

SUCCESS STORIES UNDER PHODSOHLANG WATERSHED (WDC-I) NEW GENERATION WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (NGWDP) 2.0

The RCC Dam of Smt. Bibiana Thyrniang of Pynnailo Village

Smt. Bibiana Thyrniang, an aged lady of 53 years under Pynnailo village has always treasured her farmland which she grows paddy ever since her childhood, following in the footsteps of her parents. The paddy field continue to provides her and her family of 6 children, the stable food – rice, which they cherished so deeply and which fulfils their hunger daily for many years now.

However, with time, erosion and siltation, though seemingly harmless at first, is now slowly accelerating and beginning to create problems to this which was once a green vigorous farm land. This may well be attributed to the various factors such as the catchment being more barren, the loose soil added with uncontrolled grazing in the area. Over time, silt and sand, carried down from adjacent hills and from those carried by flowing drains which once were constructed to serve for life saver irrigation, now threatens to destroy this ever-so-dependent paddy field. Worry has turn to desperation but there was little that Bibiana could salvage and protect her inherited farmland. With every rain and monsoon that lashes every year, there would be a scramble to try prevent the siltation from accumulating over her land. She and her boys, one as young as 14, would help their mother in repairing the diversion drain, clearing the channel for a more free-flow runoff and reinforcing patches of damaged shoulder bunds that seems to appear everywhere now and then. This has led to suffocation and health of the standing crop and is readily seen in the reduction in production.

Assistance in this regard came through the Phodsohlang Watershed Project implemented under the New Generation Watershed Development Project 2.0. The Watershed Committee, has selected Bibiana Thyrniang as one of the beneficiary receiving assistance for construction of an RCC Dam. This structure was then constructed at the foothill of the catchment, across the streamlet flowing to her field. A small structure that it is, nevertheless helps regulate runoff, that is ever so damaging especially during the monsoon. It also acts as a silt trap and prevents sediments from accumulating and settling into nearby farmland. Further, through this dam, a channel was constructed for the purpose of diverting the excess water to serves as irrigation purpose for the other dependent paddy fields located adjacent to her field as well those that are further downhill. With this intervention, irrigation water had never been so well supplied and hassle-free, leading to more ease in farming, providing assured irrigation that equates to better crop yield.

The intervention has regain back Bibiana's joy of farming and brought back smile to her and the others too.

PHOTOGRAPHS



AFTER CONSTRUCTION

Name of Work:	: RCC DAM
Name of Project	: New Generation Watershed Development Project 2.0
Village Name	: Rangblang Sohsyniang
GIS Coordinates	: 25.417220°, L 91.363858°