

Waste Water Management for Better Use of Kitchen Garden

(A story on Hardship of a small farmer for Kitchen Garden at Rajuwa Village)

Rajuwa is one of the WARM villages coming under Rajuwa Gram-panchayat of Sagar Block in Sagar district. It is about 12 kms from district headquarters and 18 kms from MVSS head quarter. This village is occupied by different communities in different pockets like the surrounding villages based on their culture and practices. Such a pocket in Rajuwa village is called “TAPRA” which is mostly occupied by ST (Scheduled Tribe community) mainly Gond tribe. Their main livelihood is daily wages and Beedi making. People from this community always face problem for water scarcity for daily usages and for agriculture. There is only one hand pump working in the locality for around 120 households and in summer this hand pump gets dried up. Even before the onset of summer season, community people face problem for drinking water.



There is a small farmer from this community namely Mr. Chittar Singh Adivasi who is also the active member of CBO. He has 2 acres of agriculture and a portion of the land is being used for kitchen gardening. But due to scarcity of water, he is not able to do kitchen gardening for the last few years.



Community Level Reflection and Mobilisation: In the village, there is a hand pump which is used by the villagers. While taking water from the hand pump, a lot of water is being wasted as spill over water and this has become a problem for the village community. Knowing the situation, the WARM team approached the community of the tapra, where waste water from the hand pump running over the street has become a talk of the village and inconvenience for villagers, for a suitable solution. At this moment, Chittar singh said “-

Agar bekar pani hamare bagiche pe a jata to hamari sabji bhaji se kuch aamdani ho jati” (if this waste water turns into my kitchen garden, then I will get better livelihood). Afterward, WARM team took initiative with the CBOs and started digging a pit near kitchen garden.

Process of Change: Since the water pit was dug in his compound, it was easy for Mr. Chittar Singh to divert the water from the pit to his kitchen garden and irrigate vegetables in the



garden. Now he gets sufficient water for the kitchen garden and he is able to raise vegetables organically. Vegetables he produces in the garden are not only consumed by his family members but also, he sells at times when there is better yield. He is able to fetch a monthly income of Rs. 2500/- from the sale of vegetables.

RESULTS: Some of the main changes brought about as part of the programme are the following:

1. Hundreds of litres of waste water from the hand pump is productively used.
2. Surrounding area of the village premises is maintained clean making the village path clean.
3. Mr. Chittar Singh is able to fetch a monthly income of Rs. 2500/- from the sale of seasonal vegetables.
4. The community has also come to the understanding that water in any form should not be wasted as it is life giving not only to human and animals but also to all living beings including plants.

Community Ownership and Sustainability: In Rajuwa village there are three CBOs with 35 members such as a women SHG, a Farmers Club and a Water Management Committee besides 10 Paani Mitr (Water Friends). All of them have appreciated the digging of waste water pit. As scarcity of water is a common issue of the village, Mr. Chittar Singh along with water friends have taken the leadership of maintaining waste water pit and the channel.


