

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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Education and independence have been able to alter the mental landscape of women folk in the country but poverty, social restrictions and collateral security are still hindering upcoming of women in the rural settings. There are programmes like *Anganwadi*, micro finance, life insurance, MNREGA, *Serva Siksha Abhiyan* etc., where innovative women farmers have been able to associate themselves as a beneficiary / group member / motivator / office bearer etc but there have been very limited number of success stories with almost rare episodes of its replication because of weak and insufficient follow up,

technological backstopping and feedback mechanisms.

In watershed management programmes at IISWC, Dehradun, efforts are being made to ignite the women mind through meetings, exposure visits and trainings (Photo 4.1) to enable them to learn and do the things that are best suited to their socio-economic, management and entrepreneurial abilities like vegetable cultivation, seed production and pisciculture etc. as the land based activities and mushroom cultivation, bee-keeping, processing of dairy products & packaging etc. as the non-land based activities.

S.No.	Period	Theme of training	Sponsoring Agency	No. of women participants
1.	June 2 to Oct. 1, 2015	Soil & Water Conservation and Watershed Management	Indian Institute of Soil & water Conservation, Dehradun	5
2.	Oct. 8 to Mar. 7, 2015	Soil & Water Conservation and Watershed Management	Indian Institute of Soil & water Conservation, Dehradun	1
3.	26-31, May 2014	Soil & Water Conservation and Water Harvesting Techniques	IISWC, Dehradun	2
4.	04-11 June, 2014	Training on PRA & Micro Watershed Planning	Central Academy for State Forest Service, Dehradun	6
5.	19-23 Jan., 2015	Training-cum-Exposure Visit on Soil & Water Conservation and Watershed Management	Director of Agriculture & Food Production, Sripur, Bhubaneswar, Odisha	1
6.	10-13 Nov., 2014	Application of ICTs in Modified Extension Management	MANAGE, Hyderabad	3
7.	03-05 April, 2014	Exposure-cum-Training on Soil & Water Conservation	Deputy Conservator of Forests, Kedarnath Wildlife Division, Gopeshwar, Chamoli	12
8.	28 April to 02 May, 2014	Exposure-cum-Training on Soil & Water Conservation	Deputy Conservator of Forests, Nanda Devi National Park, Joshimath	1
9.	07-11 July, 2014	Capacity Building on Soil & Water Conservation	DFO, Alaknanda Soil Conservation, Forest Division, Gopeshwar	13
10.	25-27 Nov., 2014	Capacity Building on Soil & Water Conservation	DFO, Alaknanda Soil Conservation, Forest Division, Gopeshwar	8
11.	02-04 Dec., 2014	Capacity Building on Soil & Water Conservation	DFO, Alaknanda Soil Conservation, Forest Division, Gopeshwar	7
12.	09-11 Dec., 2014	Soil Conservation & Watershed Management	Project Director, Bargarh, Odisha	21
13.	07-09 Jan., 2015	Soil Conservation & Watershed Management	DSCO, Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar, Punjab	14
14.	13-05 Jan., 2015	Capacity Building on Soil & Water Conservation	DFO, Alaknanda Soil Conservation, Forest Division, Gopeshwar	7
15.	10-12 March, 2015	Capacity Building on Soil & Water Conservation	DFO, Alaknanda Soil Conservation, Forest Division, Gopeshwar	9
16.	24-26 March, 2015	Capacity Building on Soil & Water Conservation	DFO, Alaknanda Soil Conservation, Forest Division, Gopeshwar	4
			Total	114



Photo 4.1: Women participants of short courses sponsored by Project Director, Bargarh (Odisha) and DSCO, Shahid Bhagat Singh Nagar (Punjab) in IISWC, Dehradun Classroom

फोटो 4.1 : परियोजना निदेशक, बरगढ़ (ओडिसा) और जिला भूमि संरक्षण अधिकारी, शहीद भगतसिंह नगर (पंजाब) द्वारा प्रायोजित लघु पाठ्यक्रम में भा.मृ.ज.सं.सं., देहरादून के अध्ययन कक्ष में महिला प्रतिभागियों

At Research Centre, Datia (M.P.) about 221 women farmers participated in on-campus sensitization workshop, trainings and exposure visits sponsored by different departments (Photo 4.2). Under in-plant training, out of 15 agricultural engineering students 3 girls were also trained in SWC and watershed management during June 1-30, 201. One hundred ninety nine women farmers were exposed to various soil & water conservation and watershed management technologies during the year sponsored by state line departments under various



Photo 4.2: Exposure visit of a group of women farmers at the centre on 26.12.2014 under ATMA programme

फोटो 4.2 : 26.12.2014 को केन्द्र पर आत्मा कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत महिलाओं का प्रशिक्षण एवं भ्रमण कार्यक्रम

schemes. Also, 19 girl students pertaining to four schools/colleges of Datia took part in essay competition organized on the eve of centre's foundation day for creating awareness towards importance of S&WC and NRM.

At Research Centre, Koraput, an interaction workshop for SHGs was organized on 28-11-2014 under Tribal Sub Plan programme at Research Farm in which 27 women SHGs consisting about 220 members from TSP adopted

villages (Mukhibidai, Patraput, Chalanput and Podagarh) under Semiliguda Block of Koraput district participated (Photo 4.3). Relevant issues like various activities run by them; different problems faced; probable viable options for their development, adoption of new promising livelihood / income generating activities; scientific way of management of those



Photo 4.3: Awareness initiatives and meeting with SHG members of TSP adopted villages in Rajput gram panchayat of Koraput district in Odisha

फोटो 4.3 : जनजातीय उप योजना के अंतर्गत ओडिसा में कोरापुट जिले की राजपूत ग्राम पंचायत के अंगीकृत गावों के स्वयं सहायता समूह के सदस्यों के साथ बैठक

activities for optimal return; marketing opportunities for agricultural produce and linking with banking facilities etc. were discussed. Role played by women at house hold level and at society level for overall development of community was praised.

In another TSP programme held on 20 January 2015 at Koraput Centre, farmers of four adopted villages under TSP and members of 27 self help groups participated in which Mrs. Malati Majhi, Chairman, Zila Parisad, Koraput was the Chief Guest. In her address, she expressed concerned about the poor economic conditions of the women farmers and briefed about different developmental schemes implemented by the Government. On this occasion, she distributed different types of agricultural implements (Paddy thresher, winnower, marker potato digger, transplanter, khurpi, spade, sickle etc.) to the farmers and the self help groups (Photo 4.4).



Photo 4.4: Distribution of agricultural implements among TSP beneficiaries of Koraput district (Odisha)

फोटो 4.4 : जनजातीय उप योजना के अंतर्गत ओडिसा में कोरापुट जिले के लाभार्थियों के बीच कृषि उपकरणों का वितरण