

Administrative Secretary Agriculture visits Sodh Block, takes stock of Micro Irrigation Project

Kargil, January 18, 2025: The Administrative Secretary Agriculture, Bhupesh Chaudhary today visited Sodh Block in Kargil to review the progress of Micro Irrigation Project in the Sharbat Gond, Yourbaltak, and Apati areas.

The visit aimed to assess the project's success in addressing drought-affected agricultural fields, enhancing productivity, and providing sustainable solutions for farming in the region.

Accompanying him during the visit were Chief Agriculture Officer Kargil Ashiq Hussain Basharat, Deputy Director CAD Mohd Iqbal, Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer Mohd Hussain, Assistant Executive Engineer PHE Gh. Hassan Najjar, Mohd Abass (Agriculture Extension Officer, Kargil B Zone), and Ahmad Ali Wazir (Consultant, FUMIC).

The Administrative Secretary was briefed on the project, which has an estimated cost of ₹12.49 crores and is designed to bring 23 hectares of barren land in the Sodh area under micro-irrigation (drip and sprinkler systems).

The Assistant Executive Engineer, PHE, reported that 8 hectares of land have already been brought under micro-irrigation. It was also highlighted that the project's scope was revised based on the demands of local leaders and villagers.

At the site, the Administrative Secretary emphasized the need to address the observations raised by the Planning Department to secure timely approval for the project. He directed the Chief Agriculture Officer to respond to the concerns promptly.

During the visit, Bhupesh Chaudhary interacted with public representatives, farmers, and stakeholders, addressing their grievances and assuring improvements. He emphasized the need to expand drip irrigation systems to main agricultural fields and implement measures to protect project sites from stray animals.

The Secretary further stressed the importance of constructing water harvesting structures, snow check dams, and watershed management schemes in the region to enhance water availability.

As part of the visit, he inspected the Pasgo artificial glacier, commending the community's efforts in its construction. He directed the Chief Agriculture Officer, Deputy Director CAD, and other line departments to organize training and awareness programs to promote the construction of artificial glaciers, check dams, and water storage structures under central schemes such as Krishonnati Yojana and Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY).

The Administrative Secretary also inspected the SM Farm Kurbathang, including high-tech greenhouses, agricultural workshops, and input stocking for the 2025–26 cropping season. He visited the newly constructed Farmers' Hostel cum Training Centre at Kurbathang and instructed the Junior Engineer of PWD to complete the remaining work without delay so that the facility could be utilized as an agricultural information hub.

Concluding the visit, Bhupesh Chaudhary held a meeting with departmental officers, emphasizing the timely implementation of state and centrally sponsored schemes to boost agriculture and improve the socio-economic conditions of Kargil.



