR PLANNING

ENABLE FOREST FIELD STAFF TO USE OPEN-SOURCE MOBILE MAPPING APPLICATIONS FOR PRECISE LOCATION MAPPING

PROMOTE GIS-BASED PLANNING APPROACH FOR SITE SELECTION AND PREPARATION OF AREA TREATMENT PLAN, INSTEAD OF RELYING ONLY ON CONVENTIONAL PRACTICES

STRENGTHEN PARTICIPANT KNOWLEDGE AND PRACTICAL SKILLS IN GIS, REMOTE SENSING, AND GPS TO IMPROVE QUALITY, EFFECTIVENESS, AND SUSTAINABILITY

Vegetation density and area calculations for plantation sites are being conducted using the NDVI method in GIS, along with reporting on changes in vegetation status. Currently, change assessments are underway for 134 plantation sites for the year 2023-24.





PROVIDING ON-SITE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO FOREST PERSONNEL AND WORKFORCE, WITH PRACTICAL GUIDANCE TO IMPROVE THE WORKMANSHIP AND QUALITY OF LSCD STRUCTURES



PERCOLATION TANK IN
VANVIHAR RANGE, DHOLPUR
WILDLIFE DIVISION



PERCOLATION TANK IN BAYANA
RANGE, BHARATPUR DIVISION

Latitude: 27.007776
Longitude: 77.111668
Elevation: 244.29±2.5 m
Accuracy: 3.79 m

Soil and Moisture Conservation

A notable good practice under RFBDP has been the conduct of intensive field-based technical appraisal visits across Bharatpur, Alwar, and Dholpur divisions, bringing planning, verification, and capacity building together in a single exercise. These visits focused on reviewing key SMC interventions such as WHS, percolation tanks, gabions, LSCDs, and contour-based works, while simultaneously providing on-site technical handholding and practical demonstrations to field teams.

This integrated approach has enabled identification of field-level gaps, supported site-specific planning improvements, and strengthened the technical understanding of frontline staff on design, estimation, and quality standards. By fostering real-time learning and collaborative problem-solving, the initiative is contributing to improved workmanship, better alignment with watershed principles, and more sustainable implementation of SMC interventions on the ground.



Gender Empowerment

GENDER TRAINING IN ALWAR ON 18 FEBRUARY 2026 ON GENDER MAINSTREAMING



Capacity Building & Training

Capacity Building of Forest staff, VFPMC and EDC members and PFTs continued in the quarter Feb 2026- April 2026. A one day training at Bundi was conducted under the Rajasthan Forestry and Biodiversity Development Project (RFBDP) on 13 February 2026 for Forest Department staff, VFPMC, EDC and Project Facilitation Team (PFT) members.



ESMS, GIS and Gender training at Bundi on 13 February 2026

Participants were aware of the gender inequality and the opportunities available for women facing GBV issues through support of various agencies on the ground. The stakeholders were familiar about the work of VFPMCs and engagement of women. It became clear that the engagement of women needs to be increased as the project aims for higher percentage of participation in all roles for women and also the services which exist for women's safety are available in their district.

Alwar Training Session

A one-day training session was conducted on 17 February 2026 at Riwaaz Resort, Alwar, bringing together these stakeholders to enhance their understanding and commitment toward gender-sensitive practices.

The training session was attended by 56 participants. Mr. Rajendra Kumar Hooda, DFO, Alwar, Mr. Yogesh Kumar, ACF, Alwar Territorial addressed the participants and motivated them to take back the learnings from the training to their work areas.

A detailed report was submitted on various activities undertaken under the RFBDP project that impacted the women stakeholders through capacity building, participation in activities related to microplans, income generation related activities. A document was prepared by collecting best practices of stakeholders from the field. These case studies capture the unique activities or motivation at work which provide an example to share with other women in the field so that success could be attained on these parameters.



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