

**PROGRESS REPORT FOR JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2012**

**UNDP SUPPORTED PROJECT NO.00059148 –  
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE**

A total of 14 projects worth Rs.2,34,20,133 were supported under UNDP's CDI funding. Of these, 12 projects have been physically and financially completed, whereas in the case of remaining **two projects**, i.e. Pradeepan Sansthan and Prayatna Samiti, all the activities on the ground have been completed by the grantees out of their own resources. Only the last installments of Rs.3,97,200 and Rs.4,38,000 respectively are due to these NGOs which will be remitted on receipt of funds from MoEF. With these, **all the activities relating to all the 14 CDI projects have been completed and the project will be treated as closed as on 31 December 2012.** The details/financial status of these projects are as under:

Sr. No.	Project Number	Grantee's Name	Approved Grant (Rs.)	Grant Utilized
1.	IND50/SGP/OP4/UNDP CO/ 07/01/OR 22	AGRAGAMME:	933,658	Full
2.	IND50/SGP/OP4/UNDP CO/ 07/01/OR 22	THE HUMANITY	19,86,000	Full
3.	IND 50/SGP/ OP4/ UNDP CO/ 07/03/MP 12	PRADEEPAN SANSTHAN	19,86,000	Full
4.	IND 50/SGP/ OP4/UNDP CO/ 07/04/MP 13	NEW ZUNOON SAMAJ KALYAN SAMITI:	15,29,000	Full
5.	IND 50/SGP/OP4/UNDP CO/07/06/UP 22:	SAINIK FOUNDATION	19,86,000	Full
6.	IND 50/SGP/OP4/UNDP CO/08/07/OR 25	SHRISTI	20,00,000	Full
7.	IND 50/SGP/ OP4/UNDP CO/ 08/07/RAJ 23	GRAMIN VIGYAN SEVA SANSTHAN	1,00,000	Full
8.	IND 50/SGP/ OP4/UNDP CO/ 08/08/OR 26	UTKAL SEVAK SAMAJ.	20,00,000	Full
9.	IND 50/SGP/ OP4/UNDP CO/ 08/09/JKD 03	NAV BHARAT JAGRITI KENDRA.	16,79,250	Full
10.	IND 50/SGP/ OP4/UNDP CO/ 08/10/UP 26	ADHAR	17,08,000	Full
11.	IND 50/SGP/ OP4/UNDP CO/ 08/11/DEL 08	ENERGY RESEARCH APPLICATIONS	17,95,000	Full
12.	IND 50/SGP/ OP4/UNDP CO/ 08/11/UP 27	FOOD FOR LIFE VRINDAVAN SOCIETY	16,11,000	Full
13.	IND 50/SGP/ OP4/UNDP CO/ 08/12/RAJ 24	PRAYATNA SAMITI	21,90,000	Full
14.	IND 50/SGP/ OP4/UNDP CO/ 08/13/RAJ 25	KOTDA ADIVASI SANSTHAN	19,16,225	Full
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,34,20,133</b>	

The brief achievements against each of the projects are as under:

**1) Agramee:**

The beneficiaries of this project are tribal communities of Kondhs, the Jodias and Parajas tribes most of them are small land holders.

There is visible food security and livelihood generation for the communities. The farmers applied the techniques that were demonstrated in training programmes in their field and obtained more yield. 64 vermi compost tanks for all the 64 beneficiaries of eight villages were made. Use of bio fertilizer was encouraged, mostly Azotobactor and Rhizobium, which has increased the yield by two folds. Introduction of cultivation of off season vegetable crops has been widely accepted by all the farmers. Seeds of different paddy, pulses, oil seeds, millets, vegetable varieties have been collected, preserved and their performances were recorded from field trials which have been taken up during the ensuring *Kharif* season. The sloppy and undulated lands have been *bunded* for taking up field trials to make small plots for conservation of soil and moisture and make them fit for cultivation of different crops, so that after harvest of the crops a second crop could also be taken in the residual moisture. The training on agro-biodiversity helped the farmers to clearly understand the benefits of conservation of different Biodiversities existing in agriculture and forest sectors in their areas. After the completion of the research work the results were compiled and communicated. Agricultural production was increased through adoption of improved techniques. Previously the farmers were confined to only mono crop; in some places they kept the land fallow. Now they are accustomed to mixed cropping, intercropping and vegetable cultivation throughout the year. Previously, a period of four months from June to September was critical period for food shortage. But now after adoption of improved agricultural technology, they are regularly getting food all the year round. The beneficiaries under SGP have taken up organic farming practices. They have constructed vermin compost tanks and produced vermin-compost, taken up their own seed production and prepared different types of organic inputs such as liquid manures plant growth hormones etc. Around 3268 females and 3104 males are the direct participants in the project activities

**2) The Humanity:**

This is a scaling-up project for ensuring sustainable livelihood of the primary collectors through conservation of forest eco-system and NTFP potential and undertaking NTFP-Agro business in Khaprakhol Block of Bolangir District. Under this project, 29 Self Help Groups have been formed and 795 women members have been given training in harvesting and processing of Non-Forest Timber Produce. 60 varieties of herbal species have been conserved in the Gandhamal forests. Ten Gram Panchayats have jointly been linked for medicinal plant processing with another GEF partner, Sambandh. This new linkage has been a win-win situation for communities and the project, as the value addition has started to happen. Ten Biogas plants have been installed for better local resource use.

### **3) Pradeepan Sansthan:**

The project deals with environment protection through sustainable livelihood of tribal community of Betul District (Madhya Pradesh). A total area of 335 acres of land was stopped from erosion and crop production was doubled which ensured food for a period of nine months in place of the availability for about four months. The migration of labour was stopped up to 70%. For the first time, the gender barrier was broken in the area and 20 women became construction workers/Mistri. 90 vermi-compost pits were established and 52 smokeless chullhas were set up. A total of 35,988 people benefited from this project in 41 villages. The project was also linked to NREGA Scheme and construction/repair of 78 wells was done. A livelihood based work plan worth Rs.15 lacs was prepared and handed over to the Forest Department.

### **4) New Zunoon Samaj Kalyan Samiti:**

The project on promoting biodiversity conservation through local community based eco-tourism approaches for better local livelihoods in Sehore and Bhopal Districts respectively. The eco-tourism component of the project has enabled the community to get engaged as tourist guides, drivers, helpers, attendants and cooks for the tourists. About 70% families of 7 villages have benefitted with employment generation activities. 20 persons have received direct employment by the project. An estimated 15 persons got engaged in the form of vendors/local shopkeepers, the vehicle operators. Another 25 locals are benefitted as Self Help Group members. The project has led to increase in family income ranging from Rs.800 to Rs.1500 per month. Five members of the community were sent to Manali for obtaining basic training in tourism. The funds are being managed by the community themselves for bringing in sustainability in their actions. There is an increase in the awareness about the conservation of biodiversity in Kerwa and Kathotiya area of the above two Districts. There is a reduction in biotic pressure on the forests due to enhanced livelihood opportunities for the local community.

### **5) Sainik Foundation:**

The project is on Augmentation of Water Resources for Rejuvenation and Reclamation of Biodegraded Yamuna Ravines by harnessing integral perennial water source to create a water body at Fort Pratapner Janpad, in Etawah District. The project interventions of water harvesting structures and processes have arrested 80% run off from 40 hectares of catchments feeding into the Yamuna from its north bank. Two surface water points have been created bringing five ridges or 20 hectares under grazing grass/tree cultivation with 5,000 trees in two planting seasons. Top soil erosion has been arrested by creating grazing grounds on 10 hectares of reclaimed ridges and gullies. The subsoil water table has increased by over 20-25 meters and the level is being sustained. Recharging of water table by the check-dam has increased water moisture content in down-stream land thereby accruing a saving of upto 50% in cost of preparing soil before cultivation. The community members have been trained in rural technologies in the field of agro-forestry planning and execution of micro projects in villages. This has created lean season income generating activity for farmers who earned nearly Rs.2 lacs.

**6) Shrishti:**

This project is on land degradation. By adopting improved land use practices and water utilization with right farm systems, the crop production increased by 18% with newly introduced gram seeds, and the cultivated area increased by 4% within the existing operational area. 43% of flood affected land has been used (which was fallow earlier) through new crop/variety introduction in one village. The cultivation of Colocasia in soil eroded land gave high value and a production support. Farmers earned nearly Rs.8,000 to Rs.14,000 from their uncultivated/waste land. Due to this, 8 marginal farmers stopped going to Bangalore for employment since two years and are engaged in their own field by cultivating vegetables.

**7) Gramin Vigyan Seva Sansthan:**

The project is on promotion and conservation of Agro-biodiversity indigenous knowledge in rural area of Dausa District in Rajasthan. Planning Grant of Rs.1 lacs was released to the NGO to support project development. The NGO has formed 12 Self Help Groups in 5-6 villages. PRA exercise has been completed and village level work plans have been developed. The NGO has prepared the project proposal which is under consideration by the National Steering Committee as and when it meets.

**8) Utkal Seva Samaj:**

The project is on sustainable agricultural practices among tribal women of Orissa. The tribals of Tangi, Choudwar and Badachana villages were solely dependent on forests for their livelihood. The locals were engaged for agriculture on small land-holdings and much of the land area in villages was fallow, due to poor rainfall and manpower availability. Wood-cutting and selling was the daily business for locals and this has impacted the loss of woodlots and deprivation of local biodiversity. The project aimed at utilizing the unutilized and underutilized natural resources, like land and water to meet the livelihood needs of the communities in a sustainable manner. To ensure food security by promoting sustainable agriculture and appropriate technologies. 16 community level organizations/ village development committees, farmers groups and joint forest management committees have been formed and strengthened through nearly 154 village meetings. Water body of one-acre size constructed and rain and stream water is harvested. 44 landless families have got alternate employment through duck farming and fish farming in the water body. 75 acres of land is irrigated and an average income of Rs.8,000 generated by each of the 200 families. 300 families are now engaged in the cultivation of paddy, vegetable and other cash crops. An increased income of Rs.250 per month per family has been generated from sale of surplus vegetable products.

### **9) Nav Bharat Jagriti Kendra:**

The project is to keep the community aware on environmental issues and promote community based projects for biodiversity, soil and water conservation in 15 villages of Chouparan Block of Hazaribag District, in Jharkhand. Ten village-level micro plans developed and a good environment has been created for constructing the Farm Pond – a technology which has been adopted after conducting awareness programs. The farm sizes developed are 25'x25'x10', 50'x30'x10', 70'x50'x10'. The farmers are now contributing the money in cash for development of Farm Ponds that shows the level of motivation gained through the field level activities. The beneficiaries have not only adopted the farm pond technology, but are also moving towards progressive farming.

### **10) Adhar:**

The project is on inspiring the community action on water pollution, natural resource and environment management, by empowerment of women and up-gradation of their skills. The ground water in Jajmau, Nauraiakheda, Juhi, Rakhimandi and Panki areas of Kanpur District are heavily contaminated due to industrial activity. The 350 tanneries and unauthorized glue production units around Jajmau discharge their toxic waste mixed with Chromium VI into the sewage system which contaminates the ground-water. The Chrome VI level were found to be 200 times more than the permissible limit. The farm soil was contaminated with Chrome VI and many conventional crops are not cultivable and the yield of crops had reduced considerably. The project aimed at providing safe drinking water, reducing impacts of Chromium VI through community based entrepreneurship, interfacing with income generation options, and facilitating the use of simple low cost measures for alternative renewable energy sources. A total of 2228 persons participated in group meetings (men and women) and were made aware of the use of the water filters to protect the health of locals against Chromium VI. 15 women managed sales depots for water filters that were developed under the project. 90 women SHGs were formed in 27 villages with 1243 members who saved more than Rs.8 lacs. This also enabled them to access a loan of Rs.3.98 lacs from the bank. 925 women were trained for fuel efficiency stoves, biogas plants and water-kit depot holders. 125 fuel efficient stoves were constructed to provide safe, healthy and smoke free cooking zone for poor women. These smokeless ovens are saving nearly 2-3 kgs of wood per day and an annual saving of 120 MTs. of wood.

### **11) Energy Research Application:**

This project is to support the women groups to reduce drudgery and simultaneously check the release of Green House Gases emission and in reinforcing the commitment of energy conservation in traditional inefficient systems and technologies in the cottage industries and households. The NGO worked in collaboration with the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India on technology demonstration. They demonstrated use of low cost and efficient fuel source “Energy Cakes”, i.e. briquettes from bio and industrial wastes that give temperature as high as 600°C. A specially

designed cooking kit was also demonstrated to meet with the requirements of the rural people where normal family size consists of six to seven people. The objective was to use the heat efficiently and at the same time reduce the cooking time, both on Energy Cake and LPG. Due to the project intervention, a saving of 5.76 tons of CO<sup>2</sup> emission is envisaged in one year.

## **12) Food for Life Vrindavan Society:**

The project aimed at creating a sustainable model for fully privatized street cleaning and waste management practices in Vrindavan for better institution building and livelihoods of safai karamcharis. The objective was to support house-to-house waste collection, facilitating the employment of rag pickers and provide them the opportunity to select an alternative occupation using a SHG approach. The project also supported recycling of waste to check its burning, and initiate agriculture-based enterprises, such as organic farming and growing of medicinal plants. The project is now scaled to 6,000 households and 250 big establishments and established a systematic approach to waste collection. Nearly 80% of the communities from the initial 3500 households are making regular payments for waste collection. The rag pickers are also involved in skill building for handmade paper and recycled plastic basket weaving. This has enhanced their incomes for better livelihood opportunities.

## **13) Prayatna Samiti:**

The project is on “Revitalizing Makradi River Basin” through Livelihood & Ecological Security Approach in Jaisamand Catchment area of Udaipur District (Rajasthan). The area, being an agro-climate region, presents challenges to community and other life forms through various shocks – most common among them is drought situation affecting both flora and fauna, breaching the natural food chain which also affects production system in the area. The focus was to propagate the concept of catchments, basin, watershed and “Kunwa Pariwar”. This was done for resource development and also facilitating social and economic relationship around water within the Chokla, considering the needs, reflected by the findings of sustainable institutional network to take up land up-gradation and biodiversity conservation to support the catchment development. One hectare of land is turned into fertile land due to farm bunds. Half a hectare of land became fertile due to the construction of 10 Loose Stone Check Dams. 100 composting pits are constructed in four villages and the farmers have understood the importance and the viability, and adapted to the use of composting (from processed excreta) instead of vermin-composting during adverse weather conditions. One water tank of 50,000 litres constructed in Rawatpura Village and six other water tanks of 20,000 litre capacity constructed in three other villages. The cultivation has increased in 3 hectares of land. An increased production of 20 quintals in rabi crop was available. The fodder availability has increased by five quintals. 21 wells renovated through well lining to avoid flow of sand into the wells. The construction of wells by the Kunwa Pariwar has resulted into their participation and ownership. The flow of sand into the wells during rainy season is restricted now.

#### **14) Kotda Adivasi Sansthan:**

The project is on enhancing food security and agricultural incomes through information and services for migration-dependent households in Kotda Block in Udaipur District of Rajasthan. The project aimed to develop an approach that is both sustainable and replicable in difficult but resource rich region facing extreme poverty, chronic food insecurity, increase in migration, low level of skills and productivity and degraded resource base. The project interventions resulted into increase in cropped area by 20-30% and crop production by 10-30% leading to additional income by Rs.2,000 to Rs.5,000 through crop diversification. The soil testing helped to develop knowledge and adopt appropriate technologies for better production. A scientific methodology on record keeping was developed and implemented which includes details like name of crop, variety, date of sowing, date of complete germination, date of fertilizer application, date of irrigation, date of complete flowering, date of crop maturity, date of harvesting, biological yield, grain yield, straw yield etc. The project enabled the farmers to think on the technological practices that can produce better yield and, in turn, secure their livelihoods. Mixed cropping and sowing pattern shows that they have adapted some of the practices for good yield. Improved varieties of seeds are now tested, improved sowing practices are followed, vegetable cultivation and horticulture are introduced as one of the better livelihoods.

#### **OVERALL PROGRAM-LEVEL IMPACTS ACHIEVED AND LINKAGES BROUGHT:**

##### **The overall CDI project had the following impacts:**

- More than 7450 households in nearly 54 villages in 14 projects are able to manage permanent livelihoods by way of income generation activities, like fish farming in newly made fish ponds, medicinal plant developers, livestock and poultry unit holders, recycling of waste paper and its marketing, shop-keepers (including women), guides and tour operators.
- Total land area brought under additional cultivation - Above 3,500 acres
- Savings in projects - Rs.22 lacs (roughly US \$41,500)
- Bank loans accessed - 8 project partners
- Amount of loan accessed - Rs.25 lacs (roughly \$47,170)
- Co-funding accessed - US \$600,000 (more than 100% of the grant amount from private sector, e.g. Tata Steel, Indian Oil and Intel. Also co-funding accessed from MNREGA, local communities, Department of Rural Development, Department of Science & Technology, MNRE, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, and Wells for India (UK).
- Community-managed entrepreneurs set up as Business Models - Eight

- The Grantee, **ERA** has linked with the Department of Science & Technology and leveraged a replication of the CDI project in other areas, with a funding support of US \$250,000 by the Department of S&T.
- **Shristi** has created formulations with a range of medicinal plants and linked to the markets. They have established a Brand and obtained FPO certification.
- **Friends of Life** have linked continuous supply of waste paper recycling with the private sector and set up a marketing unit of the institution.
- Two GEF/SGP partners, **Humanity and Utkal** have linked with another UNDP FSP “Access to Energy” in Orissa.
- Two partners, **Kotda and Praytna Samiti** have linked with UNDP FSP on Livelihoods in Rajasthan.
- Most of the projects have formalized clear sustainable practices and plans in their respective projects.

#### **INNOVATIONS AND REPLICATIONS OF CDI PROJECTS:**

- 1) The replication of Adhar project of specially designed water filters for removing Chromium III is being replicated in Punjab.
- 2) Food for Life project has become a successful business model by establishing an income of Rs.20,000 from the project
- 3) ERA – The activities of this project are being scaled up through the Department of Science & Technology.

#### **POLICY IMPACTS:**

The key policy impacts from the projects are as follows.

1. UNDP CO support grants for GEF SGP led for Scaling up 14 GEF SGP initiatives and this has tremendously raised the confidence of the Grass Root organizations and the SGP as to network with a range of Government and Private sector Donors. This is amply clear that a grant of nearly USD 556,000 has led to a co-financing of more than USD 1,000,000 both in-cash and in-kind. Not only this has led to livelihoods benefits, but this led to encourage GEF SGP-CEE to develop the Scaling Up - Guidelines (uploaded in GEF SGP website). These guidelines were also shared with GEF UNDP/SGP HQs and were much appreciated for Scaling Up approaches to be adopted in the GEF SGP program. This was also seen to influence the upgraded country program. GEF too developed a clear understanding on how sustainably these scaling up of initiatives are being effective. A learning mission was also organized by GEF HQs in



Oct/Nov 2012, to learn the “process of scaling up initiatives”. Also the private sectors e.g. Bajaj Foundation, BHEL, SAIL and also Aditya Birla have come forward to act as support to co-finance in the **GEF OP 05**. Therefore UNDP CO has influenced a significant thinking in the minds of decision makers both at GEF UNDP HQs and MoEF GOI, who too have helped to scale up 16 projects through the direct MoEF GOI funds.

2. Secondly the UNDP Scaling up program has helped from the 14 initiatives 6 NGOs to establish “business models” and enabling local communities to double their incomes through a range of sustainable livelihood options. Such an integrated approach to sustainable livelihoods and development practice has influenced and enabled the Grass root NGOs/CBOs to develop partnership, access large development funds from State and National Governments. The investment is creating local credibility for the civil society in the 8 UNDP CO States for the GEF SGP partners. This small initiative has also influenced policy makers as MoEF GOI and CBD to showcase the environmentally friendly and forest based - business products in Green Haat, (a retail outlet opportunity created by MoEF GOI on annual basis) and in the COP 11 recently held in Hyderabad.

3. Lastly, the UNDP CDI project has led to share experience; enhance local and institutional capacities on a range of issues of the civil society through knowledge management products. Not only that has also influenced and provided the opportunities to the decision makers to be a part of the knowledge sharing both at COP 11 and other related National and International events. All this has directly and indirectly influenced the GEF, UNDP CO, other Donors and the MoEF, GOI – who have made GEF SGP to showcase and be part of every **endeavor** in the events organized to show case their environment friendly products. This has also been recognized through 16 awards to the partners for their works.

## **LESSONS LEARNT FROM CDI PROJECTS:**

- **Participatory planning process approach**, involving locals in decision-making and by in-kind contributions, sharing roles and responsibilities a must in making institutional issues strong at grass-roots.
- **Constant rapport and trust building** necessary for common vision and better understanding between stakeholders.
- **Diverse actions necessary for better livelihoods and demand gradual implementation** at local and at people’s pace - nearly five to six years of hand-holding in projects important.
- Special attention required in **linking partnerships** and to enhance co-financing in projects and build better relationships with a range of institutions within the projects and the partners.
- More **issue-based periodic workshops** required to enhance clarity and share sustainable practices. Covering more sustainable practices through the business models.

- **Rapport, Trust and Community** cohesively developed in projects. Vision and a common understanding between ranges of socio economic communities focused and developed in projects from the start. Communities involved in planning, implementing and monitoring actions.
- -Proper need assessment of the people's priorities in a range of issues, using more participatory approaches eg. **Participatory rural appraisals (PRAs) promoting localised vision of work plans in a more holistic manner.**
- Use of the '**participatory micro planning, (PMP) approach**', (eg village entry, informal regular-periodic village meetings, record keeping of the agreements in the meetings at the SHG levels, discussions, PRAs and related participative methodologies using the community problem analysis tool with communities, discussing and negotiating community priorities).
- Informal, issue based, **women self help groups (SHGs)**, forest groups, irrigation groups etc. as institutions to be developed in projects. The groups can be male, female and mixed and the agenda not imposed rather participatory in nature. Encourage regular meetings and proper documentation of decisions.
- Alternate livelihood options to be encouraged through SHGs for its members. Sharing and local initiatives to be encouraged. Non members not to be encouraged for actions in villages.
- SHGs encouraged to meet credit needs of poor through common decision making processes. Timely and cheap interest encourages more regular savings and links to banks for the schemes and access to more working capital.
- Increased participation of community (including women) in all project activities addressing both practical and strategic needs.
- Timely completion of actions/activities in the project. Constant and regular monitoring of the activities by the NGO and the communities.
- Enhance the **skills and capacities of a range of community volunteers**-resource grass root persons, (including both men and women) to plan, implement, manage and monitor resources and activities according to the village work plans. (1-8 months in the program, continual in nature and regularly enhancing during the project period).
- Developing a **long term vision within the project actions, with communities sharing costs, decisions and responsibilities.**
- Sustainability is a broader term and addresses a range of activities. There are few crucial points for sustainability which needs to be addressed within projects.
- Confidence amongst community so that they become aware and could fight for their rights, risks and vulnerabilities

- New Innovative idea needs to be tried in terms of the livelihoods options and new technologies
- Link to a range of partners, banks and institutions on a continued basis for better access and implementation of the programs.
- Building community skills, capacities particularly in management and operations of the accounts for actions maintaining clarity and transparency in actions.
- Ensure that during the project timeline/cycle a problem solving ability is developed in a range of people, ensuring a gender balance.
- Lateral spread of technologies, which are easy to adopt and manage; low cost; ensuring community and individual benefits.
- Communities enhanced incomes lead to a **reduced migration** and equity in both access of benefits and increased capacities, in particular with women and the poor.
- Enhanced quality of life for all socio economic categories of people in the project areas. No universal approaches will be encouraged, however the possible options and reasonableness that the communities lead to doing rather than getting the activities/subsidies.
- **Regular Co-financing is encouraged within project actions both in terms of in kind and in cash.** Linking SHGs with co-financers and establish livelihoods for them.
- Constant efforts to Influence on policy at all levels within the system and in particular with the governments and donors at local/state/central levels.

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