

**SUCCESS STORY ON IMPROVING AND WATER AVAILABILITY
UPON CONSTRUCTION OF WATER HARVESTING
STRUCTURE UNDER SUPPORT TO LANDLESS FIG-1 FIG,
TUALBUNG**

PROFILE

Activity : Construction of Water Storage & Delivery System
Project : FOCUS, District Management Unit-Saitual
Funding : International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)
District : SAITUAL
Amount : Rs. 90,000/-

BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

Rainfall is the primary source of irrigation for agriculture which is the main livelihood of the people of Saitual district. The district observes an average annual rainfall of 312.77 mm (12.31inches) of precipitation and has 210.65 rainy days (57.717% of the time) annually that feeds the four rivers (Tuivawl, Tuirini, Tui phal, Tui vai) flowing across the district. Most outlets from these rivers are not quite perennial and although water is abundant in quantity during the monsoon season, it parches rather quickly during drier season. They, nevertheless, are the main source for domestic use and for cultivation of crops. The non-availability of timely and adequate water for irrigation is a serious constraint in achieving higher productivity.

Although the total rainfall in Saitual district is often satisfactory, its distribution over time and space is highly uneven. Out of the total rainfall received, higher percentage is wasted due to surface run-off and leaching and only less amount of rainwater remains available for crop use. Therefore, rain water harvesting and water use efficiency are critical for increasing production and productivity. Given the geographical and soil conditions, the most effective method of rainwater harvesting is to collect runoff through construction of small water storage (tanky) that will enhance water conservation. With this overview, construction of water storage structures as a means of protection of water source and increasing availability, for crop and household use, remains with no doubt a vital activity.

ACTIVITY INTERVENTION

As a part of activity for Landless FIG-1, construction of Water Harvesting Structure was implemented under the District Management Unit-Saitual, FOCUS. The activity was thoroughly invested by the technical staffs right from site selection, estimation, planning and construction. The farmers/members of the Farmer Interest Groups (FIGs) also actively took part in all these activities, knowing fully well the impact for their own villages. Tualbung village received 1unit for Landless FIG-1 and depending upon the requirement and land properties, the villages have utilized the support as viewed necessary and appropriate.

1) **Site selection:** The location and site were carefully selected by the technical staffs in consultation with the villagers and before installing the water storage structure.



FIG 1: Selected site for the construction of Water Harvesting Structure under Landless FIG-1

2) **Construction:** Community participation was the salient feature of the construction and members of the FIGs dedicatedly oversee the construction with regular monitoring from the DMU staffs.



FIG 2: Active participation of the FIG for construction of Water Harvesting Structure work under Landless FIG-1



FIG 3: Depiction of few completed work

OUTCOME/ IMPACT

Several impact and outcome as a result of the successful implementation of the activity

- Water storage (tanky) constructed visibly reduces water flow velocities in the channels and waterways, during which water were harvested using pipelines or collected in water storage structures.
- The rain water has been checked after construction of the tanky and increases the availability of water for irrigation of their farm crops and for domestic use.
- In villages where Rabi season crops, vegetable crops and Kharif crops could not be cultivated due to unavailability of water during this period, water could be stored from the water storage structures constructed for utilization to raise these crops.
- The amount and period of water availability will be increased, thus increasing the number and continuity of working days across the season.
- The increase in water availability increases water use efficiency.
- As farmers themselves were engaged in the whole process, including women, this inculcates a sense of responsibility and community purpose for the village.
- Water storage (tanky) regularly helps our FIG members successfully integrate storage tanks and booster in their irrigation schemes to ensure they can get water where they need it when they need it

CONCLUSION

The implementation of 'Construction of Water Harvesting Structure' under FOCUS project is therefore, considered a significant success owing to the immense requirement by the villagers and its impact seen just days after the completion of the activity. This results in newly developed interest among farming community as support for such kind was brought upon by funding agencies like IFAD in eliminating several irrigation constraints faced by farmers in Tualbung village.