

Visit of Principal Project Investigator and awareness meeting and seedling plantation for spring-shed management at Lathao, Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh under the project titled "Spring Rejuvenation for water security in Himalaya"

On the 9th of July, 2023 the Principal Investigator of the project titled "Spring Rejuvenation for water security in Himalaya", Er. Vaibhav E. Gosavi, NMHS-GBPNIHE, Almora, Uttarakhand had visited a cluster of 5 springs located in Lathao village, Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh. He also monitored on-site project activities that were carried out by the ICFRE-RFRI partner such as the augmentation structures- *conical ponds*, *nala bundhs*, the micro-weather stations. During the visit he interacted with the villagers too.

On 10th July, 2023, ICFRE-Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Jorhat, Assam carried out an awareness meeting. On this occasion the seedlings plantation drive for spring-shed management at 'De-addiction Centre', Lathao, Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh was undertaken in the morning at 9.00 am and about 50 numbers of saplings of *Aquilaria malaccensis*, *Chukrasia tabularis*, *Baccuaria sapida*, *Magnolia champaca* etc. were planted in the campus. Er. Gosavi, Dr. Prosanta Hazarika, Newata mannaw, Village head man of Lathao and volunteers of 'De-addiction Centre' and villagers took part in the plantation programme. After the plantation programme, the meeting for awareness creation was held in the community hall of Lathao village at 12.00 hrs. A total of 92 individuals comprising of the stake holders of the springs at Lathao village, villagers, Gaon Pradhans of nearby villages took part in the meeting.

Dr. Prosanta Hazarika, the Project Investigator of Aspirational district, Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh, addressed the gatherings with his introductory speech, upheld the agenda of the day along with giving a brief description on the project activities. Er. Vaibhav E. Gosavi, chief guest of the meeting described in his speech about the importance and major goals of the project and ways to rejuvenation of springs. He also emphasized on people's participation for rejuvenation of the natural springs. He offered thanks to the villagers for cooperation and giving lands for performing the project interventions such as conical ponds, *nala bundhs*, etc. He also expressed the satisfaction on the progress of the project activities too. The meeting was followed by a seedling's distribution programme among the villagers in and a total of one thousand seedlings of different plant species were distributed. After the meeting a field visit of the springs, augmentation structures constructed, and the weather stations was arranged for the PI, Er. Vaibhav E. Gosavi.



Dr. Prosanta Hazarika offered his introductory speech in front of the villagers.



Felicitation to Er. Vaibhav Gosavi by the Gaon Pradhan of Lathao village



Er. Vaibhav Gosavi speaking on front of the gatherings.

Er. Vaibhav Gosavi interacting with the villagers.



Dr Prosanta Hazarika (PI) briefing about the intervention structures in the project area.

Dr Prosanta Hazarika (PI) briefing about the status of cluster of five springs.



A glimpse of the field visit to the springs.

Er. Vaibhav Gosavi observing a storage tanks built at Lathao



A snap of the field visits to the springs

Er. Vaibhav Gosavi observing conical



A glimpse of plantation at the project site



A sight of plantation at the project site.



Dr. P. Hazarika planting a seedling



Villagers in planting the seedlings.



Distribution of seedlings amongst the villagers.