

Success Story of Fodder Development in Village Panchayat Thirpak

Village Panchayat Thirpak of Nyay Panchayat Solna is situated in Block Karna Prayag, District Chamoli Garhwal at an elevation of 1100 meters above sea level. Total number of households is 89 in this village consisting of general, SC and ST category people. The village is in distance of 7 km from Village Panchayat Nand Prayag on the Nand Prayag – Ghat road. It is 27 km away from Block Karna Prayag.

Village has a total geographical area of 108.606 hectares out of which 77.526 hectares is Forest land and 26.069 hectares is Forest Panchayat and grazing land. Village has only 5.011 hectares of irrigated agricultural land where 26.069 hectares of agricultural land is not irrigated. There is no forest panchayat in the village. Total population of the village is 427 out of which there are 209 females and 218 males. Most villagers are involved in animal husbandry but there were no efforts to develop it into a dairy business. As no project was implemented earlier in the village, lack of information was also a big drawback. Fodder was the biggest problem for the women of the village as they had to walk far to the forest to get the grass and fodder leaves.

A Baseline Survey was conducted in the village in 2008. As per the findings, the majority of the villagers were into animal husbandry but their condition was not very good as there is lack of fodder, well bred livestock and still traditional techniques are in place. Situation becomes worse in the winter season when it is difficult even to find dry leaves. In the year 2009, a village level meeting was organized and idea of fodder development project was shared with the villagers. Finally, it was decided by the villagers that the community land which is not in use or is barren, shall be used for fodder development project and the work shall be one under MNREGA Scheme. Every year, it was proposed in MNREGA annual work plan. From 2009 to 2013, fodder development project was implemented in all hamlets of the village panchayat with the guidance from Himmotthan Society, Dehradun and its partner organization Jay Nanda Welfare Society, Bheemtalla, Chamoli Garhwal.



Fodder Plot in Hamlet Dali (Chidiya): In hamlet Chidiya, 3 hectares of community land was utilized in fodder plantation during 2009-2010. Fodder grass like Napier, Auns and other fodder leaf plants were planted in the plot. 19 families in the village use the fodder from this plot. Plot is maintained and managed by the community itself. Villagers do different works like weed removing, manuring etc. from time to time and as a result, the production of fodder is increasing continuously.

Fodder Plot in Hamlet Pajiyana: Here, 2 hectares of land was used for fodder development in which Napier grass and fodder leaf plants were planted during 2010-2011. 14 households are benefiting from this plot. However, due to adverse soil conditions, the production is not very good.

Fodder Plot in Hamlet Thirpak: Between year 2012 and 2014, 3 hectares of land in Hamlet Thirpak was developed for fodder production and Different Fodder plants and grass was planted in the plot. The Fodder plot is new and therefore will take time to produce fodder. So far, no grass cutting has been done yet.

Collectively, 3 fodder plots have been developed in 3 hamlets of the village in which 8 hectares of community land is used. Training sessions has been provided to the villagers by Jay Nanda Welfare Society, Bhimtalla with the help of Himmotthan Society, Dehradun. Block level assesses the progress from time to time and informs the villagers about different schemes. Till now, 75 villagers have been employed under MNREGA.

Under MNREGA Scheme, Rupees 244900/- have been spent for development of fodder land/plot and 91 job card holders have got employment for 1160 days.

Annual expenditure met by MNREGA under Fodder Development Project

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
2009 & 10	3	69500.00	18500.00	88000.00	489	5	15	20
2010 & 11	2	53000.00	15000.00	68000.00	356	5	9	14
2013 & 14	3	72500.00	16400.00	88900.00	315	5	14	19
Total	8	195000.00	49900.00	244900.00	1160	15	38	53

At present, fodder grass production is growing in 4 plots in Village Thirpak. Villagers are associated with the project and regularly participate in the work of weed removing, manuring, maintenance, guarding etc. Grass is cut 3 to 4 times annually and villagers put manure in the plot as suggested in the village level meetings.

Detail of Fodder production (annually) in the plots:

Year	Grass Production (Kg)			No. of HH benefitted
	Natural	Planted	Total	
2009 & 10	4250	16500	20750	17
2010 & 11	12500	4560	17060	14
2013 & 14	0	0	0	26
Total	16750	21060	37810	57

Management:

A plan is prepared by the villagers for the management of fodder plot/land. From cutting grass to maintenance, each activity is discussed in the village level meeting. It is decided that one women from one family will come to cut the grass and bring manure with her. After cutting grass, community also does labour work on the plot for better production and its maintenance. Any damage to the plot or the product is punishable and a panulty amount is paid by the guilty/ies.

Conclusion:

Household in th evillage Thirpak are getting an average of 10 to 12 days' fodder which is helping women in terms of less work load and availability of better quality of fodder. It is also helping in environment conservation activity. Women have started saving a little through SHGs and information regarding good breed livestock and better techniques of animal husbandry, feeding is disseminated to tehe villagers. They have in fact, started using some of the techniques. The production is continuously increasing and there is a positive growth of fodder leaf plants as well.

Village Panchayat: Thirpak
Block: KarnaPrayag
Partner Organization: Jay Nanda Welfare Society