

Reviving Agriculture through Infrastructure Development

Around 7000 people live in Kharawar village of which 80% of population depends only on Agriculture. For a long time, it's been very difficult for them to avail irrigation water during summer season. Due to lack of water, they practice agriculture only twice a year. The irrigation water reaches the farmers once in forty days and is insufficient to engage in agricultural activities. Mr. Anup Singh, a farmer shared his woes about the situation, *"the unlined channel is much widened, more ups and downs leading to high water loss, no regulated method for individual supply and takes more time to reach my field"*. Another farmer Mr. Jitendhar says *"even if the water reaches my field it takes a minimum of two hours to fill in my one-acre land, and we have no other option but to wait and carry on our activity"*. Yet another farmer Mr. Rajvir says, *"We farmers of Kharawar aren't aware that reduction in growth of crops is caused due to salty soils, use of tube-well water till people from NAF visited and explained it to us through various demonstrations and meetings"*.

After getting the requisite permission from government authority, NAF conducted a baseline survey and selected the location to be lined based on the following criteria- lined channel distance, water availability, tail-end locations etc., Based on the selection criteria NAF team selected a stretch of 1833m and lined the existed unlined channel. Mr. Sandeep, farmer of Kharawar says, *"In the unlined channel the maintenance work was very tedious and expensive but Lined channel requires less maintenance and self-cleaning regularly is sufficient"*.

All farmers whose land were along the irrigation Lined channel have expressed their gratitude to NAF and Asian Paints Limited for this service to the farming community. This has indeed increased the water conveyance efficiency, brought about reduction in diesel expenses for pumping, reduction in tube-well operation frequency, thereby reducing the dependence on extraction of ground water indiscriminately. Many farmers have also brought forth additional land area for cultivation, there is improved drainage facility during heavy floods due to the regulated water-stopper method which doesn't allow flooding. Overall, there seems to be better water use efficiency for farming and less exploitation of the ground water resources in the area, leading to prolong water availability in the nearby wells.

By lining of the supply channels, every farmer is getting the required amount of water for irrigation, and they have witnessed an improved yield this year. Many farmers from nearby and surrounding villages have been visiting the location to learn the benefits of the project and have been requesting the support from NAF to take up such beneficial projects for the farmers in their villages too.





