

From Teacher to Water Ambassador: Himanshi's Story

My name is Himanshi Tripathi, and I am 22 years old. I come from Shivpuriya village in Gonda district, Uttar Pradesh. I work as a Community Resource Person (CRP) with PANI Sansthan, an NGO dedicated to water conservation and sustainable farming. I joined PANI Sansthan because I was driven by my passion for teaching and my desire to contribute to my community.

Before this, I was a teacher at a private school in my village and assisted my father with farming. My motivation for pursuing water conservation stems from the need for sustainable livelihoods, economic growth, and climate resilience through water-efficient farming and adaptive capacity development for farmers.

As a CRP, I support farmers with water-efficient farming techniques for sustainable agriculture and resource conservation. I have been able to establish strong relationships with the farmers in my area that has enabled me to connect deeply with the community. This connection has made my efforts even more impactful and long-lasting, as I am trusted and respected by those I work with.

One of the key initiatives I have led is the promotion of water-efficient farming techniques. This has not only enhanced community resilience but also improved the adaptive capacity of farmers against climate change. Farmers have reported reduced cultivation costs and water savings, which also lowers their expenditure on diesel.

However, my journey has not been without challenges. The community initially resisted new technology due to cultural and traditional beliefs, and the concept of a farmer is traditionally viewed as a male figure. To overcome these challenges, I used demonstrations to build trust and encourage technology adoption. I also specifically approached female farmers to integrate them into new practices.

I am grateful to PANI Sansthan and the Hindustan Unilever Foundation for giving me the opportunity because together, we are making a significant impact on our community's sustainability and resilience.