

Pasture Development under EGS

With increase of population the pressure on common land has increased considerably. As a result, the land patches which are used for grazing purposes in the villages are getting diminished. The Employment Guarantee Scheme has provided an excellent scope to take up pasture development works in the villages. An amount of Rs. 1528 lakhs has been sanctioned under the scheme for pasture development in Udaipur district. The Panchayats have shown full sincerity in implementing pasture development.

Roof Top Water Harvesting in Government Schools

Udaipur district has very large number of Government schools. Many of these schools do not have safe drinking water facility. The handpump continues to remain main drinking water source for majority of these schools. Because of inappropriate and delayed repair of these handpumps many a times the children and staff of these schools face difficulty in getting safe drinking water. The water is also required in these schools for cooking Mid Day Meal, keeping the toilets clean.

The rooftop water harvesting structures for more than 1000 such schools have been sanctioned in the district under Employment Guarantee Scheme. Since the district receives an average rainfall of around 600 mm, all these rooftop water harvesting structures which are likely to be ready before this monsoon would be able to store sufficient water to meet the need of these schools for the whole year. The underground water tanks have been designed in such a way that they would also work as a platform and may be used for the purposes like organising schools assembly etc. This thoughtful intervention through the EGS funds has really been able to take care of such a basic need of these schools and also in providing water required for maintenance of toilets in addition to permitting activities like plantation in the school premises.

Making JFM works through EGS

Udaipur district has large area of forest land. With increasing pressure and continued shortage of staff to protect these areas, the Joint Forest Management model of management of forest areas was adopted in the district. More than 300 VFPMCs in the district have been formed, out of which more than 100 VFPMCs are functioning very well and are following JFM strategy in an exemplary way in development and protection of the Forest areas. With the will of the people to protect the forest in place, the requirement of funds for taking up plantation and developmental works has been met through EGS in the district. An amount of Rs. 1337 lakhs has been sanctioned for taking up variety of works like water and soil conservation and plantation etc. for the area under the control of these VFPMCs. The flow of funds through EGS has provided a new life to these societies and has helped the Forest Department to activate more VFPMCs in the district. The flow of EGS funds in the area protected by VFPMCs has not only ensured proper protection but also increase in returns to the villagers. Efforts are being made to cope in more VFPMCs in the year 07-08 to take up works in the area protected by them and it is hoped that the substantial fund flow through EGS would help in getting back the greenery to the barren hills.

EGS reaching out to the most needy

An unprecedented amount of funds have started flowing in the district after the launch of Employment Guarantee Scheme. A very large number of community works were taken up under the scheme with an expenditure of Rs. 169.23 crores in the year 2006-07. National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has recently been amended to facilitate providing benefits of the scheme to the SC/ST/BPL beneficiaries. The Udaipur district took a lead in identifying such beneficiaries in large numbers and sanctioned funds for more than 25000 SC/ST/BPL beneficiaries under the scheme. The variety of works which would include land development, soil conservation, horticulture plantation and construction of water course have been sanctioned for these individual beneficiaries. These works are likely to benefit these beneficiaries substantially in improving their income level. An amount of Rs. 62.00 crores is likely to spent on the works sanctioned for individual beneficiaries under the scheme in the district in the year 2007-08.

Horticulture plantation under Employment Guarantee Scheme

An amendment in National Employment Guarantee Scheme to facilitate coverage of SC/ST/BPL families has opened a new possibility for development of this needy section of the society. The farmers of these categories have been taking the crops year after year but have continued to remain poor as these crops have not been able to generate sufficient income. In this context, it was thought appropriate to promote horticulture plantation under Employment Guarantee Scheme in the fields of SC/ST/BPL beneficiaries so that the income levels of these families may be increased at least two to three times of its present level.

More than 5000 beneficiaries have been identified and funds have been sanctioned to take up horticulture plantation in their fields. Good quality of planting material has been arranged with the help of Rajasthan Agriculture University, Udaipur so that the farmers may get good output through these plants. An extremely encouraging response to this intervention has been noticed and it is hoped that with success of this intervention, the demand for taking up more such works would come in future and Udaipur would soon become a horticulture bowl mainly because of Employment Guarantee Scheme.