SECURING LAND AND WATER RIGHTS FOR MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES THROUGH PEOPLE LED ADVOCACY BY WHH-BMZ

A Report on Impact Assessment

Janhit Vikas Samiti

Ahar-Pyne Bachao Abhiyan

I Background

The ahar-pyne is the most important traditional water resources for irrigation purposes which have existed since centuries. This also functions as an important conservation and development of small water reservoir. Its reference can be made in the Kautilya's Arthshastra which mentions that ahar-pyne was the most important source of irrigation in south Bihar. In particular, this has very high significance in the Magadh region of South Bihar due to its geographic features. Topographically, the State of Bihar extends over 93.60 lakh hectares of land comprising two distinct geographical regions namely, North Bihar and South Bihar. Both these regions fall in the Gangetic basin; but that has two distinct regions. The north of the Ganges, generally known as 'North Bihar' is a continuous plain. The southern basin, known as 'South Bihar' differs from it in several geographic aspects. The North Bihar is usually known as flood prone whereas South Bihar is known as drought prone. As such, at the same time, Bihar faces both the problems of flood and drought. Mention may be made of the fact that the ahars and pynes are found primarily in the South Bihar. Historically and also due to geographical reasons, ahar-pyne as a source of irrigation was quite prominent but over the period it has been near the collapsing situation in the name of technology-led irrigation being called modern irrigation. The most tragic situation is that the indigenous irrigation system such as ahar-pyne is not now mentioned in irrigation statistics. It can be conclusively said that with the advent of modern irrigation system policy makers and planners have neglected its development and consequently, instead of its revival it has been losing its existence causing adverse effects of the overall agricultural economy particularly in the Magadh region of South Bihar. The most tragic situation was that the involvement of the village community has, by and large, disappeared losing control over its operation and its mechanisms.

Shramdanies renovating the Ahar.

Looking at this scenario of ahar-pyne irrigation system Janhit Vikas Samiti (JVS) initiated a people's movement in the name of 'Ahar-Pyne Bachao Abhiyan' on 2nd October 1996. Since

then this has been campaigning the revival of ahar-pyne irrigation system with the help of people's movement in the region of Magadh. This campaign got a boost up with the help of WHH-BMZ project on 'Securing Land and Water Rights for the Marginalized Communities through People Led Advocacy' during the year October 2018.

The project arose from concerns about securing land and water rights for marginalized communities through people led advocacy. As such, the main focus of the project was to create environment conducive to strengthening the land and water rights of marginalized communities through capacity building on rights and entitlements. Under the provisions of the action plan of the project several activities were proposed to achieve the objectives of the project. One of the key activities of the project was to organize 'shramdan' camps for rehabilitation of ahars-pynes in the villages of the selected districts of South Bihar. The selected districts were as follows: Nawada, Banka, Seikhpura, Munger, Nalanda, Gaya, Jehanabad and Jamui. Till the end of 2021, altogether 113 'shramdan' camps were organized in the selected districts. The resultant effect was that there has been now NGOs involvement or say, intervention in the specific goals of revival of ahar-pyne irrigation system. The most important outcome was evidenced in the promotional activities of 'Sharamdan' for revival of ahar-pyne. The practice of 'Sharamdan' has now become so important that a large number of non-operational ahars-pynes irrigation system has been revived and its spread effects have been noticed across the Magadh region of South Bihar.

Shramdanies participating in pyne.

II Rationale of 'Shramdan'

The evolution of ahar-pyne for irrigation purposes as well as water conservation had the prerequisite to the topographical characteristics especially in the region of South Bihar. Topography, soil and scantiness of total rainfall with its irregularity became the main causes which had led the people to devise a system by which natural course of water in the river is impeded and utilized for cultivation. Historically, these works were mainly done by the groups of the people which were commonly known as 'Gomam Pratha'. Under the 'Gomam Pratha' there was the collective responsibility or say, community responsibility to support the development of the villages without any remuneration. The people who followed the 'Gomam Pratha) are commonly called 'Shramdanis'. However, over the period, the 'Gomam Pratha" has lost its significance but its existence is still in the memories of the people. Various activities being taken up as envisaged in the project programme have made good impact among the stakeholders for the rehabilitation of ahars-pynes. Apparently, the most important outcome was the wide acceptance of 'Shramdan' by the village people and they are extending support to the practice of 'Shramdan' in their concerned villages and ahars-pynes. The practice of 'Shramdan' has now become so important that a large number of non-operational ahar-pyne irrigation system has been revived and its effects have been noticed across the regions of South Bihar.

The most important outcome was evidenced in the promotional activities of 'Shramdan' for the revival of ahars-pynes. During the last three years of the project period its significance has increased tremendously. It has been an important impact that not only the people but the Government of Bihar became aware of the significance of the rehabilitation of ahars-pynes. For example, the Government of Bihar has pronounced 'Chief Minister's Ahar-Pyne Renovation Scheme'. Under the provisions of 11th Plan, it was proposed to take up 1200 new schemes and 56 ongoing schemes for restoration of ahars-pynes. This can be said as an important impact of the efforts made through going on wide campaigning across the region of South Bihar.

The benefits of campaign for revival of ahars-pynes can also be noted in the recently pronounced a State sponsored 'Jal-Jeevan-Haryali Awareness' programme during the year 2019. The overall objective of this programme is to create awareness of the people regarding the significance and necessity of water conservation and mass plantation. Under the provisions of this programme it was decided to execute and implement it as multi-pronged strategies indicating five grass roots works related to land and water. These are: (i) digging (de-siltation) of ponds, (ii) digging and restoration of ahars-pynes, (iii) plantation, (iv) rain water harvesting, and (v) accessibility of water to rivers in drought affected areas. This programme is, in no sense, the outcome of the Ahar-Pyne Bachao Abhiyan which got inner strength after the initiation of the programme by WHH-BMZ in which there has been continuous meetings with the local village people, PRIs and government officials. At least, the State government has realised the significance of revival of ahar-pynes. This can be termed as a significant achievement of the WHH-BMZ project. It should be recognized that water as resource being richly endowed in Bihar can change the face of the economy if it could be used scientifically and judiciously.

International Women day organized by JVS at Gaya & Jahanabad Districts.

III Impact and Benefits

One primal objective of the project is to make aware of the significance of revival of ahars-pynes among all the stakeholders namely, local village people, village communities, PRIs and government officials and consequently, with the help of 'shramdan' the target of the renovation of ahars-pynes in eight districts of Bihar should be fulfilled. An attempt here is made to determine the benefits accruing from the 'shramdan' in the eight districts of Bihar. The observed benefits in terms of availability of irrigation water through renovated ahars-pynes having the consequential impact on the all-round development of agriculture here implies that there will be:

a. increase in the potential of irrigation in the target areas;
b. increase in the use of renovated ahars-pynes water through 'shramdan' for irrigation purposes;
c. increase in area under crops promoting cropping intensity;
d. increase in crop yield and agricultural production;
e. increase in farm income and on farm employment opportunities; and
f. increase in the availability of surface water for irrigation purposes and thus reducing the pressure on ground water and increasing the status of ground water discharge with the help of water conservation through renovated ahars-pynes in the target areas.

The benefits, thus, accruing from the renovation of ahars-pynes under the 'shramdan' programme of WHW-BMZ project are assessed in the above perspective. The variables chosen for estimating the benefits are irrigation potential created, utilization of irrigation potential, cropping intensity, cropping pattern, yield rate, irrigation protection (life saving

irrigation), total crop protection, value of crop produced, income and employment of beneficiaries ('shramdani') farmers especially marginalized farming communities and other uses of renovated ahars-pynes water. All these variables are taken into account with the assumption that the assessment of benefits of renovated ahar-pynes under the WHH-BMZ project will truely reflect the rationale of the renovation of ahars-pynes especially through 'shramdan'.

Shramdanies digging the pyne.

IV. Shramdan, Number of Renovated Ahars-Pynes and Benefitted Villages

It is well known fact that the agricultural backwardness of the selected districts is due to adverse geo-physical conditions. The large proportion of the area of the selected districts has undulating surface causing a severe problem of soil erosion due to run off rain water. It is estimated that about 20 per cent of the total geographical area of the selected eight districts is subjected to severe soil erosion every year. Due to prolonged soil erosion and denunciation a vast tract of uplands and medium lands are acidic and 92 per cent soils are deficient in nitrogen and 55 per cent in phosphate.

Along with soil erosion, there is an absolute dearth of irrigation facilities. Thus, agricultural development in the selected districts under the 'shramdan' programme depends upon two factors: (i) check on soil erosion and (ii) expansion of irrigation facilities through renovation of ahars-pynes. The main benefit which is envisaged to emerge from the renovated ahars-pynes through 'shramdan' is the expansion of irrigation facilities. It is thus worthwhile that the benefits of renovated ahars-pynes under the WHH-BMZ programme need to be assessed first on irrigation level.

Table 1 presents the details of district-wise number of 'shramdan', number of renovated ahras-pynes and number of villages benefitted. It can be seen from the table that altogether 113 'shramdan' has taken up in the eight districts of Bihar. The largest number of 'shramdan' has been taken place in Nawada district accounting for 31 'shramdan' followed by Gaya (22), Jamui (15) and Jehanabad (14). It can also be noted that altogether 56 ahars-pynes in the selected eight districts could get its new life after its renovation through 'shramdan'. Of these 17 ahars-pynes are renovated in Nawada district followed by Banka and Gaya (8), Jehanabad (6), Munger and Jamui (5), Nalanda (4) and Sheikhpura (3).

Inauguration of Shramdan work by the Central Minister GOI for Rajain Pyne in Roh Nawada.

Country Director, WHH inaugurating Shramdan work in Roh, Nawada

Eminent Gandhian Dr. S N Subbarao participating in

Ex DGP, Bihar Mr. S K Bhardwaj, IPS starting the shramdan in Mahrawa, Nawada as to inspiring villagers.

Table 1: District-wise Number of 'shramdan', Number of Renovated Ahars-Pynes and Number of Villages Benefitted

Sl. No.	Name of Districts	Number of 'Shramdan'	Number of Ahars-Pynes Renovated	Number of villages Benefitted
1.	Nawada	31	17	26
2.	Banka	10	08	09
3.	Sheikhpura	04	03	04
4.	Munger	06	05	05
5.	Nalanda	11	04	06
6.	Gaya	22	08	10
7.	Jehanabad	14	06	08
8.	Jamui	15	05	06
	Total	**113**	**56**	**74**

It can be seen that altogether 74 villages are benefitted from the renovation of ahars-pynes through shramdan. Nawada has the highest number of villages (26) followed by Gaya (10), Banka (9), Jehanabad (8), Nalanda and Jamui (6), Munger (5) and Sheikhpura (4). Thus, it can be concluded that under the provisions of the project sponsored by WHH-BMZ sufficient number of ahars-pynes are renovated through 'shramdan' and a large number of villages are benefitted especially in getting the water for their irrigation purposes.

The most notable achievement of the 'shramdan' activities was also visualized in its spread effect in other villages of the selected districts. It has been reported by the villagers that altogether 51 'shramdan' activities are taken up voluntarily. It means that the 'shramdan' activities have shown its impact in other areas for coming the people together to revive ahars-pynes through their voluntarily efforts. It also reflects the evidence of high level of awareness among the village people especially marginalized communities towards the significance of revival of ahars-pynes. The revival of ahars-pynes has proved to be highly relevant for the farmers of marginalized communities. It has also provided the opportunities for these communities to understand their rights to land and water. This could be a realistic approach to achieve the objectives of sustainable livelihood which can make the life of the marginalized communities decent and also creating opportunities for their income and employment generation through agricultural development based on irrigation facilities.

Oath Ceremony for water conservation in leadership of the Minister, GoI

The main benefit which is envisaged to emerge from the renovation of ahras-pynes through 'shramdan' is the expansion of irrigated area. The details of the district-wise irrigation level are presented in Table 2. This has been estimated on the basis of number of villages where ahars-pynes are renovated. The data on un-irrigated and irrigated land were collected from the villages for both the period, i.e., pre WHH-BMZ and post WHH-BMZ.
A large number of benefiary 'shramdani'farmers were interviewed for collection of data on irrigated and un-irrigated.

Table 2: Irrigation Level and Percentage Change

Districts	Cultivable Area (ha)	Irrigation (Pre-WHH)	Irrigation (Post-WHH)	Non-Irrigated (Pre-WHH)	Non-Irrigated (Post-WHH)	Area brought under irriga-tion (ha)
Nawada	6869 (100.0)	3750 (54.6)	4478 (65.2)	3119 (45.4)	2391 (34.8)	7.28 (10.3)
Banka	2462 (100.0)	1359 (55.2)	1630 (66.2)	1103 (44.8)	832 (33.8)	271 (11.0)
Sheikhpura	258 (100.0)	143 (55.7)	165 (64.2)	114 (44.3)	92 (35.8)	21 (8.5)
Munger	1210 (100.0)	680 (56.2)	802 (66.3)	530 (43.8)	407 (33.7)	122 (10.1)
Nalanda	1209 (100.0)	682 (56.4)	787 (65.1)	527 (43.6)	422 (34.9)	105 (8.7)
Gaya	2464 (100.0)	1389 (56.4)	1609 (65.3)	1075 (43.6)	855 (34.7)	22O (8.9)
Jehanabad	1313 (100.0)	759 (57.8)	872 (66.4)	554 (42.2)	441 (36.0)	113 (6.6)
Jamui	1233 (100.0)	676 (54.8)	787 (63.8)	557 (45.2)	446 (36.2)	111 (9.0)
Total	17018 (100.0)	9438 (55.5)	11130 (65.4)	7579 (44.5)	5886 (34.6)	1691 (9.9)

It can be seen from the table that there has been significant improvement in irrigation level on account of the fact that the water availability has increased due to renovation of ahars and pynes which are done through 'shramdan' activities. For instance, in Nawada district, the increase in total irrigation is 10.4 per cent which is quite substantial from the irrigation point of view. It can be viewed that in almost all the districts there has been an increase in irrigated are during the period of 'shramdan' activities which was continuously taken up in the villages of the selected districts. If taken together all the districts, there has been an increase of 9.46 per cent in irrigated area. This could be termed as a positive gain of the efforts made through 'shramdan' under the provisions of the programme sponsored by WHH-BMZ.

VI. Cropping Pattern and Cropping Intensity

Irrigation can also bring changes in cropping pattern. It is presumed that with the increase in irrigation area farmers will be more prone to cultivate more area on highly productive crops. Crops like rice, wheat, pulses, oilseeds, horticulture crops like vegetables etc., require assured and timely water supply for irrigation purposes. Such water supply through irrigation facility provides a congenial environment to the farmers especially the farmers of marginalized communities to grow these crops. It can be expected that after

creation of assured irrigation facilities there is possibility that the farmers may cultivate more land and more crops with an increase in agricultural production which, in turn, give the scope for sustainable livelihood for the marginalized farming communities.

Table 3: Cropping Pattern during Pre-Shramdan and Post Shramdan

District	% of Area (pre-shramdan)					% of Area (post-shramdan)				
	Paddy	Wheat	Maize	Pulses	Others	Paddy	Wheat	Maize	Pulses	Others
Nawada	64.2	14.9	8.7	2.9	9.3	65.4	16.3	9.1	2.6	6.6
Banka	61.7	16.9	7.3	3.6	10.5	62.3	17.1	7.4	3.7	9.5
Sheikhpura	66.8	14.6	9.4	2.9	6.3	65.1	16.8	9.2	3.6	7.3
Munger	63.6	12.9	10.5	2.7	10.4	64.1	17.9	8.9	2.4	6.4
Nalanda	62.5	11.8	6.9	3.8	15.0	63.8	13.5	7.2	4.6	10.9
Gaya	60.5	14.7	5.8	4.7	14.3	61.2	16.9	6.3	5.3	10.3
Jehanabad	58.8	16.7	3.4	5.6	15.5	60.4	17.5	5.2	6.4	10.5
Jamui	54.9	14.8	4.7	3.8	21.8	55.6	16.8	4.8	3.9	18.9

Table 3 shows cropping pattern for both the pre-shramdan and post-shramdan indicating thereby changes brought about in the cropping pattern due to the irrigation facilities created by the renovation of ahars-pynes. The small and marginal farmers having small plots of land may be able to cultivate intensively with the help of availability of irrigation facilities. The irrigation facilities may also help to these categories of farmers to up from the category of deficit farmers to that of subsistence farmers. There is also a possibility that commercialization of agriculture on the advent of new irrigation facilities and the use of modern agricultural inputs will emerge in reality. Under, *ceteris paribus*, assumption, some farmers may adjust production activity on capitalistic basis and start production of more profitable crops. Since irrigation is a necessity for raising a few profitable crops particularly commercial crops like vegetables, sugarcane, etc., the production will shift towards these crops only after creation of assured irrigation facilities.

Country Director, WHH being Hounored by Mr. Ashwini Choubey, Central Minister GOI in Roh, Nawada

Central Minister addressing the audience on importance of rennovation of traditional water bodies.

The data presented in the table shows that there has been increase in the area of other crops in, by and large, all the districts selected for the activities of shramdan. However, there is still high dependence on cropping of food grains (cereals and pulses) indicating thereby that agrarian economy of these districts is predominantly food grains economy. The proportion of food-grain crops varies between 85 to 90 per cent. It can be expected that in future, with an increase in irrigation facilities the farmers shall be motivated to grow crops which are more profitable. In nutshell, it can be said that availability of assured irrigation facilities will prove to be boon to the farmers for adoption of scientific agricultural practices.

VII Crop Productivity

The issue of substitutability of rainfall with irrigation deserves special attention in analyzing the impact of irrigation created through revival of ahars-pynes based on 'shramdan' on agricultural productivity. It is very much clear that both rainfall and irrigation have water component but the difference is of the delivery of water when it is desired as per the need of cultivation. It is well known that the delivery of water through rainfall particularly in kharif season when paddy is largely cultivated is not only uncertain especially in the present regime of climate change but also erratic in terms of quantity and time. In other words, pouring of rainfall depends on nature and hence, it is rarely matched as per the need of the crop in terms of time and quantity. In contrast, irrigation has advantage over rainfall because its delivery can be certain and its quantity can be adjusted as per the need of the crop. Due to erratic nature of rainfall, the role of increasing agricultural production and maintaining production stability through irrigation is emphasized. This stability may be in terms of crop yield, crop production and income.

Table 4 gives the details of the average yield rate of major crops in the selected eight districts of Bihar during pre-'shramdan' and post-'shramdan' period. It may be noted from the table that there has been increase in the yield rate of selected crops namely, paddy, wheat and maize. This could be said as a positive gain of the 'shramdan' activities. It can be noted from the table that in all the districts there has been increase in yield rate during the shramdan period. The highest increase has been noted in Jamui district in case of rice. In case of wheat, the highest increase in its yield rate is reported in Banka district. However, there is not much variations among the districts in wheat in its yield rate. In case of maize, Nalanda has recorded highest increase accounting for 7.90 per cent followed by Sheikhpura (6.58%). The variations among the districts are between 3.41 per cent and 7.90 per cent. As such, it can be observed that there has been significant improvement in the yield rate of major crops namely, rice, wheat and maize during the period of shramdan activities.

Table 4: Average Yield Rate of Major Crops During Pre and Post Shramdan Period

(Yield in kg/ha)

Districts	Yield (Pre-shramdan)			Yield (Post-shramdan)			% change in yield rate		
	Rice	Wheat	Maize	Rice	Wheat	Maize	Rice	Wheat	Maize
Nawada	1462	3412	2638	1600	3545	2772	9.44	3.89	5.08
Banka	1345	2718	3201	1463	2892	3310	8.77	6.40	3.41
Sheikhpura	1093	2103	1518	1199	2200	1618	9.70	4.61	6.58
Munger	1301	2601	2467	1403	2765	2600	7.84	6.30	5.39
Nalanda	1992	2603	2011	2092	2768	2170	5.02	6.33	7.90
Gaya	1416	2615	3405	1515	2781	3552	6.99	6.34	4.31
Jehanabad	1986	3186	3476	2042	3316	3675	2.81	4.08	5.72
Jamui	1038	2046	2413	1164	2113	2514	12.14	3.27	4.19

VII Crop Production

Commensurate with the yield rate the impact of 'shramdan' on production of different crops are shown in Table 5. A comparative picture of crop production during both the pre and post 'shramdan' activities indicates an increasing rate of production in the selected crops after the 'shramdan' activities taken up under the provisions of the project.

Table 5: Crop Production During Pre and Post Shramdan Period (qntl.)

Districts	Before Shramdan			After Shramdan			Percentage change in production		
	Rice	Wheat	Maize	Rice	Wheat	Maize	Rice	Wheat	Maize
Nawada	67924	96457	7175	82592	105002	9369	21.59	8.85	30.58
Banka	23941	25032	2016	28616	29151	2245	19.53	16.45	11.36
Munger	10238	12770	1838	12318	14765	2197	20.32	15.62	19.53
Sheikhpura	2131	1535	318	2697	1848	389	26.56	20.39	22.32
Nalanda	17748	9735	985	20543	12954	1323	15.71	33.07	34.30
Jehanabad	19581	11820	2989	22339	16115	3491	14.08	36.34	16.79
Jamui	8231	7529	3667	9963	9332	4625	21.04	23.94	26.12
Gaya	28150	24084	1770	31163	29061	2237	10.70	20.66	26.38
Total	175439	188962	20320	205881	218228	25876	17.35	15.49	27.34

It can be noted from the table that in all the selected districts there has been significant improvement in production due to increase in yield rate. The area under crop is also supposed to increase due to availability of irrigation facilities. In case of rice, increase in its production varies between 10.70 per cent (Gaya) and 26.56 per cent (Sheikhpura). Likewise, in case of wheat, the yield rate among the districts varies between 36.34 per cent (Jehanabad) and 8.85 per cent (Nawada). Taking together all the districts there has been significant increase in all the crops during the 'shramdan' period.

Jal Yatra is in progress in the leadership of Mr. MP Sinha, JVS

Distribution of relief food materials by DDC & BDO, Nawada during COVID.

VII Impact on Income and Employment

It was expected in the formulation of the project that along with the direct benefits some indirect benefits such as improvement in income and employment would also incur to the beneficiary-shramdan farmers as their main source of livelihood is agriculture. The prosperity of agriculture means prosperity of the farming community and it is, therefore, rightly hypothesized that irrigation facilities create ample opportunities for on-farm employment opportunities. This has also to some extent impact on generation of off-farm employment opportunities. It is in this perspective that a slogan which was very popular in pre-Independence India in many parts of the country among struggling masses was “Har Khet Ko Pani Do; Har Haath Ko Kam Do’ (provide irrigation to every farm, give employment to every hand). This slogan has still very high relevance especially in the agriculturally backward regions. Thus, the two policies, that is, widespread development of irrigation infrastructure and employment generation, were highly correlated with each other in the context of our country and much more in case of Bihar were vast bulk of the population is occupationally dependent on agriculture. This has been assessed here on income and employment generation with the help of closed ended question giving the beneficiary-shramdani farmers five alternative answers. Their responses have been presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Impact of 'Shrandan' on Income and Employment

District	Extent of Income and Employment					
	No impact/ no increase	Marginal increase	Increase by one and half a time	It has doubled	It has tripled	Total
Nawada	9.7	58.6	12.9	18.8	-	100.0
Banka	11.2	53.4	28.6	6.8	-	100.0
Sheikhpura	6.4	62.9	26.0	4.7	-	100.0
Munger	41.0	56.3	2.7	-	-	100.0
Nalanda	22.8	60.2	14.1	2.9	-	100.0
Gaya	7.7	62.8	25.7	3.8	-	100.0
Jehanabad	4.6	58.6	32.7	4.1	-	100.0
Jamui	12.7	61.4	23.0	2.9	-	100.0
Overall	14.1	59.3	21.1	5.5	-	100.0

Looking at the table, it is obvious that there has been mixed reaction about the impact of renovation of ahars-pynes on income and employment. Taking together all the districts, 14.1 per cent of total responses said that there has not been impact on their income and employment whereas 59.3 per cent of total responses opined that there has been marginal increase in their income and employment. The most positive aspect is that 21.1 per cent of total responses answered in favour of increase in income and employment by one and half a time due to renovation of ahars-pynes through 'shramdan' activities taken up under the provisions of the project. It could also be noted from the table that 5.5 per cent of total responses said that income and employment has doubled due to renovation of ahars-pynes. In nutshell, it could be conclusively said that there has been positive impact of renovation of ahars-pynes on income and employment.

Respected Dr. S N Subbarao, Hon'ble Minister Gov of Bihar, Sri Prem kumar, Sri Vijay Rai, WHH, Dr. N Vijya Laxmi, IAS & other distinguished participants on the occasion of Seminar on Ahar-pyne And Jal Jeevan Hariyali campaign.

श्रमदान करनेवालों की मेहनत लायी रंग, आया पइन व खेत में पानी

प्रतिनिधि ▷ रोह

प्रखंड क्षेत्र में जनहित विकास समिति व डब्ल्यूएचएच के मार्गदर्शन में एक माह से सकरी नदी से निकलकर 52 गांवों की भूमि को सिंचित करने वाले विभिन्न पइनों में जारी श्रमदान आखिरकार रंग लाया. श्रमदान करने वालों लोगों को उनकी मेहनत का फल उनके खेतों में पानी के रूप में मिला. क्षेत्र के किसानों ने खुद से पइन की सफाई का बीड़ा उठाया था. वह अपना श्रमदान देकर अपने अपने क्षेत्र समेत खेतों में पानी लाने का बीड़ा उठाया था. उर्वरा शक्ति से भरपूर लाल पानी को खेतों तक पहुंचाता देख किसान खुश हैं. इस कार्य में आहर पईन बचाओ अभियान के राष्ट्रीय संयोजक एमपी सिन्हा की भूमिका की सराहना की जा रही है. स्थानीय क्षेत्र में बुधवार की बारिश के बाद सकरी नदी में लाल पानी आया. यह लाल पानी रजाइन पइन और रोहलईन के अलावा कई अन्य पइनों से होकर खेतों तक पहुंच चुका है. हाल में जनहित विकास समिति नवादा के तत्वावधान में स्थानीय किसानों ने विभिन्न पइनों में सकरी के मुहाना पर श्रमदान कर सफाई किया था. उसी

खेतों तक आया पानी.

की परिणति है कि आज बगैर परिश्रम के सकरी का लाल पानी खेतों तक पहुंचने के लिए मचल रहा है. यह लाल पानी खेतों की पैदावार बढ़ाने में काफी सहायक होता है. जिन किसानों ने श्रमदान में अपनी भागीदारी सुनिश्चित की है उनके चेहरे की खुशी देखते बन रही है. इसके अलावा कई दशक बाद इन पइनों में आया सकरी का पानी से लाभान्वित किसानों के चेहरे भी खिल गये हैं. हर कोई श्रमदान की तारीफ करते नहीं अघा रहे हैं. इस बात पर आहर पइन बचाओ अभियान के संयोजक एमपी सिन्हा ने कहा की अगर किसी काम को मन लगाकर किया जाये तो सफलता जरूर मिलती है. सकरी माता ने किसानों को परिश्रम का फल बहुत जल्द दे दिया है. आशा ही नहीं पूर्ण विश्वास है कि आगे भी किसान निस्वार्थ भाव से श्रमदान कर अपनी खेतों को सिंचित करने में अपनी अहम भूमिका निभाते रहेंगे. खासकर रजाईन पईन से लाभान्वित होने वाले बावन गांव में खेती की स्थिति अब बहुत जल्द ही सुदृढ़ हो जावेगी.

IX Conclusion

From the foregoing analysis of the impact of renovation of ahars-pynes with the help of people's efforts through 'shramdan' it is very much clear that there has been positive outcome not only on increasing irrigated area but also on agricultural production and income and employment. The most notable gain of the 'shramdan' activites is that not only farmer-stakeholders have realized the significance of revival of ahars-pynes for providing assured irrigation facilities but also the government has also realized the significance of revival of ahras-pynes and consequently, a specific scheme for the renovation of ahars-pynes has been intiated by the State Government in its ambiguous programme of 'Jal-Jeevan-Haryali Awareness'. It could be said that the needs and necessity of renovation and restoration of ahars-pynes have now been well recognised and the State Government has also come forward to this issue under its various schemes of minor irrigation. This is the positive gain of the advocacy of the revival of ahras-pynes being done under the provisions of the project.

Based on the outcome of the programme the following recommendations could be suggested for further accelerating the programme for renovation and restoration of ahars-pynes:

i. To further build community based water conservation and management of renovated ahars-pynes;
ii. To develop a module of ahar-pyne rejuvenation on the basis of village development plan;

iii. To explore workable arrangement between community, NGOs/CBOs, PRIs and the government for large scale renovation programme of ahars-pynes;
iv. An issue based action research needs to be carried out with a view to assess the expected outcome/benefits of revival of ahars-pynes;
v. Formation of water users association for each renovated ahars-pynes with a view to develop participatory irrigation management;
vi. Preparation of data base/resource on ahars-pynes to facilitate the future plan of action for rehabilitation of ahar-pyne;
vii. Space for convergence approach with the government programmes such as MNREGA, Drought Proofing Programme, Livelihood Mission, etc. and
viii. To strengthen linkages of water resources with empowerment of marginalized communities.

वर्षों से जीर्णोद्धार की बाट जोह रहे किसानों में हर्ष, खेतों तक पहुंचेगा लाल पानी

रोह की लाइफलाइन रजाइन पइन की खुदाई का शुभारंभ

रोह, निज प्रतिनिधि। रोह प्रखंड क्षेत्र की लाईफलाइन कही जाने वाली रजाइन पइन के जीर्णोद्धार की आस अब बंध गई है। गुरुवार को रजाइन पईन के चारमुहानी के पास विधायक मो. कामरान, आहर-पईन बचाओ अभियान के राष्ट्रीय संयोजक एमपी सिन्हा, किसान राजकिशोर सिंह, सारो सिंह व राहुल सिंह ने नारियल फोड़कर खुदाई कार्य का शुभारंभ किया। आठ माह पूर्व लघु सिंचाई विभाग ने रजाइन पईन की खुदाई का टेंडर निकाल कर किसानों की वर्षों की उम्मीद पूरी करने का सुखद संकेत दिया था। जिससे किसानों में खुशी की लहर दौड़ गई थी। अब रजाइन पईन की खुदाई का कार्य आरंभ होने से किसानों को सपना पूरा होने की उम्मीद बंध गई है।

खुदाई कार्य शुभारंभ होने से प्रसन्न किसानों ने क्षेत्रीय विधायक और आहर-पइन बचाओ अभियान के राष्ट्रीय संयोजक के प्रति आभार प्रकट किया है। इस अवसर पर कार्यक्रम को संबोधित करते हुए विधायक ने कहा कि किसानों का वर्षों पुराना सपना अब साकार होने वाला है। जनता के आशीर्वाद से मैं जनहित का कार्य करने और जन उम्मीदों पर खरा उतरने को प्रयासरत हूं। वहीं एमपी सिन्हा ने कहा कि रजाइन पईन और उसकी शाखा-उपशाखाओं के जीर्णोद्धार के लिए किसान वर्षों से आंदोलनरत थे। किसानों का आंदोलन रंग लाने लगा है। 52 मौजा को सींचने वाली रजाइन पईन को मॉडल के रूप में विकसित करने पर किसानों का सपना पूर्णरूपेण साकार हो जाएगा। लघु सिंचाई विभाग के जेई रमेश कुमार राकेश ने बताया कि प्रथम चरण में रजाइन पईन का जीर्णोद्धार कार्य पिपरा के निकट से चारमुहानी, जिसकी लम्बाई 3.5 किमी है, तक किया जाना है। जिसके लिए 3.25 करोड़ रुपये प्राक्कलित राशि स्वीकृत की गई है। इस राशि से 150 मीटर गाईडवाल, 80 मीटर प्रोटेक्शन वाल, सिंचाई के लिए पानी की निकासी के लिए 300 एमएम डाया का 07 आउटलेट, 04 आरसीसी कलवर्ट और चारमुहानी पर रेगुलेटर का निर्माण प्रस्तावित है। समहराइन पइन की खुदाई कार्य दूसरे चरण में होगा। जबकि सिउर, बघौर व डुमरी पइन की खुदाई का काम तीसरे चरण में होने की उम्मीद है। इन चारों पइन की खुदाई के बाद ही इनकी शाखा व उप शाखाओं की खुदाई के बारे में काम किया जाएगा।

रोह में रजाइन पईन की खुदाई कार्य का शुभारंभ करते विधायक व अन्य।

खेतों तक पहुंचेगा सकरी का उपजाऊ लाल पानी

रजाइन पइन और उसकी शाखा व उपशाखाओं की खुदाई से रोह प्रखंड क्षेत्र में करीब बीस हजार एकड़ खेतों तक सकरी नदी का उपजाऊ लाल पानी पहुंचेगा। वहीं पड़ोसी प्रखंड पकरीबरावां और वारिसलीगंज के बड़े भू-भाग में भी सिंचाई हो सकेगी। किसान खेतीबारी में आत्मनिर्भर और सुदृढ़ बनेंगे तो रोजगार के अवसर भी बढ़ेंगे। लेकिन यह तभी संभव होगा, जब रजाइन पईन के साथ उसकी शाखा-उपशाखाओं का भी जीर्णोद्धार होगा।

As a result of the Ahar-Pyne campaign under the project of WHH the most notable outcome is that the government of Bihar has sanction 3.25 crore for the renovation of Rajain Pyne of Roh Block of Nawada District, Inauguration of Rajain Pyne reconstruction work by Secretary JVS in Presence MLA, PRI, Village Communities, Jal Mitra, Jal Nayak in NAWADA on 14 April 2022.