

Success Story No. 2

Title: Muslim Barkati Farmer Group Successfully Receives Government Grant

The Muslim Barkati Farmer Group in Matihani Municipality Burdaha Tole of Ward No. 2, under the Dual Agriculture Program run by RCDSC in Mahottari, has been formed. The group consists of 10 women and 15 men, totaling 25 members. They have engaged in vegetable farming and have planted various kinds of seeds and fodder. Periodic training, meetings, and study tours related to agriculture are provided to them. Using the knowledge and training, they have been performing commendably in agriculture. The Agriculture Office of Mahottari, after supervision and evaluation, recognizes the Burdaha Farmer Group as a distinguished group. This group has also been given a 7-week IPM training to enhance their skills. The farmers are very motivated.

The District Agriculture Office had called for farmer groups to register for an irrigation competition. Based on this call, about 35 farmer groups registered, including the Muslim Barkati Group. Out of these 35 groups, 14 were selected to receive some grant money as an encouragement for their agricultural efforts. The Barkati Muslim Farmer Group from Burdaha was among the chosen ones. This group received support of NPR 450,000 from the District Agriculture Office, Mahottari, to construct an irrigation canal. By utilizing the grant effectively and with additional labor contribution, they successfully built a canal worth around NPR 750,000. Farmers are happy to have harnessed government resources and now, with the irrigated fields, they expect more yield than before. The president of this farmer group, Khursheed Alam, is optimistic about reaping even more benefits in the future with ongoing support from the District Agriculture Office. The group also extends its gratitude to the partners of RCDSC. We feel proud to see the Muslim Barkati Farmer Group construct the canal under their leadership using the government grant.

Success Story No. 3

Title: Successful Leadership of a Dalit Woman

In the Rural Municipality Pipara Khairwa Tole of Ward No.1, Mahottari district, which is about 14 km towards the east and north, lives Satiya Devi Mahara, a woman of around 45 years. She has a family of 6 - two sons, two daughters, and her husband. About 15 years ago, she got married to Bindeshwar Mahara. Despite being unable to read or write due to various circumstances during her youth, Satiya learned to read and write from various adult classes and literacy classes after marriage. Initially, she faced challenges and skepticism from both Dalit and non-Dalit women. However, her perseverance paid off, and today she can confidently read and write.

Under the Women's Reproductive Health Program run by RCDSC Mahottari, a savings group named "Mazdoor Mahila Bachat Samuha" was formed with 30 women members who contribute NPR 75 monthly. Satiya Devi Mahara was unanimously chosen as the president of this group. With participation in various trainings and meetings organized by the institution, she has enhanced her capabilities and self-confidence.

The government of Nepal allocated a Dalit development budget at the district and village levels. Under this, a committee of 11 Dalits was formed in Khairwa. Satiya Devi Mahara was unanimously chosen as the treasurer. Under her leadership, they purchased 8 Dhur of land for NPR 100,000 to construct a public platform for Dalits. Furthermore, with an additional NPR 220,000 from the municipality, a concrete single-room public building for Dalits was constructed. This has facilitated meetings, discussions, and events for the Dalit community. Despite many challenges and obstacles, all the Dalits appreciate her efforts to efficiently utilize the Dalit quota funds. Satiya Devi herself is content and has committed to fight for the rights and privileges of Dalits in the future. We applaud her journey from being a homemaker to a successful community leader.

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