

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

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Most of the farm activities related to crop science, livestock rearing alongwith household affairs are looked after by the women. Thus, any kinds of development in agriculture and rural development can not flourish without addressing the need and requirements of women folk. Issues and programmes related to Natural Resource Management and Climate Change are hardly discussed or shared with rural people despite the fact that no programme can be successful without better understanding and participation of communities in general and women in particular. Rural women working force in our country has to be adequately empowered to meet the national challenges on food production and productivity.

Watershed Management Programmes with bearing on community participation, play important role in capacity building and empowerment of women folk in management of natural resources in the country. In each and every success story of watershed management programmes, role of women has always been crucial in terms of appraisal, planning and execution of programmes as well as maintenance of the resources created in the project areas. They also play important role in conflict resolutions in all the phases of the projects.

Women employees of all cadre are being increasingly involved in various activities conducted by the Institute and shouldering the responsibilities efficiently. They are participating in capacity building, sports, various competition conducted by the Institute from time to time during celebration of specific day etc. Moreover, their contribution to *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*, *Mera Gaon Mera Gaurav* etc. create awareness among the rural community is also noteworthy.

At IISWC, Dehradun, in the capacity building programme participation of women is a regular feature. Their participation in implementation of experimental watersheds is always encouraged and results have always been unique in terms of both, success and sustainability of the projects. Women participation in on-campus training programmes at Institute HQ is as under:

S. No.	Period	Theme of Training	Sponsoring Agency	No. of women participants
1.	22 Apr. to 21 Aug. 2015	Soil and Water Conservation and Watershed Management	Different State Government	6
2.	8 Oct. 2015 to 7 Feb. 2016	Soil and Water Conservation and Watershed Management	Different State Government	7
3.	27 May to 1 June 2015	Training-cum-Exposue visit on 'Soil and Water Conservation Techniques'	Agricultural Engineering Department, River Valley Project, Dharmapuri (T N)	4
4.	16-21 June, 2015	New Innovative Technologies on Soil and Water Conservation	Irrigation Management Training Institute, Tamil Nadu	1
5.	7-9 July, 2015	Soil and Water Conservation Techniques	Soil and Water Conservation Sub Division, Garhshankar, Hoshiarpur (Pb.)	7
6.	29-30 Sept., 2015	Skill Development Training for Skill Supporting Staff	ICAR- IISWC, Dehradun	3
7.	28-30 Oct., 2015	General Administrative Official Peocedure for Administrative Staff	ICAR- IISWC, Dehradun	7
8.	14-23 Dec., 2015	Soil and Water Conservation Measures	West Bengal Forest and Bio-diversity Conservation Society, Kolkata	1
9.	13-19 Jan., 2016	Soil and Water Conservation Measures	West Bengal Forest and Bio-diversity Conservation Society, Kolkata	2
10.	25-27 Feb., 2016	Drainage Line Treatment and Soil and Water Conservation	DFO, Badrinath Forest Division, Gopeshwar, Uttarakhand	1
			Total	39

A women Cell at Institute HQ looks after the rights and takes care of women issues. In this regard, recently a meeting was held on March 15, 2016 in which a female member of a prominent NGO of the town also participated. During the meeting, it was decided that a workshop on Gender awareness would be organized shortly.

At Research Centre Vasad, four months in plant training on soil and water conservation techniques was imparted to girl students of B.Tech (Agricultural Engineering) from State Agricultural Universities (Photo 4.1).



Photo 4.1: In-plant training on S&WC techniques to B.Tech girl students from SAUs
 फोटो 4.1: राज्य कृषि विश्वविद्यालयों की प्रौद्योगिकी स्नातक छात्राओं को मृदा एवं जल संरक्षण तकनीक पर व्यवहारिक प्रशिक्षण

Also, training on soil and water conservation techniques and bamboo based interventions in ravine lands was given to women farmers of Anand and Vadodara districts of Gujarat and contributing in the research project (Photo 4.2).



Photo 4.2: Women farmers during training on S&WC techniques and bamboo interventions in ravine (left) and women staff contributing in the project works (right)
 फोटो 4.2: मृदा एवं जल संरक्षण तकनीकों पर प्रशिक्षण और खड्ड में बांस के हस्तक्षेप के दौरान कृषक महिलाएं (बाएं) और परियोजना कार्यों में संविदात्मक महिला स्टाफ का योगदान (दाएं)

At Datia, a significant participation of women farmers was recorded in on-campus sensitization workshop and exposure visits sponsored by different departments, organized at the centre (Photo 4.3). About 343 women farmers were also exposed to various soil and water conservation and watershed management technologies during the year, sponsored by state line departments under various schemes. Total 29 girl students from four schools/colleges of Datia, also took part in essay competition and awareness creation programme on the importance of soil and water conservation and natural resource management organized on the eve of centre's foundation day celebrations.



Photo 4.3: Participation of farm women in training /exposure visit programme at Research Farm, Datia
 फोटो 4.3: अनुसंधान केंद्र, दतिया पर प्रशिक्षण तथा जागरूकता भ्रमण कार्यक्रमों में खेतिहर महिलाओं की

During the period under report at Bellary, one women welfare cell meeting was conducted on 31-12-2015. Dr. S. L. Patil, Chairperson and Member Secretary explained the importance of women cell. It was decided that meeting can be conducted quarterly in case of any emergency circulars / communications pertaining to women employees' welfare may be communicated to the women cell members and other women employees of the centre.