

# Time to Move towards “Economic-convergence” of the Natural-Resources through MGNREG Scheme: The Alwar Model

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**Abstract** – The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), also known as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MNREGS) is Indian legislation enacted on August 25, 2005. The MGNREGA provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage.

*This scheme is a paradigm shift in employment generation in rural India. Presently, this scheme is also developing the natural resources in rural areas with many activities like: Watershed development, Afforestation, Rejuvenation of traditional water bodies (Canal, Ponds, Step well etc.), Development of community land, Water conservation and Water-harvesting, Development of livestock infrastructure (piggery, fishery, goat shelters etc.), Horticulture development etc.*

*The concept of “Economic convergence” is that we have to mobilize these natural resources to generate income for rural population. The government labels 30 per cent of India’s landmass as “wasteland” and wants to open it up for industry and agriculture. This concept will help the Gram-Panchayats to make self-sufficient.*

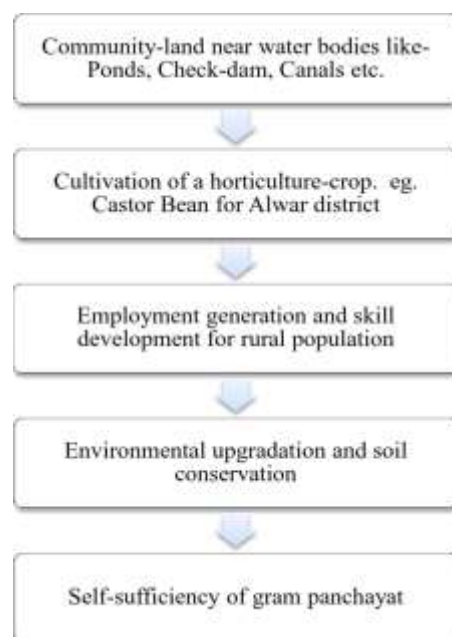
**Keywords** – Economic-Convergence, Wasteland-Development, Self-Sufficiency, Skill-Development, Agro-Climatic Regions

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## THE ALWAR MODEL OF ECONOMIC-CONVERGENCE (METHODOLOGY):

This model is based on Agro-climatic conditions of any region. Below mentioned flow-chart focuses on optimum use of wastelands for cultivation of horticulture crops and livestock activities. For example, Alwar district of Rajasthan state is very favorable for the cultivation of Castor-bean, according to its climatic conditions.

The cultivation of Castor-bean will be very useful in creating employment and skill development in the region. This will be a sustainable way of Economic-convergence. This concept will also help in self-sufficiency in rural areas.



### CLIMATIC CONDITIONS REQUIRED FOR CASTOR-BEAN CULTIVATION:

- Castor bean is a crop which is mostly cultivated in the regions between 400N to 400S.
- This crop requires moderate temperature of 20 to 26 Celsius during crop for higher yield.
- Below 15°C temperature is not good for seed bed due to fungal infections.
- This crop is very sensitive to high temperature (especially at flowering).
- This is a deep rooted, drought resistant and rain fed crop, which is mostly cultivated in Kharif season in India.
- Rainfall- 50 to 60 cm rainfall is very good during growing
- Sandy, well drained and low fertile type of soil is very favorable for castor cultivation.
- This crop can be cultivated in Rabi season also with early maturing varieties.

### CLIMATIC CONDITIONS OF ALWAR DISTRICT:

- The warmest month is May with an average maximum temperature of 40°C.
- The coldest month is January with an average maximum temperature of 22°C.
- Yearly average temperature is around 25.40 C. Maximum and minimum temperature are shown below:



Image Courtesy: Weatherandclimate.com

- Total rainfall is about 722 mm (70 to 750 cm). June, July, August and September months are most precipitated months. Monthly trends of precipitation are shown below:

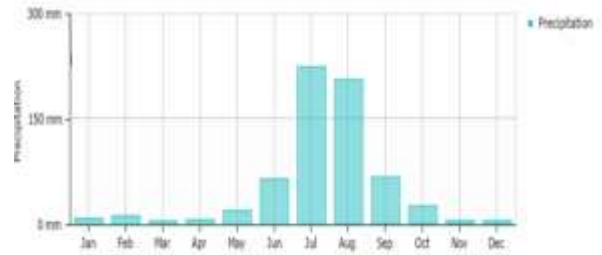


Image Courtesy: Weatherandclimate.com

- Soil: - Alwar district is situated in North-Eastern region of Rajasthan state. This region has alluvial type of soil which is fertile and well drained in nature.

### RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS:

- This model suggest about the optimum use of natural resources so that we can create more employment and income sources in rural India.
- This model can be executed all over India according to Agro-climatic regions.so that we can use all wasteland in India to create income sources.
- Cultivation of horticulture crops will be beneficial for skill development in rural areas.
- Employment generation through this model will help in budget cut for MGNREG scheme.
- ‘ONE DISTRICT, ONE CROP’ will help to produce more horticulture crops on wastelands. These crops can be chosen from aromatic plants to medicinal plants to help extra income for rural population. It can be any livestock activity which is unique in that area.
- A contract can be signed between district authorities and any industry, for which this crop can be useful like: pharmaceutical and aroma industries.
- According to government data one sixth of total area of India is wasteland, which can be used for these purposes. Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are the states with highest area of wasteland

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