

Deepa Devi, a milk collector

Deepa Devi, resident of Village Tungewar, Nyay Panchayat Lolti did not know that her life would take a horrible turn in the form of demise of her husband. Deepa was married to Kundan Singh Rawat and moved to Mumbai with him after marriage. She has one son and one daughter. Her Husband used to work in a private company which was sole medium of their income. After 7 years of her marriage, she lost her husband. Deepa Devi returned to her village and after overcoming the grief, she started searching for a source of income. In the year 2008-2009, it was found in a survey that Deepa Devi, a hard working woman, desperately needs money to look after her children and their education. Himmotthan Society, Dehradun is running its IFLDP program in the region with its partner organization, Sankalp Samiti, Tharali.



In April, 2010, a community meeting was organized where organization representatives were discussing about the progress made in the project and income generation activities for women. The process of forming a federation, milk collection, its process etc. was also being discussed in the meeting. Deepa Devi initiated herself to become milk collector and everybody agreed on the decision. Additionally, Deepa Devi was given responsibility of working in the Fodder plot as well. Gradually, she started getting sources of earning for her family's living. On April 28, 2010, Maa Rajeshwari Swayatt Sahkarita Federation was formed in attendance of 301 women from

40 SHGs. Deepa Devi was selected as a member of federation.

Federation started its dairy unit in May, 2010. Deepa Devi inaugurated it with 2 litres of milk and gradually by milk collection; she started earning Rupees 8, 00 to 1,000. Later, she bought a buffalo who delivered a baby after one year. It again became a source of income for her. Sale of milk, milk collection, agriculture and MNREGA employment increased her income from Rupees 800 to 5000-5500. She, on an average, gets monthly income of Rupees 3500-4000 from sale of milk and milk collection, annual income of Rupees 8000-9000 from agriculture and Rupees 10000-11000 from MNREGA work.



Deepa Devi has now built a two room concrete house in 2013. Her son Pradeep studies in class 10 and daughter Lakshmi in class 7. Deep Devi is now in much better economical condition than before getting involved in Fodder and Livestock Development Project initiated by Himmotthan Society, Dehradun.

Case Study - Mrs. Ganga Devi, a Hard Working Farmer

Ganga Devi is a resident of village Raykoli in Block Tharali. She lives with her husband and other family members. Earlier, the economic condition of the family was not good at all and they had to compromise in each and every financial decision. Her husband did labor work and she used to earn a little amount of rupees 8000/- annually from the agricultural produce. Due to very low monthly income of rupees 3000 to 3500, it was really difficult to have even a moderate lifestyle.

In the year 2009-2010, Sankalp Samiti organization was implementing Integrated Fodder and Livestock Development Project in the region with the support of Himmatthan Society, Dehradun. Regular meetings are organized with the community to share the objectives and activities of the project and in one of such meetings Ganga Devi was participating. As the discussion was about fodder development work, she was excited to develop her land which is 2 km away from her village. She also has a cowshed there which was not used since ages. She made her mind to rebuild the cowshed and use her land for fodder production. With her hard work and determination, she changed the barren land into a lush green grass plot. She started selling milk in May, 2010 with 3 liters of milk sold to Ma Rajrajeshvari Swayatt Sahkarita, Tharali. She started earning rupees 1,800 to 2,000 from dairy unit.

With this intervention, Ganga Devi was earning rupees 1,500 monthly which increased her family income from rupees 3500 to 5000 (approx). But she did not utilize the money in day to day expenses but bought a well bred buffalo of worth rupees 22,000/- Old buffalo was sold in rupees 8,000 and that is how she managed to pay for new one. Here, she started using entrepreneurship skills of hers to use money for long term benefits. With new livestock, she was able to sell more milk to dairy unit. She was now selling 150 to 160 liters of milk to dairy unit as it was only 90 liters earlier. It is obvious that the monthly income increased from rupees 1500 to 3000-3500. But she did not stop here and got a new buffalo after 8 months. With 2 buffaloes producing 22 liters to 24 liters of milk, her income has increased to rupees 8,500. Both of her daughters are married now and son is working in a private firm after completing his M.A. Now the economic condition of the family is comfortable.

Hard work of Ganga Devi is a lesson/learning for the society. In 2013, SHGs and LPGs of 12 village panchayats organized a meeting in which Ganga Devi won highest earning prize.