

Fodder Development Project in Village Panchayat Lwanii

Village Panchayat Lwani is situated at an elevation of 1450 meters above sea level in District Chamoli Garhwal. Village Panchayat has 147 households living in Lwani, Malla Gaon, Talla Gaon, Gwad and Duniya Hamlets. Total population of the village is 772 out of which 450 are males and 322 are females. Total geographical area of the village is 306.491 hectares which includes Forest area of 35.225 hectares, Forest Panchayat and grazing land of 167.918 hectares and agricultural land of 98.409 hectares. There is no irrigated land available in the village. Bhavani Lal is Village Pradhan and Makar Singh is Forest Panchayat Sarpanch of the village.

A Village Baseline survey was conducted in the year 2011 where it was found that 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, a village level meeting was organized with Bhavani Lal, Village Pradhan and it was decided that Fodder Development Project shall be initiated in the village under MNREGA Scheme. Between 2011 and 2014, Fodder development plan was proposed in each of the MNREGA annual work plan. Himmotthan Society, Dehradun provided technical support in the project and between 2011 and 2013, 3 hectares of land from Hamlet Lwani was selected for fodder development work. 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 information about the schemes is disseminated to the villagers. In three years, 35 villagers have been employed under MNREGA for 1741 working days for fodder development project.

Details of the expenditure met under MNREGA (Annually) and employment generation in Fodder Development Project 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	67200	28800	96000	610	15
2012-13	3	65760	35840	109600	548	10
2013-14	3	70000	30000	100000	583	10
Total	9	202960	94640	305600	1741	35

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.