

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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In a landmark development, 73rd & 74th constitutional amendments were passed in 1993 providing 33% reservation for women in all local self government bodies. Of the 36 lakhs posts in local self government bodies in India, more than 10 lakh women have been elected. In watershed management programmes in India also, as per its guidelines, at least two women representatives are a must in each watershed samiti. Others are also given equal chance to involve themselves in different self help groups and associate with different watershed activities. Accordingly they get opportunity to improve their know-how and do-how through different activities and no. of scientific & technical deliberations during exposure visits / trainings etc. and get empowered to take their own decisions to suit their own requirements. Ultimately it contributes towards maximum productivity and livelihood support on sustainable basis.

At CSWCRTI, Dehradun during the year 2009-10, 40 on-campus training programmes sponsored by different national and state level agencies, viz; DPAP, NWDPRRA, NRAA and NAIP were organized. Woman participation was witnessed in 17 training programmes. Duration of the training programmes varied from 3 days to 5½ months and a total no. of women trained were 72.

Women participation in 'On-campus' training programmes at CSWCRTI, Dehradun during 2009-10

Sl. No.	Period	Theme area	Sponsored by	Women participants (No.)
1	4-7 May, 2009	Watershed Management	Project Director, DPAP, Udhampur (J&K)	02
2	11-13 May, 2009	Watershed Management	Macro Management of Agri. under NWDPRRA, CSWCRTI, Chandigarh	17
3	15-17 May, 2009	Watershed management	Kajiyana Watershed under NWDPRRA, MMA Project, CSWCRTI, Chandigarh	08
4	25-28 May, 2009	Watershed Management	Project Director, DPAP, Udhampur (J&K)	01
5	2-4 July, 2009	Watershed Management	Asstt. Director (Watershed Management), Didihat (U.K.)	01
6	2-5 Sept., 2009	Watershed Management	Project Director, DPAP, Udhampur (J&K)	02
7	7-9 Sept., 2009	Watershed Management under IWDP	Asstt. Director WSM, Chamoli (U.K.)	08
8	29 Sept. to 1 Oct., 2009	Sensitization workshop for Sr. Level Officers and Policy Planners of SLNA	National Rainfed Area Authority, New Delhi	01
9	12-14 Oct., 2009	Watershed Management under IWDP	Asstt. Director WSM, Chamoli (U.K.)	03
10	6-8 Nov., 2009	Soil & Water Conservation Training to Farmers	NAIP, CSWCRTI, Dehradun	04
11	9-11 Nov., 2009	Watershed Management under IWDP	Addl. Chief Officer, Distt. Panchayat, Chamoli (U.K.)	06

Sl. No.	Period	Theme area	Sponsored by	Women participants (No.)
12	17-19 Jan., 2010	Watershed Management under IWDP	Asstt. Director (Watershed Management), Chamoli (U.K.)	02
13	27 Jan. to 8 Feb., 2010	Watershed Development under NWDPR	Director of Agriculture, Uttarakhand, Dehradun (U.K.)	03
14	23-25 Feb., 2010	Farmers Training on Capacity Building under NWDPR	Asthi Watershed, CSWCRTI, Dehradun	06
15	9-11 Mar., 2010	Watershed Management under NWDPR	Watershed Management Unit, Chamoli, Gopeshwar (U.K.)	02
16	16 April to 30 Sep., 2009	5½ months Regular Training Course in SWC&WM	CSWCRT Institute, Dehradun (Uttarakhand)	03
17	8 Oct. 09 to 23 Mar., 2010	5½ months Regular Training Course in SWC&WM	CSWCRT Institute, Dehradun (Uttarakhand)	03
Total				72

Keeping in view the time constraints with rural women, off-campus training programmes / *kisan goshthies* are also a regular feature in the institute's outreach programmes. Emphasis is given on imparting need based trainings and also build their capacity to enable them to translate their exposure and knowledge into some entrepreneurial venture for livelihood support. Two off-campus trainings at village Langha were organized on detergent powder making to self-help groups (Photo 43) for farm women to



Photo 43 : Off-campus training on detergent powder making to self-help groups



Photo 44 : Dr. V.N. Sharda, inaugurating constitution of SHGs in Kajiya Watershed

make them self reliant and economically secured.

In Kajiya watershed at Chandigarh, six self-help groups (tailoring and toy making, carpet weaving, paper bag making, cloth bag making, poultry rearing; and vermi-composting) have been constituted (Photo 44). Carpet weaving machines were given to 32 members of the SHG (Photo 45). Similarly, raw materials, viz; brown paper sheets, gum etc. were given to all members of the SHG for making



Photo 45 : Dr. V.N. Sharda giving away carpet weaving machines to members of SHG

paper bags. Training to women on tailoring and soft toys making was also imparted. Initially, market exposure and guidance was provided to sell the items prepared by women. These items are being sold directly to users in Chandigarh and Panchkula.

A Women Cell was constituted at the Bellary Centre as per the orders of Government of India based on the guidelines provided by the National Commission for Women, New Delhi. The main aim of the Cell is to look after the welfare of women employees at the centre and cater to their grievances. All the women employees at the

centre intimate the problems, if any, faced by them, for redressal through the chairman of the cell.

In Iduhatti watershed at Udhgamandalam, out of eight hamlets, five host a sizable proportion of the landless and resource poor sections of the watershed community. In order to provide livelihood support to this section, six SHGs were formed with a revolving fund of Rs 1,50,000 (Rs.25000 per group). The amount paid back by these groups was given back to form two more SHGs of which one is for cow rearing. Out of 8 SHGs, 7 are of women (sheep rearing - 2, cow/heifer - 4, vegetable cultivation - 1) with total membership of 24 (Photo 46).



Photo 46 : Women SHG engaged in cow rearing