

Setting an example: Springshed work in Lunghar

Shirui village in Ukhrul district has been witnessing a decline in spring discharge at the local springs. This has led to water scarcity during the lean season. The community has also been reporting a decline in their agricultural produce owing to reduced water availability and changing patterns of monsoon. In addition, the springs from Shirui village are being tapped to provide water to the nearby Ukhrul town, which has given rise to numerous spring governance issues between Shirui village and the public utility in Ukhrul.


In the midst of trying to grapple with these issues, the community of Shirui village learned about the participatory springshed management work that was conceptualised and implemented in their neighbouring village of Lunghar (pilot site under the SCA-Himalayas project). The springshed initiative in Lunghar village seemed like a model that could potentially address the water grievances of the Shirui community. So the community of Shirui approached the local community organisation, Mountain Indigenous Knowledge Centre (MIKC), and proposed carrying out similar work in Shirui village. With the help of MIKC and the Directorate of Environment and Climate Change (DoECC), the community of Shirui identified three springs that are critical for the community and need to be rejuvenated. The DoECC had already installed an automatic weather station (AWS) to monitor weather data in Shirui village under the climate change fund. The AWS is now providing input data (rainfall, etc). In addition, two community resource persons were identified to monitor spring discharge data and facilitate springshed work in the village. These resource persons have been collecting regular discharge and water quality data of the critical springs and maintaining a log of this data. They recently participated in an advanced training on springshed management at Imphal and learned how to implement the six-step protocol for spring revival.

The community of Shirui village has taken up springshed work in their village at their own initiative, without any push or nudge from external entities like the DoECC or the project partners. What motivated them was the impact of the springshed work in the neighbouring village. Thus they sought assistance from MIKC, DoECC and the SCA-Himalayas project partners to revive their springs. While the community has already taken steps towards spring revival in their village, they need assistance in demarcating recharge areas of their critical springs, designing recharge interventions, and implementing recharge measures. Detailed technical and social surveys are needed before undertaking spring rejuvenation activities in the village and scaling out the springshed management work at the pilot site in Lunghar village.



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