

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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Empowerment and capacity building of the farming community in general and of women in particular in the rural settings has always been a matter of concern. Though, the efforts through electronic and print media are praiseworthy, efforts are also being made to ensure women participation in the other government programmes including grass root level social institutions, viz; *Panchayat*, *Aganwadi*, Adult education, SHGs/UGs etc. But it has been observed that political awareness & knowledge is increasing very fast while awareness & knowledge about science & technology is not at all a preference of youth & women folk in the rural areas.

For sustained development of our rural set up, S&T based awareness and knowledge among farmers is a must. Because other sources emphasize more and more on politics & entertainment, there is a need to have focused programmes on Science & Technology for the women farmers.

Watershed management programmes based on participatory approach provide ample scope

for the rural women to improve their know-how & do how about basics of science and technology in agriculture and allied sector. This is the crucial point from where in real sense empowerment and capacity building starts. Since watershed management programmes are for about 4-7 years, it also provides scope to impart complete expertise in desired areas to the interested women folk.

At CSWCRTI, Dehradun, always efforts are made to involve maximum number of farm women in its watershed management and capacity building programmes so that project activity could be completed successfully and sustainability aspects of the project could also be strengthened. During the year 2013-14, one 4 months duration regular training on-campus course and 16 short duration training programmes sponsored by different state and central level agencies were organized in which 20.4% women participation was observed in 10 training programmes of 3 days to 4 months duration (Photo 43) as given below:

Women participation in training programmes during 2013-14 at CSWCRTI, Dehradun

क०मृ०ज०सं०अनु०प्र०सं०, देहरादून द्वारा वर्ष 2013-14 में आयोजित प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रमों में महिलाओं की भागीदारी

Sl. No.	Period	Theme area	Sponsored by	No. of women participants
1.	April 16-18, 2013	Soil and Water Conservation	Chief Agriculture Officer, Chamoli (Uttarakhand)	4
2.	April 22-24, 2013	Soil and Water Conservation	Chief Agriculture Officer, Chamoli (Uttarakhand)	14
3.	April 30 to May 2, 2013	Soil and Water Conservation	Chief Agriculture Officer, Chamoli (Uttarakhand)	5
4.	July 29 to Aug. 4, 2013	Soil and Water Conserv. for Natural Resource Mangement	Project Director, ATMA, Ajmer (Rajasthan)	27
5.	Aug. 12-16, 2013	Watershed Management Project	Chief Conservator of Soils, Chandigarh	7
6.	Nov.19-23, 2013	Soil Conservation and Watershed Management	Addl. Deputy Commissioner, Development, Faridkot (Punjab)	2
7.	Dec. 9-11, 2013	Soil and Water Conservation	Chief Agriculture Officer, Chamoli (Uttarakhand)	13
8.	Jan.19-26, 2014	Soil and Water Conservation	Project Director (Watersheds), Sambalpur (Odisha)	1
9.	Oct. 9, 2013 to Feb. 8, 2014	Soil & Water Conseevation and Watershed Management	CSWCRTI Institute, Dehradun (U.K.)	5
10.	March 3-9, 2014	Agroforestry Systems	Director (NRM), Meghalaya Basin Devlp. Authority, Shillong (Meghalaya)	3
Total				81



Photo 43 : Women participants (a) in classroom, and (b) participants museum visit at CSWCRTI, Dehradun
 फोटो 43 : के.मृ.ज.सं.अनु.प्र.सं., देहरादून में महिला प्रतिभागी (अ) प्रशिक्षण कक्ष में, व (ब) संस्थान संग्रहालय का भ्रमण करते हुए

At Research Centre Chandi-garh, a total 18 training programmes were organized in collaboration with DWDA, Himachal Pradesh at Research Centre, Chandigarh for farmers and farm women. Total 118 (31%) farm women participated in these training programmes. The aim was to empower farm women economically and socially by organizing them in Self-help groups (SHGs) and build their capacity accordingly. The women were educated about importance of SHG to enhance the status of women in decision making and its other benefits in the democratic, economic, social and cultural sphere of life (Photo 44).



Photo 44: Training of SHG office bearers & members at Research Centre, Chandigarh

फोटो 44: अनुसंधान केंद्र चंडीगढ़ में स्वयं सहायता समूह के पदाधिकारियों व सदस्यों का प्रशिक्षण

During training, women were encouraged to form homogeneous groups of 10-20 poor women, where members make voluntary saving on regular basis and pooled resources could be utilized for small interest bearing loans to their members. Women were also advised to follow 'Panchsutra' practice (weekly meeting, regular saving, regular inter-lending, regular recoveries & maintenance of proper records of account) to

access credit at low rate of interest from banks for undertaking income generating activities like, cutting & tailoring, tie & dye, food processing, bag making, soap and detergent powder making, beauty parlour, livestock and agricultural based income generating activities for sustainable livelihood.

At Research Centre, Datia, during the year, women participation was recorded in on-campus trainings, sensitization workshops and exposure visits sponsored by different departments/NGO organisation. Four women participated in customized training (March 4-7, 2014) on 'Construction and management of bunds and recharge techniques of wells' (Photo 45), seven women farmers attended 'sensitization workshop' organized on Sept. 18, 2013. More than 40 girl students from different schools at Datia also participated in essay competition organized during Sept. 10-15, 2013 for creating awareness towards importance Soil & Water Conservation and Natural Resource Management.



Photo 45: Women participation in campus training programme at Research Centre, Datia

फोटो 45: अनुसंधान केंद्र परिसर दतिया पर आयोजित एक प्रशिक्षण कार्यक्रम में महिलाओं की भागीदारी