

‘Chanana’ Village- “The Sparkling Light of Community Participation under Atal Bhujal Yojana”

Water is the elixir of life, and in an agrarian country like India, access to groundwater is crucial for agricultural sustenance. Rapid depletion of groundwater has become a pressing concern in various parts of the country, including Haryana.

Chanana, a village in the Bhiwani district of Haryana was facing challenges due to less rainfall and rapid depletion of groundwater in their district. And Agriculture being the main profession of the residents of Chanana, the depletion of groundwater threatened the livelihoods of countless farmers. The availability of ground water in Chanana was 171.91 Ha.m and the utilization was 235.66 Ha.m, thus making it water deficit of -63.75 Ha.m.

Here, Atal Bhujal Yojana became the ray of hope for the poor farmers, who were encouraged to diversify their crop and make use of Micro Irrigation systems to preserve the precious resource for their future generations.



Atal Bhujal Yojana is a visionary scheme launched by Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi which aimed at conserving and replenishing groundwater resources in the state. The Scheme is being implemented in Haryana under the leadership of Hon’ble Chief Minister, Shri Manohar Lal and has emerged as a game changer in the sustainable management of groundwater resources.

The transformative project, helmed by the passionate Engineer-in-Chief, Irrigation & Water Resources Department-cum-Project Director, Atal Bhujal Yojana, Dr. Satbir S. Kadian, has brought about significant changes in agricultural practices by promoting various demand and supply side interventions for water efficient practices. Among the 14 districts involved in the project, Village Chanana stands as a shining example of its success, showcasing how Crop Diversification, Micro



Irrigation and Cultivation of alternative crops can transform the lives of farmers and rejuvenate the region's agriculture.

Chanana Village, nestled in the heart of Haryana, is undergoing a remarkable transformation in its agricultural practices which have been possible by the utilization of cutting-edge irrigation methods. With an area of 106.30 Ha m. covered by drip irrigation systems and an additional 148.22 Ha.m. by sprinklers, the farmers of Chanana are pioneering a sustainable and efficient approach to crop cultivation.



One of the key strategies adopted in village Chanana under the Atal Bhujal Yojana was to encourage the farmers to adopt installation of MI systems like Drip Irrigation and Sprinklers to minimize water consumption. IEC played a vital role in sensitizing the local community and farmers

about the depleting groundwater. It triggered the behaviour change and social responsibility in the community, which laid the foundation of community led and community participatory groundwater management. The implementation of Sprinklers and drip irrigation systems further revolutionized agriculture in the village. By using these technologies, farmers could supply water directly to the roots of plants, thereby minimizing the over drafting of groundwater. This approach has not only contributed to conserving ground water but also led to higher crop yields, resulting in increased income for the farmers. The reduction in water usage also translated into substantial savings for the farmers, as they no longer had to bear the burden of excessive water expenses.

Sh. Mahesh Chandra, a local farmer shares, “Net house farming has been my passion and profession, enabling me to grow capsicum and green chillies on my land. The capsicum crop has been a reliable source of income, providing 5-7 lakh rupees annually. I recently ventured into cultivating green chillies for the first time, and I'm eager to see how it fares in the market. Thanks to the horticulture department's support, I have a water tanker with 100% subsidy, coupled with drip irrigation from the river water, ensuring efficient water usage. In my pursuit of diversification, I also grow watermelons, further enriching my farm. Farming is more than a livelihood; it's a way of life that connects me to nature and my community.”



The adoption of water-efficient technologies not only proved financially viable for the farmers but also brought about numerous environmental benefits. With reduced water usage and controlled irrigation, the reliance on chemical fertilizers also decreased. This move towards water efficient farming practices not only ensured a healthier and sustainable ecosystem but also produced healthier produce of crops like Strawberry, Watermelon, Peas, Groundnuts, Cotton and Green Chillies that appealed to health-conscious consumers and gained decent profit to the farmers.

Dr. Satbir S. Kadian, the driving force behind the Atal Bhujal Yojana, has ardently championed the cause of sustainable groundwater management and its crucial role in securing the future of agriculture in the region. Reflecting on the Project's impact, he added "Community Participation lies at the heart of the Atal Bhujal Yojana. Together, we have forged a formidable alliance between government initiatives and the unwavering dedication of our farmers. Their commitment and responsible water usage is the biggest factor in the success of this scheme. Their active involvement in the project has been exemplary. They are the ones who have embraced innovative agricultural practices and enthusiastically adopted measures to conserve precious water resources. Through their collective efforts, we have not only rejuvenated our lands but also laid a strong foundation for a sustainable tomorrow."

In the quest to combat rapid groundwater depletion, the remarkable village of Chanana is a glowing testament to the power of unity and sustainable action. A true testament to their dedication and foresight, the villagers have wholeheartedly embraced cutting-edge technologies like drip irrigation, while actively participating in concerted efforts to conserve and replenish their precious water resources. The community is thankful to Hon'ble Prime Minister and Chief Minister of Haryana for foreseeing implementation of Atal Bhujal Yojana at ground level and envisaging a future where water scarcity would be a thing of the past.

This harmonious fusion of communal involvement and technological innovation stands as a witness to the transformative potential that arises when local wisdom converges with modern solutions.