

Fodder Development Initiative in Village Panchayat Khadgoli

Village Panchayat Khadgoli is situated in Bolck Karna Prayag, District Chamoli Garhwal at an elevation of 1150 meters above sea level. It is 11 km away from Village Panchayat Nand Prayag located on Nand Prayag – Ghat road. Khadgoli has a population of 678 out of which 359 are females and 219 males. Village Panchayat has different Hamlets namely Soni Malla, Soni Talla, Khadgoli, Malkholi and Latgair. There are total of 117 households residing in the village panchayat. Village has a total geographical area of 235.05 hectares comprising of 19.235 hectares of Agricultural land out of which 78.96 hectares of land is irrigated and 11.150 hectares of land is not irrigated. 91.05 hectares is forest panchayat land and total grazing land is 18.025 hectares. There is no Forest Panchayat in the village.

A baseline survey of the village was conducted in the year 2008. As per the findings, village's main occupation is animal husbandry and agriculture but the village faces similar problem (as many other mountain villages) of lack of technical knowledge about animal husbandry, lack of fodder for livestock and traditional practices used in agriculture and animal husbandry. Mainly, women are involved in these occupations and therefore, are under too much work pressure (both physical and mental). Lack of proper fodder and its reach within the village boundaries was causing a lot of problems for the villagers especially women. In 2008, a meeting was held with the village panchayat where it was decided that collective land which is not used, shall be utilized for the purpose of fodder development under MNREGA Scheme. During 2008 to 2012, each year, it was proposed under MNREGA work plan. Himmotthan Society, Dehradun and Jai Nanda Welfare Society, Bheemtalla, Chamoli along with MNREGA provided financial and technical support and fodder development project was implemented in all the hamlets of Village Panchayat Khadgoli.



Fodder Plot in Hamlet Latugair: In the year 2009-2010, 3 Hectares of land was used for fodder plantation in Hamlet Tanoyi. Napier grass, Jhaadi and fodder leaf plants were planted in the plot. Now, the production of fodder from the plot is used by 16 families in the hamlet. Village community itself manages the plot and production is continuously growing. Villagers participate in the work such as weed removing, manuring, labour work etc.

Fodder Plot in Hamlet Malkholi: Fodder development project was started in this hamlet in the year 2010-2011 in 3 hectares of community land. Napier grass, Auns and leaf plants were planted during the process and now 14 families are benefited from the fodder production.

Fodder plot in Hamlet Khadgoli: In this Hamlet, work started in 2011-2012 and 3 hectares of land was utilized for fodder development. Napier and other fodder plants were planted in the plot.

Fodder Plot in Hamlet Bagad: Here, 2 hectares of community land was developed for fodder and plantation of Napier grass and auns along with fodder leaf plants was done.

Fodder Plot in Hamlet Sayar Pani: In the year 2013-2014, people of Sayar Pani used 2 hectares of community land to plant fodder grass and other leaf plants.



Collectively, 5 written 4 hamlets utilized their 9 hectares of barren/not in use land for fodder development project. Himmtthan Society, Dehradun, Jay Nanda Welfare Society, Bheemtalla, Chamoli continuously guided the villagers and informed them about technical aspects for fodder development plan. Block level assessment is also done from time to time and villagers are informed about different Govt. Schemes. In last three years, total of 54 villages have got employment under MNREGA Scheme.

Under MNREGA Scheme, a total of 9 hectares of land was used for fodder development in 4 years and Rupees 214115/- was spent under the scheme. 108 villagers were employed for 1408 days under MNREGA implementation work.

Details of Expenditures met under MNREGA Scheme for Fodder Development Project

Year	Area (ha.)	Labour component (Rs.)	Material component (Rs.)	Total Cost (Rs.)	Employment generated (person days)	Total Job Card Holder involved (Nos)		
						Men	Women	Total
2009 & 10	3	67500.00	19500.00	87000.00	675	5	12	17
2010 & 11	2	54223.00	18000.00	72223.00	525	15	20	35
2011 & 12	3	58783.00	16900.00	75683.00	412	6	22	28
2012 & 13	3	59125.00	17275.00	76400.00	267	6	8	14
2013 & 14	2	58500.00	15600.00	74100.00	315	5	14	19
Total	13	298131.00	87275.00	385406.00	2194	37	76	113

The present scenario of the village with respect to fodder developed has improved a lot. Production in the plots is gradually increasing and villagers are actively involved in the process of maintenance and development of fodder project. Weed removing, protection from wild animals, manuring etc. is done from time to time as per the requirement. Villagers cut the grass 3 to 4 times annually and each member of the community does manuring within the span of 4 days.



Detail of Fodder grass production (annually) from the Plots:

Year	Grass Production (Kg)			No. of HH benefitted
	Natural	Planted	Total	
2009 -10	3950	23600	27550	15
2010 - 11	6025	4980	11005	45
2011 -12	3805	5195	9000	86
2012 -13	9600	11800	21400	55
2013 -14	5650	22600	28250	86
Total	29030	68175	97205	287

Management:

A plan is prepared by the villagers for the management of fodder plot/land. From cutting grass to maintenance, each activity is discussed in the village level meeting. It is decided that one women from one family will come to cut the grass and bring manure with her. After cutting grass, community also does labour work on the plot for better production and its maintenance. Any damage to the plot or the product is punishable and a panulty amount is paid by the guilty/ies.

Conclusion:

Household in the village Khadgoli are getting an average of 10 days' fodder which is helping women in terms of less work load and availability of better quality of fodder. Women have started saving a little through SHGs and information regarding good breed livestock and better techniques of animal husbandry, feeding is disseminated to tehe villagers. They have in fact, started using some of the

techniques. The production is continuously increasing and there is a positive growth of fodder leaf plants as well.

Village Panchayat: Khadgoli
Block: KarnaPrayag
Partner Organization: Jay Nanda Welfare Society,