

REPORT II

MONITORING AND STREAMLINING CONVERGENCE OF NREGS WITH OTHER ONGOING SCHEMES IN THREE PILOT DISTRICTS IN UTTARAKHAND

In 2008, the Ministry of Rural Development issued guidelines on convergence of MNREGA with other development programmes and schemes to enable creation of durable assets and strengthen the livelihood resource base of the rural poor. In the framework for convergence, the role of NREGS is to provide the primary input for natural resource generation. Backward and forward linkages, as required, are to be created for enhancement, sustainability and utilization of the natural resources for generation of livelihoods and their upgradation.

Pilot districts have been selected in every state for convergence work. The districts of Champawat, Pauri Garhwal and Nainital are three pilot districts selected in Uttarakhand. In the pilot phase the district of Champawat has been selected for convergence with schemes of Ministry of Water Resources and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. The district of Nainital is a pilot for convergence with schemes of the Ministry of Water Resources. The district of Pauri is a pilot for convergence with schemes of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Four blocks in each district and two Gram Panchayats in each block were visited to understand and document convergence initiatives taken up in the districts. The selection of the blocks and gram panchayats was done by the district and block level officials on the basis of exemplary work done under NREGS as the convergence had not been activated and was still in the initial stage.

Districtwise reports give the profile of the district, profile of MNREGA in district including convergence initiatives, observations and findings.

1. District Profiles:

1.1. District Champawat:

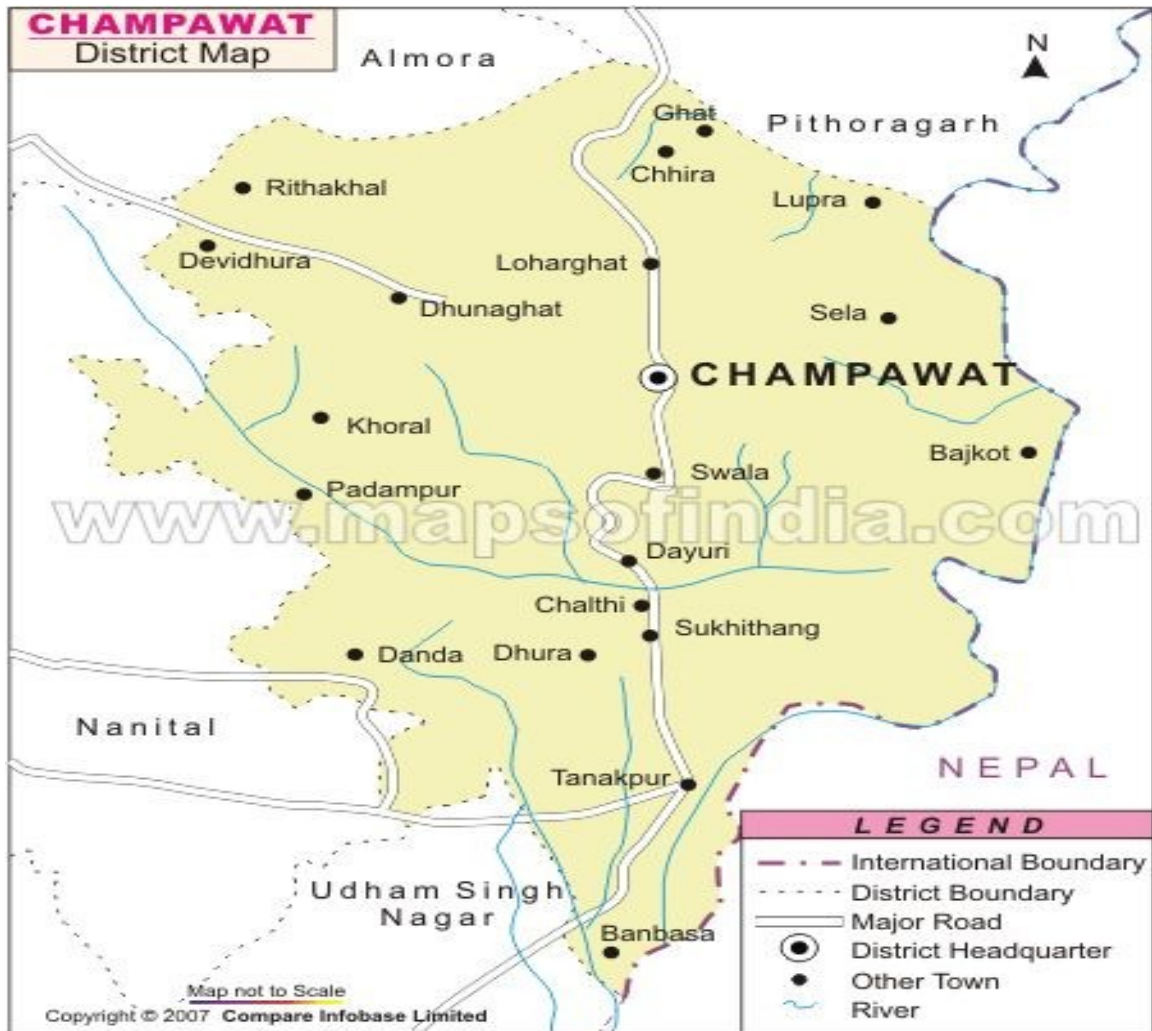
The district of Champawat was constituted in the year 1997 after bifurcation of district of Pithoragarh. Champawat is located south east of Pithoragarh and has an international border with Nepal. The Kali river in the east delineates the international border. Champawat is situated between 29 degree 5 minutes and 29 degree 30 minutes in northern latitude and 79 degree 59 minutes and 80 degree 3 minutes at the center of eastern longitude. The Ram Ganga River acts as a border between Champawat and Pithoragarh in north while Jabgura and Pannar rivers in south and west act as a border between Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar and Almora districts simultaneously. The long chain of mountain in southwestern region acts as a border between district Champawat and Nainital district.

The district owes its name to King Arjun Deo's daughter Champawati. Earlier this district was also a part of district Almora. In 1972 the Champawat Tahsil of Almora district was transferred to Pithoragarh. On 15th Sep, 1997 Champawat district was given an independent identity. The district mainly consists of mountain ranges, large valleys, uneven landscapes, rivers and rivulets. On the basis of geographical distribution it can be divided in to three main parts. One, the 35 villages of Tanakpur (Purnagiri) Tehsil which fall in the Terai area and are important from the view point of plain and agricultural land. This is a warm area of an average height of 200 to 250 meter, having abundance of water and good soil. The second area is in the Shivalik , situated at a height of 250 to 1200 meter. It represents a sloping and uneven topographical land. The third part lies in the Himalayas and represents mountain topography.

Champawat- District Profile

Sr. No.	Description	Unit	Value	Percentage
	Population:			

1	Total Population	No.	224540	
2	Male Population	No.	111080	49.47
3	Female Population	No.	113460	50.53
4	Rural Population	No.	190760	84.95
5	Urban Population	No.	33780	15.05
7	SC Population	No.	38100	16.97
8	ST Population	No.	740	0.32
9	Density of Population	Per sq. km.	114.8	
10	Females per 1000 Male	Sex Ratio	1021	
	No. of Block, G.P.,RHH			
11	No. of Block	No.	4	
12	No. of Gram Panchayat	No.	290	
13	No. of Rural Household	No.	30831	
	Literacy :			
14	Total Literates	No.	129950	57.87
15	Male Literates	No.	78920	60.74
16	Female Literates	No.	51020	39.26
	Land:			
17	Total Land	ha	238378	
18	Forest	ha	132337	55.52
19	Common Land	ha		
20	Net Area Sown	ha	25400	10.64
21	Other Land (non Agr. Use, fellow etc.)	ha	18117	7.60



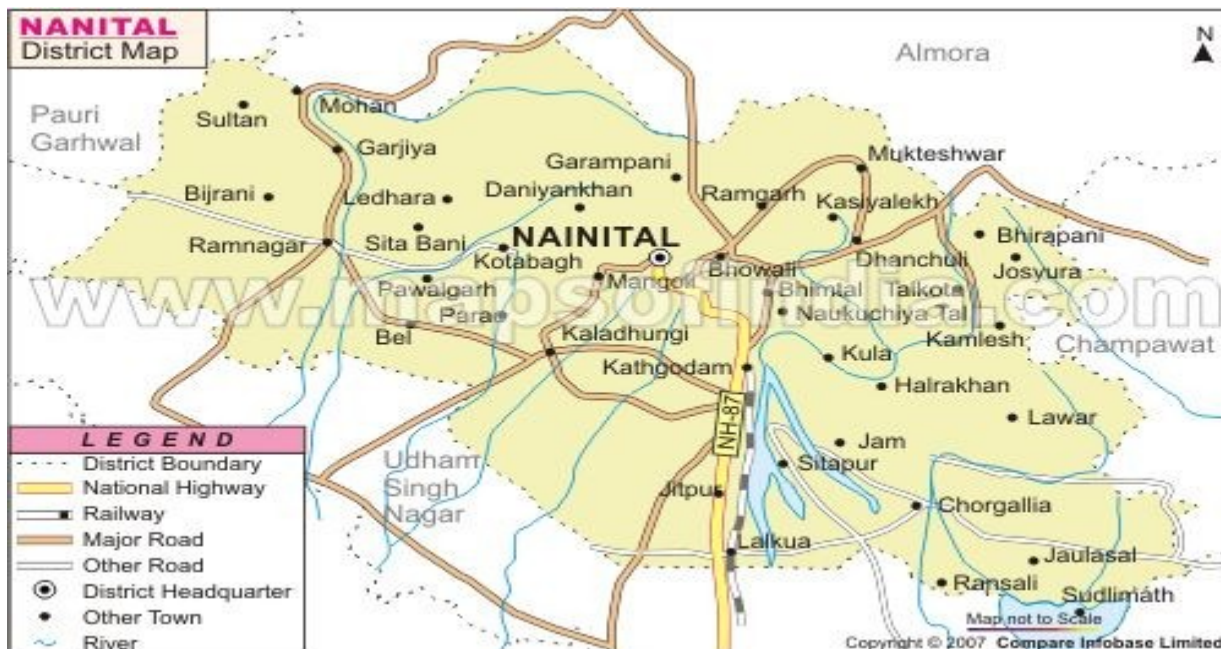
The geographical coverage of Champawat is about 1613 sq. km. It includes two Tehsils and four development blocks with 691 revenue villages. The population of the district as per census of 2001 is 2,24,461. The district has 283 Gram Panchayats and 24 Nyaya Panchayats and 687 revenue villages. The district has 44 per cent of its area under forest cover. The area under agricultural activities accounts about 17,656 ha of small and marginal holdings.

The district is largely rainfed and hence dominated by traditional agriculture practices. The area also suffers from moderate to heavy soil erosion which has led to poor productivity of agricultural crops. Moreover lack of sufficient transfer of technology of improved practices and materials to this area has

forced the farmers to practice subsistence farming without any other alternative source of livelihood.

1.2. District Nainital:

The district of Nainital lies in the Kumaun division of Uttarakhand . To its north is Almora district and to its south lies the Udham Singh Nagar district. Champawat district flanks it in the east and district of Pauri Gahwal is in the west. It is located approximately in between 80°14' and 78°80' east longitude and 29°00' and 29°05' north latitude . On the northern side lies the Himalayan ranges while on the southern side lies the plains making the resultant climate of the district enjoyable one.



The total geographical area is 3422 Kms. Geographically the district is divided in to 2 zones viz. Hilly and Bhabar. The hilly region in outer Himalayas is known to geologist as Krol. The highest peak of the district is Baudhansthali at 2623 mts. near Binayak adjoining Nainital town. The hilly region of the district has big & small lakes. Bhimtal ,Sattal, Naukuchiatal, Khurpatal, Nainital, Malwatal, Harishtal , Lokhamtal etc. are known lakes of bigger size.

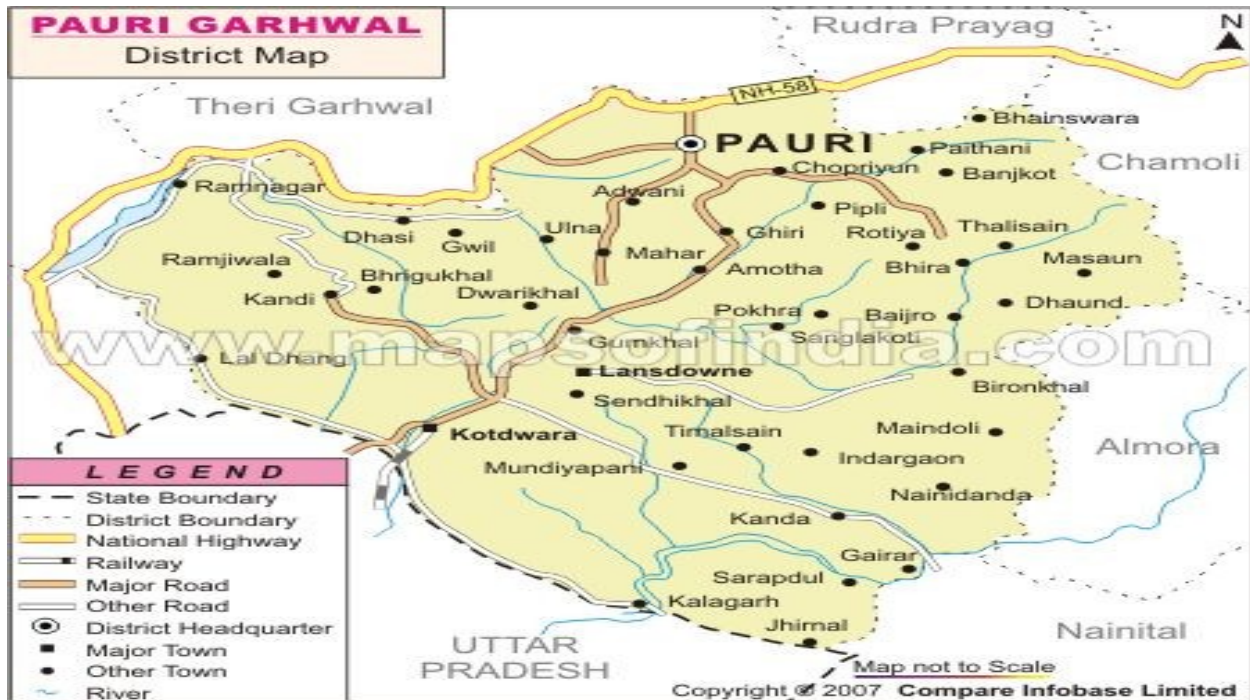
The foothill area of the district is known as Bhabhar. The name Bhabhar is derived from a tall grass growing in the region . The underground water level is very deep in this region . The total average rainfall of district was 1338.08 MM while total average rainfall up to Aug. 2000 was 1602.69 MM. (<http://nainital.nic.in>)

Nainital- District Profile

Sr. No.	Description	Unit	Value	Percentage
	Population:			
1	Total Population	No.	762910	
2	Male Population	No.	400250	52.5%
3	Female Population	No.	362660	47.5%
4	Rural Population	No.	493860	64.73%
5	Urban Population	No.	269050	35.27%
7	SC Population	No.	148184	19.4%
8	ST Population	No.	4961	0.65%
9	Density of Population	Per sq. km.	223	
10	Females per 1000 Male	Sex Ratio	906	
	No. of Block,G.P.,RHH			
11	No. of Block	No.	8	
12	No. of Gram Panchayat	No.	460	
13	No. of Rural Household	No.	71284	
	Literacy :			
14	Total Literates	No.	508730	
15	Male Literates	No.	294160	57.8%
16	Female Literates		214570	42.2%
	Land:			
17	Total Land	Hectare	406433	
18	Forest		298336	73.4%
19	Common Land		49843	12.3%
20	Net Area Sown		44708	11.0%
21	Other Land (non Agr. Use, fellow etc.)		13546	3.3%

1.3 District Pauri Garhwal:

The district of Pauri Garhwal is the largest district of Uttarakhand state. The district covers an area of 5,230 sq kms. It is located between latitude 15° 29' 04.5" N to 30° 0' and longitude 79° 0' 23" E. The district has an average rainfall of 2180 mm and its temperature varies from 45°C to 0°C minus 1.3°C. The relative humidity varies between 53% and 64%.



The district has 9 Tehsils, 15 Development Blocks and 1165 Gram Panchayats comprising 3450 villages. It is surrounded by the districts of Chamoli, Nainital, Bijnor, Haridwar, Dehradun, Rudraprayag and Tehri Garhwal. The District of Pauri Garhwal offers a panoramic view of the great Himalayas from its towns and villages. The majestic Himalaya and its mountain range can be seen from anywhere in the district. The town of Pauri is situated at an altitude of 1814 Mts. above the sea-level on the northern slopes of Kandoliya hills and is the headquarters of the District Pauri Garhwal and the Garhwal Division. Pauri also provides a panoramic view of the snow covered Himalayan peaks of Nandadevi & Trisul, Gangotri Group, Thalaya-sagar, Neelkanth, Bandar Poonch, Swarga-Rohini, Kedarnath, Kharcha Kund, Satopanth, Chaukhamba, Ghoriparvat, Hathiparvat and Sumeru etc.

The district of Pauri Garhwal has a diverse topography which varies from the foothills of the 'Bhabar' areas of Kotdwara to the high altitude meadows of Dhudatoli at an altitude of 3,000 meters which remain snow-bound during the winter months. However, except for

parts of Dogadda and Yamkeshwar blocks, the land area of the district is hilly and mountainous.

Pauri Garhwal- District Profile

Sr. No.	Description	Unit	Value	Percentage
	Population:			
1	Total Population	No.	6,97,078	--
2	Male Population	No.	3,31,061	47.49
3	Female Population	No.	3,66,017	52.51
4	Rural Population	No.	6,07,203	87.11
5	Urban Population	No.	89,875	12.89
7	SC Population	No.	106,653	15.30
8	ST Population	No.	1,594	0.22
9	Density of Population	Per sq. km.	133	--
10	Females per 1000 Male	Sex Ratio	1,106	--
	No. of Block,G.P.,RHH			
11	No. of Block	No.	15	--
12	No. of Gram Panchayat	No.	1208	--
13	No. of Rural Household	No.	131596	--
	Literacy :			--
14	Total Literates	No.	4,61,675	77.49
15	Male Literates	No.	2,53,270	90.91
16	Female Literates		2,08,405	65.70
	Land:			
17	Total Land	Hectare	75272.80	100.00
18	Forest		--	59.03
19	Common Land		--	17.69
20	Net Area Sown		--	13.12
21	Other Land (non Agr. Use, fellow etc.)		--	10.16

G.P. – Gram Panchayat

RHH – Rural Households

Being a large and mountainous district, Pauri contains many villages which are remotely located. The density of population is 133 per sq kilometer. Some block headquarters of the district are located over 150 kms from the district headquarters. The district has a total population of 6,97, 078 (Census 2001). The female population at 3,66,017 is higher than the male population at 3,31,061. The number of females per 1000 males is 1,106. Of the total population 87 per cent lives in rural areas and only about 13 per cent in urban areas. The Scheduled Caste population numbers 106,653. The SC/ST population comprises 15.67 per cent of the total population. The district has a small population of Scheduled Tribes numbering 1,594. District Pauri has a literacy rate of 77.5 per cent numbering 4,61,675. The literacy rate among males is 90.91 per cent and among females it is 65.70 per cent.

The inhabitants of the district are largely engaged in agricultural activities. However, the land under agriculture is decreasing and there is an increase in outmigration to the cities in the plains for other livelihoods. The major reasons for this phenomenon are perceived to be growing water scarcity, both for drinking and for irrigation as well as growing unemployment. Except for Kotdwar and Srinagar, which have a few production units and cottage industries there is no production unit anywhere else in the district. There being no employment opportunity except farming in the district, those seeking employment have to migrate to other areas.

In the circumstances stated above NREGS can make a very significant contribution through promotion and support for various activities related to water harvesting and conservation which will not only provide much needed employment but also fulfill the acute demand for water, both for drinking and for irrigation.

2. MNREGA Progress in the Districts:

2.1 District Champawat

2.1.1 MNREGA Progress in District Champawat:

Champawat is a Phase I district under MNREGA.

MNREGA Progress in the District Champawat.

No. of Block- 04

No. of Village- 290

	(FY 2007-08)	(FY 2008-09)	FY 2009-10)
Employment Provided to household:	19927	14127	10340
Persondays [in Lakh] :			
Total:	6.2	4.83	3.67
SCs:	1.97 (31.77%)	1.32(27.32%)	1.14 (31.06%)
STs:	-	-	-
Women:	1.93 (31.12%)	1.12(23.18%)	0.98 (26.06%)
Others:	4.22 (68.06%)	3.51 (72.67%)	2.53(68.94%)
Person days per HH	31.11	34.19	35.49
Budget Outlay: (In Rs Lakh)	3722.916	3146.116	4078.492
Total Available Fund[Including OB:] In Rs. Lakh.	934.00	989.22	789.23
Expenditure (in Lakh.) [percentage available funds]	747.822 (80.06%)	682.47 (68.94%)	635.33 (80.50%)
Expenditure on Wages (In Rs. Lakh)	473.72 (63.34%)	378.21 (55.41%)	368.45 (58%)
Total Works taken up (in Lakh)	1399 No.	1123 No.	1160 No.
Works completed	873 No.	635 No.	413 No.
Works break up:			
Water Conservation	452 No.	295 No.	179 No.
Draught Proofing	75 No.	59 No.	68 No.
Provision of	4 No.	44 No.	23 No.

Irrigation facility to land owned by SC/ST/BPL/ and IAY beneficiaries:			
Rural connectivity:	41 No.	14 No.	1 No.
Land Development:	57 No.	31 No.	22 No.
Flood Control & Water bodies	71 No.	71 No.	51 No.
Minor Irrigation	173 (19%)	121 No.	69 No.
Any Other activity:			

**Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
District- Champawat, Uttarakhand**

Employment created (in Rs.)	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10 (up to Nov.)
Person days Generate (in Rs Crore)	3.7821	3.6845
Person days Generate by women (in Rs Crore)	1.1200	.98
Household completed 100 days employment(Nos)	226	99
Work Accounting & audit:		
No. of Muster Rolls used	14262	10881
No. of Muster Rolls Verified	6682	3820
No. of Social Audit completed	283	290
Payment System:		
No. of Bank Account Opened		

(i) Individual	22125	23770
(ii) Joint	415	470
Total (i +ii)	22540	24240
Wages disbursed through Bank A/c Payee (in Lakh)	303.54	335.40
No. of Post office account Opened		
(i) Individual	6010	6275
(ii) Joint	-	220
Total (i + ii)	6010	6495
Wages disbursed through Post office A/c (in Lakh)	39.39	33.05
Total Account opened in Bank & Post office	28550	30.735
Total Amount disbursed through Bank & Post office (in Lakh)	3.4293	368.45

Sr	Type of Work	2008-09			Upto Dec.2009-10		
		Quantity (No.)	Common Land	Private Land	Quantity (No.)	Common Land	Private Land
1.	Water Conservation & Water Harvesting (Khal: 6x5x1.5 to 15x12x1.2m) Recharge pit : 1x1x1 m; RWST: 1.8x1.5x1.5 m)	516	516	-	512	512	-
2.	Draught Proofing	99	99	-	117	117	-
3.	Minor Irrigation	304	205	99	292	202	90
4.	Renovation & Traditional water bodies	13	13	-	15	15	-
5.	Land Development	43	-	43	57	-	57
6.	Flood control & protection (Check Dem 5x1x1.5 m)	129	129	-	162	162	-
7.	Rural Connectivity	19	19	-	5	5	-
8.	Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Work planned	1123	981	142	1160	1013	147
	Total Achievement	635	529	106	413	349	64
	Total Achievement (in %)	56.5 %	54%	74.6%	35.6%	34.5%	43.5%

2.1.2 Status of Convergence in district Champawat.

District Champawat was selected by Ministry of Rural Development as a pilot district for convergence with Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Agriculture (ICAR) in Dec 2008.

In district Champawat convergence with NREGS was planned for 2009-10 with the following:

1. Watershed Management Unit of Department of Agriculture in Lohaghat under the Drought Prone Area Programme (Hariyali) scheme in the 9th, 10th and 12th batches in 15 villages of block Lohaghat.
2. The Department of Minor Irrigation.

However, due to lack of clarity in the modalities the plans did not receive sanction from the departments and could not be taken up.

Observations and Findings:

Observations and findings pertaining to MNREGA activities in the districts are being given under two heads :

- I. Observations and findings on MNREGA implementation
- II. Observations and findings on convergence.

Observations and findings on MNREGA Implementation

- Sample blocks and villages were allocated for monitoring on the basis of good work under NREGS and possibility of convergence activities for the present monitoring assignment.
- Activities under MNREGA have been implemented on ground.
- Planning and implementation by Gram Panchayat has been done but needs to be strengthened with greater community participation, technical inputs and formalisation.
- Village development plan for a period of five years (Detailed Project Plan) to create a shelf of projects and convergence opportunities is not made.

Observation and Findings on Convergence

- Convergence activities had not been formally initiated in the field at the time of study visit.
- Isolated cases of convergence through individual initiative to add value came to notice in the field. Potential for convergence exists but confusion at different levels hindering process.
- Greater congruence required between state level instructions, departmental orders, village based requirements and needs.
- Convergence proposals for 2009-10 not sanctioned hence not implemented.
- Convergence has been proposed with line departments for 2010-11. Institutional structure for facilitating convergence with MNREGS incomplete e.g. Village Resource Group.
- Orientation of technical groups on convergence needs strengthening.
- Programme wise resource mapping for district is not available.

- Process for convergence of MNREGS with development programmes as per MoRD guidelines on convergence has not been followed.
- Planning process at the level of village is weak and provision for training and capacity building of field level personnel is not clear.
- Convergence proposals with activities planned for 2009-10 did not receive sanction and could not be implemented due to non receipt of sanction from departmental heads, unavailability of departmental finance and non allocation of NREGFA resources to department as Project Implementation Agency.
- Convergence activities are planned for the year 2010-11 with various departments with pooling of financial resources.

District - Nainital

2.2.1 MNREGA Progress in District

No. of Block: 08
1108

No. of Village:

	(FY 2008-09)	(FY 2009-10)
Employment Provided to household [in No.]:	4980	6300
Persondays [in No.] :		
Total:	262000	336900
SCs (male & female):	89000	103800
STs (male & female):	3500	4300
Women (others & SC/ST)	22500	43700
Others (male):	170000	228800
Persondays per HH :	52.6	53.5
Budget Outlay:	25.5118	39.8773

(Rs Crore)		
Total Available Fund [Including OB] (Rs. Crore)	3.74661	7.73154
Expenditure (in Crore) [percentage available funds]	3.13477	5.16713
Expenditure on Wages (In Rs. Crore)	2.23738	3.25167
Total Works Planned (No.)	639	1169
Total Work approved	639	1169
Works completed (No.)	201	478
Break up of Works Planned:		
Water Conservation (No.)	41	95
Draught Proofing (No.)	36	70
Provision of Irrigation facility to land owned by SC/ST/BPL/ and IAY beneficiaries (No.)	95	106
Renovation of Traditional Waterbodies	03	62
Flood Control & Protection	06	50
Rural connectivity (mtrs)	05	72
Land Development (ha)	15	23
others		

Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
District- Nainital, Uttarakhand

Employment created (in Rs.)	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10 (up to Nov.)
Person days Generate (inRs Crore)	2.23738	3.25167
Person days Generate by women (in Rs Crore)	0.00225	0.00437
Household completed 100 days employment(Nos)	25	02
Work Accounting & audit:		
No. of Muster Rolls used	2659	5391
No. of Muster Rolls Verified	826	2547
No. of Social Audit completed	332	457

Payment System:		
No. of Bank Account Opened		
(iii) Individual	24529	28396
(iv) Joint	294	399
Total (i + ii)	24823	28795
Wages disbursed through Bank A/c Payee (in Lakh)	220.72	323.319
No. of Post office account Opened		
(iii) Individual	2276	2937
(iv) Joint	110	159
Total (i + ii)	2386	3096
Wages disbursed through Post office A/c (in Lakh)	19.105	22.96
Total Account opened in Bank & Post office	27209	31891
Total Amount disbursed through Bank & Post office (in Lakh)	239.825	346.279

Sr	Type of Work	2008-09			Upto Dec.2009-10		
		Quantity (No.)	Common Land	Private Land	Quantity (No.)	Common Land	Private Land
1.	Water Conservation & Water Harvesting (Khal: 6x5x1.5 to 15x12x1.2m) Recharge pit : 1x1x1 m; RWST: 1.8x1.5x1.5 m)	105	105	-	280	280	-
2.	Drought Proofing	111	111	-	135	135	-
3.	Minor Irrigation	221	148	73	247	161	86
4.	Renovation & Traditional water bodies	24	24	-	92	92	-
5.	Land Development	53	-	53	81	-	81
6.	Flood control & protection (Check Dem 5x1x1.5 m)	36	36	-	185	185	-
7.	Rural Connectivity	59	59	-	149	149	-

8.	Others	30	30	-	-	-	-
	Total Work planned	639	513	126	1169	1002	167
	Total Achievement	201	139	62	478	349	129
	Total Achievement (in %)	31.5	27.1	49.2	40.9	34.8	77.2

Employment Generated in Mandays in Distt. Nainital

Block	2008-09				2009-10			
	Women	SC/ST	IAY	Other	Women	SC/ST	IAY	Other
Nainital	22500	92500	312	170000	43700	108100	44	228800

Employment Generated in Mandays in blocks selected for study

Block	2008-09				2009-10			
	Women	SC/ST	IAY	Other	Women	SC/ST	IAY	Other
Bhimtal	256	20973	80	23791	709	15553	-	3140
Dhari	-	11511	-	14554	135	8035	3	30698
Betalghat	8343	8816	35	22457	13701	21379	6	35456
Ramgarh	-	-	-	-	5500	10230	-	42578

2.2.2 Status of Convergence in District Nainital

The plan of convergence with NREG schemes for 2010-11 has been prepared and has received approval of the state in December 2009 , the month that the present

assignment commenced. Hence the suggestions and recommendations for taking up convergence activities will possibly only be incorporated in the plan for 2011-12.

The convergence sectors for district Pauri as per information received from the state are in the following sectors.

- Agriculture
- Animal husbandry
- Horticulture
- Sericulture
- Forest

2.2.3 Observations and Findings:

Observations and findings pertaining to MNREGA activities in the district are being given under two heads :

1. Observations and findings on MNREGA implementation
2. Observations and findings on convergence.

Observations and findings on MNREGA Implementation

- Requests for wage employment by job card holders held up in instance due to lack of approved shelf of projects.
- Delays in payments due to non receipt of funds at district level.
- In some instances technical inputs were found lacking which affect design and placement of water harvesting structures making them less useful.

Observation and Findings on Convergence

- Convergence activities were not initiated in the field at the time of study visits.

- BRG essential for technical inputs at planning level in the block and VRG at village level have not been formed.
- Sample blocks and villages allocated for monitoring on the basis of good work under NREGS and possibility of convergence activities.

District - Pauri:

MNREGA was applied to district Pauri Garhwal in the third phase and the implementation of MNREGA scheme in the district commenced on April 1, 2008. The registration for job card commenced from January 1, 2008. In the first year the NREGS teams were constituted in the District, equipment was procured and the necessary infrastructure for the programme established.

2.3.1 MNREGA Progress in District - Pauri

No. of Block: 15

No. of Village: 1208

	(FY 2008-09)	(FY 2009-10)
Employment Provided to household [in No.]:	32463	65859
Persondays [in No.] :		
Total:	710900	1311000
SCs (male & female):	197000	318800
STs (male & female):	1000	520
Women (others & SC/ST)	275000	423200
Others (male):	237900	568480
Persondays per HH :	22	20
Budget Outlay: (Rs Crore)	77.8829	35.1093
Total Available Fund [Including OB] (Rs. Crore)	14.9194 (19%)	25.95 (74%)
Expenditure (in Crore) [percentage available funds]	8.8097 (59%)	18.07057 (70 %)

Expenditure on Wages (In Rs. Crore)	6.3545 (72%)	13.33037 (74%)
Total Works Planned (No.)	6480	11961
Total Work approved	1652	3664
Works completed (No.)	833 (50%)	1749 (48%)
Break up of Works Planned:		
Water Conservation (No.)	1434	2686
Draught Proofing (No.)	79	404
Provision of Irrigation facility to land owned by SC/ST/BPL/ and IAY beneficiaries (No.)	35	92
Renovation of Traditional Waterbodies	--	23
Flood Control & Protection	100	432
Rural connectivity (mtrs)	--	--
Land Development (ha)	4	27
others	--	--

The personnel responsible for planning and implementation of NREGS at the district level comprise government officials and staff of the Service Provider Agency engaged for the purpose of implementing NREGS. The personnel structure is given in the table below:

Level	Govt/Non Govt	Designation	Role and Responsibility
District	Government		
	Government		
Block	Government	Block Development Officer	
	NGO	Deputy Programme Officer	Staff management and reporting to MNREGA Programme Officer (Block Development Officer)
	NGO	Computer Operator	Data feed and MIS at block level
	NGO	Accountant	Data Collection from Gram Panchayat and compilation of data. Preparation of Monthly

			Progress Report and other reports as required.
Gram Panchayat	Govt	Village Development Officer	
	NGO	Junior Engineer	Site selection, estimation of work, implementation facilitation and measurement book
	NGO	Administrative Assistant	Collection of job demand, documentation work and reporting to block.

The programme commenced from May 1, 2008 in 193 gram panchayats of various blocks of the district. The emphasis was initially on creation of awareness regarding MNREGA among the inhabitants of the district. For the purpose wall painting, cultural activities, distribution and pasting of pamphlets was done across the district. Training of Gram Panchayat Development Officers, Additional development Officers (ADOs), Programme Officers, Peoples Representatives as well as District level Officers was carried out in this year. The 28 formats required by the Programme were also got printed and supplied to the Gram Panchayats to commence the activity. The Gram Panchayat Development Officers were given a two day training at the district headquarters to familiarize them with the formats and fill them correctly.

**Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme
District- Pauri, Uttarakhand**

Employment created (in Rs.)	FY 2008-09	FY 2009-10 (up to Nov.)
Person days Generate (inRs Crore)	7.10	13.11
Person days Generate by women (in Rs Crore)	2.75	4.23
Household completed 100 days employment(Nos)	30	37
Work Accounting & audit:		

No. of Muster Rolls used	17268	23652
No. of Muster Rolls Verified	5756	9412
No. of Social Audit completed	599	950
Payment System:		
No. of Bank Account Opened		
(v) Individual	53651 (78.13 %)	55356(78.67%)
(vi) Joint	15016 (21.87 %)	15016(21.33%)
Total (i + ii)	68667	70372
Wages disbursed through Bank A/c Payee (in Lakh)	556.42	1106.382
No. of Post office account Opened		
(v) Individual	11521 (83.78 %)	13651(85.95%)
(vi) Joint	2231 (16.22 %)	2231(14.05%)
Total (i + ii)	13752	15882
Wages disbursed through Post office A/c (in Lakh)	79.03	226.655
Total Account opened in Bank & Post office	82419	86254
Total Amount disbursed through Bank & Post office (in Lakh)	635.45	1333.037

In the year 2008 the number of persons registered under MNREGA was 98,219. The number of jobcards issued was 93,287 and the number of jobcardholders who opened accounts was 82,419. Taking the number registered as on March 1, 2009 as the base and estimate of 75 per cent of the registered job card holders as employment seekers plans and budgets were prepared in the year 2008-09 covering 6480 activities with a budget of Rs 7788.29 lakhs designed to generate 80.5 lakh days of labour.

Activity wise Work Planned and Achieved in Distt.- Pauri in NREGS

Sr	Type of Work	2008-09			Upto Dec.2009-10		
		Quantity (No.)	Common Land	Private Land	Quantity (No.)	Common Land	Private Land
1.	Water Conservation &	1432	1432	-	2686	2686	-

	Water Harvesting (Khal: 6x5x1.5 to 15x12x1.2m) Recharge pit : 1x1x1 m; RWST: 1.8x1.5x1.5 m)						
2.	Draught Proofing	79	79	-	404	404	-
3.	Minor Irrigation	35	35	-	92	73	19
4.	Renovation & Traditional water bodies	2	2	-	23	23	-
5.	Land Development	4	-	4	27	-	27
6.	Flood control & protection (Check Dem 5x1x1.5 m)	100	100	-	432	432	
7.	Rural Connectivity	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total Work planned	1652	1648	4	3664	3618	46
	Total Achievement	833	-	-	1749	-	-
	Total Achievement (in %)	50	-	-	48	-	-

Sample villages & block wise Physical & Financial of work status & Plan district- Pauri

Sr.	MNREGA Works	Year 2008-09				Year 2009-10				Year 2010-11 (Plan)	
		Physical (No.)		Financial (Rs)		Physical (No.)		Financial (Rs)		Physical (No.)	Financial (Rs)
		Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Target
1	Water Conservation and water harvesting	83	21	3354856	904129	65	24	3901382	944177	7560	2733300
2	Drought Proofing (in ha)	48	6	1315000	163336	24.5	0	425000	167500	13	1785140
3	Micro & Minor Irrigation Works (mtr.)	1	0	100000	0	1020	0	550000	0	900	166000
4	Provision of Irrigation Facility (in SC/ST/LR/IAY)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	Renovation of traditional water bodies	6	0	100000	0	3	0	58333	0	8	186697
6	Land Development	0	0	0	0	50	0	500000	0	900	1176662
7	Flood Control & Protection	221	0	670000	0	30	28	1150000	730198	178	2100000
8	Rural Connectivity	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Sample Villages & Blocks wise status of the Activity & Employment generated at H.H. Level through NREGs,
District- Pauri

Sr. No.	Name of Block	Name of Village	Registered Jobcards	2008-09			2009-10 (up to Dec.)		
				Activity	Quantity (No.)	No. of H.H. Employed	Activity	Quantity (No.)	No. of H. Employed
1	Pauri	Ujyari	120	Khal	5	93	Khal	4	33
		Gahar	120	Khal	3	53	Khal	3	42
							Afforestation(ha)	2	12
2	Dugadda	Darthar	100	Khal	1	10	Check Dem	4	24
				Afforestation(ha)	5	40	Khal	1	14
		Sarda Sakali	75	Khal	1	18	Check Dem	24	56
3	Ekeshwar	Mathana	83	Khal	3	91*	Khal	3	97*
		Ringwari	261	Khal	5	25	Khal	1	20
							Check Dem	2	20
							R.W. Tank	1	25
							Afforestation(ha)	2	20
4	Dwarikhal	Barethe Langur	74	Khal	3	87*	Khal	3	61
							Afforestation(ha)	2	15
		Udiyri	64	Nil	Nil	Nil	Khal	9	95
							Afforestation(ha)	2	19

*In case of village Maithana of Block Ekeshwar & village Barethelangur of Block Dwarikhal the total no. of household employed is higher than the no. of job card holders in the village because they are getting repeated work.

2.3.2 Status of Convergence Activities in District Pauri:

MNREGA was applied to district Pauri Garhwal in the third phase and the implementation of MNREGA scheme in the district commenced on April 1, 2008. In 2009 the district of Pauri

Garhwal was identified as the pilot district for convergence with Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Environment and Forests.

The District Resource Group was constituted in Aug 2008. It met on July 18, 2009 for the first time to discuss Convergence. It again met on Aug 3, 2009 and on Sept 30, 2009 and on Nov 6, 2009 to discuss matters related to Convergence. The major issues discussed are given below:

For operationalisation in the year 2009-10 the District Forest Officer, Civil Soyam, Department of Forests submitted a proposal for convergence with MNREGA which was not approved due to lacunae in the proposal. The proposal is for complementing the work of afforestation taken up by the Dept of Forests in 600 hectares spread over 56 villages in 14 development blocks. The activities proposed through the support of MNREGA was for stone fencing to protect the new plantation from animal and human interference and construction of water harvesting and percolation tanks for minor irrigation and to maintain soil moisture. This activity is now proposed for 2010-11.

Currently there is no ongoing activity on convergence so this could not be studied in the field. However, the process for undertaking convergence has been initiated and hence efforts were made to study ongoing activities in the sample villages from the perspective of potential for convergence. It was also decided to focus on the perception of the villagers on their needs and the potential of NREGs to fulfill the felt needs in convergence with other programmes and schemes of the Government.

The plan of convergence with NREG schemes for 2010-11 has been prepared and has received approval of the state in December 2009, the month that the present assignment commenced. Hence the suggestions and recommendations for taking up convergence activities will possibly only be incorporated in the plan for 2011-12.

The convergence sectors for district Pauri as per information received from the state are in the following sectors.

- Agriculture
- Animal husbandry
- Horticulture
- Biofuel
- Forest

An amount of Rs 575.85 lakhs has been allocated for convergence activities in district Pauri for implementation in the year 2010-11.

2.3.3 Observations and Findings from District Pauri Garhwal:

Observations and findings pertaining to MNREGA activities in the district are being given under two heads :

- Observations and findings on MNREGA implementation
- Observations and findings on convergence.

Observations and findings on MNREGA Implementation

- The district of Pauri Garhwal has been a late entrant to the NREGS as a phase three district. The NREGS commenced in the district in 2008 and the district is currently in the second year of implementation. It is in the first year of convergence as a pilot district.
- At present the awareness among villagers of their role and the potential for grassroots level planning for NREGS is lacking. The potential for convergence with other schemes to add value and fill gaps in works done under MNREGA is also poor and needs to be strengthened.
- Requests for wage employment by job card holders held up in instance due to lack of approved shelf of projects.
- Delays in payments due to non receipt of funds at district level.
- In some instances technical inputs were found lacking which affect design and placement of water harvesting structures making them less useful.

Observation and Findings on Convergence

- Convergence activities were not initiated in the field at the time of study visits.

- Sample blocks and villages allocated for monitoring on the basis of good work under NREGS and possibility of convergence activities.
- At present the awareness among villagers of their role and the potential for grassroots level planning for NREGS is lacking. The potential for convergence with other schemes to add value and fill gaps in works done under MNREGA is also poor and needs to be strengthened.
- The coordination between NREGS implementation at district level and release of payments needs to be improved before the potential of MNREGA and also convergence possibilities can be realized. It was noticed that in some cases payments were not being made in time which deterred villagers from taking advantage of MNREGA.
- Till the time of study, no formal orientation or training of the District Resource Group had been held at either the district or the State level. Information and Education material for the purpose has not been developed or used.

3. Formation , Orientation and Training of Resource Group:

District Resource Groups have been formed in all the three districts. Block Resource Group has been formed in district Champawat but Village Resource Groups are still to be formed. Though meetings of the District Resource Groups have been convened by the District Programme Coordinator and efforts were earlier made to effect convergence, these have not been successful for various reasons.

Orientation and training of the District Resource group which is the apex resource group comprising administration heads and district level heads of the line departments has not taken place. However, information on convergence and guidelines of the Ministry of Rural Development have been shared to some extent. Lack of clarity on expectations and the mode of operationalising convergence has been noticed. It was also expressed that clear directions from the heads of line departments on convergence was lacking.

INHERE has planned meeting cum workshops with the District Resource Group of all the three districts to share the findings of the monitoring study and to give orientation and training on the objective and need for convergence as well as the modalities for convergence. The meeting with DRG Champawat was held on Feb 8-9, 2010 and with DRG Pauri Garhwal as well as Nainital will be held in March 2010 as dates could not be obtained in February 2010.

Information on the composition of DRG and BRG in Champawat is given in the tables below:

District Resource Group Champawat

District Programme Coordinator / District Magistrate	Chair Person	Coordination & Administration	Department of Rural Development
Additional Programme Coordinator /Chief Development Officer	Vice President	Coordination of Development activities & Administration	Department of Rural Development
District Forest Officer	Member	Afforestation work	Department of Forest
Executive Engineer	Member	Irrigation work	PMGSY
Executive Engineer	Member	Minor Irrigation work	Irrigation Department
Chief Agriculture Officer	Member	Agriculture work	Agriculture Department
Assistant Director, Jalagam	Member	Watershed Development	Watershed
District Panchaytiraj Officer	Member	Coordination with Panchayat	Department of Panchayati Raj
District Horticulture Officer	Member	Horticulture	Horticulture
Chief of Animal Husbandry	Member	Animal Husbandry	Animal Husbandry
Fisheries Inspector	Member	Fisheries	Fisheries

Executive Engineer	Member	Jal Sansthan	Jal Sansthan
Executive Engineer	Member	Jal Nigam	Jal Nigam
Deputy District Programme Coordinator /District Development Officer	Secretary	Development Coordination	

Block level Resource Group

Sr.	BRG-Position	Designation	Technical Expertise	Department
1	Programme Officer/BDO	Chair Person	Coordination of Development activities & Administration	Block Head
2	Technical Personnel for MNREGA 4. Deputy Programme Officer			Appointed for MNREGA
3	Technical Personnel for Convergence 1. Assistant Development Officer (Forest) 2. Assistant Development Officer (Agriculture) 3. Assistant Development Officer (Horticulture) 4. Assistant Development Officer (Panchayat) 5. Assistant Development Officer (Social Welfare) 6. Veterinary Doctor 7. Junior Engineer (Rural Engineering Service) 8. Junior Engineer (Minor Irrigation) 9. Junior Engineer (Jal Sansthan) 10. Junior Engineer (Jal Nigam)	Member Member Member Member Member Member Member Member Member Member	Afforestation work Agriculture Work Horticulture Work Coordination with Panchayat Welfare of weaker Section Engineering Services Engineering Services Engineering Services Engineering Services	Forest Agriculture Horticulture Panchayati Raj Social Welfare Veterinary RES Minor Irrigation Jal Sansthan Jal Nigam

Village Resource Group decided upon in district Champawat

VRG-Position	Designation	Technical Expertise	Department
Village Development Officer	Chair Person	Coordination of Development activities & Administration	Department of rural Development
Junior Engineer	Member	Engineering Services	Appointed for MNREGA
Prashashnik Sahayak/ Rojgar Sewak	Member	Record Keeping	Appointed for MNREGA
Mate	Member	Supervision	Panchayat Member
Other technical persons/expert of line departments and external as required.	Member	Planning & Implementaton	From Convergence programme
Forest Guard			

Orientation of BRG and VRG is required and will be taken up in the districts as the next step.

4. **Consolidation of database for MIS,**

Resource Mapping, Matrix for Convergence, Data Upload on Monitoring Format.

Consolidation of database for MIS

Constitution of Technical Consortium

Technical Consortium for district Champawat

S.No.	Department/Ministry	Programme running under Deptt/Ministries	Technical Wings in district	Contributions to MNREGA

1	Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Watershed Development Programme for Rain fed Area (NWDpra) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ATMA • KVK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical knowledge to prepare shelf of project, monitoring • Technical knowledge to enhance agriculture productivity • Capacity building of MNREGA functionaries on agriculture and allied activities • Resource mapping for rural development • Natural resource management development
2	Horticulture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Horticulture Mission (NHM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Support Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support for plantation • Fruit plants and seed distribution • Capacity building and subsidies for horticulture
3	Animal Husbandry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fodder Development Scheme (FDS) • Big Dairy Programme • Breed Improvement programme • Disease control Programme • Poultry Development • Swine development Programme • Cold water fisheries development scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dairy Development Board • Dept of Animal Husbandry • Fisheries department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical support for stated programmes • Capacity bldg and trainings • Village level camps • Poultry development • Pond construction • Trainings • Technical inputs • Subsidy 20% (pond cons, feed-50%) • Fish Seed inputs • Disease treatment
4	Water Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWAP • Catchment area conservation and mgmt plan (CACMP) • Total Sanitation Campaign(TSC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jal Nigam 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Inputs • Trainings • Value addition to MNREGA works

	Irrigation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair, renovation & Restoration of Water Supply schemes • Accelerated irrigation benefit Programme(AIBP) • District Plan • District Plan and state sector scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jal Sansthan • MI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical inputs for source protection • Tank and pipeline construction • Gul • Hydram <p>Flood control measures</p> <p>Construction of irrigation channels</p>
5	Panchayati Raj	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF) • Kshetra Panchayat Nidhi • Zila Panchayat Nidhi • Rajya Vitt • 12th Vitt to Gram Panchayat 	<p>District Planning Committee(DP C)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RES • MI • Zila Panchayat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support in decentralized planning • Technical Support • Value addition to MNREGA works
6	Land Resources (DRDA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watershed Development Programme under DPAP and IWDP • SGSY 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • District Watershed Development Units (DWDU) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Input • Planning • Training • Value addition to MNREGA works
7	Forest and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Afforestation Programme (NAP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Dev. Agencies (FDA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Panchayat Gram Van Yojana” for community land involving PRI’s should be part of MNREGA perspective plan

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silviculture, land dev, fodder fuel
8	Human Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Literacy Mission (NLM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State resource Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Literacy programme at MNREGA worksites
9	Health & Family Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary Health Centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health awareness, sanitation campaign, nutrition input at MNREGA worksites • Trainings, check ups ASHA, Anganwadi

Resource Mapping

Resource mapping for district Champawat was initiated during the workshop but could not be completed due to non availability of some data. It is being completed by the district officials concerned and they will send it shortly.

Matrix for Convergence

5. Type of Work undertaken in the districts(work on community and private land)

The tables below show the NREGS taken up on community land and private land in the three districts of Champawat, Nainital and Pauri.

Work Under taken in the Distt.Champawat

Sr	Type of Work	2008-09			2009-10		
		Quantity (No.)	Common Land	Private Land	Quantity (No.)	Common Land	Private Land
1.	Water Conservation & Water Harvesting	516	516	-	512	512	-
2.	Drought Proofing	99	99	-	117	117	-
3.	Minor Irrigation	304	205	99	292	202	90
4.	Renovation of Traditional water bodies	13	13	-	15	15	-
5.	Land Development	43	-	43	57	-	57
6.	Flood control & protection	129	129	-	162	162	-
7.	Rural Connectivity	19	19	-	5	5	-
8.	Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	1123	981	142	1160	1013	147

Minor irrigation and land development activities have been taken up on private lands in districts Champawat. Land development activities comprised terrace repair and land leveling work. Water conservation and water harvesting as well as drought proofing activities have been the major activities undertaken by NREGS. Flood control and protection has also been a major activity taken up under NREGS.

Work Undertaken in the Distt.Nainital

Sr	Type of Work	2008-09			2009-10		
		Quantity (No.)	Common Land	Private Land	Quantity (No.)	Common Land	Private Land
1.	Water Conservation &	105	105	-	280	280	

	Water Harvesting						
2.	Drought Proofing	111	111	-	135	135	-
3.	Minor Irrigation	221	148	73	247	161	86
4.	Renovation of Traditional water bodies	24	24	-	92	92	-
5.	Land Development	53	-	53	81	-	81
6.	Flood control & protection	36	36	-	185	185	-
7.	Rural Connectivity	59	59	-	149	149	-
8.	Others	30	30	-	0	-	-
	Total	639	513	126	1169	1002	167

Water conservation and water harvesting has been the major work taken up under NREGS in terms of units. Flood control and protection measures are the next in importance. Drought proofing, minor irrigation and rural connectivity are comparable in the number of units.

Work Undertaken in the Distt.- Pauri

Sr	Type of Work	2008-09			2009-10		
		Quantity (No.)	Common Land	Private Land	Quantity (No.)	Common Land	Private Land
1.	Water Conservation & Water Harvesting (Khal: 6x5x1.5 to 15x12x1.2m) Recharge pit : 1x1x1 m; RWST: 1.8x1.5x1.5 m)	1432	1432	-	2686	2686	-
2.	Draught Proofing	79	79	-	404	404	-
3.	Minor Irrigation	35	35	-	92	73	19
4.	Renovation & Traditional water bodies	2	2	-	23	23	-
5.	Land Development	4	-	4	27	-	27
6.	Flood control & protection (Check Dem 5x1x1.5 m)	100	100	-	432	432	
7.	Rural Connectivity	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Others	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	1652	1648	4	3664	3618	46

Micro irrigation and land development activities have been taken up on private lands in districts Pauri. Land development activities comprised terrace repair and land leveling work. Work on private land in terms of units has grown eleven fold in the year 2009-10 over the previous year of 2008-09. The total number of activity units have doubled.

6. Intersectoral Convergence Initiative in the Districts:

NREGS have been providing the primary input for natural resource generation through water conservation and harvesting structures, afforestation and land improvement. The inputs provided by MNREGA can be transformed into productive and durable assets using a project approach. Durability can be achieved by convergence with other govt schemes and projects to make kutchcha structures pucca and use of the physical structures created for sustenance of economic activities by the most vulnerable and marginal sections.

The main works undertaken by NREGS in the districts in Uttarakhand are:

1. Water Conservation & Water Harvesting
2. Drought Proofing
3. Minor Irrigation
4. Renovation of traditional water bodies
5. Land Development
6. Flood control and protection
7. Rural Connectivity

8. Others

Opportunities for convergence are available through MOUs signed by Ministry of Rural Development with Ministry of Water Resources, Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, PMGSY of Ministry of Rural Development. The implications of this opportunity have, however, not been fully understood and appreciated.

Opportunity of Convergence with Schemes of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF):

The Ministry of MoEF is an important partner to MNREGA as nationally, more than 8 per cent of MNREGA works relate to drought proofing. This percentage can be more in Uttarakhand where the major land area falls in the category of forests.

The National Afforestation Programme has been identified as the scheme for convergence with NREGS. Convergence with NREGS will provide additional resources to NAP which is being operated as a 100 per cent Central Sector scheme. The overall objective of NAP is to develop the forest resources with people's participation, with focus on improvement in livelihoods of the forest fringe communities, especially the poor. In Uttarakhand the NAP is being implemented by the Forest Development Agency. The Panchayati Gram Van Yojana for community land involving PRIs is also linked with the MNREGA perspective plan as it involves silviculture, land development, fodder, fuel etc.

Though financial support under NAP scheme is for afforestation, ancillary activities are also supported for its success. Under NAP scheme financial support is available for:

- i. Mobilisation of village JFMC and micro planning in project villages.
- ii. Entry point activity (for village development, average assistance of Rs 1.6 lakhs per village is available.)
- iii. Afforestation can be taken up through various models including:
 - Aided natural regeneration
 - Artificial regeneration
 - Mixed plantation of trees having MFP and medicinal value

-Regeneration of perennial herbs and shrubs of medicinal value

-Pasture development/Silvipasture.

iii. Soil and moisture conservation

iv. Fencing, monitoring and evaluation, training, awareness raising.

The decentralized participatory management and the nature of works of NAP are both complementary to MNREGA. At least 50 per cent of works under MNREGA are to be executed by Gram Panchayats. Line departments like the Forest department are also included among the implementing agencies and the norms to be followed are as per the Forest department.

All kinds of afforestation activities are also allowed/covered under MNREGA. Therefore , a project covering forest area and adjoining land areas including village common lands, community lands, revenue waste lands and private lands with watershed approach can be prepared. The forest department is expected to do the planning, provide technical advise, supervise to ensure quality activities.

Convergence may be effected with NAP in the following ways:

i. **Gap filling through NREGS for similar works under NAP:** mutually supplementing resources for common needs and inputs such as afforestation and tree plantation, grassland development and silvi pasture, water conservation/harvesting structures- catchment area treatment, check dams, ponds, any other water conservation/harvesting structure as per local requirement; land development to rehabilitate degraded forest and wasteland; maintenance of forest roads.

ii. **Dovetailing inputs into a common project:**

Certain basic activities of a project may be through MNREGA such as closure by dry stone wall, ditch cum bund fencing; constructing soil and water conservation structures, soil work for contour trenches, v ditches, digging of pits; seeding through NREGS labour.

The following works may be carried out under NAP : nursery raising, transportation of plants to the planting site. Application of manure and

insecticides, protection from grazing, hot winds and frost. Barbed wire fencing where other fencing is not possible.

- iii. **Area approach:** Certain activities required for integrated development of area and permitted MNREGA may be taken up in the fringe area through Forest Department to ensure uniformity and quality of approach. These include activities like irrigation facilities, land development, renovation of traditional bodies.
- iv. **Value addition through MNREGA to NAP works:** MNREGA can provide the primary input into natural resource generation. Eg land development (individual land of eligible categories under MNREGA) and agro forestry on that land under NAP; plantation, Minor forest produce (MFP) based activities for primary collectors, skill upgradation for primary processing etc.
- v. **Technical support for ensuring quality in planning, selection and execution of MNREGA works.**

In convergence funding will be through NREGS and NAP. The implementation agency may be the Forest Department, the Gram Panchayat or the Joint Forest Management Committee.

Currently district Pauri is selected as the district for convergence pilot between MNREGA and MoEF.

Opportunity of Convergence with Schemes of Ministry of Agriculture:

MNREGA aims at employment generation and alleviation of rural poverty and is implemented by PRIs. PRIs most often lack scientific and technical inputs required for required for planning and implementation of the schemes. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) of ICAR, Ministry of Agriculture will provide technical backstopping to NREGS as the KVKs have developed appropriate technologies for on farm and off farm activities.

Select districts have been identified for pilot projects of convergence with MNREGA works with the technical expertise of KVKs which have a knowledge base of appropriate technologies the t can be infused into MNREGA works. In Uttarakhand district Champawat has been selected as a pilot district for convergence with KVKs under ICAR.

The technical expertise of the KVKs may be used for the following purposes:

- i. Choice of appropriate work in a particular area (at the planning g stage).
- ii. Quality enhancing technologies/technical support (at the design and execution stage)
- iii. Value adding activities on MNREGA work (after completion of MNREGA works)- value additions through field demonstrations on individual land holdings taken up under MNREGA, linkage of assets developed under MNREGA with income generation activities under SGSY with appropriate processing technologies from ICAR.
- iv. Augmenting capacity: Training of technical staff recruited under MNREGA, especially at the block levels to act as member of technical resource support group at the village level.

Technical designs of MNREGA schemes can be developed with the assistance of KVKs and technical assistance of KVKs may be sought for ongoing works to ensure quality and validity. KVK can assist in the following works:

- i. **Water conservation and harvesting:** embankment type water harvesting, farm ponds, rooftop rainwater harvesting, wastewater recycling system for irrigation, water reuse.
- ii. **Ground water recharge:** contour trenching (staggered and contour type), recharge shafts, series of low height earthen/stone check dams across streams.
- iii. **Drought proofing:** Afforestation/tree plantation of community and individual wasteland with economic and social forestry multi purpose plantation (fuelwood, fodder, timber, herbal plants, medicinal and aromatic plants, biofuel plantation)
- iv. **Development of irrigation facility:** micro irrigation systems, minor irrigation works, renovation of traditional water bodies, desilting of tanks.
- v. **Land development:** Conservation Bench Terracing (CBT), contour and graded bunding and field bunding, pasture development.
- vi. **Flood Control and Protection works:** Drainage Line treatment, stream bank erosion control.

- vii. **Value adding activities on MNREGA work:** use of ICAR technologies such as grafting, enriched compost production, vermicomposting, mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, sericulture, rope making plantation, bamboo plantation, pisciculture.
- viii. **Capacity development of personnel:** training of technical personnel deployed at district and block levels.

List of works taken up on individual lands can be shared with KVKs who will then advise on appropriate activities and technologies. KVK can also take up front line demonstrations.

Opportunity of Convergence with Schemes of Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development:

The Department of Land Resources is implementing an area development scheme known as Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) based on the common Guidelines 2008 framed by National Rainfed Area Authority. The objective of the IWMP is to restore the ecological balance by harnessing, conserving and developing degraded natural resources such as soil, vegetative cover and water. The outcomes are prevention of soil erosion, regeneration of natural vegetation, rainwater harvesting and the recharging of the ground water table. This will enable multi cropping and the introduction of diverse agro based activities which will help to provide sustainable livelihoods to the people residing in the watershed area.

Under MNREGA almost all the activities required for watershed development are permitted. Convergence between MNREGA and watershed Programmes of DoLR will be mutually beneficial for rainfed areas. In areas where watershed programmes are already under implementation, but here appears to be need for additional works, NREGS may undertake such works under the supervision and guidance of PRIs since the Watershed development Team and the Project Implementation Agency will withdraw from the watershed area on completion of project.

Where new watersheds are proposed the Detailed Project Report (DPR) prepared by the DoLR or the project Implementation Agency (PIA) will identify the tasks/structures/activities to be undertaken by MNREGA. These will be incorporated in the MNREGA annual work plan recommendations at the Gram panchayat level and if more

than one Gram Panchayat is involved then at the Block level. After receiving approval of Gram Sabha/ Gram Panchayat (GP) the PIA will submit it to the Watershed Cell in the DRDA/ZP which in turn, will submit to the District Planning Committee for approval. The execution of activities/structures/tasks for being undertaken by NREGS will be executed as per NREGS guidelines by the PRIs.

Under MNREGA, there is neither cost norm for the unit area as in Watershed Development project nor unit cost for work/activity. Therefore, the unit cost for works/activity in the watershed project area will be as per IWMP norms.

Opportunity of Convergence with PMGSY Scheme of Ministry of Rural Development:

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana(PMGSY) is a programme for connectivity of villages. It has its own guidelines, quality control and contract management systems. MNREGA also has provision to take up rural connectivity to provide all weather access. PMGSY provides only single basic connectivity to unconnected habitations of 500 population in plains and 250 in the hills. Need based multiple connectivity beyond PMGSY core network and population threshold limit can be taken up by MNREGA. PMGSY has provision for planting fruit bearing and other suitable trees on both sides of the road to be taken up by the state government or the Gram Panchayat from their own funds. This activity can be taken up under MNREGA.

Opportunity of Convergence with Schemes of Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR):

The Ministry of Water Resources has been identified as an important partner to MNREGA, as more than 50 per cent of MNREGA works relate to the Water Resources Sector. Convergence areas and modalities between the two have been identified and detailed Guidelines for Convergence between MNREGA and MoWR schemes convergence is available. The Guidelines are meant to optimize synergies between MNREGA and schemes of MoWR. It is to be kept in mind that the guidelines are suggestive in nature and should be used to encourage innovative convergence projects at the districts level, enabling a more efficient use of resources. The MoWR schemes applicable to Uttarakhand are:

- i. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP): Surface minor irrigation schemes such as guhls in Uttarakhand are eligible for assistance under the programme.
- ii. Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme (FPARP): MoWR is implementing this programme at 5000 sites throughout the country. Under this new irrigation technologies developed by various agricultural universities , research institutes etc are being demonstrated to farmers. These programmes can also be taken up under MNREGA .

District level officers of MoWRs can also provide technical assistance and monitoring and supervision.

7. Intersectoral Convergence Initiative

Intersectoral convergence initiatives involving NREGS had not been initiated at the time of study. INHERE commenced orientation and training workshops on convergence and has conducted this in District Champawat. Dates for these could not be obtained from District Pauri Garhwal and Nainitalin February and these have now been finalized for March 2010.

It was explained that convergence would result in the following outputs:

- i. Increase in social capital: Collective planning and implementation by different stakeholders will enhance social capital by giving people at grassroots the experience of work planning and management.
- ii. Increase in physical capital: Creation of durable assets and improvement in land productivity.

- iii. Facilitation of ecological synergies: Natural resource base regeneration and effective use of natural resources.
- iv. Mitigate effects of climate change: Addressing climate change issues through carbon sequestration and other measures.
- v. Enhance economic opportunities: Build base for income generating activities- dairying, medicinal plants cultivation, fruit processing etc.
- vi. Strengthen democratic processes through convergence awareness and planning at the grassroot level.
- vii. Facilitate sustainable development: creation of durable assets, rural connectivity, productivity enhancement and capacity development.

Observations on Intersectoral Convergence aspects

- I. Resource Pooling has till date not taken place though there are instances where different departments have given assistance or direction to NREGS work at field level in some instances.
- II. Financial pooling has not occurred till now but is planned for works in 2010-11. It was however noticed that in some instances NREGS work has been implemented by the Horticulture, Forestry and Irrigation Departments as a project implementing agency. The NREG funds have been directly given to the Department by the Addl Program Officer on the basis of proposals received
- III. During the visit of INHERE team it was noticed that in blocks Dwarikhal and Pauri blocks funds were disbursed by NREGS to the Deptts of Irrigation, Forest and Horticulture for undertaking the works like checkdam, khals, pit digging on forest land on behalf of NREGs.
- IV. Resource pooling of human resources is required for planning, implementation and monitoring for NREGS as dedicated human resource is needed for successful utilisation of NREGS. At present Service Agencies are being recruitment on the basis of annual contracts. NGOs have been recruited for this purpose. Dedicated staff has been appointed at the block and village level. No orientation has been provided to the staff at present.

Many opportunities for convergence were noticed when studying the villages selected as samples. For example:

- The Khal or earthen percolation tank constructed at roadside near the Panchayat Ghar at village Barhat Langoor in block can be utilised for minor irrigation purpose with the supply of length of LDPE sheet to waterproof the structure. The agricultural land near the khal is totally rainfed. The stored water can be utilized for emergency and minor irrigation. There is also possibility of connecting the lined khal with the water storage tank under the water supply scheme constructed under the SWAP project. The overflow from the tank can be stored for other uses.
- In villages Gaharh, Ujjari and Udhiyari advance soil work for afforestation is in progress. Fencing and soil moisture retaining works are in progress in 2 hac land in each of the Gram Panchayats. The Department of Forest can provide the material cost or material for tree saplings and rootstock/seed of fodder grasses through its NAP programme next year. Technical assistance provided by the department during the plantation season would also be of great help in success of the plantation done.

8. Impact of Convergence (before convergence and after convergence)

Since convergence has not yet taken place this question will have to await an answer

Convergence Initiative after intervention of agency

After intervention of INHERE decision has been taken on formation of BRG and VRG. Resource mapping was done in the district for the first time. Convergence sequencing has been understood. District officials have realized the importance and need for bottom up planning and joint planning at village level. This has happened after workshop and meeting conducted by INHERE. However, though a beginning has been made, much more is required.

9. Inferences

a. **Good practices, innovations, case studies, narratives and practices for replication.**

Case Studies:

Case study for Productivity Enhancement Under MNREGA Convergence

Gram Panchayat-Chaukni, block-Champawat, district- Champawat

Gram Panchayat Chaukuni Bora is located in block Champawat of the mountain district of Champawat in Uttarakhand which borders Nepal. The Gram Panchayat is located at a distance of 12 kms from the District headquarter and 10 kms from the block headquarter. The Gram Panchayat comprises two revenue villages Chaukuni Bora and Chaukuni Pande. The number of families in the Gram Panchayat is 97 of which 8 families belong to the Scheduled Castes. The total population of the Gram Panchayat is 562 with 272 males and 290 females. The population of Scheduled Castes is 48, 20 males and 28 females. The majority of families in the village, numbering 67 families are registered as Below the Poverty Line families. Thirty seven of the families are beneficiaries of the Indira Awas Yojana.

South of the village of Chaukuni Bora flows a gadhera or mountain stream called Bhaintola with a hamlet nearby of the same name. In Bhaintola, ten families owned 32 nalis(1.60 acre) of barren land. Above this land was another patch of barren land which had been used for developing a nursery of oak by DRDA under the Hariyali programme. The Project Director of the Hariyali programme on a routine visit noted the location of the barren land below the perennial gadhera (mountain stream) and realized its potential for fishery. The land was left barren as wild animals were destroying crops for which many attempts were made in the past by villagers but resulted in failure.



The concept of fisheries as a livelihood option was discussed with the owners of the land as well as the Gram Pradhan. Thereafter a meeting of the Gram Sabha was convened and a decision to dig a pond for each of the owners was taken under NREGS. The potential fish pond owners constituted a Self Help Group facilitated by the Village Development Officer. The SHG was called the Shiva Self Help Group. In 2007 site selection of the ponds was done with technical input from the Block. It was decided to construct 10 ponds with dimensions 11.2 x 5.4 x 1.3 metres. A 160 metre long guhl or minor irrigation canal with checkdam at its head was proposed and sanction received. The work started was completed in February 2009. The ten ponds were constructed at a cost of Rs 7 lakhs and the guhl (micro irrigation channel) and checkdam cost Rs 3 lakhs. The financial resources for this work were received from NREGS for both kaccha and pacca work.

The project created 4444 mandays of labour for the jobcardholders(MNREGA Beneficiary)



in the year 2007-8 and an income as wage worth of Rs 3, 24,412. In the year 2008-09 the mandays of employment created were 391.5 with a wage income of Rs39,150. In the entire work a total of

4835.5 mandays of wage employment was generated with the creation of an overall wage income of Rs 3,63,562 accruing to the job card holders. Seventy four job card holders received employment. Of these 8 were from the scheduled caste families.

After completion of the work in February 2009, the Senior Fisheries Inspector was contacted and invited to inspect the fish ponds. On his visit he authorized the distribution of fingerlings to the SHG members of the fish ponds. The SHG members were then given training at the Fisheries Research Centre, Mudiani, Champawat by the Directorate of Cold Water Fisheries, Chhedapani, Champawat. In May 2009 the



Fisheries Unit in Champawat under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana (RSVY) provided 1000 fingerlings to each of the beneficiaries from the College of Fisheries, Pantnagar. A total 10,000 fish fingerlings worth Rs 3000 of different varieties i.e. Grass carps, silver carps and common carps were provided to the ten fish pond owners of MNREGA beneficiaries for productivity enhancement and income generation.

An amount of Rs 30/ per month is being collected from each owner towards future maintenance of the fish ponds by the self help group members. This amount now totals Rs 5000.

It is planned that when the fingerlings attain a weight of 1 kg they will be sold. The estimated income expected from the fish will be of Rs 2,40,000 for the group members when sold in the local market in Champawat. The members are also considering value adding to the fish produce by making fish pickle. This will be a sustainable income earning programme for the group members.

Case Study: Construction of Checkdam in Gram Panchayat Sarada

Gram Panchayat Sarada is located in block Dogadda of district Pauri Garhwal. It is situated at a distance of 100 kms from the district headquarter and the distance from the block headquarter is 5 kms. There are four revenue villages in the Gram Panchayat-Sarada, Sakali, Jogena and Bergaon. The total number of families in the Gram Panchayat is 120 and the population is 519.

Village Jogena in Gram Panchayat Sarada is located on the banks of the Khoh river. The village consists of 30 families who are mainly engaged in agriculture. In the year 2008-09 the department of Minor Irrigation had a 300 meter guhl or minor irrigation canal constructed in the village. On completion it was found that the mouth of the canal was 3 ft above the water source which made it impossible for the canal to convey water from River Khoh to the agricultural fields.

In the same period MNREGA was initiated in the village. The villagers took advantage of the scheme and planned a crate wire checkdam to raise the water level so that it could enter into the canal. However, this plan could not be implemented in the year 2008-09. In 2009-10 a 6 m long and 1m high crate wire checkdam was constructed at the mouth of the canal. Though this work succeeded in raising the water level, it was still not enough to meet the objective of enabling water to flow into the guhl. Following this the Department of Minor Irrigation provided a length of LDPE sheet to retain the water. However this was not adequate. The community then pooled its own resources to purchase and meet the shortfall in the length of the LDPE sheet. Their action was successful and the water level rose sufficiently to enter into the canal.

The guhl is at present irrigating 2 hac land benefitting 12 families of the village. The irrigation facility has resulted in higher production and productivity. Now, besides the traditional crops of rice and wheat the farmers have also started to grow vegetables like potato, tomato, cauliflower, brinjal, onions etc. In the year 2009 four farmers-Mr Ganga Singh, Mr Shambhu Singh, Mr Sujit Manral and Mr Virendra Singh sold vegetables worth over Rs 10,000 in the Dogadda market.

Besides this the guhl is also being utilized for operating a hydram to lift water for irrigating fields at a higher level. At present the water in the guhl is not adequate to operate the hydram throughout the year and its operation is only seasonal. The villagers are of the opinion that construction of more check dams in the vicinity could further raise the level of water making the hydram functional throughout the year. This will provide irrigation to an additional 5 hacs of land.

Case Study: Gram Panchayat Maithana

Located in Block Ekeshwar of District Pauri Garhwal, Gram Panchayat Maithana is inhabited by 95 families constituting a total population of 450. The Block headquarter is also located in this Gram Panchayat. The drinking water scheme serving Maithana village and also the Block Office brings water from a distance of 2 kms and 3 kms respectively with its source in Haindhar Gadhera. The drinking water scheme is utilized by a total of 520 families living in Maithana village and in the hamlets of the surrounding villages. Over the last few years the rainfall has decreased and this has led to scarcity of water which increases in the summer months.

In the year 2008-09 the Gram Panchayat prioritized water harvesting and conservation work to be taken up under NREGS. Under NREGS 3 khals or water harvesting structures were constructed about 200 metres above the water source. In December 2008 three khals of 15 m length, 6m breadth and 1.5 m depth were excavated in Dhainidhar and Gherwa at a cost of Rs 1,50,000 and employment generation of 1050 mandays.

The construction of these khals has alleviated the water scarcity faced by the block office in the summer months has been mitigated. In addition ten families have also benefitted from this work . The nearby families are also coming here for their water needs.

Seeing the success of these schemes, similar proposals are also being received by the block for assistance through NREGS.

Case Study: Gram Panchayat Dartha, Pauri Garhwal

The Gram Panchayat of Dartha is located in block Dogadda and comprises seven revenue villages. The total number of families is 100 and the population about 350. Twenty families live in the revenue village of Baspani. A stream called Baspani Raula flows at the edge of the village. In 1989 there was flood in the Baspani Raula which washed away half hectare of agricultural land and the floodwaters entered into 6 houses. The families of these six houses had to leave their homes and take refuge elsewhere. One hectare of agricultural land was affected by the stream which had deposited a layer of sand over it making it unfit for cultivation. Every year the raula would eat into the village land on both the sides.

The villagers realized the need for checkdams to regulate the stream and prevent the recurrence of such incidences. However they were not able to do anything in this regard for lack of financial resources.

In the year 2008-09, the year of implementation of MNREGA the villagers proposed this work under MNREGA. Due to priority for afforestation and making of khal chals in that year the sanction to this plan was deferred. Work on this commenced in September 2009 and was completed in December 2009. Checkdam and embankments worth Rs 4 lakhs were constructed and 35 families received employment worth Rs 2.4 lakhs. As a result of the checkdam and embankments the productive lands will be protected and the investments made by the villagers on horticulture and agriculture will be safe. The checkdam will augment the availability of water in the nearby water sources and also provide a source for sand for construction activity.

Case Study: Gram Panchayat Bhama, Pithoragarh

Case Study: Gram Panchayat Bhama

Convergence: NREGS with NGO

Contribution of NREGS: Financial resources and implementation support.

Contribution of NGO (HGVS): Awareness creation, Social mobilization and organization, Facilitation in planning and implementation, Technical support, Supervisory Support. The NGO has also installed a hand pump in the tank to lift water for fetching water by people.

Gram Panchayat Bhama is located in a remote area of block Gangolihaat in district Pithoragarh at a distance of 8 kms from the road head at an altitude of 2000-2400 metres above sea level. The village is inhabited by 92 families with a total population of 553. The village lies on a ridge and due to its location does not have a water source close by. At the lower end of the village there are two naulas or traditional water reservoirs based on recharging by underground natural springs. The water in the naulas is inadequate and seasonal and in the summer months the naulas almost dry up till the next monsoon comes. During the dry months, the villagers were compelled to undertake a steep climb of 2 kms to fill water from a source belonging to another village and thus were living in distress.

Excepting the rainy season, for the remaining 9 months, 5-6 hours were spent by the women in



filling and bringing water home. In the summer months many spent the nights as well in filling water as it slowly trickled into the naula. Most of the social conflicts in the village revolved around water. The scarcity of water affected hygiene and sanitation standards which became impossible to maintain. The Himalayan Gram Vikas Samiti (HGVS), an NGO working in the area, undertook a survey of the area

and the possible resources for solving the problem of drinking water and maintaining hygiene for the toilets constructed by HGVS under Himmothan Pariyojana supported by Sir Ratan Tata Trust, Mumbai. The MNREGA was seen as the instrument which could be utilized for this type of drinking water supply scheme as this scheme could not be supported fully by Himmothan Pariyojana as the scheme has its own norms of selection.

Gram Sabha meetings were convened to create awareness and mobilize the community for collectively discussing and finding a solution to this problem which affected the entire community. Video shows on similar efforts were held by HGVS to motivate the people. A Gram Vikas Samiti was organized taking special care to include the most vulnerable sections of the village and the poor. Three self help groups of women were also organized by HGVS to organize, create and hold the interest of women.

Discussions were held on how to conserve and harvest the enormous amount of rainwater which ran off every year without much benefit to the villagers. The villagers were taken on an exposure visit to village Naag where the HGSY had successfully implemented a similar scheme. This convinced the villagers that their water problem could be solved by harvesting rainwater runoff. Following this it was decided to construct a ferro cement lined tank with 100,000 liter storage capacity near the village naula and earthen khals above the village for recharging the spring feeding the two naulas. Along with this programme the villagers also decided to construct ten ferro lining cement tanks of 7,55 litres capacity each for meeting the demand of fully using and cleaning the toilets constructed by HGVS and also meeting the demand of minor irrigation of the people. The District Program Coordinator (DPC), district Pithoragar contacted and an officer from the block was invited to the village and made aware of the situation and the process. The DPC asked for a detailed project proposal with various alternatives. This was prepared and submitted. In the village 83 persons registered under MNREGA and were given job cards.

With support from MNREGA five kuccha tanks or khals were excavated at points above the



village. In addition, two rainwater harvesting tanks of 7500 litre capacity each alongwith and ten ferro cementlined tanks were constructed with the technical support of the HGVS. The main storage underground ferroce ment lined tank with capacity of 100,000 litres proposed in the scheme is under construction near the village naula. In the above works till now Rs 5, 23,655

have been expended. Employment was created for 73 families of which 55 are BPL families. Till present the the persondays generated under the project are 2016 out of this 264 persondays generated for women.

Benefit of the scheme:

1. Wage employment has been created within the village for economically weak and vulnerable families.
2. Women have benefitted socially and economically through their SHG formation and wage employment.
3. Social capital has been built within the village the planning and implementation process which was handled by them facilitated and guided by HGVS.
4. The availability of drinking water is reducing drudgery, especially of women and will increase the level of hygiene and sanitation in the village.
5. The community is feeling empowered and united to take on more such challenges to improve their living condition and livelihood avenues.



6. The process has taught the community important lessons in transparency and accountability and how to maintain them.

The convergence between MNREGA and HGVS as the technical and facilitating organization has resulted in alleviation of the major need and problem of the village. Besides drinking water availability, the level of hygiene and sanitation in the village has also increased. The community is also feeling empowered to jointly solve their problems and build community assets in their village.

Case Study: Livestock and Fodder Development through convergence with MNREGA

Convergence: NREGS with Himoththan Society and HGVS, NGO

Contribution of NREGS: Financial resources and implementation support.

Contribution of NGO (HGVS): Awareness creation, Social mobilization and organisation, Facilitation in planning and implementation, Technical support, Supervisory Support.

In five villages of development blocks an integrated programme of livestock and fodder development is ongoing with convergence of MNREGA with the project supported by Himoththan Society. MNREGA and Himoththan Society have pooled their financial resources for the purpose.

In addition to livestock improvement, fodder development is being undertaken on community land as well as private land. The Himoththan Society supported project did not have funds for fencing of the fodder plots being developed. Hence stone fencing for the protection of four fodder plots being developed on community land was proposed to MNREGA for convergence. Convergence with MNREGA was also sought for contour bunding and plantation of fodder trees.

Fencing has been done around 3 hac plot in village Bhuvneshwar , 4 hac in village Takoli and 8 hac in village Ganoli. 951 mandays of employment was generated. Contour bunding and plantation of fodder trees has also been done on these plots. The work is ongoing in two plots of village Footsil of 10hacs and 8 hacs.

Benefits from convergence

1. Barren land is used for silvipasture development.
2. Fodder grasses are reducing the drudgery of women for fodder collection.

3. Availability of adequate and good quality fodder round the year through grasses and trees will improve the quality of cattle upkeep and promote dairy development.
4. Needy families were able to get wage employment in their own village.
- 5.15 SHGs of 5 villages have federated and since Dec 1, 2009 are jointly running a dairy called Kamdhenu Milk Dairy. This has resulted in a joint income of Rs 62,400 in the first month.
5. Assets for future livelihood improvement are being created.

b. Constraints identified in Convergence

1. MOU and Convergence Guidelines of MoRD and the 5 other Ministries and Departments indicate areas of convergence, guide convergence but do not encourage convergence with NREGS.
2. Need to achieve financial or spending targets by departments and schemes discourage efforts at convergence.
3. Inadequacy of staff to guide planning process and give technical inputs at village level is perceived and discourages initiating the process.
4. Proper need based planning is required which gets confused by different messages and priorities conveyed by peoples representatives at public platforms and government officials as well as perceived directions from the central Government. For example, focus only on water conservation structures as this is perceived to be priority of MNREGA.
5. Officials of different departments seem to have received different messages regarding NREGS and convergence with NREGS of departmental schemes.
6. At the district level the formation of the District Resource Group has taken place following Government Orders issued by the state. However, the District Officers of the line department have yet to receive training and clear instructions from the heads of their departments on the mode of affecting convergence. For example, many of the schemes of the Department of Agriculture involve subsidies and have no labour component. Convergence with PMGSY is constrained because all works are done by machines.
7. Resource Groups are yet to be formed at the block and Gram Panchayat level.
8. Development of five year perspective plan at village level has been outsourced to an NGO selected through a bidding process. Given the size of the district it is difficult to do justice to the need , requirement and potential in every village in a participatory manner in the time and resources available. The understanding of the selected organization on MNREGA, NREGS, Convergence desired and possible is questionable as it may not have access to current and ongoing developments.

9. At the block level, directions for effecting convergence have not been received by the staff of the line departments. Due to this the line departments are not taking any initiative to effect convergence or able to give their cooperation to the Block Development Officer or Village Development Officer for this purpose.
10. The personnel responsible for monitoring MNREGA programmes have departmental responsibilities and were found not able to devote the time required for the purpose. This in turn affected payments to the workers which were in some cases made without proper monitoring due to time constraints.
11. Community is still not fully aware of the potential of NREGS to build assets for them and enable them to create sustainable livelihoods for themselves and the future generations. Their ignorance is deterring them from fully participating in the scheme and taking initiative to develop needed works or fully participate in planning, implementation and monitoring. This results in the Gram Pradhan and a few others monopolising the planning. Villagers have been known to demand one days wage for participating in the planning meetings. Thus there is a great need for education and awareness at the level of the villagers on the potential of NREGS for the long term.
12. Community land or common land available to carry out NREGS is very limited as majority of land is with the Department of Forests or is private agricultural land. This makes convergence a necessity.
13. Agriculture land in the district consists of small holdings which are highly fragmented and scattered. This makes work on agricultural land of SC and ST families unfeasible. However, with the inclusion of marginal farmers the scope for this type of activity is greatly increased as more than 80 per cent of farmers in the hill villages fall in this category.
14. Water scarcity is identified as the major problem in the district and priority has been given to water harvesting and conservation. The major activity identified for this purpose is the construction of khal chaals which are earthen dug out tanks which store water for some period and allow its gradual percolation into the ground. The traditional khal chaal is a system of interconnected dug out tanks which are linked to each other enabling excess water from one to flow into another and so on. This slows down the water run off, checking soil erosion and also enables percolation of water. Traditional technical skill or modern techniques are required for site selection, designing and planning. In the absence of proper planning and implementation these structures can only provide short term employment and wages but not alleviate the problem of water scarcity for drinking, irrigation or enhancing soil moisture, which would be an asset to the community per cent in some cases.

15. The irrigation channels are a prime asset for the agricultural community. However, for this work the recommended ratio of 60:40 for wages and material cost cannot be maintained as the material cost goes up to 75.
16. The muster roll developed for NREGS has provision for only 10 workers. In almost all activities the number of workers engaged is much more and additional muster rolls must be prepared. This unnecessarily increases the paper work.
17. The block is not given the amount required by it on the basis of the plan submitted to the district. Delays in receipt of the finances also delays implementation of the planned work.
18. There is constraint of staff at block level as there is provision for only one Village Development Officer or Gram Panchayat Vikas Adhikari for one Nyaya Panchayat comprising 8-12 villages. The VDO is responsible for all the schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development or the Department of Rural Development. At present, besides the NREGS there are more than 10 schemes operational at the block level. It sometimes becomes difficult to manage all the related work and responsibility. The paper work in NREGS is also being considered excessive.
19. In many cases effecting payment within 15 days is becoming very difficult as there is only one Junior Engineer in a development block and even the Service Provider organization engaged for the purpose provides for only one Junior Engineer for 15 or more villages. In these circumstances MB work gets delayed which in turn delays the payment to the workers which can be done only after taking and verifying the measurements of the work done and assessing eligibility for payment.

c. Other Inferences

1. A five year perspective plan for each village has been commissioned and is in the process of development.
2. Department officials and people of their own accord are thinking of adding value to work taken up under NREGS.