# बनवासी विकास आश्रम, बगोदर

द्वारा संचालित

# जलछाजन विकास कार्यक्रम

सहयोग– CWS, Sikandrabad






Sumitra Devi and Samni Devi, Paisra, Giridh District

Sumitra Devi, twenty three, is trained in practical veterinary science. Her husband once worked as a compounder, but migrated to work as a laborer in Libya. Sumitra got married when she was eleven but was able to complete high school before she was sent to her husband's house. After he went abroad, she continued to cultivate her fields with her brothers-in-law's assistance. When CWS encouraged her to undergo training in animal care and health, Sumitra started attending the sessions and was eager to put her learning into practice.

Her first patient was a cow from the village and the treatment was a success. As the news spread, she was even called to neighboring villages where animals fell ill. She is now known as the animal healer. CWS equips her with necessary tools and medicines for animal treatment. Sumitra charges fees depending on the volume and cost of medicine. She deposits whatever she earns from her mobile practice in the self-help group's common savings account in the bank. Sumitra is also part of the watershed group that excavated a water harvesting tank in the village as a means to combat severe water shortage. As a member of the women's group, she takes care of a row of fruit trees in the orchard that was developed by them on waste land near the village. The tank provides water for the orchard. The impact is visible; the orchard is bearing various fruits which support a balanced diet for the women and their families. The benefits are equally distributed and women have formed regulations for its maintenance and expansion.

Samni Devi is Sumitra's mother-in-law. Married at a young age, she was soon branded a witch when members of her extended family fell ill and she was held responsible. The sixty year old saw a change in her life with the introduction of a forest conservation and social forestry project in the village. She now understands the consequences of forest destruction, and is keenly involved in conservation and protection. She gained respect for her efforts and is no longer called a witch, and now works along with her family and the community. Samni played a key role in the formation of the Jungle Bachao Samiti, a local body whose members once caught a car carrying timber logs from the forest. The men responsible were taken to the panchayat and punished with a hefty fine. Like Sumitra, she also works in the women's orchard.

An entrepreneur, Samni Devi has well-settled sons and daughters. She feels glad that lawlessness has become a thing of the past and the villagers are able to lead better lives with the sustainable use of resources and application of appropriate farming technologies. One of the best results of the projects has been the increased respect women are given and their participation and power in influencing village decisions.

## Emerging Leaders in JWDP ...



- Sumitra Devi of Paisra village established her self-identity as a devoted veterinary practitioner for Paisra and nearby villages through her skills in managing and saving the livestock through treatment, timely vaccination and educating people on the best management practices of livestock.
- Chameli Devi a poor women of Singhtola was facing the agony of gender indiscriminations. She was even defamed and accused as a witch. JWDP facilitators promoted her as a potential leader in fighting for her dignity. She effectively resolved some of very complicated domestic violence cases by organizing women and pressurizing the families to undo the wrongs with the victims. Finally Chameli has won the support and confidence of her villagers and she has been nominated as President of the watershed committee since last two years.

## Towards Ownership ...



In the catchments area of Tariya Tank of Paisra village there was a tract of 2 Acres *gair majarua* (GM) wasteland, which was treated through gully plugs. Two of the women Self Help Groups *Manjil* and *Sankalp*, developed this land by social forestry, which was vehemently opposed by Anant Lal Mahato, the *ex-mukhia* of the village and his followers, who claimed the land in possession of their ancestors. Finally, about 400 local community representatives from nearby 4-5 *panchayats*, intervened in this matter recognizing the social forestry efforts, assigned the piece of land to women SHG members so that entire community could benefit from this fallow land. Rights of plantation and its usage were conferred to women and the vested interests were set aside for common benefit


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मछली पालन वर्मी कम्पोस्ट




कूप निर्माण ग्राफ्टींग प्रशिक्षण




धान की खेती तकनिकी मार्गदर्शन

## वर्तमान स्थिति





महिला बगीचा स्टोन गली प्लग महिला बगीचा





तरिया तालाब माइक्रो लिफ्ट तरिया तालाब





तरिया तालाब तरिया तालाब कृषि कार्य