

## **DEVELOPMENT OF REFRACTORY AREAS OF KANDI SOPORE**

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Apart from stabilization of degraded and denuded sites, the department has been meeting the challenge of conserving soil and water in the stressful areas of various Kandi belts in the Kashmir valley. The department has achieved remarkable success in the fields of survey, project formulation and its implementation in such areas also.

One of the important tehsils of the district Baramulla is Sopore. It has the population of 266712 souls as per the census 2001. The area from Watlab upto Sagipora towards the south western aspect of Sopore town is degraded, devoid of vegetation and is under moisture stress. The area is comprised of two sub catchments namely Wular Zangair sub-catchment and Zindri watershed. The topography of these sub-catchments vary from steep to gentle rolling. In the upper reaches the slope varies from 25°-35° with comparatively flat top. Most of the area is rocky and unfit for cultivation except some patches near habitation. The Soil at the base is comprised of loose boulders with loam and clay. The upper reaches bear out crops of rocks with shallow soil depth. This area in the first glance gives a look of vast denuded, refractory and rugged hill slopes, which has happened due to uncontrolled deforestation, excessive grazing, faulty agriculture etc. The big gullies cause havoc during rains in the adjoining habitation due to uncontrolled run-off which carry excessive quantities of silt and debris from the catchment area.

To meet the challenges the Department of Soil Conservation has drawn comprehensive plan of identification and treatment of such erosion prone kandi areas on integrated micro watershed development basis. During last decades the department has achieved considerable success in checking the problems by identifying and treating number of locations in this belt which include Baba Habib Sahib, Muqam-e-Shaheed Mir, Tujar Sharief, Zaloor and Sagipora.

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name of project /scheme</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Year of start</b>	<b>Area treated Hec.</b>	<b>Total fencing rfts</b>	<b>Total Plantation Nos.</b>
1	Tujjar sharief project	MWS/LSC	1989-90	428	16700	544700
2	Zaloor project	MMA/SWC	2002-03	100	10800	79000
3	Sagipora project	MWS	2001-02	319	18340	112400
4	Muqam Shaheed Mir	MWS	1997-98	100	10350	50700
5	Shalnar project	MWS	1998-99	103	15174	89384
6	Baba Habib sahib	MWS	1997-98	50	12000	75692
7	Cheki Gojri project	LSC	2007-08	25	8000	20400

The Department is continuing the efforts by extending the treatment to the remaining areas of these Sub-Catchments in a phased manner. Besides improvement in vegetal cover of these denuded slopes the moisture regime has also enhanced. It will also bridge the gap between demand and supply of fuel wood and fodder in the due course of time. The area being riddled with small and big gullies, the most effective soil and moisture conservation measures which include gully plugging, DRSM check dams, crate-wire bunds, bag embankments and vegetative measures along with the effective afforestation programmes are undertaken to conserve the soil and water.