

“Construction of Water Reservoir at Chingmai Khunou - A case study on rural water conservation.”



Overview of the project

Chingmai Khunou village in Paomata block of Senapati district lies in a kaleidoscopic mountain landscape of Manipur state. It is located at about 67 km north-east from the District Head Quarters Senapati and about 119 kms from the State capital Imphal by road. The village lies on the border of Senapati District (Manipur) with Phek district (Nagaland).

Water Reservoir for storing safe drinking water for the village has remained the long cherished dream of the villagers for quite some time now. The water source though a small stream/ spring at some elevation at nearby hill at a distance of about 4 kms, could be tapped into for proper storage.

Need for work: The age old method of storing water in open village ponds is no longer a viable option especially for drinking purposes. Harnessing water from adequate elevation points of the hills/ mountains and storing them at a proper location in the village remains the only option for sustainable way of conservation and its utilization. The Village lies at the middle of the mountain range with very few streams flowing at higher elevation than the village. The nearest stream source lies about 4 kms from the main village from which the villagers would track the tortuous track to and from the village to fetch water. Traditional bamboo pipes and at some stretches banana stumps were used which were hardly efficient way to transport water. The old metal water tank which has long served as storage tank had been rusted with many leaks and beyond repair causing lots of storage as well as maintenance problem for the villagers. These has caused lots of problems for the villagers with meager incomes and limited means.

Challenges: There were incredible challenges in constructing the water tank like transportation of building materials, locating an adequate location which was a big constraint within the village. Also the site location at an elevation which would be adequate for supplying water for the village without the use of any electrical pumps was desirable for maintaining the sustainability aspect of the reservoir.

Gram Panchayat : Chingmai Khunnou

Block/Tehsil : Paomata Block

District : Senapati

State : Manipur

Location : 25o 28' 10.128 N 94o 21' 39.78" E

Household : 608

Population : ~ 6000

Total Cost : Rs. 6,35,360/- (Rupees Six lakh thirty five thousand three hundred and sixty) only

(Labour Component: Rs. 5,08,288/- and Material component: Rs. 1,27,072/-)

Implementation Process

The project was implemented under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) by the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) with the Village Authority headed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Village as the Implementing Agency. The project is fully funded under the said scheme by the DRDA, Senapati. Assessing the dire situation of water storage problem and the need for construction of water reservoir, the project was added in the work programme of the village under MGNREGS for the FY 2018-19 and was successfully implemented by the Village Authority under supervision of District & Block administration. The project was fully funded under MGNREGS and no convergence with other government schemes was associated.

Implementing Agency: Chingmai Khunou Village Authority under Paomata Block, Senapati District.

Impact

The project (Water Tank) has immensely and positively affected the lives of the villagers. The villagers have save valuable time of fetching water which is about 3.5 kms from the villages. The spare time is now efficiently and productively utilized in cultivation the traditional transplantation. Village ponds which were used for storing water before could not be used for drinking purposes. Piped drinking water from the safe water reservoir which had long remained the dream of the villagers has finally been realized.

Outstanding contribution by individuals/ functionaries (if any): Though no particular individuals or functionaries contributed separately, the pipeline to and

from the water tank was arranged by the Village Authority through contributions from VA members and villagers.