

Fodder Development Project in Village Panchayat Mathkot

Village Panchayat Mathkot is situated in District Chamoli Garhwal at an elevation of 1200 meters above sea level. It has 138 households residing in two hamlets namely Mathkot and Kumbgarh. Total population of the village is 660 out of which 337 are males and 323 females. Geographical area of the village is 211.431 hectares comprising of 82.172 hectares of forest land, 40 hectares of Van (forest) panchayat and grazing land and 85.258 hectares of agricultural land. No agricultural land in this village is irrigated. Mr. Balveer Singh and Mrs. Basanti Devi are village Pradhan and Van panchayat Sarpanch respectively.

A village Base Line Survey was conducted in the year 2008. As per the survey, though most of the households are involved in animal husbandry, the economic position is not very good due of lack of knowledge, well bred livestock and unavailability of good quality fodder. This situation was addressed in a village level meeting and it was decided that Fodder Development Project shall be implemented in the village under MNREGA. Hamlets Mathkot and Kunjbagad were selected for the project. Between 2008 and 2011, fodder development project plan was proposed every year in MNREGA work



plan. With the technical support from Himmotthan Society, Dehradun, 3 hectares of land from both the Hamlets was used for fodder plantation. In 2011-2012, another 2 hectares was included for the purpose. Himmotthan Society's partner organization, Shri Bhuvneshwari Mahila Shram, trained villagers on improved techniques and management of fodder plot. So far, 62 villagers have got employment for 1660 days under MNREGA working on the fodder development project. Block level assessments are also done from time to time.

Details of Expenditure met and employment generated (Annually) under MNREGA for Fodder development Project:

Year of Plantation	Unit (ha.)	Labour component (Rs.)	Material component (Rs.)	Total Cost (Rs.)	Employment generated (No of days)	Total Worker
2008-09	3	58069.72	24,350	82559.72	565	18
2009-10	3	82941	43129.25	1,26000	575	22
2010-11	2	52000	22000	74000	520	22
Total	8	193010.72	89479.25	282559.72	1660	62

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 Van 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 for the women. Availability of information has motivated women to adopt improved techniques of animal husbandry. People have started adopting well bred livestock and changing the traditional way of dealing with livestock.

