

SHRI JAGDAMBA SAMITI



ANNUAL REPORT

2005-06

Shri Jagdamba Samiti

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Shri Jagdamba Samiti The Annual Report 2005-06

Shri Jagdamba Samiti is a voluntary organization, commenced with a modest start from Bhilangana Valley of the Himalayas, Tehri Garhwal district in 1991. Presently the organization is working in Dehradun, Tehri, Uttarkashi and Rudraprayag districts of Uttarakhand with the mission ***“to bring prosperity to all, through sustainable development process, by involving the community in planning, implementation and management of the locally available resources as per needs and opportunity”***.

We feel immense pleasure in presenting our fifteenth annual report for the year ending March 2006. Through this fifteenth annual report, it is an opportunity for us to reflect on the year that went by and take stock of our activities and the challenges ahead.

The year has been an important year for us to achieve new goals of development and set some new targets for future with our partners. At the same time there is an awareness of the responsibility that remains to be fulfilled by our organization and associates at community level and supporters. We appreciate the efforts of our community, associate organizations and the donor agencies to help us in coming this far. This year the organization initiated diverse programs towards the fulfilment of its aims and objectives. Our work was concentrated around four mission modes, core activities of resources, institution, technologies and economy.

Participatory Natural Resources Management:

We firmly believe in planning, implementation and management of natural resources with the active participation of the local communities. We work towards the management of natural resources with the communities. It is one of the key activity of our intervention through various initiatives in our working areas. These efforts are reaping not just environmentally but also rewards to a major social and economic development of the communities. In more and more cases, we are institutionalizing various processes such as forming water committees, community forest association and federation of organic farming groups for making the communities capable to plan, construct and manage their drinking water and sanitation facilities. Also plays a vital role in the management of assets for future generations.

Achievements during the year:

This year we completed CFLI (Canadian High Commission) funded project in which we worked with 30 groups of 15 villages in Bhilangna valley district Tehri Garhwal.

We helped in producing organic vegetables through sustainable agriculture practices under which we have established common facility centre for providing trainings and support to the beneficiaries. This centre started working to provide technology support, input supplies and marketing linkages to the producer groups of Bhilangana valley.

The organization has evaluated 23 village forest committees in Tehri and Badrinath reserve forest division under NAP/FDA project and facilitated the village forest committees for sustainable management of plantation raised under this project.

This year we have also completed a plantation project on 50 Ha. of community land in Dhargaun, Bhelunta and Bajinga villages of Bhilangana block of district Tehri Garhwal funded by National Afforestation and Eco-development Board, ministry of environment & forest Govt. of India. Under this project we developed a nursery of 96000 seedlings of fuel/fodder and fruit/medicinal plants with 90% of survival rate and trained the communities for gainful sustainable utilisation of their community land.

Institutional Development:

Involvement of local people in developmental programs is very important for the effective implementation, achievement of goals and objectives in real sense and for the sustainability of the programs.

The organization has a strong network of 500 self- help groups, 27 Village level water management committees, 61 NRM community groups and 5 federations of users and beneficiaries in its working area. This year organization makes an addition of three village community forest management committees, one federation of self help groups of Bhilangana and 80 groups of women entrepreneurs facilitated under the micro enterprises development program supported by Indira mahila Samekit Vikas Yojana of the department of women empowerment and child development Govt. of Uttarakhand.

Achievement during the year:

Organization has established close relationship with the communities where we are working and regularly taking the capacity building and institutional development program for deepening these relationships.

This year we have organised the following trainings and capacity building program for our partners at field level to keep-up the contacts with these partners:

- ❖ Organised organic production and seed certification training program at Ghuttu for self-help groups taking organic vegetable-seed production activities under the project supported by science and society division of the ministry of science & technology Govt. of India.
- ❖ Organised orientation workshop of women groups for setting up resources based small and micro enterprises in 20 villages of Bhilangana block at block headquarter at Ghansali.
- ❖ Organised the refresher training program to the self help groups that were formed earlier to take-up the economic activities for further empowerment and linkages with the line departments to experience the benefits of ongoing development schemes.
- ❖ Organised village wise trainings of SHG on entrepreneurship development to educate the groups about resources based enterprises development.
- ❖ Imparted training of the elected members of Panchayati Raj Institutions by resource persons of this organization in Dehradun district with the collaboration of district Panchayati Raj officer.
- ❖ Training of vegetable producers groups at Bhatgaun under horticulture technology mission.
- ❖ Trainings of groups and individual entrepreneurs for establishing the vermi compost units with collaboration of the state office of the commissioner of Khadi & village industries Govt. of India.
- ❖ Training of village Panchayats, groups and other community based organization about demand, productivity and supply analysis of the villages for food and nutrition security, water and sanitation facilities, agriculture productivity, technology and vis a vis financial possibilities that make the major improvements.
- ❖ Awareness campaign for the community action and group movement to ensure effective implementation of Right to information and National Rural Employment Guarantee scheme Act.

- ❖ Facilitation of the groups to form Bhilangana valley entrepreneurs SHG federation and Shri Shikar SYUK Sahasratal eco tourism development organization.
- ❖ Opened a facilitation centre for planning and execution of a hand on support to community based organizations at each project office of the organization.
- ❖ Organized annual function from 30th November to 9th December 2005 at Bhatgaun to conserve and strengthen the cultural heritage and sustainable livelihood practices of the communities of this far mountainous region.
- ❖ Established a common facility centre for resources, technologies, institutional and marketing support at Dhopardhar.

Science & technology for integrated development:

The third core activity of the organization redefined as S & T for integrated development. And it was decided to apply as a set of interventions through knowledge, demonstration and action research in the field. This year organization has implemented few technology-based projects.

Achievement during the year:

Science & society division of the ministry of science & technology Govt. of India has sanctioned a project on organic vegetable seed production to the organization during this year and implemented by the investigators with five self help groups in different villages. G.B. Pant University of agriculture and technology (Hill Campus), Uttarakhand sate seed and organic certification agency and Uttarakhand Trai & seed Development Corporation provided their respective cooperation to the project functionaries and groups took the seed production activities as per their agro climatic conditions. The results were encouraging as farmers got just double output in terms of money from the same area of land. This year more groups are associated with this program.

During this year our organization also completed a study for promotion of organic farming practices and possible technological arrangements in 20 villages of Bhilangana. This study was done by an agricultural professional of Germany and suggested a set of technologies and scientific practices for developing the valley as “Organic producers area”. On the basis of his study a proposal has been submitted to the National centre for organic farming, Ministry of Agriculture and cooperation Govt. of India and the centre has sanctioned financial assistance under “Service Providers scheme” to the organization. Base line survey for this has been completed and the field science and technology application will be starting during next financial year.

This year a series of technology based trainings imparted to popularise the applied science and technologies as per geophysical, socio-economic and resources available with the organization and some of the best appreciated programs were:

- ❖ Dissemination of vermi compost technology. (25 entrepreneurs submitted their proposals to KVIC & Bank for finance and set up their production units)
- ❖ Organic vegetable seed production (currently five groups are producing organic seeds as per procedures and with certification specification)
- ❖ Nurseries and Polly house (more than 20 groups and individuals currently using the Polly houses for raising vegetable nurseries in controlled conditions and getting benefitted by these technologies)
- ❖ Low cost toilets (Beneficiaries and PRI adopting the technology under TSC)

Economic Development:

Livelihood support to local people through developmental programs is very important for the effective achievement of goals and objectives and for the sustainability of the programs. The organization has started integrated approach based on rural area development planning, centred on the livelihood promotion. Hence this is a nucleus of all our activities since the beginning, through the improvement in amenities, lifestyle, and quality of life on sustainable basis we are trying to achieve this with following projects:

Achievement during the year:

Small and Micro Enterprise Development:

The basic philosophy of the organization is optimum utilization of locally available resources through indigenous and eco-friendly technologies. It is because of lack of basic amenities that the poor remain poor and even get poorer.

The small and micro enterprise development programs are unique in improving the livelihoods of the people by sustainably using the local resources. The enterprises encouraged by the organization are –

Processing and marketing of agro-products- Organization has established a common facility centre for collection, grading and marketing of agriculture and horticulture products at Dhopardhar under the financial support of department of women empowerment and child development Govt. of Uttarakhand. So far 25 enterprises has been facilitated and established by the self-help groups and individual entrepreneurs and other 65 are under process of setting-up.

The organization has worked as Facilitator for vermi compost based bio manure production units, off seasonal organic vegetable production and seed production based small enterprises. It has also enhanced the development to increase productivity available resources and the income level of the beneficiaries.

Jute based production- Presently we are operating Training cum Production centre (TCPC) with the financial assistance from NCJD, Ministry of textile Govt. of India and 20 beneficiaries are getting trained at the centre.

Marketing facilitation centre for agro and handloom products:

About 58 weavers SHG's and 167 weavers have associated directly with us. The training regarding handloom and organic farming has been imparted to these groups and currently the organization is providing handhold support for marketing of the products for these groups to support their livelihood system based on these activities. Wool and Jute production, compost units and agro processing units under REGP scheme of Khadi and Village industries have been established and some are under the process of establishment.

Technology application and livelihood support:

The Uttarakhand state is rich in natural resources but still the common people of the state are poor. This is a paradoxical situation of poor people living in a rich state. So we have focused on the livelihood of the people who depend on agriculture and other primary sector that is estimated to be 65-70 percent of population. So we have tried to apply science and technology for a better farm output.

Soil and water conservation techniques, encouraging improved and tested inputs like quality planting material, bio-fertilizers, improved agricultural practices like integrated pest management, crop rotation and post harvest technologies are covered. The improved farm output ensures a balanced diet and also improvement in quality of life for these people.

The trainings imparted to the farmers build their capacities and popularise science and technology application for better output and post harvesting technologies. The science and technology applications engaged by these farmers come into normal practice if done on regular basis by the farmer-groups, which will be yielding them incentives over years.

This year the organization introduced organic vegetable seed production technology involving five groups of five villages in Bhilangana valley with special focus on conservation of native seeds of millets, grains, pluses and vegetables. The department of science and technology Govt. of India supports this project. To support this program the organization has constructed Polly houses, rainwater harvesting tanks and one seed centre.

To improve organic agricultural practice we have started National centre for organic farming from 1st February 2006 which assesses the potential of small enterprises whose development is based on organic input (farm resources based compost, seeds, pesticides etc.) production, processing of organic agriculture produces, certification and managerial services for organic farm management. This has proved that there are a lot of avenues to facilitate these enterprises and provide alternative livelihood support to the communities.

Finance facilitation: This year we have initiated self-help groups to access the finances from banks, Rastriya mahila Kosh and other institution like NABARD, SIDBI etc. And we succeeded by getting the support from NABARD, Punjab national bank and State bank of India, as these institutions have already financed the groups for different activities. RMK and SIDBI also responded favourably and we are hopeful to get their support in the coming year.

Other Achievement during the year:

Energy and environment:

During our work in the last few years it was being felt that there are certain critical gaps in the energy front in the rural areas. As our organization has conducted a survey study with the energy and resource institute about the impact of indoors smoke pollution on the people. This year we have completed total sanitation campaign in 27 panchayt of district Tehri and 17 panchayats of District Uttarkashi. So far 306 household sanitations and two school sanitation complexes have been constructed by the communities under the facilitation of our organization.

Women and child development:

The hill women are the backbone of the economy of rural Uttarakhand whereas the children are the future human resource. In most of the hilly areas of the state, the women are heavily engaged with the work in the fields as well as homes, whereas men migrate in the search of better employment opportunities.

According to a survey the women in the state work for more than 16 hrs a day and most of them do not receive the balanced diet of an adult. We believe that here we can take up the weakest link in this string, which will result in healthy and happy women. As these women can be the basic foundation of healthy and happy family, which will in future lead to a healthy and happy state and then a nation.

In this regard the organization has started 80 SHGs for small micro-entrepreneurship development program from 1st October 2005. We have also

established a common facility centre for the enterprises development support whose primary focus is on the women.

Intervention for Adolescent issues:

Organization has started to organise awareness camps with schools to address the specific issues related to adolescents (especially girls). From this year we have formed groups of school going, dropped out and other underprivileged adolescents in all the 60 villages of Bhilangana block where our organization is working to plan and implement different projects. To assist and guide these important groups of society who are the future and also the ones who will be bringing the changes in the society. We are planning to start comprehensive development activities from next year with these vibrant groups.

Devolution of powers and responsibilities to Panchayati Raj Institutions:

Keeping the 73rd amendment in view our organization is working with 40 village Panchayats for planning and implementation of village level development actions.

Human Resources Development and Capacity building:

This year the members and staff of the organization have attended the following training program: -

- Participated in IRCASA workshop organised by AFPRO at New Delhi.
- Participated in Training on quality input supply and service providers organised by NCOF at Gaziabad.
- Participated in workshops of the MJCH, Food and Nutrition community of solution exchange of UNDP country office at New Delhi.
- In house training on performance appraisal and leadership development.
- Training workshop on ATMA project at Pant Nagar.
- Workshop of Rastriya mahila Kosh at Dehradun.
- Workshop of the Energy & Resource Institute of decentralised distribution and generation of energy.

Trainings and capacity building program organized by the Organization:

- Horticulture technology mission training given to 30 women Bhilangana Block Tehri Garhwal.
- SME development with 800 women at Bhilangana Block
- Experience sharing workshop with 200 Participant at Bhilangana Block

- Organic farming for organic seed development with 50 women at Bhilangana Block
- Vermi compost with 30 women at Bhilangana Block
- Jute Diversified products with 20 Trainees at Bhilangana Block

Project developed for future:

1. Organic farming for rural development with the help of Agriculture and organic Farming Group (AOFG) New Delhi. They have proposed to execute with 10 partner NGOs.
2. A proposal on environment conservation and energy management through utilization of community wasteland has been developed for 61 villages with 31 village panchayats.
3. Cluster development approach for integrated area development program.
4. Advocacy for RTIA and NREGA
5. Business Development plan for organic farm based input production and marketing of organic products.
6. Federation of SHG in Bhilangana valley.
7. Village agri-tech centre.
8. Cluster development for eco tourism development in Bhilangana.
9. Village information centre.

List of visitors of the organization during 2005-06:

- ❖ Dr. S.P. Uniyal vegetable scientist of G.B. Pant University of agriculture & technology visited our organization field with Mr. H.N. Semwal of Uttarakhand state seed & organic certification agency.
- ❖ Shri S.K. Muttoo principal secretary of Govt. of Uttarakhand visited the organization's registered office and addressed the meeting of community at Bhatgaun Tehri Garhwal.
- ❖ District horticulture officer visited the field demonstration of vegetable cultivation in Bhilangana valley.
- ❖ Mr. Roberto, Mr. Antonio and miss Angela of Territorious Vivos Spain visited the organization and villages where eco tourism development groups formed to Asses the potential for future collaboration.
- ❖ Ms. Judith from Germany visited the organic farming villages for a study on farm based input production and development of organic farming package of practices.
- ❖ Mr. B. K. Gangte Divisional forest officer Tehri Forest division visited the organization for plantation project training & evaluation.
- ❖ Study teams from SWAJAL project visited the organization and villages.



Map of our working Area. Shri Jagdamba Samiti is working in Dehradun, Tehri, Uttarkashi and Rudraprayag districts of Uttarakhand State

Our Partners/Donors:

- ❖ **Action for Food Production field unit-V Gwalior**
- ❖ **Agriculture and Organic Farming Group India, New Delhi**
- ❖ **Canadian High Commission, New Delhi**
- ❖ **G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (Hill campus) Ranichauri Tehri Garhwal**
- ❖ **National Afforestation and Eco-development Board, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Govt. of India.**
- ❖ **The Energy and Resources Institute, New Delhi**
- ❖ **World Food Program, state office Dehradun**
- ❖ **Uttarakhand State Organic and Seed Certification Agency, Dehradun**
- ❖ **Science & Society division, Department of science & technology Govt. of India New Delhi.**

- ❖ **National centre for organic farming department of agriculture and cooperation Govt. of India New Delhi.**
- ❖ **District Horticulture office Tehri Garhwal.**
- ❖ **Uttarakhand women & child development society, department of women empowerment & child development Govt. of Uttarakhand.**
- ❖ **State office of Commissioner of Khadi & village industries Dehradun.**
- ❖ **NABARD Tehri Garhwal & state office Dehradun.**
- ❖ **State Bank of India Ghansali & Regional office of PNB Dehradun.**
- ❖ **National centre for jute diversification, Ministry of textile Govt. of India Kolkata**
- ❖ **Territorial Vivos Spain.**
- ❖ **Project Management unit (forest development) Govt. of Uttarakhand Nainital.**

(L.P.Semwal)