

Success Story – Fodder Development in Village Panchayat Kameda

Village Kameda is a part of Nyay Panchayat Solna under Block Karnaprayag in District Chamoli Garhwal, Uttarakhand. This village of approx 105 households is situated on Nand Prayag – Ghat road in distance of approximately 13 km from Village Panchayat Nand Prayag. The distance from Block is 35 km. Village Kameda is last village of Block Karna Prayag attached to Block Ghat. It is situated at an elevation of 1150 meters above sea level. Due to being not connected with market area and block office, no project has been implemented in this village. Village is comprised of different Hamets namely Malla Kameda, Talla Kameda, Saisari. Total population of the village is 610 out of which 268 are female and 242 males. Total geographical area of the village is 282.25 hectares. It includes 12.255 hectares of Forest area, 69.396 hectares of agricultural land and 11.296 hectares of Van Panchayat and grazing land. 41.234 hectares of agriculture land is not irrigated and only 7.102 hectares is irrigated. There is no Forest Panchayat in the village. In 2008, a baseline survey was conducted in the village and it was found that most of the villagers are involved in animal husbandry but due to lack of well bred livestock and availability of quality fodder, villagers' condition was not very good. Most of the families work in agriculture fields and livestock but no focus was given to develop it as a business or income generation activity. Before Integrated Fodder Development and Livestock Project, nobody was involved into milk production sale but now with IFLDP, they have been putting efforts towards development dairy business.



Animal Husbandry requires a lot of efforts but most importantly, it requires fodder for livestock. Availability of fodder in the village is a huge problem for women and during winter, they depend on tree leaves as fodder for livestock. Women are over loaded with work from morning to night and most of their time goes into collecting fodder. Green grass is always a problem for the people.

In 2008, a meeting was organized with village panchayat to initiate Fodder Development Work. It was decided that most of the collective land of village panchayat is barren which can be used for fodder development under MNREGA Scheme. The idea was proposed in each year's MNREGA work plan. Fodder Development plan was implemented with the financial and technical assistance from MNREGA, Himmottan Society, Dehradun and support organization – Jay Nanda Welfare Society, Bheemtalla, Nainital. From 2008 to 2012, fodder development plan was implemented in all hamlets of the village panchayat.

Fodder Plot in Hamlet Tanoyi: 2 hectares of land was utilized for fodder development in the year 2008-2009 in which Napier grass and fodder leaf plants were planted. 36 households are benefited from this plot.

Fodder Plot in Hamlet Saisari: In 2009-2010, 3 hectares of land was used for Fodder plantation in Saisari. Napier grass, Auns and different varieties of fodder leaf plants was planted in this plot. The production is consumed/used by 14 households of this hamlet.

Fodder Plot in Hamlet Bagardhar: 2 hectares land in Hamlet Bagardhar was used for planting Napier grass and other leaf plants in 2010-2011.

Fodder Plot in Hamlet Thagla Gair: In 2012-2013, 2 hectares of Hamlet's collective land was used for fodder development in which different Fodder grass and plants were planted.

4 Fodder plots are constructed and used by 4 different Hamlets of the village panchayat for fodder development. A total of 9 hectares of land is utilized for plantation. Himmotthan Society, Dehradun and Nanda Welfare Society, Bheemtalla organized training sessions for technical and managerial aspects of the plot/land and continues to do so. Periodical assessment is done by Block level and information is disseminated regarding different schemes. During the process of fodder plots development in three years, 54 villagers have been employed under MNREGA Scheme and following expenses have been met by the scheme:



A total amount of Rupees 214115/- have been used and 108 villagers were employed for 1408 days under MNREGA Scheme in village Kameda.

Details of Expenditures met (Annually) in Fodder Development Initiative under MNREGA

Year	Area (ha.)	Labour component (Rs.)	Material component (Rs.)	Total Cost (Rs.)	Employment generated (person days)	Total Job Card Holder involved (Nos)		
						Men	Women	Total
2008 & 09	2	34244.00	14568.00	50812.00	268	10	18	28
2009 & 10	3	36855.00	9250.00	46150.00	430	8	18	26
2010 & 11	2	57541.00	16800.00	74341.00	375	8	16	24
2012 & 13	2	85475.00	66875.00	18600.00	335	12	18	30
Total	9	214115.00	107493.00	189903.00	1408	38	70	108

At Present, the production of fodder is continuously increasing in all the 4 fodder plots in village Kameda which is motivating people to retain their involvement in the program. Weeds removing, maintenance, and management of plot is done by the Animal Husbandry Groups. Fodder is collected 3 to 4 times annually and each member of the community member puts manure in the plot in every 4 days.

Detail of Annual Grass Production from Fodder Plots:

Year	Grass Production (Kg)			No. of HH benefitted
	Natural	Planted	Total	
2008 - 09	4415	18760	23175	61
2009 -10	8088	53356	61444	85
2010 - 11	27500	19140	46640	121
2011 -12	9525	17900	27425	224
Total	49528	109156	158684	491

Conclusion:

Under Fodder Development Project in Village Kameda, each family gets 10 days of fodder annually on an average and it is observed that work load on women is decreasing. Additionally, by planting grass and fodder plants, it is also helping in environmental conservation. Further, women Self Help Groups have started holding meetings in which sharing their problems and finding solutions. They have also saved little in these SHGs. Information dissemination about well bred livestock and techniques of fodder feeding is helping women to adopt new practices. Apart from Grass production, growth of plants is also positive in Fodder plots.



Village Panchayat: Kameda
Block: Karnaprayag, chamoli Garhwal
Partner Organizaton: Jay Nanda Welfare Society