

Success Story: A·ding Women's SHG Leading Water Conservation and Catchment Area Protection

Project Name: EGH WDC 3/2021-22 (Upper Chichra Watershed)

Village: Nongbak A·ding, Rongjeng Block, East Garo Hills

Name of SHG: A·ding Women's SHG

The A·ding Women's Self-Help Group (SHG) has emerged as a force for change comprising of seven enterprising members, this SHG has not only uplifted their own livelihoods but had also become the vanguard for water conservation and catchment area protection in their community.

Members of SHG:

1. **Hobalitha Sangma**
2. **Batela Momin**
3. **Hetboline Sangma**
4. **Ritha Momin**
5. **Selsina Momin**
6. **Sengchi Momin**
7. **Grikchina Momin**

Involvement in Water Conservation:

Understanding that the dam was a lifeline for their village, the SHG members took it upon themselves to ensure its proper maintenance and sustainable use. They organized regular clean-up drives along the dam's banks, removing debris and preventing pollution. Their efforts not only improved the water quality but also created a cleaner and more aesthetically pleasing environment for the entire community to enjoy.

Catchment Area Protection:

Understanding that the health of their water sources depended on the surrounding catchment areas, the SHG embarked on a tree-planting campaign. The SHG members initiated a comprehensive catchment protection program. They organized tree-planting drives, meticulously selecting native species to reforest the hillsides. These trees acted as natural barriers against soil erosion, preventing sedimentation in streams and rivers. The result was not only cleaner water but also enhanced biodiversity and a rejuvenated ecosystem. They reforested degraded areas, creating natural buffers to prevent soil erosion and maintain water quality. Their efforts not only revitalized the landscape but also provided a habitat for local wildlife.

The impact of the A·ding Women's SHG was soon felt throughout the village. With improved access to clean water, agriculture flourished, leading to increased yields and food security. The rejuvenated catchment areas became a source of pride for the community, showcasing what collective action and determination could achieve.

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