Government of Nepal
Ministry of Forests and Environment
Department of Forests and Soil Conservation

Developing Climate Resilient Livelihoods in the Vulnerable Watershed in Nepal

Bi-Weekly Highlights

1-15 April 2024, Issue -16

Name of the Event/Activity: Distribution of Labor-Efficient Tools/Equipment to Farmers' Groups

Date: 1-15 April, 2024

Place/Venue: Okhaldhunga District

Objective: To equip farmers' groups with labor-efficient tools/equipment to enhance their work efficiency.

Participants: 46 participants constituting 6 women, and 40 males from the 40 farmer groups attended the labor-efficient tools distribution event. Among these 26 were Janajati, 18 BCT and 2 were Dalit.

Brief Information: The tools were handed over to the 40 farmer groups of 17 wards of three working Palikas of Okhaldhunga district. The tools were distributed based on the demand from the farmers which were recommended by Palikas. During the event, interaction with the attendees was carried out on the use and operation of the tools. Similarly, the hands-on demonstration session was showcased on operating the tools. It is an opportunity for farmers' groups to expose themselves to new technology and applications, and work efficiently.

Contact for further information: Manish Kumar Jarga Magar, GESI and Monitoring Officer.

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Name of Activity: Verification of Roof Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) System

Date:1-15 April 2024

Place/Venue: Khotang District

Objective: To verify the households for supporting rainwater harvesting tools with technical support.

The primary objective of the scheme is to collect rainwater from the CGI roofs of the local households, channel it into the plastic-lined pond, and utilize it during the dry period to irrigate agricultural land. The initiative aims to support the livelihood of people living in vulnerable watersheds by fostering resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Beneficiaries: 100 households (HHs) were verified based on recommendations from the ward offices of three Palikas in the Khotang district. Out of them, 15, 24, and 10 HHs were recommended by ward no. 1, 4, and 7 of Halesi Tuwachung Municipality respectively. Similarly, 31 HHs from ward no. 3 of Rawabesi Rural Municipality and 20 HHs from Aishelukharka-5 were recommended for support.

Brief Information: The recommended households were verified in the field in the presence of the local ward representative, member of the recommended household, LOA partner representative, and other local people. Field measurement for the pond construction was surveyed using tape measurement and the sample layout (8m x 8m) was demonstrated among the group of household representatives to ensure clarity before construction. Similarly, the process and installation of the gutter system with the pipe, as well as the necessity of CGI roofing to anchor the gutter pipe were explained thoroughly to the people, who expressed satisfaction with the information provided. Two-way communication and interaction were facilitated, fostering rapport. Queries, concerns, and curiosity about the community project support for pond construction were addressed during group interactions.

Additionally, 100 HHs of Okhaldhunga have been verified and recommended for RWH Harvesting.

Contact for further information: Asta Ram Chhukan, PO-Civil Engineer

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Name of the Event/Activity: Monitoring Visit to Kiwi and Walnut Plantation Sites

Date and Place/Venue: 4 April 2024/Chisankhugadhi Rural Municipality-7

Objectives: The primary objective of the event was to monitor the present condition of the saplings distributed in the Chisankhugadhi Rural Municipality-7.

Beneficiaries: During the visit, the plantation sites of 4 farmers' were monitored. All farmers were from Janjati ethnic group, with three being male and one being female.

Brief Information: The monitoring visit to Chisankhugadhi Rural Municipality was completed on 4th April 2024 assessing plant establishment and mortality status.

Walnut saplings and innovative irrigation system, Kiwi standing and technical support.

In the year 2023, approximately, 700 Kiwi and 5000 Walnut saplings were distributed in the ward at various pocket areas. During the visit, it was noted that the growth of the saplings was satisfactory with good field stand. The beneficiary farmers expressed optimism about the plants and anticipated good market prospects after the production in the second or third year. Farmers observed that the multi-year saplings (bigger and taller) have higher mortality compared to one year saplings (small saplings). One of the farmers was found using plastic bags and soft drink bottles for individual crop irrigation. Overall, the observation was satisfactory regarding the establishment, growth, and acceptance of plants.

Contact for further information: Surya Prakash Poudel, PO-Livelihood

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Name of the Event/Activity: Ginger and Turmeric Plantation

Date and Place/Venue: 1-15 April 2024/Chisankhugadhi Rural Municipality-6, Bhadaure

Objectives: The primary objective of the activity was to involve the farmers in conservation farming to enhance the water use efficiency in dry areas during periods.

Beneficiaries: Yet to update

Brief Information: Farmers were provided with rhizomes of ginger and turmeric for cultivation in the dry areas. This technique also supports reducing reliance on the water by maintaining soil moisture levels.

Contact for further information: Surya Prakash Poudel, PO-Livelihood

Ongoing Activities

Name of the Event/Activity: Construction of Contour Trenches

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Date and Place/Venue: 1-15 April 2024/ Siddicharan-2, Baniyachhap

Objective: To capture rainfall runoff for boosting groundwater recharge

Beneficiaries: Excavating contour trenches provides reliable water sources for agriculture, ensuring sustained crop production and food security. Additionally, contour trenches increase overall water availability, replenishing groundwater and enhancing soil moisture, benefiting both individuals and the community. They reduce dependency on external water sources, mitigate conflicts over water, and promote environmental sustainability by preventing soil erosion and enhancing nutrient availability. The direct beneficiaries of this activity are the community people of Baniyachhap who are associated with the construction activity.

Brief Information: Contour trenches capture rainfall runoff, acting as temporary reservoirs that extend water infiltration time, boosting groundwater recharge. Particularly valuable in semi-arid areas, they enhance groundwater levels and soil moisture, supporting vegetation growth and agricultural yield. Additionally, they prevent erosion, retain soil nutrients, and sustain soil fertility, culminating in greener landscapes and increased agricultural productivity, promoting sustainable land management in semi-arid regions.

DCRL has proposed a 1 km staggered contour trench in Baniaychhap, Siddicharan-2. Out of 1 km, only 500 m have been completed as of now. The simple technology involved in construction is excavating a trench size of 40cm x 60cm along a contour line.

Contact for further information: Shekhar Babu Thokar, PO-SCWM

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Name of the Event/Activity: Catchment Ponds Construction

Date: 1-15 April 2024

Place/Venue: Chisankhugadhi, Manebhanjyang, & Siddhicharan-3, Okhaldhunga District

Objective: To retain flowing water and provide a larger land area for water infiltration, and to use the collected water for irrigation and domestic purposes.

Beneficiaries: Construction of altogether 12 catchment ponds has been taking place in different wards of Chisankhugadhi, Manebhanjyang, and Siddiccharan rural/municipalities of Okhaldhunga district. Out of these, five catchment ponds are on the verge of completion, with only some fencing and coloring work to be completed.

Brief Information: The catchment ponds store flowing water/runoff. The construction of these ponds involves utilizing local materials such as sand, aggregates, and stone along with non-local materials like cement, rebars, and pipe fittings.

Catchment pond at the stage of completion in Siddicharan-1, Naslu

DCRL has suggested the construction of RCC rectangular catchment ponds of varying sizes at specific sites. The primary goal is to irrigate land, thereby promoting agricultural sustainability.

Contact for further information: Shekhar Babu Thokar, PO-SCWM