

Draft Minutes of the Workshop on “Promoting Sustainable Development through Community Participation”

Organized on 28th November, 2010

At KIIT School of Rural Management, Krishna Campus, KIIT University

Dec 2, 2010

A capacity building workshop on “Promoting Sustainable Development through Community Participation” was organized by CEE East on Nov 28, 2010 at KIIT School of Rural Management, Krishna Campus, KIIT University, Bhubaneswar. There were 52 members present representing 32 different govt. and non govt. organizations who participated in the workshop (Names of the participants are mentioned at the end).

Schedule:

Introduction to the workshop by Mr. P S Sodhi

Introduction of all the Participants

Talk by Dr. L K Vaswani, Director and Head, KIIT School of Rural Management

Talk by Mr. K Jude Sekar, PCCF, Orissa

Talk by Mr. Ambika Prasad Nanda, UNDP State Head (Orissa & Jharkhand)

Question & Answer Session

Tea Break

Talk by Mr. Christopher Honeyman, Consulting & Arbitration Specialist, Convenor, Wisconsin, Madison, USA

Talk by Ms. Elaine Andrews, Director, Environmental Resource Center, Univ. of Wisconsin

Launch of “Low Carbon Lifestyle” toolkit and Paryavaran Mitra Booklet.

Lunch

Discussion on toolkit

Presentation and discussion on Paryavaran Mitra

Presentation and discussion on Access to Energy

Concluding Session

1. Mr. P S Sodhi –

The capacity building workshop started at 11 AM with Mr. Sodhi introducing himself and CEE with the participants. He spoke about the main objectives behind this workshop was

-promoting sustainable development by providing a platform for all the **GEF/UNDP SGP Partners** to work together in developing a program in the coming OP 05 phase of the GEF. He also shared the operational guidelines of the new phase and how we now need to work out more measurable impacts in the SGP projects

-sharing the importance of the **low carbon lifestyles** and how each one of us can contribute by adopting simple measures and making sure to reduce the global and in country emissions

-developing a way forward for **the Paryavaran Mitra** environment issues for the schools.

He introduced all the members on the dais and requested all the participants to introduce themselves.

2. Dr. Vaswani –

Dr. Vaswani introduced himself and also introduced KIIT School of Rural Management.

- He said that the purpose of inviting CEE, and its partners to KSRM was to increase their interaction with the general public and NGO's of the eastern region.
- He also invited the participants to utilize the infrastructure established by KSRM, their students and also the faculty members for any community related projects.
- enhance the relations through more students involved with the GEF UNDP SGP through summer trainings in the more hands on assessments, facilitation in the projects with NGOs

3. Mr. Jude Sekar–

Mr. Sekar introduced himself and spoke on the occasion about the importance of **Joint Forest Management program implemented by Govt. of India**. He lauded the Orissa govt. for being a pioneer in its implementation since 1980's.

- He also presented the success of the Van Sanrakshan Samitis (VSS) of Orissa, and stressed on their importance as a community driven force to combat the degradation of forests.
- One of the participants put up a question about the degradation of the forests & scrubs on the hills near Bolangir to which he replied that these are very specific issues which are generally dealt by the local range officers. He went on to say that the Range officer will first assess the damage done to the region and instruct the local VSS members on the remedies that they need to take. Citing this question as an example he stressed on the importance of the community participation in curbing damage to the environment which leads a sustainable future.
- There was also another question related to the recent reports on Man-Animal conflicts on the sanctuary bordering villages. In response he said that these issues are being looked into and will be made a part of the Micro-planning for the specific regions. He also said that the process is already begun to mitigate these attacks, where discussions with the local tribal people to develop plans to mitigate these attacks.

4. Mr. Ambika Prasad -

He spoke about the recent changes in trend of charity to empowerment. He said that previously people used to support development in deprived regions by charity and service delivery, but they have observed that people at the receiving end are becoming more & more dependent on aid, which is not a healthy sign therefore now the emphasis has shifted towards empowering the deprived rather than providing them aid. Empowering the people also leads to rights based development which is healthy, democratic & sensible.

- He said that India is a leader in Progressive policies development, and the implementation of these policies has been due to the pressure from the civil society and also community. The community when acted as a whole has helped each & every person to lead a life with dignity.
- He quoted the Human Development Report and also stressed that people should participate in developing or planning policies.
- He made a very important point about Innovation and also cited some examples of innovation by SHG & Communities. He stated that Innovators are many but we need to connect them to the policy makers & then to the community where it is to be implemented.

5. Question & Answer Session:

After the talk of Mr. Nanda, the question & answer session was initiated by Mr. P.S.Sodhi

- There was a question about the failure of **Micro-Planning involving all stakeholders in planning their priorities and effective implementation in various schemes**; to this Mr. Sekar replied that the micro-planning is done in consultation with people, so the failure has to be attributed to

poor planning by the locals. Mr Sodhi added, that today we need to see the **planning as a process and encourage that more two way process** of using the social mappings etc are initiated at the community levels to agree the decisions, roles and responsibilities and also sharing costs.

- A forestation – The participants questioned the Post-plantation survival of the saplings & also why the plantations are of only timber based? Mr. Sekar replied that the survival of the saplings can only be guaranteed, if the community takes steps to check forest fires & over-grazing by cattle. It is again the question of the process approach that we at times do not follow up...
- There was also a question on the **ownership of the plantations**, Mr. Sekar answered that in a sustainable development initiatives should be a community property, once the terms are agreed between stakeholders, then it is easy that sharing of the benefits takes place. Mr Sodhi added that the lack of communications and trust at the local levels by the facilitators results in all this unsustainable practices emerging again and again.. .

6. Mr. Honeyman-

After the tea break, Mr. Honeyman started his discussions with a question to all participants, that each one needs to define on a problem being faced by each one next week on a group basis. 12 groups formed and all the groups combined shared a problem from the group. He then defined that problem into the meditation, negotiations and arbitration types. Later all the participants were explained as to how this was arrived at. He added that mostly the solution is conflict management of self interests.

He explained the way a mediator handles the cases and also ways of managing larger group of people. Discussed the different ways in which meditation, negotiations and arbitration takes place. Discussed that largely it is the mediation which is required but due to the lack of exposure/knowledge for a systems approach to mediation, we are unable to resolve the issues and many a times we are quick to respond.

7. Ms. Elaine Andrews-

Ms. Elaine shared the experience at Wisconsin, USA on Environment & sustainability community education through a presentation citing different examples. She described the techniques like audience assessment, engaging volunteers, recognition & training programs which they use for volunteer water monitoring, waste management, watershed management etc. to mobilize the community.

8. The “Low carbon Lifestyle” toolkit and Paryavaran Mitra Booklet were officially launched in Orissa by the guests followed by the lunch break.

9. Discussion on “Low carbon Lifestyle” toolkit –

Beginning the after lunch session, Mr. Sodhi explained briefly about the small grant, medium grant, & full scale programs of the UNDP to partners and argued them to go through the GEF website and know about GEF properly.

- Mr. Sodhi explained the Low Carbon Lifestyle toolkit to the participants present and mentioned that it is being trans-adapted in 20 other countries.
- Mr. Sodhi mentioned that there are 996 CWG partners with CEE all over India and argued the partners who have not signed the MoU to make it happen now and get the toolkits.

- On the request of Mr. Sodhi, Dr. Amlesh Mishra of PUPA and Mr. Samir Sahu of MBR explained the process of signing MoU with CEE, CWG partnerships they created, and the co-financing they generated.
- He discussed that how it is important that all join hands and partner the program and later all the participants were agreed to join the programs and wanted the formats etc to be given.
- Copies of the toolkit were shared with all the participants and a plan of action was developed and explained why we need to take up the toolkit to the general public. Many of the partners wanted more copies and 5 copies were given to each one and that more programs are planned.

10. Discussion on Paryavaran Mitra –

Mr. Sodhi explained the project Paryavaran Mitra (PM) followed by a presentation by Mr. Muntaz Khan on the project PM. He explained to all how the program is to be executed with the school children, the basic ethos of the program, the role of the PMs and also the role of the PA (Paryavaran Ambassador). He urged that all the partners need to take the program only for school children and in schools both at the urban and rural areas.

Mr. Sodhi asked the partners to take this action based project to all the schools with which they are having association. He explained the process that needs to be agreed with every partner and mentioned that the MoU to be signed with the partners for PM will be sent to them soon.

11. Discussion on Access to Energy -

Briefing about the project Access to Energy, Mr. Sodhi then asked Ms. Sikha Srivastava of UNDP to speak about the project.

- Ms. Sikha explained how the Village Energy Committees (VEC) have been formed through community mobilization and how they are deciding the modus operandi of the project.
- She mentioned that they are planning to study the impact of electrification on society & gender and accordingly upscale the finance for the project.
- Mr. Sodhi then explained how they did the micro-plan to implement the project which was followed by a presentation by Mr. Bibhu & Mr. Kalinga of CEE on the process and impact of the Access to Energy project on the community in the 5 project villages of Balasore district in Orissa.

12. Concluding Session-

In the concluding session,

- Mr. Sodhi showed a prototype of a **fuel efficient stove** that has become popular in the African country, Namibia, to the partners and argued them to test 2 no. of the stove in their project villages to analyze the impact in the Indian context.
- He argued **the SGP partners to bring innovativeness into their project proposals in the OP 05 phase and that this can be in**
 - Institutional,
 - Technological,
 - Economic,
 - Capacity Empowerment aspects

The workshop ended at 6 PM with the vote of thanks by Mr. Sodhi to the team and all the officials and participants.

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