

**OFFICIALS FROM BHUTAN LEFT HIGHLY IMPRESSED BY RURAL
DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE IN SIKKIM**

Or

**BHUTAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL COMPLETES FOUR DAYS
LEARNING VISIT TO SIKKIM**

The Rural Management and Development Department organized a four day exchange visit for the officials from Government of Bhutan from 18th to 22nd March 2013. The team include Rinchen Wangdi, Chief Engineer, Ugyen Rinzin, Executive Engineer, Ugyen Thinley, Dy. Executive Engineer, Karma, Executive Engineer and Sonam Gyaltshen, Executive Engineer from the Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Program and Public Health Engineering Division (PHED) under Ministry of Health, Government of Bhutan

The Public Health Engineering Division of Bhutan came to know of the spring shed development and rural water security program of Government of Sikkim through various publication and report available online. With the objective of learning the best practices from Sikkim on reviving spring and spring shed development, the department requested the Rural Management and Development Department to organize a learning visit to Sikkim. Bhutan share similar geographical makeup which gives them an added advantage to replicate similar initiative like that of Sikkim.

On 18th March, the team met with Dr. Sandeep Tambe, Special Secretary, RMDD who briefed them on various government initiatives on Rural Water and Spring Shed Development “ Dhara Vikas”. The team also met with the Chief Engineer, RMDD and Joint Secretary, Sanitation Cell. On the second day, the team visited the Dhara Vikas site at Chukudum, 14th mile under Ravang block. Mr. Udai Chamling, Field facilitator, Ravang BAC, Mr. Pem Norbu Sherpa,

Dhara Vikas Coordinator and Mrs. Nanula Bhutia, GRS accompanied the team at Ravangla for the field visit. The team also visit the Dolling Lake which was revived under MGNREGA where they interacted with the local communities, Gram Rogjar Sevak and the Field Facilitators. On the third day the team was accorded a warm reception at the Phong Jr. High school by BDO, Namthang BAC, villagers and the School children along with cultural program and interaction. Mr. Robin Sewa, BDO Namthang briefed the team on various spring shed development work of the Government and its impact and benefits. Few of the spring and steams have revived after this initiative. The team also visited the community rain water harvesting structure at upper Phong and Namthang BAC where they interacted with the Panchayat members, beneficiaries and the officials.

The officials from Bhutan left highly impressed with the spring shed development work and other Rural Development Initiatives of the State Government. These are simple technology yet the most effective and result oriented, we will surely request Sikkim to provide us more technical support to initiate similar initiatives in Bhutan. The team also visited Sangduptse in Namchi, Tagata Sal at Ravangla and Legship hot spring on their way back from Sikkim. The exchange visit was coordinated by Mr. Jigme Sangdup Basi, Deputy Secretary, MGNREGA, RMDD.