

Fodder Development Project in Village Panchayat Lankhi

Village Panchayat Lankhi is situated at an elevation of 2000 meters above sea level in District Chamoli Garhwal. Village Panchayat has 325 households living in 6 Hamlets namely Lankhi, Godibagad, Kirmoddhar, Bheni, Jawana and Chhati. Total population of the village is 1625 out of which 851 are males and 774 are females. Total geographical area of the village is 109.434 hectares which includes Forest area of 12.49 hectares, Forest Panchayat and grazing land of 8.40 hectares and agricultural land of 49.054 hectares. There is no irrigated land available in the village. Village Pradhan is Mr. Guddu Ram and Mr. Vikram Singh is Forest Panchayat Sarpanch.

As per the Base Line survey conducted in the year 2008, main occupation of most of the villagers is animal husbandry and agriculture. Though, there are livestock but the economic condition of the villagers is not good. Lack of technical knowledge, use of traditional practices, unavailability of fodder resources etc. are the challenges faces by the villagers. Considering the situation of the village, it was decided in a village level meeting that Fodder Development Project shall be initiated in the village under MNREGA Scheme. Between 2008 and 2011, Fodder development plan was proposed in each of the MNREGA annual work plan. Himmotthan Society, Dehradun provided technical support in the project and in the year 2009-2010, 3 hectares of land from each hamlet namely Lankhi, Godibagad, Kirmofdhar, Bheni, Jawana and Chhati was selected for fodder development work. Further, 3 hectares of land in the year 2011-2012, 6 hectares in the year 2012-2013 and 3 hectares in the year 2013-2014 was added to the project for fodder development. Shri Bhuvneshwari Mahila Ashram, partner organization of Himmotthan Society, Dehradun organized trainings for the villagers to understand technical and managerial aspects of the fodder development project. Block level assessment of the plots is done from time to time and necessary info about the schemes is given to the villagers. In three years, 119 villagers have been employed under MNREGA for 3563 days to develop fodder project.

Details of the expenditure met under MNREGA (Annually) and employment generation in Fodder Development Project is given below:

Year of Plantaion	Unit (ha.)	Labour component (Rs.)	Material component (Rs.)	Total Cost (Rs.)	Employment generated (No of days)	Total Worker
2008-09	3	62315.72	21500	83815.72	850	39
2009-10	3	83135	43129.25	1,26000	625	22
2010-11	3	70500	20500	91000	625	25
2012-13	6	1,20000	52,250	1,72250	1000	23
2013-14	3	67550	28950	96500	463	10
Total	18	403500.72	89729.25	569565.72	3563	119

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.