

THE BHUNGROO IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY

Sami-Harij, India

Poor terrain conditions as result of climate change, made it hard for farmers to cultivate their land during the dry season. In terms of labour and indigenous knowledge women play a key role in the agricultural sector in India, but very often it is not recognised by the overall community as they lack the power to make decisions. The livelihoods of women farmers who don't have land rights are particularly insecure in these conditions. The Bhungroo irrigation technology was developed by Biplab Paul, as an innovative water harvesting technique, providing a sustainable solution to continuous farming. With the Bhungroo method, which means straw or hollow pipe in Hindi, water is stored in the ground and then used to water crops during both dry and wet season.

Women were trained to run and monitor the technology and to teach others. Furthermore, they were made custodians of the Bhungroo technology, enabling them to play an active role in agriculture and land cultivation and uplifting their social power. Around 3,000 smallholders and agricultural women labourers have been engaged and received technical education so far. Keeping a gender centered approach, 21 Women Climate Leaders (WCLs) have been formed, who have learnt how to utilise and promote the technology and therefore can deliver fee-based agriculture expert advice. The system has received support and recognition from the Indian government as well as development agencies worldwide for its work on gender, climate change adaptation and resilience.

Through the application of the Bhungroo irrigation technology, the accessibility of land for farming has increased, permitting farmers to grow crops all year round. This has resulted not only in enhanced management of natural resources, improved food security and higher income from agricultural activities, but it has also up-lifted womens' role in their communities and families, granting them permission to participate in the local decision making processes.



Naireeta Services Private Limited's (NSPL)

<https://www.naireetaservices.com/>

Peg Spitzer Christoff, Stony Brook University: peggy.christoff@stonybrook.edu
Jamie Marie Sommer, University of South Florida: jamie.marie.sommer@gmail.com

