

Fodder Development Program in Village Farkhet

Village panchayat Farkhet is situated in District Chamoli at an elevation of 600 metres above sea level. There are 65 households inhabited in 5 hamlets of the village panchayat namely Farkhet, Barolidhar, Nagbagad, Gwad and Shrikot. Village panchayat population is 314 out of which 161 are females and 153 are males. Population data shows the larger number of females as compared to males in the village panchayat. Total geographical area of the village is 99.392 hectares. It has 1.190 hectares of Forest area, 27.187 hectares of land suitable for agriculture out of which 26.091 hectares is not irrigated and only 1.096 hectares is irrigated and 8.862 hectares of area under Forest Panchayat and grazing land. Beena Devi is Village Pradhan and Mahipal Singh Khatri is Forest Panchayat Sarpanch.

Most of the families in the panchayat are dependent on milk product business and mostly women are involved in the work associated with the business. Women are overloaded with the daily work they have to do which includes most of their efforts and time utilized in collecting grass and fodder for livestock.

A village baseline survey was conducted in 2011 in village Farkhet. It was found that there were many households having livestock but due to unavailability or lack of proper fodder and good breed livestock, cattle ranchers were having a hard time in sustaining the business. A village level meeting was conducted with Pradhan Beena Devi. In the meeting, it was decided that Fodder Development Plan will be implemented in different hamlets under MNREGA. The program was proposed in each year's work plan under MNREGA. With the technical support from Himmotthan Society, Dehradun, 3 hectares of land was used for Fodder Development work between year 2011 and 2014. Timely village level training and orientation programs were organized by Himmotthan Society's associated organization – Shri Bhuvneshwari Mahila Ashram – to make villagers aware of technical aspects as well as for management of fodder land. Periodical evaluation of the program is done at block level and villagers are informed about different schemes. In these three years, 20 villagers received employment under MNREGA for 560 days. Following is the detail of expenditure incurred by MNREGA for Fodder Development plan:

Year of Plantation	Unit (ha.)	Labour component (Rs.)	Material component (Rs.)	Total Cost (Rs.)	Employment generated (No of days)	Total Worker
2011-12	3	50890.75	15180	66070.75	560	20
Total	3	50890.75	15180	66070.75	560	20

Impact:

Fodder Land/plots are looked after and maintained by the villagers regularly with the help from the organization. Cattle Ranchers collect fodder three times annually. Availability of fodder nearby the village saves a lot of time for women and improved quality and nutritious fodder is available for the livestock. Furthermore, women have started planting Napier grass on the boundaries of agricultural

fields which helps them get fodder from nearby places. Village level women group meetings are organized from time to time by Pradhan and Sarpanch. Problems are shared in the meetings and solutions are discussed and implemented. Moreover, women Self Help Groups have started little savings apart from problem solving. Well bred livestock and different improved techniques of feeding are adopted by the villagers.