

SHRI JAGDAMBA SAMITI

12th ANNUAL REPORT

(Financial year 2002-2003)

Vision

“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 opportunities’.

Mission

“To facilitate, mobilize and empower the communities for increasing productivity through optimum utilization of local resources by efficient and skilled human resources enable them to make sustainable development planning, execution and management of their livelihood and natural resources ”

Introduction

Shri Jagdamba Samiti is an effort to make an idea of local economic sustainability into action through various technology interventions, management practices and participatory planning. This voluntary group of economists, scientist management experts, social scientists, villagers and participatory development specialists working for the locally available resource management and utilization in sustainable way for betterment of the communities. This organization had started offering its services in 1991 from the Bhilangana valley of Tehri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand state in India and currently working in Tehri Garhwal, Dehradun, Uttarkashi, and Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand state. The organization strongly believes in the “development process”. Organization’s philosophy is based on the optimum utilization of local resources through locally available and verified, widely accepted and eco friendly technologies for fulfilling the needs of the local community. Organization has started various process of development as per need and opportunities in the working areas, which are mountains and valley of Himalayas. Experiences of the organization shows that if Community members have to pay the cost for the services of development it could be able to create an example. A participatory and “fees for services” approach for mutual benefits with integrating the local available resource management has been adopted by the organization.

At present organization has its work with 328 communities based self-help groups, which was formed under various projects, implemented with 383 villages (Small & medium mountainous habitations) and 228 villages punchayat (local Government unit). Women’s self-help groups are the main strength of organization.

Approach of the organization: -

Shri Jagdamba Samiti designs, develops and implements the project and program entirely on participatory approach through which organization first helps the

communities to form groups of people in the working area, make them aware about their problems, resources, and opportunities with the possible solution available for their development in a holistic way. All the projects and plans are prepared and developed with the deep concerns and active participation of the people by emphasizing on the sustainability and management of project/interventions outcome is long lasting. On the basis of above said approach organization has completed and developed the following program this year: -

1) Completion of Swajal Project:-

Under rural water and sanitation project the organization has completed all the remaining construction work in nine villages of Bhilangana block and successfully established the operation and maintenance arrangement/ systems in the villages. Village water and sanitation committees with the help of women's self help groups, Swajal Saheli Samooh and co-ordination of villages panchayat now collecting the water tariffs from the users and operating the water supply schemes on their own. Project has a favorable impact on the user community and other nearby villages as well. Through this project the organization has facilitated construction of nine drinking water supply schemes, 417 household sanitary toilets and some catchments area protection structures during the last four years with active community participation.

2) Diversified Agriculture Support Project:-

During the year remaining villages of Raipur and Doiwala block of Dehradun district have been covered under the project and now diversification and intensification in the field of agriculture is being carried on by farmer's group in whole villages of these two blocks through 229 self help groups and two farmer's federations are formed at block level extension of organic farming technologies which were the major outcomes of the project. So far following contribution has been made by the organization under this project:

Organization has made above achievements in agriculture diversification activities under DASP in 110 villages of Raipur and Doiwala blocks. Prior to our intervention the farmers of these villages followed primitive agricultural practices. The community organizer functionaries of the NGO as a first step introduced participatory management, where baseline surveys were conducted to ascertain the awareness level regarding group's formation. After organizing awareness camps, the farmers were introduced to new technologies in all villages. They were encouraged to shift from traditional practices to agriculture diversification mainly floriculture and horticulture. Farmers were also introduced to federation which will be a platform aimed at providing marketing avenues looking into the needs of the farmers acting as an effective instrument capable of independent existence after completion of the project.

- Introduction of agriculture diversification.
- Capacity building.
- Formation and registration of farmer's federation.

- Promoted some progressive farmers as a resource person in various technologies.
- Shri Jagdamba Samiti has introduced zero-tiles technology into various fields through DASP.
- 09 Soil testing kit was provided to farmers and organized 35 trainings in respect of soil testing. (For using of the soil testing kit).
- Some new technology has been promoted for marginal farmers, such as Mushroom production, floriculture, fruit processing, vegetable production etc.
- Some farmers were trained in various component and their services were provided into other villages as a master trainer.
- Some farmers were linked with horticulture department for marketing of potato's seed.
- 2 F.P.O. marks have been provided to 2 women groups through HESCO.
- About 12-advance technologies were given to farmers in agro based field, like as bio-composting, IPMN, IPNM off seasonal vegetable, zero technology.

3) Child Environment project Tehri Garhwal :-

Under child environment project the organization has implemented gram panchayat environment plan with co-ordination of WATSAN committees in 27 village panchayats under which following activities have been completed: -

- a) Construction of 22-rooftop rainwater harvesting tanks in the schools.
- b) 18 water collection recharge ponds (Chahal) in the villages.
- c) Conservation and improvement of safe drinking water sources in 18 villages.
- d) Awareness generation campaigns among the school going children and village communities through wall writing, meeting and organizing clean-up campaigns in 41 villages of above panchayats.
- e) Motivation for construction of low cost sanitary toilets and smokeless Chula. Total 32 low cost toilets and the beneficiaries with their own investment have constructed 18 smokeless chullahs.

4) Demonstration of fisheries technology project:-

This year organization has provided seeds to the beneficiary and promoted them to make them locally available to serve as the feed for fishes. From first years harvesting the beneficiary has earned an amount of Rs. 26,000.00 from sale of fishes. Inspiration of this demonstration pond motivated more farmers to start their fisheries units in the area out of whom 10 farmers has already been trained by the organization during the year. Now SJS is looking forward to develop this income generating activity in the area through SHG.

5) Project on introduction of payoliser and brequetting technology for charcoal production from waste bio-mass:-

This year organization has completed this project in five village of Bhilangana block where the individual beneficiaries established 24 units for charcoal production and 20 units established by the self help groups of women. Charcoal and briquettes produced from the waste bio-mass sold by the groups in local markets and earned good

returns of their products. Now women groups have proposed to make charcoal and supply to various government and private organization of Uttarakhand who import charcoal for heating purpose during the winters.

6- Extension of renewal energy project:

Under this project organization has installed 54 PV solar home lighting system and 10 units for charcoal production in the different villages of Bhilangana block. An energy service facilitation center is proposed to be established for sustainable services and use of renewals in the area. The organization has also surveyed 46 potential sites for installation of small hydropowers in the area. For installation of small hydropower 5 sites were selected by UREDA under the improvement of traditional water mills scheme, which is in the process of financial support from MNES.

7- Re-productive child health project:-

This project has been implemented in 12 remote villages of Bhilangana block where baseline surveys, and training of community health volunteers have been planned for this year. Organization has provided support, information and education on TT coverage, contraceptives, safe deliveries and antenatal care with referral services. This has already helped 46 eligible couples directly and 367 indirectly.

8- Project on eco-tourism development with the community based groups:-

This year the organization has started this new project without any financial assistance from any outside source but with the people of Bhilangana valley for conservation of environment and natural resources with optimum utilization of there resources to provide livelihood support to the local people. So far the local people have formed an organization in the name of “Shri Shaker Sheik Sheraton eco-tourism vikas Samiti” with facilitation from this organization.

9- Scholarship to poor Students: - Organization has provided financial support to the poor students of 39 schools of Bhilangana valley through the donation that they had received under income tax exemption. Total 63 students have benefited under the program during this year.

Achievements of the organization: -

During the last one decade Shri Jagdamba Samiti has expanded its activities towards various geographical area and divers field of intervention. Skilled and motivated working team and community-based groups are the main strength of the organization. So far the organization has achieved the following success: -

- a) Established offices in Rishikesh, Ghansali and Dehradun where facilities of computers, Internet and communication are available.

- b) Appointed, motivated, trained and made efficient human resources in the field of agriculture, drinking water and sanitation, renewal energy environmental issues, health care and income generation activities. At present 28 full time and 31 part time workers are a part of the organization.
- c) Formed 328 self help groups, three farmer's federations, one eco-tourism development committee, 134 WATSAN committees and 43 Mahila Mangal Dal in different villages.
- d) Imparted various income generating trainings in fruits processing, mushroom cultivation, fisheries, charcoal production, handlooms, organic farming, off-seasonal vegetable production and other cottage industries.
- e) Provided support by helping the communities in micro planning, linkages with banks, marketing surveys, exposures and management skill.
- f) Made the communities aware about safe drinking water and sanitation, sustainable agriculture and alternative means of livelihoods.
- g) Successfully complete objective oriented village resources planning to initiate integrated development in the villages.

Partners and funding agencies:-

The most important and valuable partners of Shri Jagdamba Samiti are the community base groups of villagers specially the women's groups who are the ultimate beneficiaries. Participation, interaction and continuous support and feedback from these groups provide strength to the organization.

Himalayan Environment Studies and Conservation Organization (HESCO) scientific groups based in Dehradun provide their support in the field of rural technologies along with the facilitation for financial support from CAPART and Department of biotechnology, Govt. of India.

Organization has got financial support for implementing various projects from the following agencies:

- PCU, DASP Dehradun. (World Bank assisted)
- Chief Development Officer, New Tehri. (UNICEF assisted and SIDA funded)
- DPMU, Uttarkashi. (SWAJAL project World bank Assisted)
- CAPART, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
- DST, Govt. of India, New Delhi.
- MNGO, HIHT, Jolly Grant Dehradun for RCH project
- The Energy and Resource Institute, New Delhi.
- World Food Program, Dehradun
- Department of biotechnology Govt. of India, New Delhi.

Future prospective:

As mentioned previously the organization has done work in bits and pieces so far. Which cannot be directly linked to livelihood enhancement. In order to overcome this difficulty the organization is trying to create an integrated package and hence develop a line of action where it can promote sustainable livelihood options for the people of its working area. In order to make this happen it has adopted the ZOPP framework, a popular framework for planning and implementing development interventions. Using this framework it is trying to develop an object oriented plan for using local resources and skill sets to generate employment and hence prevent large-scale emigration of the youth. Organization with the help of its community based partner's i.e. self help groups have also applied the logical framework analysis for developing the future projects, which is a tool to convert the objectives into goals, purposes and activities that need to be undertaken.

The organization has proposed to approach various funding agencies for following project in next year:

- Promotion of women's self help groups for sustainable livelihood from local resources empowering them with literacy, technical skill and micro-enterprises development. This approach based on participatory planning and action for establishment of micro enterprises based on local resources. For this project financial assistance for trainings, marketing linkages and revolving funds to SHG is required from the donors.
- Establishment of common facility center for processing, grading and certification of organic products. Uttarakhand has bright future in organic farming as farmers of remote mountainous area have the organic farming practices by default which require certification, technology upgradation and marketing linkages with quality control measures for this purpose Shri Jagdamba samiti proposed to set up common facility centers in each blocks of its working area.
- Area wise development plan for integrated watershed development. Through this approach the organization has motivated the people for conservation and optimum utilization of their natural resources for mutual benefits which require external support for implementation of water sources protection and recharge technologies, sustainable agriculture practices trainings forestations and environment conservation plans and soil conservation measures.
- Micro-finance services to the SHG. Through this project the organization plans to facilitate the self help groups in getting loans and advance as per their requirements from banks, donor agencies, financial institutions and other sources for setting up their micro enterprises.
- Trainings on technology and management for quality and productivity. Techno input and management skill is the key factors for achieving development goals, which require at every stage on regular intervals. SJS always tries to facilitate the communities in the trainings of technologies and management for sustainable development.

- Marketing and networking support to the SHG. In the current development scenario marketing is one of the most important area to be identified for which the organization is trying to establish networking, linkages and contacts to find better prices for the produces of communities.

Strategy of the organization

The organization strongly believes in involving the people in getting sensitized about their own problems and to find out the alternative solutions on their own. This participatory approach has been adopted at all levels in the organization structure. Having four of its executive committee members from one of the beneficiary village indicated the participatory approach of the organization. With the help of village level part time workers, the organization tries to form groups so as to facilitate effective participation and benefits. Getting the project adopted can be of two types:

1- Designed Projects –

These are the projects which have been designed on a very large scale. The NGO's and the project partners mainly pertain to the capacity building of community. After an expression of interest is submitted such projects are allocated based on certain criteria like:

- Presence of systematic books of accounts.
- Adequate staff.
- Past track record
- Capabilities to implement the projects
- Reputation of the organization among the targeted communities.

2. Own Developed projects-

These projects are those proposals for which the NGO has to find donors who are willing to fund it if they find it useful enough. These projects involve greater flexibility but also there is a possibility of more hassles in implementation. They involve in doing:

- The pre-feasibility study and participatory planning.
- Project formulation and problem solution analyses.
- Submission of project to some funding agency or government body.
- Approval and implementation with active participation of stakeholders.
- Monitoring and evaluation and management system for sustainability.

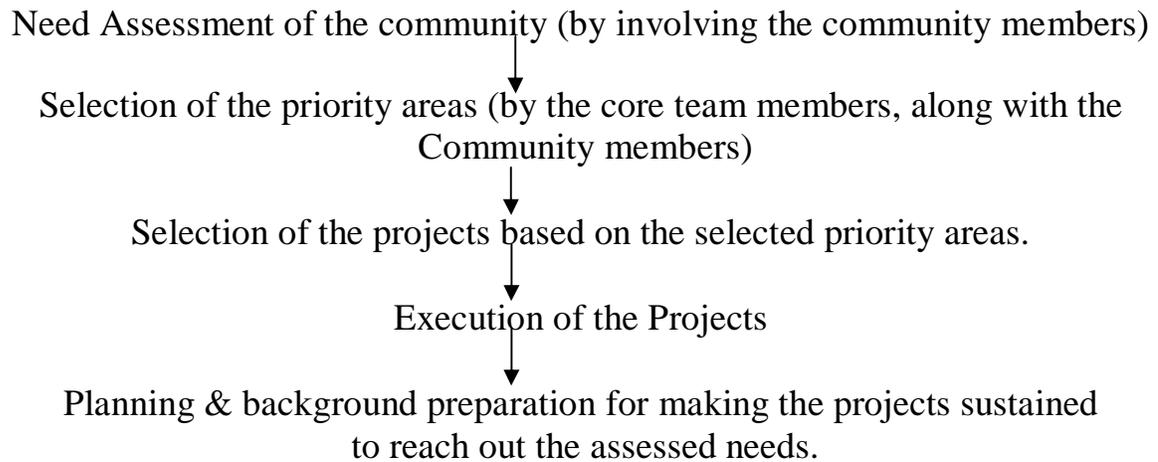
Till now the NGO has relied mostly on following sources for getting such projects.

- Experience
- Contacts
- Word of mouth publicity
- Media sources like Internet and newspapers

Although the number of such proposals have been few, Shri Jagdamba Samiti till now has adopted mostly the designed projects, which have the similar objectives related with its mission, the projects acceptance is also based on the priority options selected

from the identified needs, assessed by the community members. Shri jagdamba Samiti acts as a partner with the funding agency for implementing the selected project in the community. Its efforts are mainly centered towards implementing at the grass-root level, focusing its efforts to make the program sustainable even after the project period is over. Involvement of the community members from the stage of assessing needs till handling the program on their own is basic strategy of the organization. In order to make this happen the NGO has a group of community organizers who actively promote group formation in the villages so as to enable operation maintenance and ownership of the project at the village level.

Field Activity Chart



Future strategy:-

Organization has formed three program related team this year to take up the following program in coming years:

- 1) Natural resource management and integrated watershed development.
- 2) Organic farming and sustainable agriculture.
- 3) Micro-finance and self help group intervention for integrated rural development.

Organization has developed various proposals with active participation of community on above three themes. Following its own development projects that are under process to get support from donor agencies:-

- A) Common facility center for bio-manure production and organic farming based agriculture products.
- B) Integrated watershed development through objective oriented planning by PRI's (local Govt. units).
- C) Income generation support to rural poor through micro-finance interventions.

Organization is also looking forward to establish the following linkages in the coming years: -

- 1) Formation of farmer's federations at block level in whole working area.
- 2) Formation of marketing co-operatives for organic farming based products.
- 3) Organization of all the self-help groups for marketing corpus for commercial Activities and helping each other.
- 4) Last but not the least to the establishment of strong linkages with marketing agencies to achieve the above mentioned goals.

The organization is seeking support, guidance and suggestions of all our well-wishers partners and associates.

(L.P. SEMWAL)