



## RIVER VALLEY PROJECT (RVP)

The River Valley Project started in the year 1978, has made a tremendous achievement in treating landslides areas by Drainage Line Treatment, Plantation works in Forest Land, Agriculture Land and Waste Land. The functioning of RVP is under central sponsored scheme approved by the State Government and send to the Central Government to the Ministry of Agriculture, NRM Division, New Delhi for its final approval and sanction. It is a 100% central sponsored scheme. In Sikkim various watersheds are taken up for its treatments, all the watershed in Sikkim falls under Teesta Catchments, as per Soil Survey of India.

The continuous two year study of siltation of soil and water current with the help of hydrologic sediment monitoring station which is constructed at Khani Khola near Magitar in East Sikkim helps the Division to prepare the new project proposal of the area according to the priority basis. Presently RVP division is implementing four numbers of watersheds that is Tb3g-Reshi Khola, that covers the area of Boom Reshi, Tafel, Samdong, Sama Gawn, Detahng, Sribadam, Parang Gawn, etc. Tb4c- Bhutay Khola watershed covers the area of Bermiok, Barthang, Martam, Rungdu, Pechrek and Hee-patal. Tb4f- Changey Khola watershed covers the area of Gayzing, Langang, Khorung, Linchom, Sardung, Sapung, Bangten and Omchung. These three watersheds are being implemented in west Sikkim. Ta3a- Khani khola watershed in east Sikkim covers the area of East Pendam, West Pendam, Central Pendam, etc.

The implementation of scheme is made by the Forest Department along with the public participation, Block panchayats, watershed committee and the villagers. The farmer awareness camps are frequently held in various watershed areas where the distributors of forestry seedlings and horticulture seedlings are done.

The areas are divided into Agriculture land, Wasteland and Forestland according to the need of the land the seasonal plantation is made. During winter season the sausage walls, drainage line treatment, water harvesting tanks, waiting sheds at Rangsang *Dovan* cremation centre and also at roadside are constructed with the help of watershed committees. Time to time monitoring team monitors the work and release the fund according to the progress made. The fund is sponsored by National Resource Management division, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, Government of India. The fund is released to the State Agriculture Department, which is the Nodal Department of Macro management Mode. Henceforth, the fund is rooted to RVP Division. The ministry of Agriculture, NRM Division sanctions the project for the period of five years and the fund is distributed among various sub-heads, like pay n allowance, entry point activities, SMS, project activities, survey and demarcation, TOT(Transfer of Technology), Contingencies, etc.

The implementation project benefits the public through various ways, mainly creating job opportunities on daily wage basis to local villagers falling under the watershed areas during plantation, construction of sausage walls, dry walls, drainage line treatment. The project also helps the villagers to prevent landslide, soil erosion in private as well as in forest lands. The high yielding variety of horticulture seedlings are distributed to the villagers for healthy fruiting trees, forestry species for timber and fodder seedlings for dairy farming. The monthly progress report in the state as well as Central on the ready formats through internet is intimidated, So that the Department can analyze the monthly progress made by the Division.

RVP Division is maintaining three hectares of nursery at Gai Dhara and Salingay in East Sikkim. The quantity of seedlings is enough for afforestation and road side avenue plantation, within the implemented watershed area. The RVP Division takes up the area under priority which is in a basic need to be treated. The division will soon be implementing many watersheds in order to uplift the poor and needy people falling under land lock areas, with poor geographical conditions. The Division has now been successfully implementing four numbers of watersheds, one SMS at Khani Khola and more than fifteen Officers and Staff are working at different districts of Sikkim.