

1. **Title** – “*Lalardihi Earthen Dam Has Become- An Oasis*”
2. **Category** :- Soil and moisture conservation
3. **Challenges** :- the biggest challenges were to convince the poor people that Government can do lot for them as they were deprived for long. Moreover the area in question is under Salboni block and declared LWE area; the attitude of the people was different. Though the people were mainly depend on agriculture for their livelihood; but being rain fed agriculture the condition of the people was miserable. Taking advantages of these situation extremists were active. Apart from these, the area being dry zone and devoid of sufficient moisture below the ground, agriculture practices were mainly Rain fed and seasonal. Hence, the biggest challenge was to help these people in their traditional practices.
4. **Initiatives** :- keeping in mind the problem, in the year 2016-17 an initiative has been taken by the Medinipur Forest Division to create an earthen dam at Lalaerdihi village where livelihood of the people were mainly depend on agriculture . At this back drop and after discussion with the people and with the financial support from the RKVY an Earthen dam has been developed there after doing necessary feasibility analysis. Total outlay was 9.2lakh but based on the tender offered rate it has been done with an amount Rs 4,96,800.00 only. Now other adjacent JFMC members are also motivated and want to do similar works.
5. **Key result** :- Now under convergence scheme 3kg fish lings have been released there by the villagers themselves; spending Rs.450/- with an expected out turn of 75kg fish,the market price of which will be nearly Rs.15000/- . Apart from these with the harvested water, through lift as well as channel irrigation nearly 40 bigha agriculture land are now being irrigated throughout the year which was earlier depend on rain and nearly 2000 people of 400 families and 2500 cattle are also being benefitted out of this ED. Location of the ED has been selected in such a way that wild life specially the Elephants are also being benefitted.
6. **Impact** :- The villagers are now planning to plant fruit bearing trees on the bund during ensuing monsoon under MGNREGS. Hence, this work has become glaring example of convergence and as well as for recharging of ground water. Now this Earthen Dam has become blessings for the people of these villages and is contributing lots to strengthen the economic boon of the people. In turn they are also contribution lots for the conservation of forests of these areas.
7. **Lesson learned** :- Constant public relation, greater transparency and gaining confidence of the people are key to success for any project. Through micro plan preparation and series of meeting with the JFMC members help to overcome all the challenges and side by side we are able to make the people understand that project is for the people, by the people and for the people.

## 8. Supporting Quotes and Images :



Lush green crop field irrigated from the stored water of the Earthen Dam.



Spontaneous Participation of the local people for development of the Earthen Dam



Quality of soil work during the construction of the Earthen Dam



Panoramic view of the Earthen Dam with full of Water

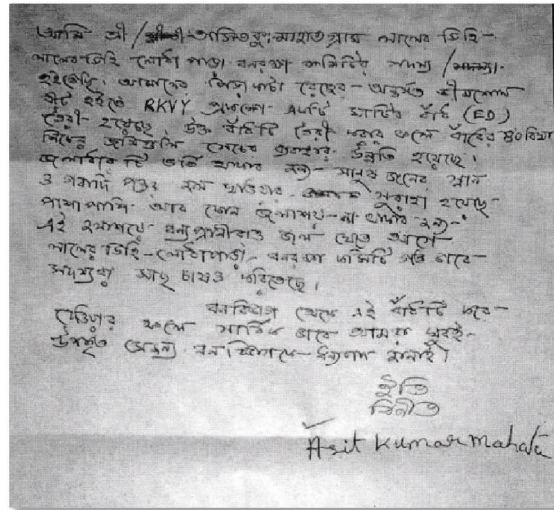
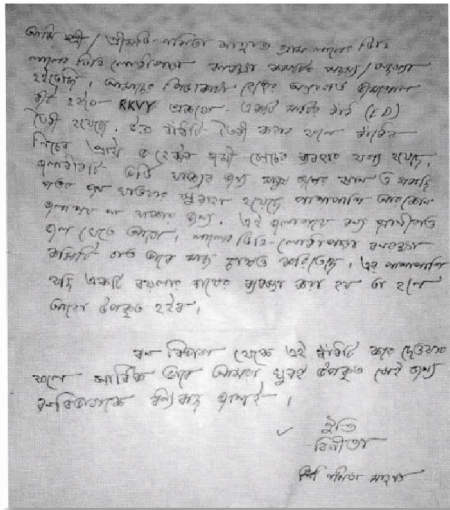


Preserver of the Earthen Dam is full of water, helping in ground water recharging



## 9. Additional Information :

- 1) Pirakata Range of Medinipur Division and member of Lalerdihi, Lodhapara Forest Protection Committee.
- 2)



- 3) **Sri Rabindranath Saha, I.F.S.**  
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## 10. Checklist :-

No.	Question to consider	Yes	No
1	Is the story interesting to the target audience of the project/activity report?	✓	
2	Does the story explain what new insights the project brings? What is the main lesson learned from this story? Does the story describe a key insight on what works and what doesn't and something that future projects could build On	✓	
3	Does the story describe the outcomes the project produced and the people who are benefitting? What changes—in skills, knowledge, attitude, practice, or policy—has the project brought about and who is benefitting from these changes?	✓	
4	Does the story make a compelling point that people will remember? Does the story show how the project makes a difference to improving livelihoods and lessening poverty?	✓	
5	Does the story provide an interesting fact that people will remember? For example, how yields increased, how many hectares of land could become more productive from this innovation or technology?	✓	
6	Does the story explain what kind of impact this innovation or technology could have if scaled up?	✓	
7	Does the story show which partners contributed and how?	✓	
8	Does the story include quotes from stakeholders or beneficiaries?	✓	
9	Have I provided links to other media (journal articles, website news, newsletter, blogs, annual reports of other Programme/ project ) that also feature this story?	✓	
10	Have I provided the contact details of people who can provide more information?	✓	