



Dug well Irrigation facility gave a sustainable income source from agriculture to Nilambar's Family

The primary occupation of the villagers of kandhamal district is agriculture and it gives above 70% of the total annual income of the district. Though the district has not any industry and other non-agricultural income sources the people are mainly depends on agriculture and agro-related activities. It gives total food security, nutrition security, employment security, income security and fodder security to the people of the district. But due to lack of irrigation facility and other infrastructural development the farmers have been suffered a lot in agricultural production and cultivation. Most of the lands are rain fed and farmers are

compulsion to practice traditional agriculture.

To improve the agricultural livelihood of the villagers SWATI has been taken many programmes and activities in its working area. SWATI has been focused on infrastructural development like irrigation, land development, soil moisture development, integrated natural resource development, watershed development and implemented activities for improved agriculture by giving skill development training to the farmers, promotion of vegetable cultivation, kitchen garden, SRI paddy cultivation and natural farming practice. SWATI has successfully mobilised



MGNREGS funds for agricultural infrastructural development of the villages. Farmers are doing land development work, dug well irrigation and land water management activities on their own land by utilizing the MGNREGS funds.

This case study of Nilambar Pradhan of Darapida village, Gutingia panchayat shows how a Dug well has changed his livelihood and given him a sustainable income source from agriculture.

Forty years old Nilambara is a small farmer of Darapida village living with his wife Sitla, three sons and a daughter. He has 5 acres of agricultural land from which only one acre is low land and other four acres are medium and high lands. He cultivates paddy in two acres low and medium lands and other three acres high lands remained fallow due to lack of irrigation facility. Occasionally he



cultivates highland crops in those lands but don't get proper production due to erratic rain fall and lack of attention. Though his family were depending only on agriculture for their survival he was always trying to increase his cultivation but unable to do due to lack of money and support for land development and irrigation facility. His 2.5 acres of land near the village had remained unproductive and he had been maintained a life of misery and indebtedness.

When SWATI started livelihood development activities in that village this type situation of Nilambar and other farmers came to the discussion. SWATI planned to mobilise the MGNREGS funds for the development of agricultural infrastructure of the village. The villagers had above 30 acres uncultivated fallow lands near the village and SWATI planned to develop plantation of fruit bearing trees in those land and construct dug wells for irrigation. Nilambar agreed to dig a dug well and to do plantation in his land. SWATI facilitated him to get the support through MGNREGS. In the year 2015 Nilambar with other 7 farmers of the village developed mango plantation on their 8 acres patch near the road side by utilising MGNREGS fund and Nilambar



himself took the charge of management of the plantation. In 2016 he was granted a dug well for irrigation and completed the construction within 3 months. Though he was not success to dig up to 30 feet depth due to stony bed of the well, he completed it with 20 feet depth and 18 feet diameter with 3 feet stone bounding and got a perennial water source of 7 feet.

After getting the facility for irrigation Nilambar developed the lands around the well and started vegetable cultivation. Now he is growing vegetables crops there three times - during monsoon, winter and summer seasons. The maximum he is selling are crops like cauliflower, Potato, Tomato, chili and brinjal. He is earning above fifty thousand rupees annually from vegetable cultivation. Now he and his family members have got a sustainable

income source from that land and he is planning to develop a permanent vegetable farm there. This well is also irrigating the plantation area of the village.

According to Nilambar this dug well has given him a big opportunity to increase his income from agriculture. A year ago he remained poor having 5 acres of land but now he can manage his family comfortably from this. He has planted 80 Amrapalli variety mango plants in his 2 acres of land and after 2/3 years he could earn about 1 lakh rupees from that plantation. He has expected that this plantation and the vegetable farm will give sustainable employment and income throughout the year to his family members.



