

SHRI JAGDAMBA SAMITI
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Mission

“To facilitate, mobilize and empower the communities for increasing productivity of their available resources through optimum utilization of opportunities by efficient and skilled human resources enable them to make sustainable development planning, execution and management of their livelihood supporting natural, social, physical, and financial resources as per needs ”

Introduction

This year Shri Jagdamba Samiti started collaboration with various organizations for achieving the goals of sustainable developments at grassroots level. At present the organization has technical as well as ideological tie-up with Agriculture and organic farming group (AOFG) New Delhi, Action for food production (AFPRO) field unit Gwalior, Both Ends The Netherlands, The Energy and resource Institute (TERI) New Delhi and Himalayan Environment study and conservation organization (HESCO) Dehradun. The organization at present has work with 352 communities based self-help groups, which were formed under various projects, implemented in 383 villages (Small & medium mountainous habitations) and 228 villages panchayat (local Government unit). Organization has focused its activities on the micro enterprises and SME development in the rural areas to facilitate the people for earning their livelihood.

Approach of development initiatives: -

Shri Jagdamba Samiti designs, develops and implements the project and program entirely on participatory approach through which organization has formed two farmer’s federations during the year for involving the farmer groups into sustainable agriculture and agro based enterprises. To ensure all the projects and plans prepared and developed with the deep concern and active participation of the people. This type of grass-root people’s forum is also required in other sectors and areas to pay more attention to sustainability and management of the projects/interventions result that lasts for a long time. On the basis of above said approach the organization has completed and developed the following program this year: -

1) Completion of Diversified Agriculture Support Project:-

During the year consolidation phase in all the villages of Raipur and Doiwala block of Dehradun district has been completed under the project and now diversification and intensification in the field of agriculture is carried on by farmer's group in all the villages of these two blocks through 229 self help groups and two farmer's federations are formed at block level. Facilitation for marketing and extension of organic farming technologies were the major outcomes of the project. So far the 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 agriculture practices. The community organizer and other functionaries of the NGO as a first step introduced participatory management baseline surveys to ascertain the awareness level regarding group's formation. After organizing awareness camps, the farmers were introduced to new technology in all villages. They were encouraged to shift from traditional practices to agricultural 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 among 2346 farmers of 229 groups in the working area.
- Capacity building of 474 farmers of 49 groups for accessing credit facilities from banks.
- Formation and registration of farmer's federation for marketing and value addition of various agriculture products.
- Provided trainings to the organization's staff and some progressive farmers to act as a resource person in various technologies.
- Some new technology has promoted for marginal farmers, such as Mushroom production, floriculture, fruit processing, vegetable production etc through which they increase their income.
- Some farmers were linked with horticulture department for marketing of potato's seed.
- Facilitation for selling organic Dehradooni Basmati rice and spices.

2) Child Environment project Tehri Garhwal :-

During the year this project has been completed with six months long operation and maintenance phase various work for improvement in drinking water and sanitation status has been done under this project with active participations of village WATSAN committees in 27 villages panchayat under which following activities has been completed: -

- a) Construction of 22 roof-top 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 for providing safe drinking water to the communities.
- d) Awareness generation campaigns among the school going children and village communities through wall writings, meetings and organizing clean-up campaigns in 41 villages with the panchayat.
- 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.

3) Completion of Demonstration of fisheries technology project:-

This year the organization has completed this project which was implemented with the coordination of HESCO and the financial assistance of department of science and technology Government of India under this project a demonstration pond has been constructed and inputs have been provided for the fish production to the beneficiary organization and also promoted to make locally available feed for fishes. From two years harvesting beneficiary has earned an amount of Rs. 56,000.00 from the sales of fishes. Inspiration of this demonstration pond motivated more farmers to start their fishery units in the area out of whom 10 farmers has already been trained by the organization during the implementation of this project. Now SJS is looking forward to develop this income generating activity in the area through SHG.

4-Completion of Extension of renewal energy project:

Under this project organization has installed 54 PV solar home lighting system and 10 units of charcoal production in different villages of Bhilangana block. An energy service facilitation center proposed to be established for sustainable services and use of renewals in the area. This TERI supported project has been completed successfully during the year.

5- Completion of Re-productive child health project:-

This project has been completed in 12 remote villages of Bhilangana block where the formation of village health committees has been done and training of community health volunteers has been imparted during this year. The organization has provided support, information and education on TT coverage, contraceptives, safe deliveries and antenatal care with referral services which has been already helpful for 106 eligible couples directly and 367 indirectly.

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

This year organization has provided support to this new project without any financial assistance from outside to 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 and style of “Shri Shaker Sheik Sheraton eco-tourism vikas Samiti” with facilitation from this organization this group has organized some awareness meet and planning of long term activities is under process.

7- Survey and studies:

Organization has conducted a survey for the project on horticulture technology mission and a study on the impact of MADUA (local millet) baby food with the financial assistance from Uttranchal infrastructure Development Company and Uttranchal organic commodities board. Another pre-feasibility study under sector reform pilot project has been conducted in eight-village panchayat of district Hardwar for assessment of need and willingness to contribute for safe drinking water and sanitation plan of the village. Planning phase activities of the project is awaited. All the studies shows need of proper project interventions with active participation of the community for integrated development of rural areas.

8- Scholarship to poor Students: -

Organization has provided financial support to the poor students of 39 schools of Bhilangana valley from the donation received under income tax exemption. Total 63 students have been benefited under the program during this year. This program is now focused more on the scholarship for higher and technical education related to the field of rural development.

9- Off-seasonal vegetable cultivation project:

This year project director of world food program Uttranchal sanctioned this project, which is under implementation in three villages of Bhilangana block of Tehri Garhwal for vegetable cultivation. So far three self help groups of 45 beneficiaries have been formed and one Polly house and a rainwater-harvesting tank in two villages have been constructed. Organization has provided training for composting with application of EM technology and organic vegetable production and certified seed production to all the beneficiaries with the technical support of G.B. Pant University of agriculture hill campus and Uttranchal state seed and organic certification agency. Farmers produced various off-seasonal vegetables during the year.

Achievements of the organization: -

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. Following are the achievements of the organization: -

- a) Established offices in Rishikesh, Ghansali and Dehradun where the facilities of computers, Internet and communication are available.
- b) Appointed, motivated, trained and 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 working in the organization.
- c) Formed 368 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 generation trainings in fruits processing, mushroom cultivation, fisheries, charcoal production, handlooms, organic farming, off-seasonal vegetable production and other cottage industries.
- e) Provided support the communities in micro planning, linkages with banks, marketing surveys exposures and management skill.
- f) Made the communities aware about planning, implementation and management of safe drinking water and sanitation, sustainable agriculture and alternative means of livelihoods.
- g) Successfully completed the objective of oriented village resources planning to initiate integrated development in the villages.

Future prospective:

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 in its working area. In order to make this happen the organization shared difficulties of planning and implementation of the projects with Institute of Rural management (IRMA) Anand and invited two students for organization trainee segment during this year. The students prepared an objective oriented village action plan for the integrated development of rural areas on the basis of this 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 functional literacy, technical skill and micro-enterprises development. This approach based on participatory planning and action for establishment of micro enterprises based on local resources.
- Establishment of common facility center for processing, grading and certification of organic products. Uttranchal has bright future in organic farming as farmers of remote mountainous area have the organic farming practices by default which require certification, technology up gradation and marketing linkages with quality control measures for this purpose Shri Jagdamba Samiti proposed to set up common facilities 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 forestations and environment conservation plans and soil conservation measures.
- Micro-finance services to the SHG. Through this project organization plans to facilitate the self help groups in getting loans and advances 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.

(L.P. Semwal)