

# **Visit and Meeting of Selected Villages under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**

## **Minutes of the Meeting and Report of Field Visit**

NITTTR Chandigarh has been working as Project Implementing Institute (PI) as well as Regional Coordinating Institute (RCI) for the state of Punjab and Chandigarh under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan project which is a flagship programme of Ministry of Education, Government of India. In order to undertake such initiatives in selected five villages, a meeting related to village development and watershed project development was organised by the UBA Cell of NITTTR Chandigarh on 22nd September, 2023 at Kakut and Majri village.

Under the village development project, NITTTR Chandigarh has decided to work in collaboration with IISWC, Sector 27, Chandigarh and Soil and Water Conservation Department of Punjab state. The Panchayat representatives of village Kakut, Badi and Majri were also present in the meeting. The list of Panchayat members along with the team of project scientists and experts who attended the meeting is as follows:

1. Dr. UN Roy (Professor Head, Rural Development Department, Co-ordinator, UBA Cell NITTTR Chandigarh)
2. Dr. Brij Lal Lakaria (Principal scientist & Head IISWC Sector 27 Chandigarh)
3. Dr. Pankaj Kanwar (Principal scientist IISWC Sector 27 Chandigarh)
4. Dr. Ram Parsad ((Principal scientist IISWC Sector 27 Chandigarh)
5. Mr. Mukesh Kumar (S.W.C Punjab Mohali)
6. Mr. Davinder Singh (S.W.C. Mohali)
7. Mr. Malkhan Singh (Panchayat Representative Badi)
8. Mr. Satpreet Singh (Sarpanch village Kakut)
9. Mr. Surjeet Singh (Sarpanch Majri Village)
10. Ms. Anjali Kumari (Field Supervisor, UBA Project, NITTTR Chandigarh)
11. Ms. Shivani (Field Supervisor, UBA Project, NITTTR Chandigarh)

Various points were discussed in the meeting and after that a visit of two watershed areas was done by the expert groups and village representatives. During the meetings following major issues were discussed and some important strategies were planned for the future.



**(Discussion during the meeting)**

## **The highlights of meeting and future strategies per as follow:**

### **Watershed project Visit and their Revival**

1. Under watershed project the revival of Kakut watershed is being planned which falls under the Majri panchayat .The team visited the watershed area and following observations were made by the team members.

(a) The pondage area of the watershed was about 1 acre but there was a lot of siltation problem. But the water body has a good potential to provide irrigation to nearby agriculture fields of village Kakut atleast for four five months in a year. A new mechanism for lifting the water from the pond has to be evolved and then we need to lay out a new irrigation channel using PVC pipes with the contribution and cooperation of the farmers of Kakut.

(b) The village Sarpanch Shri Satpreet Singh was of the opinion of de siltation of the pond but that was not looking feasible as per the team of experts from IISWC, Chandigarh. It was observed by the experts of IISWC that this pond is also naturally working as a groundwater recharge system which is indirectly helping the villagers in maintaining the groundwater level in the nearby region and even keeping the groundwater available to the bore-wells of the adjoining areas.





**(Watershed kakut)**

**(c) Watershed of Village Majri-**

The natural lake of Majri village was of about 4 acres and it has high capacity as far as collection of rainwater is concerned. This water can be very useful for the irrigation of crops in Majri village. An earthen dam was construct by SWC Department Punjab in 1985 is now defunct for more than 30 years and all pipeline laid has fully choked and is out of order. The spillway of the check dam constructed by SWC department Punjab was totally damaged during the torrential rain of July to September 2023. The SWC Punjab is planning to repair the spillway.

The Majri watershed was found very clean and sediments free because the upper catchment area was found well covered by the forest.



**(Majri Watershed)**





**(Choked Pipeline)**



**(Damaged Spillway of Majri Earthen dam due to heavy rain)**



**(Bridge damaged by heavy rainfall)**



**(Visit inside the forest area near Majri Watershed)**

#### **(d) Watershed of Badi Village**

As per Shri Malkhan Singh there is a watershed project of rupees 1 crore sanctioned to village Badi by NABARD, Punjab. NABARD has given this project and funded the CSR division Ambuja cement, Ropar.

#### **As per the observations of Mr. Malkhan Singh:-**

The Ambuja Cement is lagging behind in completion of the project.

The watershed committee of village Badi has to appoint one Agricultural scientist and one civil engineer for the groundwork and completion of the project. But the Ambuja Cement has failed to appoint an engineer and an agriculture expert so far.

#### **Other Recommendations**

2. A training of 50 Farmers from the five selected villages may be organised on **Crop Diversification and Natural Resource Management**. A three day program may be organised at NITTTR. In which 10- 15 farmers from each of the villages will be called at NITTTR Chandigarh for training. The training programme will be organised in collaboration with IISWC Sector 27, Chandigarh.
3. There will be a separate meeting with farmers of five villages for agroforestry and horticulture projects.
4. There is a great potential of promoting organic farming and organic milk production in village Majri, which is a Gujjar dominated village. A proposal for making Majri Village as an organic agriculture and organic milk production Village will be done in collaboration with the Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Department of Punjab
5. **Fishery Project in such villages:-**
  - All the five villages Kakut, Badi, Majri, Hirdapur and Haripur have a lot of potential for fishery because they have natural lakes or ponds in the villages.
  - Fishery department Rupnagar located near Bahadurpur will be contacted and proposal from the Sarpanch of the panchayat bodies will be floated for fishery development.

#### **6. Protection of crops from wild animals:-**

There is a big menace of wild animals as it has been found that all crops are being damaged by wild animals nearby forest. There are wild Boar, Swamp Deer (Barasingha), Blue Bull (Neel Gay), Porcupine and a large number of peacocks.



It was found that a solar operated live wire fencing has been created to protect the crops from wild animals. Apart from it the farmer has been keeping watch during day night time by making some traditional *Muchan* in one corner of the farm. But it has some limitations. The wild animals can attack any time in the night and damage the crops.



**(Crops Destroyed by animals)**




**(Solar operated live wire fencing)**

#### 7. Promotion of Agro-forestry and Horticulture:

As per the observations by the Agriculture experts from IISWC it was emphasized that farmers should go for Agro forestry and horticultural crops which can be more beneficial than the conventional wheat-rice production. Farmers should be made aware about agroforestry and horticultural crops planning and their production in future.

This is the first report based on the meeting and field visit organised on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.

  
30/9/2023

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UBA Coordinator