

**SUCCESS STORY OF WATER HARVESTING STRUCTURE AT UMSHYNRUT VILLAGE
UNDER UMJAJEW – RPEIN WATERSHED, WDC-PMKSY - 2.0 WKH -1/ 2021-2022,
WEST KHASI HILLS DISTRICT**

Name	: Teji Langrin
Location / Village	: Porkhadoh, Umshynrut Village
Year of Construction	: 2023
Project Implementing Agency	: Nongstoin Soil & Water Conservation Division

Umshynrut village is located at a distance of about 40 km from Nongstoin under Mawshynrut C&RD Block, West Khasi Hills District, Meghalaya. There are 48 households in the village at present. Geographically, the area is a plateau region with elevations reaching up to 1043 m above MSL. The climatic condition of the place is humid, tropical climate influenced by the monsoon, with warm summers and mild winters.

Project Area :

The Water Harvesting Structure at Porkhadoh is situated toward the North of the Umshynrut village with GPS readings 25.563180° N and 91.104070° E. The project area comprises a micro catchment of 10 Ha out of which 0.5 Ha is submerged under the water body of the Water Harvesting Structure. Various interventions have been taken up in the project which includes catchment area protection initiatives, infrastructure development, pisciculture and supplying water to the paddy field.

Problems in the Area:

Economic hardship is one of the major problems for the people in the area where livelihood opportunity is very minimal. The main sources of income of the people in the village are agriculture, daily wage labour and the pathetic condition of the road really affected the people to supply the agricultural products to the market. Charcoal burning and cutting down of trees for timber business also affect the environment and ecology. Regular collection of firewood for their household uses and jhum cultivation are still practice which are highly vulnerable to the soil erosion. These activities lead to the overall drying up of spring water rivulets, stream and other water sources.

Problem Analysis :

Before the starting of the project, people depend on the rain-fed cultivation, it is thought that mere creation of awareness about nature and conservation of water bodies will not bring much impact to the local populace. However, new eco-friendly employment opportunities are to be generated in order to drive people from engaging themselves on conventional and destructive activities into more viable and sustainable livelihoods. It is assumed that the creation of a water reservoir will be an asset creation which can generate several water- based livelihood initiatives. As a result, the availability of water for irrigation will enhance the scope for agriculture and cultivation. In addition, fishery activities and eco-tourism will also provide substantial employment opportunity to local community and also boost the revenue of the state.

Project Approach & Implementation:

Nongstoin Soil & Water Conservation Division under the Soil & Water Conservation Department, Government of Meghalaya has implemented the project through the active involvement of the watershed committee. The watershed committee has actively participated since the planning and formation stage and also carried out significant task in decision making and facilitation of work on the field. This participatory approach has not only speed up the works, it also brings a sense of belongingness and has contributed a lot in the overall success of the project.

Project Formation :

Activity	Scheme	Cost	Year
Construction of RCC Water Harvesting Structure	WDC-PMKSY 2.0 Project-1	₹508860.00	2023
Spring rejuvenation, catchment area protection, agro horti			

Out Puts:

A. Tangible –

- * Employment: Some people from the Umshynrut village have benefitted directly or indirectly through involvement in various activities throughout the implementation of the project.
- * All season & sufficient supply of water for irrigation purposes
- * The water body is expected to boost the livelihood opportunities for the local populace in the coming years through fisheries, irrigation and other activities.

Outcome:

After two years of implementation, the project has thrown a new light to the local community in which various initiatives have been taken out at village level for the protection and conservation of the water body and its catchment. The beneficiaries have been increasing their productivity by having sufficient water for irrigation of their paddy field since the completion of the Water Harvesting Structure.

Impact:

Pre-Project	Post-Project
The land was primarily not using for any other purpose, it remained a fallow land.	After the construction of the Water Harvesting Structure, the land has been using for Pisciculture and irrigation purpose.

Pre Project- Unproductive Land



Post Project

