

Revival of traditional source of water in Kuamon Hills.

Reporting period: July 2019 –June 2020

Project location: Chittai village, Block Hawalbagh, District Almora, State Uttarakhand .



Supported by

ConcurIP

Implemented by

Mahila Haat

Activity Report

A) Formation of women group and youth group: “Chiteshwar Mahadev Environment Samiti” was formed, selection of the members for samiti (group) was done by the villagers. Samiti took the responsibility for caring the plantation done in the area of van panchayat land. The van panchayat land was named as “Chiteshwar Mahadev van(forest)” and the van was dedicated to lord “Shiva”. Rules and regulations for protecting the van panchayat land have been made by the committee member.

Members of “Chiteshwar Mahadev samiti” meet every Sunday and they use to discuss about conservation and development of “Chiteshwar Mahadev Van”. Every Sunday **cleaning activity** is also done near the temple area with the help of villagers.



Cleaning activity

Chairperson of Chittai Temple Committee donated Rs 10,000 to “Chiteshwar Mahadev Samiti” for developing the “Chiteshwar Mahadev Van”. Members purchased **T-guard** for the plants from the donated money and installed them for protecting the plants.

Time to time fire line was cut by the committee members in order to protect the plants from fire. **Fire lines** are wide clearings made around the van panchayat land to stop the spread of fire. As there is predominance of pine trees in the area and pine needles and twigs are highly flammable, so it is important to cut the fire lines and to make clear the lines filled with dry leaves, twigs, pine needles etc.



A dustbin has been placed near the “Chiteshwar Mahadev Van”. The **dustbin** was donated by SOS foundation.



Fire Line



Dustbin

B)Awareness Meetings with villagers - Awareness meetings were organized with villagers every month. The topics discussed under the meetings included

- Causes of environment degradation.
- Plan for starting of work of regeneration of natural resources at local level.
- Water conservation activities like rain water harvesting, digging of trenches and ponds, cleanliness and maintenance of naulas.
- Treatment of catchment area through plantation.
- Use of energy saver methods.
- Importance and use of Organic farming.
- Use of forest and forest land in a way and at a rate that maintains bio-diversity.

Apart from awareness meeting practical application was also provided by Mahila Haat like making biobriquettes from pine needles, vermi composting technique, poly house technique, distribution of seeds for organic vegetable farming, preparation of juices and jams from local flowers and fruits.

Awareness meetings was also organized in Pre Primary and Primary schools of Chittai village. The students were given a tour to the “Chiteshwar Mahadev Van”. Students were motivated to plant trees on the occasion of their birthdays and other occasions in “Chiteshwar Mahadev Van”. Students and their parents are now planting the trees in the van panchayat on several occasions.

Awareness meetings were not held in inter-college due to lock down.



C)Fencing: Fencing of around 2 hectares have been done in van panchayat land before plantation. After fencing, few months later it was noticed by the Villagers and Project staff that from the previous height of the fencing a bull was entering the plantation site so fencing height was increased to protect the plants. Repair of the fencing was done again in few area as some pine trees had fallen on the fence due to the typhoon. Fencing is helping in protecting the plants.



DTreatment of catchment area above naula by plantation in the Vanpanchayat

Land: About 3000 pits were made for the plantation. The saplings of Falyat, Shatut(Mulberry), Anju, Baanj (OAK) , Devdar (Cedar) ,Kafal, Ghingar, Amla(emblic) ,Dalchini (Cinamon) , etc were acquired from the Nursery. These saplings were planted in the pits. Dibbling of the seeds of broad leave trees was also done in the plantation areas. Compost and weeding activity was done. Compost and weeding activity will help in increasing the nutrients of the plants. Some plants were dried, they would be replaced by new plants. Officials from Govind Ballabh Prayavaran Institute (Central Government Unit) visited the plantation site and appreciated the work of afforestation. They donated 500 plants for afforestation activity. These plants were also planted in the van panchayat land.



E)Water conservation activities: Trenches were systematically formed from the top to collect rain water in the van panchayat land. For making trenches, contours were marked on the slopes then trenches were made along the contours. In winter and rains , these trenches were full of water.



F)Rain water harvesting: Resource person was contacted for imparting the training in rain water harvesting. Villagers took practical training in Rain water harvesting from the resource person. Detailed technique related to installation and use of rain water harvesting was shared with villagers. Two rain water harvesting system were installed in the village.



G)Structure revival of 2 naulas- Structure of Kakri and Jogi Naulas was revived using traditional method like using mud, natural stone ,lime stone powder etc. (kakre and jogi naula)



Achievements

After installation of rain water harvesting in the area, villagers are very much interested in installing the same model at their homes.

2 families where rain harvesting model had been installed are very happy as the main problem in the village is of water but this system is providing them a relief from the stress of fetching water.

Case study of rain water harvesting

Lalitha and Vidhya live in Chittai village of Almora district in Uttarakhand . Rooftop rainwater harvesting system was installed in their houses. Roof top rain water collects water from the roof, through a system of horizontal channels and vertical down-take pipes and carries it to a closed tank. Water is stored here, close to the house .

The nearest source of water was “Shivalya Water Source” at the bottom of the mountain on which the village is located -a very steep 1.5 kilometre walk down and the same 1.5 kilometre Uphill with water laden pots. Both have to wait at the source of water for 2 to 3 hours to get water



because of the crowd of other villagers. Sometime they used to go at 3:00 a.m. to get water and sometimes two to three times a day .The fetched water is used for drinking ,washing and all possible domestic uses .Lalita and Vidya had beard all these pains during their pregnancy also .Now rainwater harvesting system in houses brought happiness in their life they don't have to spend the entire day in merely carrying water. They are now irrigating their

vegetable gardens also with this water.

Their drudgery is reduced by several hours which they used to spend on fetching water for domestic purpose.

The project site was visited by Officials from Govind Ballabh Prayavaran Institute (Central Government Unit) they appreciated the work of afforestation and donated 500 plants for afforestation activity.

Media personnels visited the site and they published the news of afforestation activity and ruins of several years old temple (found during plantation) in their news paper.

Villagers and women groups are actively working.

Visit by our foreign friends from Denmark: Two groups from Denmark visited the plantation site and rain water harvesting. They appreciated the work very much . They also did afforestation activity in the van panchayat land.



After renovation villagers started using the naulas and also started their maintenance and cleaning.

SOS foundation also liked the development in the project area and donated a dust bin for installing near the Van panchayat .

Villagers are very positive that if afforestation activities will keep on going year after year , " Chiteshwar Mahadev Van" will get developed into forest very soon, which will set an example for others also.

Future Plan

Mahila Haat would like to do more plantation activity in the van panchayat land in order to cover a big area under plantation.

Villagers are demanding rain water harvesting system at their places as water crisis in the summer is main phenomenon and villagers after seeing the usage of the models installed under the project are very happy .