

Press Release from Wildlife Division Soreng District
Forest and Environment Department, Oct 2

Special Gram Sabhas were held on October 2 across watershed project areas of Soreng district to take the message of "From File to Life" - the transformative journey of watershed development under WDC-PMKSY 2.0 - to the grassroots.

The programme was dovetailed with the People's Plan Campaign (PPC) "Sabki Yojana Sabka Vikas" to deepen awareness and ensure people's participation in planning.

Officials of the Project Implementing Agency (PIA), WDC-PMKSY 2.0, Social Forestry Division, Forest and Environment Department, Soreng, attended the Gram Sabhas held simultaneously in fourteen Gram Panchayats Units under Soreng I, Soreng II and Soreng III project areas. Beneficiaries, Panchayat members, Watershed stakeholders actively participated in large numbers.

Participants were sensitised on the key reforms under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, including its integration with the overarching PMKSY framework, enhanced unit cost for holistic treatment of watersheds, soil and moisture conservation, water harvesting and livelihood support activities, reduction of project period from 4-7 years to 3-5 years for timely benefits, special focus on springshed development and scientific rejuvenation of springs for water security in hill regions, and promotion of watershed development as a Jan Andolan through community ownership. In line with the theme, field interventions in Sikkim such as springshed treatment, rainwater harvesting structures, terracing, and plantation of horticulture, multipurpose, fodder trees and grasses were highlighted for their impact on water availability, soil health, farm productivity, livelihoods and climate resilience.

Beneficiaries also shared their first-hand experiences of improved water and soil conservation at the village level, and their testimonials were recorded.

The PIA, Social Forestry Soreng acknowledged the participants and watershed stakeholders and urged all to spread awareness and actively participate in making the vision of Vikashit and Sukha Mukth Bharat by 2047 a huge success.