Plantation at Chanoli under Agro-Forestry Program

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Centre for Sustainable Development organised tree plantation under Agro Forestry Program at Gram Panchayat. Chanoli is one of the economically backward areas of Sundernagar Development Block. About forty families were given saplings of popular, amla, harad and behda for plantation on their private lands to supplement their agriculture income which is barely enough to support the families. The plants are expected to provide additional average income of 12-15 thousand per annum to the families thus assisting them economically. Tree plantation is also expected to reduce the dependence of villagers on nearby forests for fuel wood. While popular is a fast growing tree and is expected to generate timber and fuelwood providing an income of about Rs. 5-7,000/tree in next five years. Amla, harad and behda being medicinal plants are ingredients of Trifla, an ayurvedic medicine and are expected to generate an income of Rs. 500-700/tree annually. Another important aspect of the program was that women outnumbered men in coming forward for plantation proving that Himachal is a forerunner in women empowerment and truly deserves the awards it has received recently. The women have a greater say in decision making on issues concerning family and society.