

Shubh Kal

We change with climate change

Shubh Kal Programme on 'Less Water Intensive Crops'
– *Final Radio Script*



Project name
From Information To Knowledge And Action

Radio Bundelkhand - CDKN Shubh Kal Programme on 'Less Water Intensive Crops' – Final Radio Script

Programme starts with Shubh Kal signature tune (1 – 15 secs)

Radio anchors in conversation (Male anchor - Jagrup and Female anchor – Anuradha) (16 secs – 59 secs)

Jagrup - Hello friends and welcome to your favorite show Shubh Kal! I am Jagrup.

Anuradha - I am Anuradha.

Jagrup - In our today's programme, we will be interviewing a few farmers who will share their experience with us and give information about water conserving methods of farming that they are using to help them adapt to the changing climate.

Anuradha - You mean the new variety of seeds that are coming up which use less water and still give a good yield?

Jagrup - Yes, those seeds which are less water intensive. Let's hear what farmers of Dhikoli village have to share.

Music Transition (01:00 – 01:03)

Radio Reporter in conversation with farmers in Dhikoli Village, Pahunj District

Farmer Charan Singh - I grow more barley than wheat as it requires less water, manure and effort. I only grow enough wheat to meet food needs of my family. As compared to wheat, production and market price of barley is more. So the input costs and investment in barley is more and it gives better yield and income as compared to wheat.

Reporter - How much water do these two crops require and how do you think barley cultivation is good for our environment?

Farmer Charan Singh - Barley crop requires 3 cycles of irrigation. Wheat require 6 - 7 irrigation cycles. Similarly manure and the quantity of seeds sown for barley is 50% less as compared to wheat. With a reduction in water requirement, our need for starting water pumps has also reduced thereby cutting air pollution caused by its smoke.

Music Transition (02:51 – 02:54)

Radio anchors in conversation (Male anchor - Jagrup and Female anchor – Anuradha)

Jagrup – To cope with the changing climate which is also resulting in less water being available for farming, farmer Charan Singh has shifted to barley cultivation as it requires less input in terms of manure, water and effort. Growing barley instead of wheat has turned out to be very profitable for Charan Singh as not only his input cost has reduced, his production has increased. Other farmers too can think of similar alternatives. Let us now hear farmer Ramcharan who is from Dhikoli as well.

Music Transition (03:33 – 03:36)

Farmer Ramcharan – Rainfall patterns have undergone quite a change over the last few years. The rainfall has become very erratic and we face drought situations many times. To deal with the vagaries of the changing climate, I grow less water intensive crops like chana, barley, onion, coriander, garlic and chillies.

Radio anchors in conversation (Male anchor - Jagrup and Female anchor – Anuradha) (04:11 - 04:37)

Jagrup - Apart from these two farmers, we also spoke to other farmers of Dhikoli village about how they are coping with climate change and what new techniques of farming they are adopting to help them adapt better.

Anuradha - We will listen to them but before that let us entertain our listeners with a song!

Music Transition (04:38 – 04:41)

Song (4:42- 5:29)

Music Transition (05:30 – 05:32)

Radio anchors in conversation (Male anchor - Jagrup and Female anchor – Anuradha) (05:33 – 05: 44)

Jagrup - After this entertaining song, let us proceed to Dhikoli village.

Anuradha - Yes let's meet our fellow farmers.

Music Transition (05:45 – 05:48)

Radio Reporter in conversation with farmers in Dhikoli Village, Pahuj District

Reporter – I can see that you have grown so many crops on your farm. There is mustard, wheat and so many different types of vegetables as well. What are the benefits of growing this wide variety of crops?

Farmer 1 - It is very profitable growing so many crops. Onion, garlic and vegetables fetch good returns for a farmer.

Music Transition

Anuradha - In India, women play a major role in the agriculture sector. Till now, I have heard only male farmers. Didn't you meet any female farmers there?

Jagrup - Yes Anuradha, we did! Lets hear how they are adapting to the changing climate .

Music Transition

Reporter - How many crops do you grow in a year?

Woman farmer – We usually grow 3 crops in a year.

Reporter - What order do you follow?

Woman farmer – Last year, I first grew corn in June. After harvesting the corn, I sowed peas when the winter season started, followed by vegetables in February.

Reporter- Why did you choose corn?

Woman farmer - I do not grow only corn in the Kharif season (summer time). I sometimes grow peanuts or any other crop depending on the requirement.

Music Transition (08:06 – 08:09)

Radio anchors in conversation (Male anchor - Jagrup and Female anchor – Anuradha) (08:10 – 09: 33)

Anuradha - After listening to all the farmers you spoke to, I feel they are all making efforts to increase their resilience to the changing climate by growing less water intensive crops.

Jagrup - Water is life and must be conserved.

Anuradha - Rightly said Jagrup. We often read about increasing water scarcity especially in summers.

Jagrup - Now that we have heard our farmers, why not listen to what the experts have to say?

Anuradha - Yes, of course!

Jagrup - So let's talk to Mr. S.B. Pandey who is working as a Programme Manager at Development Alternatives.

Music Transition (09:34 – 09:36)

Radio reporter in conversation with Mr. S. B. Pandey, Programme Manager at Development Alternatives

Reporter - Sir, which seeds do you suggest our farmers should select in these times of climate change keeping in mind the fact that Bundelkhand is a drought prone region?

Mr. S.B. Pandey - Farmers must firstly alter their farming according to the gradual changes in climate. It has been shown through a demonstration that growing barley is more beneficial than growing wheat in water deficient areas. Its demand is all across India and not just in Bundelkhand. Narendra 7, a drought resistant variety of barley is a good option for farmers. Not only does it give 25% more production, but it also uses 30% less inputs in terms of manure and water. Wheat requires 5-6 cycles of irrigation whereas barley only requires 2. I would therefore highly recommend barley to our farmers in Bundelkhand which is extremely drought prone.

Reporter - How can growing barley help in this situation of climate change?

Mr. S.B. Pandey - Farmers should not stick with a particular crop, but keep shifting according to the changing climate. Adapting their agricultural practices according to the changing climate is the strategy that farmers need to follow.

Music Transition (12:15 – 12:18)

Radio anchors in conversation (Male anchor - Jagrup and Female anchor – Anuradha) (12:19 – 13: 24)

Jagrup - That was our expert Mr. S.B. Pande from Development Alternatives.

Anuradha - Our farmers would definitely gain benefit if they follow his advice. With this we have come to the end of our show. I would request our listeners to send us their feedback of our show.

Jagrup - Our address is Radio Bundelkhand 90.4 MHz, TARAGram, near Orchcha Tagela, Orchcha.

Anuradha - Our phone number is 07680252826

Jagrup – Another number is 09425813646. We will air our next episode of this series with your suggestions. We will now take your leave.

Jagrup and Anuradha - Goodbye!

Programme ends with Shubh Kal Signature Tune (13:25 – 13:40)

About the participant groups



Environment Planning and Coordination Organization (EPCO), Government of Madhya Pradesh is registered under the Housing and Environment Department of the Government of Madhya Pradesh. It connects government as well as non-government agencies in solving environmental problems. <http://www.epco.in/>



The Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex, UK is a leading global organisation for research, teaching and communication on international development. It acts as a development research and knowledge hub, connecting and convening networks throughout the world. <http://www.ids.ac.uk/>



Kings College London, Humanitarian Futures Group - The Humanitarian Futures Programme (HFP), works to support organisations with humanitarian roles and responsibilities to effectively anticipate and prepare for long term future crises. www.humanitarianfutures.org/



Third Pole Project is a joint project of the Internews Earth Journalism Network and the bilingual environment news website chinadialogue.net that seeks to improve coverage of climate change issues in the Himalayan region and downstream. The Third Pole – based in New Delhi, Beijing, London and San Diego – designs curriculum and carries out media capacity building and training workshops for local and regional groups across Asia. www.thethirdpole.net/



Development Alternatives (DA) is India's leading civil society organization engaged in research and development. DA set up the first Community Radio in the Central Indian region of Bundelkhand. <http://www.devalt.org/>

Supported by:



Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) supports decision-makers in designing and delivering climate compatible developments by combining research, advisory services and knowledge management in support of locally owned and managed policy processes. www.cdkn.org

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