

### Fodder Development Project in Village Panchayat Kumjug

Village Panchayat Kumjug is situated at an elevation of 800 meters above sea level in District Chamoli Garhwal. A total number of 208 households reside in 4 different hamlets namely Kumjug, Dhargaon, Sirosar and Kumartoli. Village has a total population of 1200 comprising of 620 females and 580 males. Village panchayat is spread over 120.145 hectares area. It includes 13.782 hectares is agricultural land which is completely unirrigated. 17.4 hectares land comes under Forest area and total grazing land is 4.103 hectares. Mrs. Swari Devi is Village Pradhan and Mr. Mahipal Singh is Forest Panchayat Sarpanch.

Most of the households are dependent on dairy business and mainly women participate in the work associated to it. Work load on women is so much that they are occupied from morning to night doing different jobs but most of their time is taken by collection of fodder for livestock.

A Base line Survey of the village was conducted in the year 2011 and the findings reveal that most of the families are involved in animal husbandry and agriculture work but the condition of the villagers was not very good due to unavailability of fodder and well bred livestock. A village level meeting was held with Village Pradhan and it was decided that Fodder Development Project will be implemented in different hamlets of the village panchayat under MNREGA Scheme. From 2011 to 2014 with the technical help from Himmotthan Society, Dehradun, Fodder development project was implemented under MNREGA. 3 hectares land in each of the Hamlets (Kumjug, Dhargaon, Sirosar and Kumartoli) was finalized for the work. Training sessions with the villagers were organized from time to time by Shri Bhuvneshwari Mahila Ashram, associated organization of Himmotthan Society, Dehradun.

In three years, 48 villagers have been employed under MNREGA for 1587 days. Assessment of the project from Block level is also done from time to time and information about new schemes is shared with the villagers.

**Details of Expenditures and employment generated under MNREGA is given below:**

Year of Plantation	Unit (ha.)	Labour component (Rs.)	Material component (Rs.)	Total Cost (Rs.)	Employment generated (No of days)	Total Worker
2011-12	3	51696	24,224	75920	552	15
2012-13	3	71661	20289	91950	580	21
2013-14	3	66465	28485	94650	455	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>189822</b>	<b>72998</b>	<b>262520</b>	<b>1587</b>	<b>48</b>

**Impact:**

All the Fodder Development Lands are looked after regularly with the help of the organization. Villagers cut the grass three times annually. Availability of fodder nearby the village saves a lot of time of women and good quality fodder is also provided to livestock. Moreover, women have started planting Napier grass on the boundaries of their agricultural fields. Regular village level meetings are organized by Village Pradhan and Forest Panchayat Sarpanch. Villagers have started sharing their problems and are finding the solutions as well. Regular participation in the meetings is also ensuring little savings of these women. Information dissemination about improved techniques of animal husbandry has motivated women to adopt such techniques. People have started adopting well bred livestock and changing the traditional way of dealing with livestock.