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Canal digging makes great success in Rajshahi

From Our Special Correspondent

RAJSHAHI Aug. 22.—The canal digging programme initiated by late President Ziaur Rahman has made a great success in Rajshahi district. Apart from preservation of water for irrigation during dry season, it immensely helped in increasing the moisture containing capacity of the land in the areas covered by the canals, in the district which repeatedly suffers from drought and erratic rainfall.

According to a district official engaged in the canal digging programme, most of the canals excavated in the district on the basis of voluntary labour have produced favourable results in increasing production

of paddy and wheat in the area during dry season. According to his estimate a total of 31 canals with a length of 149.45 miles have been excavated and re-excavated in the district during the year 1980-81. The benefited area covered by these canals has been estimated at 1,20,840 acres of land where production of crops particularly boro, IRRI and wheat will be doubled during the dry season.

One of the canals completed at Godagari P.S. in Sadar Sub-division has produced spectacular result in protecting vast agricultural lands in the police station from floods of the river Padma apart from making plenty of water for irrigation during dry season. The canal known as Gadagari Harishankar Khal was taken up for excavation on voluntary basis in December 1980. Late President Ziaur Rahman himself went to the place and inaugurated the excavation programme along with the people from all walks of life who offered voluntary labour for digging of this canal at his call. The official said that the people of Godagari P.S. who worked shoulder to shoulder with the late President Zia in the digging of the canal could not yet forget his memory and ideals which imbibed in them a sense of self-reliance for national reconstruction.

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tion. As a tribute to the memory of late President the people of this police station themselves are taking all care for the protection and preservation of the canal which turned barren and desolate land into greenery. The official said that two sluice gates are being constructed by the Power Development Board on the mouth of the canal linking with the river Padma for drainage of water and protection from flood of the river.

The official disclosed that the present government through a letter has asked the district authority to continue the canal digging programme for the current year since the result achieved from this programme were found encouraging in increasing production and creating a sense of reliance among the farmers in the country. The district Administration of Rajshahi has already notified the respective S.D.O's and Circle Officers of all sub-divisions and police stations to put forward their suggestions for taking up canal digging programme on voluntary basis in their respective areas. He stated that both farmers and people from all walks of life are showing great interest for taking up canal digging programme in the district since it will help in providing all weather irrigation facility to the land and ensure protection against floods and drought.