



## Heere Kere: the source of water and progress

*Heere kere, Maragundi village, Halagadde Grama Panchyat. Sirsi Taluk, Uttara Kannada District - CMS*

“The words bounced off her like a stone skipping over the surface of a lake. A stone may skip a long way, but it always sinks eventually.” – **Rachel Hartman, Tess of the Road**



Since the last two years, MANUVIKASA and CMS have been jointly working on lake rejuvenation in Uttara Kannada, Shivamogga Districts. To boost the confidence of farmers in rural areas, MANUVIKASA is proactively working towards poverty alleviation by strengthening the economic situation of the farming community through improving the availability of

natural resources like water.

Heere kere, a lake with a total area of eight acres, is located in survey no 95 of Maragundi village in Halagadde Grama Panchyat. Sirsi Taluk, Uttara Kannada District.

With the cooperation of the Grama Panchayat, MANUVIKASA and its team participated in the Grama Sabha and convinced the village community on the importance of lake rejuvenation. With proper documentation and systematic survey, the lake was rejuvenated in 2021. 24 farmers came forward to utilise the benefits provided by the project.



“Prior to lake rejuvenation, there was severe water scarcity in our village; open wells had gone dry. As a result, people had to walk 4-5 kilometres in the summer to fetch water. With lake rejuvenation, the situation has changed – now we need not worry about fetching drinking water, “ says a relieved Dinesh B Naik, a farmer of Maragundi Village.

While rejuvenating the lake, 623 loads of silt were excavated, with 146.13 acres of land benefitted by regular water supply for irrigation.

“After applying silt from the lake in the fields, we are beginning to get good crop yields. Prior to this, the paddy yield from my land was 10 quintals per year, whereas now, I am getting 15 quintals. With consistent availability of water, I have ventured into mixed cropping too. I am extremely grateful to MANUVIKASA, whose efforts have helped turn our lives around for the better,” shares Anoop C Gowda, a farmer.



Now, in Maragundi, a few farmers have begun planting plantation crops like banana and arecanut, for the first time. The farming community in the village acknowledges that this has been possible through the endeavour and efforts of MANUVIKASA and its team members.

Due to lake rejuvenation, Heerekere is brimming with water, thereby alleviating the water woes of the villagers. “Thanks to MANUVIKASA, we no longer have to worry about the source of all our water needs. This has reassured us and built our self-confidence,” say the villagers of Maragundi. Along with reviving a natural water source, it has helped in improving the economic conditions of the farmers, thereby that of the village too. Now, Maragundi is on the path to progress.

\*\*\*\*\*