

DOVETAILING THE BENEFIT OF MGNREGA, PASCHIM MEDINIPUR, W.B. FOR PARTICIPATORY DEVELOPMENT OF WATER HARVESTING STRUCTURE AT ASTAPARA- A SUCCESS STORY SEVA BHARATI KVK, WEST MEDINIPUR

BACKGROUND

Astapara under Dharasa GP, Jamboni block, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal is one of the adopted villages of Seva Bharati KVK,. The main constraint to agriculture and livestock production of the locality is scarcity of water. Agro-eco System analysis followed by PRA method conducted by Seva Bharati KVK in the said village revealed that if Rai Bandh, a heavily silted water harvesting structure in the village could be re-excavated then the water body would have substantially solved the problem of water scarcity in order to go for higher cropping intensity and other agricultural ventures.



Seva Bharati KVK developed a participatory plan for re-excavation of Rai Bandh with necessary provision of grass turfing, fruit plantation, and irrigation channels. However, arranging necessary fund to carry out the developmental plan was the main constraint.



District Magistrate visited the project site on 22.01.2008 along with the Sabhadhipati of Paschim Medinipur Zilla Parishad to assess the participatory mode of operation adopted by KVK. The participatory model on resource utilization developed by the villagers was discussed. The village people justified the need for re-excavation of Rai-Bandh through their presentation. District Magistrate, Paschim Medinipur was then approached for necessary financial support for the benefit of the farming community of the village. Having assessed the project proposal District Magistrate sanctioned the project with fund involvement Rs. 9.43 lakhs under NREGA as an experimental case for technological intervention of Seva Bharati KVK as a front line demonstration in the district.

Technological Intervention

Following the norms of MGNREGS, Seva Bharati KVK played the role of facilitator to ensure active participation of Village Unnayan Committee, Asthapara Palli Unnayan Sangha and also the Gram Panchayat for the said programme. Health camp was organized at work sites for labour folks. Location and size was determined as per water crop demand in the catchments areas. Emphasis was given on recycling of irrigation water and dyke protection measures with suitable weirs and grass turfing in order to reduce pond siltation.

Regular monitoring, follow-up, was maintained for transparency, accountability and participation.



CONVERGENCE OF DIFFERENT PROGRAMMES FOR EFFICIENT UTILISATION

Subsequently, District Magistrate sanctioned 80 acres of land under the catchments area of Rai bandh for promotion and production of Mango under National Horticulture Mission. The need based intervention like, land development for SC/ST people, drought-pondering measures, and nutritional food security measures were envisaged in the project by the scientific team of Seva Bharati KVK. Out of above sanctioned project of 80 acres, 40 acres of land has already been converted into mango orchard with nearly 90% survivality during the current year.

Development indicators

The impact of the project in terms of socio-economic enhancement profile is now clearly visible with encouragement of local people to participate in the adoption of improved agricultural and allied technologies for sustainable livelihood option.

IMPACT

- 110 acres of area has been brought under assure irrigation having 186% cropping intensity.
- Farmers under FLD programme of KVK are cultivating Mustard, Ground Nut, Vegetable as alternate crop in Rabi, summer since revitalization of bundh. During our last Kisan Mela, maximum prizes for displaying agricultural produce own by farmers of Asthapara village.
- KVK has identified Asthapara as “Model Village” to implement all mandatory activities of KVK.
- Farmers being motivated by the ventures of KVK is participating actively in RKVY, ATMA, NFSM, NHM, DRDC programmes.
- 10 ha of wasteland have been converged to Mango orchard in 2009 and % of mortality is only 15%.
- Land less farmers are adopting Backyard poultry, piggery with the help of KVK
- By implementing all aforesaid programme, the average annual income of farmers enhanced by 30%