

Drought victims want to reestablish Seed bank

Village Viklokar is located at remote area of desert in district Umerkot. The village consists of 150 households and population of the village is based on Muslim and Hindus. The livelihood of inhabitants depends on livestock and rain agriculture. Mostly people are poor and remaining on the mercy of rain. They have even no access to potable water, they fetch water from a well which has salty water and



people are drinking same water. People always wait for rainy season which provides them potable water and food. If it rains then they are able to collect water in small ponds and cultivate their land.

Sami Foundation established Seed Bank in the village with the purpose of support people. One woman manager of bank namely Kenko shared story of bank. "We three women were made managers of this bank namely Sakeena, Parvatee and myself. I remember it was 2009 when Sami Foundation established Seed Bank in our village, we all people of village was told that seed bank would provide seed for cultivating land to all growers. We also received training. Bank was filled with different kind of seeds and we managers were responsible for distribution of seed. All seed was best quality and it was first time we got such seed. People in our village always face difficulty in purchasing seed, they cannot buy expensive seed, they often buy low quality seed from markets which is little cheap. Growers were given seed from 20 kg to 40 kg according to their land and crops. In fact, it was excellent opportunity for us getting quality seed. After harvest of crops, everybody has returned seed to bank".

Kenko believed that concept of seed bank has given people benefit, before seed bank growers of the village used to buy seeds from markets on the basis of borrowing which is costly. "We want to establish again seed banks, now we have nothing due to last year's shortage of rain, and since last year we are facing drought. Now rainy season is up to come and at some places of Thar, it is raining, hopefully it will rain in our village. We are preparing and cleaning our land for cultivation. All people are approaching to me and asking for seed. They do not want to buy seed on borrowing base from market; they are not able to give high interest", Kenko added.