

GEF SGP OP5 Workshop

Date: 21st to 23rd March 2012

Venue: National Institute of Agriculture Extension Management (MANAGE), Hyderabad

Organizer: Center for Environment Education (CEE)

Participants: Please find attached the list as Annexure I

The **Global Environment Facility (GEF)/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Small Grants Programme (SGP) Operational Phase (OP)5 Project Document** has been formally approved by the GEF CEO. OP5 is a large size program of 5-year duration with a total funding of US \$11 million (\$5 million from GEF), with strategic and thematic interventions.

In order to have a focused approach to accept the challenging task ahead of us, and also to come to a common level of understanding, a meeting of all Regional Coordinators (RCs) and the SGP team was organized and was held at Hyderabad from 21-23 March 2012, at the MANAGE campus. Colleagues from UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) had also joined the CEE officials at the workshop.

Objectives of the workshop:

- Discussing the outcomes/outputs/activities of the project document
- Drafting of the Standard Operating procedures (SOPs)
- Brainstorming on the COP-11 Event taking place at Hyderabad in October 2012 to discuss on the roles & responsibilities and the logistics arrangements of the national and international participants.

Day 1 - 21st March, 2012

Session I : GEF SGP Full Scale Project – A New Thinking

The 1st session of the 3 day workshop began with a warm welcome by Ms. Madhulika Singh. Mr. P.S. Sodhi gave a brief introduction of the speakers' present viz., Dr. V.P. Sharma, Director of MANAGE; Mr Shailendra Kumar Joshi, IAS, Principal Secretary, Irrigation Dept. Govt. of Andhra Pradesh; and Dr. Ruchi Pant, Programme Officer, UNDP.

Mr. Sodhi made a presentation on the background of SGP program in the last 12 years and highlighted some of the best practices as reported by the UNOPs audit in 2009, and also the details of co-financing accessed throughout including the commitments from MoEF (Ministry of Environment and Forests) and UNDP. He also shared the background on which the GEF SGP OP5 is going to be implemented from 2012 to 2017 and the role of CEE as the Executing Agency and also the role of UNDP as Implementing Agency and MoEF as Implementing Partner.

Mr. Shailendra Kumar Joshi complimented CEE on being the Executing Agency of GEF SGP OP5 and shared his experiences and involvement through MoEF in the early stage of GEF in 1992. He stressed on the GEF strategy to provide guidance and handholding support to the NGO partners. Mr. Joshi also described the mode of function of government in different scenario particularly at Centre, State and local bodies level and suggested that while executing the GEF SGP OP5, efforts should be made at all levels of the government department people to bring the convergence for the better sustainability of the programme. He emphasized to develop the personal rapport with good government officials and make CEE as the permanent resource centre. A word of caution was also said to the participants in identifying the right kind of NGO partners.

Dr. V.P. Sharma introduced the MANAGE as an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Agriculture in creating 'Employable Graduates' in the country. During the course of implementing the programme of GEF OP5, Dr. Sharma stressed on to build/develop the capacity of the system to monitor itself, which would be a self-sustainable mechanism. The various training programs being offered by MANAGE was discussed and it was suggested that the participants should explore the various opportunities to link their partner agencies. Dr. Sharma emphasized on various participatory monitoring and training process with the participants.

Dr. Ruchi Pant in her address to the participants highlighted how the civil societies would be directly involved in the GEF SGP unlike the other UNDP programs where government is the main partner. She said that process documentation at every stage of the program implementation is very important. The qualitative and quantitative outcome of each individual project needs to be measures so as to achieve the national target as mentioned in the country plan. She also discussed about the knowledge product being developed by various organizations through the SGP project and their exhibition in various places including the Green Haat at Delhi Haat. Dr Pant shared that UNDP would be co-financing one million dollar to the GEF SGP OP5 in India for the 5 years i.e. from 2012 to 2017.

Session II: SGP- A Step towards Sustainable Development

The following points were discussed during the Session:

- Expectations from the Workshop
- Expectations of UNDP from SGP
- Proposal Development Systems, SOPs and Documents
- Project Titled "Access to Energy"

Mr. P.S. Sodhi, National Coordinator, GEF UNDP SGP discussed about the expectations of the workshop and highlighted the following key points in details.

- Participatory Monitoring, Trainings for team (SOP) + Partners: Indicators.
- Building capacities of NGOs to monitor their local institutions health and taking remedial measures.
- Log frame finalization before inception
- Process documentation needs to be understood
- Understand what challenges lay ahead
- Need to create visibility
- Technical capacity building in GEF focal area particularly measurements of results.

- Derive indicators and how to measure indicators.

Besides these key points, he also emphasized the need of handholding the NGOs and SGP partners. The need of baselines, measurability of project activities and outputs with respect to environmental benefits were also discussed. The institutional framework of GEF SGP in the OP5 was also discussed. Mr. Sodhi also mentioned that out of the 132 countries in which GEF SGP is being implemented globally, 10 countries were selected for upgrading and India is also one of them.

He requested all the SGP staffs to send him the Semi Annual Reports and the list of proposals which are good to be upgraded. The list was requested to be submitted by the second day of the workshop (22nd March 2012). Ms. Ruchi Pant, discussed about the expectations from the workshop. Mr. Anil Arora, talked about the grant timeline and the need to accomplish the project implementation and executing funds till March 2015.

Mr. D.P. Rath, Regional Coordinator, CEE East shared his experience on the project development of medium scale project on Electricity in villages. He shared the strategy on selection of villages, demographic baseline and technical baselines. He also highlighted the community need assessment the project team conducted and the experience of the formation of the local institutions- Village Electric Communities (VECs) through SHG, one in each village; and the skill building of local men/women in the villages. He also shared the experience and lessons learnt in the project.

Mr. Sodhi and Mr. Rath talked about the new SGP website. A discussion was initiated by Mr. Sodhi whether to keep the invitation for SGP project proposals open for the all year round or closed in a specific timeline. The discussion had a consensus conclusion that it should be open all the year round so that the reach to the NGOs and CBOs is maximum. Mr. Sodhi and Ms. Ruchi also shared that the GEF authorized FAO, UNIDO, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank (WB) and Asia Development Bank (ADB) to implement medium and large scale projects. Mr. Sodhi stressed on the need of developing linkages with donors and handholding to capacitate the NGOs and partners.

He also discussed that the purpose of SOP development will be accomplished by forming three teams to analyse the SOPs. The GEF 5 CEO Endorsement in India was discussed constantly during the session.

Mr. Sodhi and Mr. Arora shared that the GEF SGP OP5 will have total grant fund for about 35,000/- USD and about 196 projects will be funded. It was stressed that to update the project cycle, we need to utilize the fund in time by March 2015 and continue till 2017. The need of helping the organization to have linkages for co-financing, institutionalization of the communities, and cross learning and knowledge sharing of the partners; was also emphasized on.

All the SGP staffs were suggested to develop baseline data for the proposals that need to be upgraded. On project level the importance of the following was stressed upon; resource mobilization, visibility, marketing, handholding to other project donors, awards and linkages with the Government of India. The need of Memorandum of Agreement for the institutionalization of the organization and communities was also discussed. It was also shared

that in the new SGP OP5 phase there will be no stage of Concept Paper Submission but direct Proposals will be submitted.

Day 2 – 22nd March,2012

Session III - Experience sharing on Development Practices

The first session of the day two began with a welcome and introduction of the speakers of session and brief recapturing of previous day's highlights.

Dr. Sanghi, Dryland Agriculture expert from Central Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad delivered the first talk of the day - 'Reforms in Delivery Mechanisms for Paradigm Shift in Farming – Emerging Experiences'. Dr. Sanghi began with understanding existing knowledge of the participants on community institutionalization such as CBOs, NGOs and so on. Introducing the existing trends in delivery mechanism in agriculture sector, he shared the examples of production systems like - system of rice intensification (SRI), non-pesticidal methods for pest management (NPM), 'Water for All' or collective sharing of irrigation water from bore wells with example from water scarce Anantpur district, diversification of crops, empowerment of fishermen and social regulation against overexploitation of natural resources. In his opinion it was more of a 'top down approach' and delivery mechanisms require reforms based on participatory management practices.

Dealing with the components of desirable delivery mechanisms he emphasized on the importance of participatory extension management with new role of government as facilitator involving para-statal organizations by up-scaling successful experiences and educational inputs from Farmers' Field Schools. Decentralized and participatory financial management with more emphasis on low cost inputs producing high returns, participatory social audits – both financial and implementation and necessary capacity building is a crucial delivery mechanism said Dr. Sanghi.

Highlighting the importance of strengthening multiple organizations Partnerships for effective delivery he described the stages of the process. He concluded by recommending for a reform in entire delivery system for up scaling and main streaming.

Dr. C.S. Reddy founder and Chief Executive Director, APMAS, the next speaker of session presented an overview on the self help group bank linkages in India through his presentation " 2 Decades of SHG Banking in India – Progress, Issues, challenges and Future Prospects". He categorically stated that the sustainability of the institutions depends on the stake of members and institutions become sustainable only when the members wish so. Leadership is important in keeping them vibrant and he cited the example of MYRADA which believes in the rotation of leadership. If the groups/ institutions have matured and achieved the purpose of their formation, no harm in their breaking to avoid the fatigue factor and generation of new ideas he stated and supported his statement through the quote 'Mutation is part of Human Development'. He listed the core values for institutions as – Self reliance; concern for quality; gender equity and social inclusions; transparency and accountability; participation and democracy; continuous learning. He also talked about the rating of NGOs and presented SHG banking sheet in India providing eye opening figures. India has most diverse and self managed CBOs in the world but SHG savings are badly managed. Unfortunately, the NGOs are becoming more system oriented following SOPs (standard operating procedures), guidelines and number based targets rather than

human value based system, particularly the frontline staff lacking vision and understanding beyond tasks and SOPs he opined. Raising concerns over the poor financial literacy of the SHGs he pointed out that the bank procedures were also not very user friendly. Touching upon the interest free lending to SHGs in parts of country he also brought in the issue of political capture of SHGs/Federations and concluded that subsidies reduce the ownership and self reliance. He recommended that long term development plans of up to a decade's duration not only promote and sustain institutions but also lead to desired results.

Session IV: Planning COP program

Dr. Hampaiah, Chairman, Andhra Pradesh(AP) Bio-diversity board, threw light on the Biodiversity Act and the functioning of AP State Biodiversity Board and its activities. Mr. Hampaiah gave an outlook about the Conference of Parties (COP) 11 which is planned to be held at Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC) from 1st -19th October 2012. The expected number of participants from 194 countries is estimated to be 8000. The program will be honored by the President and the Vice President inaugurating the event. 90 Forest Ministers from all over the World will be attending the COP 11 summit. 14 teams have been formulated to prepare for the hosting of the entire event.

Dr. Hampaiah then briefed the participants of the workshop about 'Biodiversity' as "Variety and variability among species, genes and ecosystems". Biodiversity helps to balance the nature on its own. For instance if a pair of rat is left on its own they could produce 1,72,00,000 rats in a year thus nature has its own way to control it. He mentioned about some of the rare and indigenous varieties of flora and fauna, for example: foxtail millets, Ginseng, Garcinia, Noni, etc. He also mentioned that, India is well known for its rich biodiversity. While giving an outlook of the Biodiversity Act he affirmed that 'harming biodiversity is a cognizable and non bail-able offence'.

Dr. Thamizoli representing National Biodiversity Authority of India (NBAI) made a presentation about the NBA's partnership with GEF UNDP SGP in the context of Biodiversity and Livelihood. He highlighted about Community of Practice on Biodiversity and Livelihood which is an online forum for learning and sharing.

Mr. Satish Awate raised a very important issue of Biocultural Protocol and Provisions under The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Act (PPVFR), he also asked if there is any provision for research agencies to access people's biodiversity register. Dr. Thamizoli explained that there are two gene banks in the country where farmers can register the plant variety on their name. Mr. Satish shared a concern whether reverse access from the gene banks is happening or its only one way functioning. Dr. Thamizoli clarified that reverse action is very much possible only in case if the farmer has lost the copy of his registration document in that case it would be difficult to get into the process of exchange of varieties with that farmer.

The discussion brought in to light many issues related to biodiversity conservation and its impact in present scenario.

Session V: Visit to the COP Venue

All the workshop participants in the leadership of Dr.Hampaiah visited the massive COP 11 venue i.e. HICC.

HICC is managed by Accor and jointly owned by Emaar Properties PJSC Dubai and Andhra Pradesh Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd. HICC is the first purpose-built and state-of-the-art convention facility, the first of its kind in South Asia. HICC in every aspect, be it infrastructure, services or technology, compares with the best in the world. It has an internal hall measuring 6,480 square meters, which can be partitioned into six smaller halls.

Mr. Jacob, Senior Manger HICC informed about how idea of HICC was conceptualized when India was planning to host an International event and ex-Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu took initiative in the year 2006 to build this Convention Centre. It has 6 big halls and 24 small halls with equipped stations for security, IT, Organizer’s room, and etc. 5500 people can sit together in one hall at a time. Big corporate events like product launching, etc are being hosted in the centre. The first in its class convention centre in India boost of its conversion from banquet to an auditorium setting by the touch of a button.

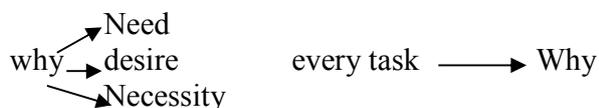
More information about the venue could be accessed on www.hicc.com

Session VI – Development of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the GEF SGP CEE

Dr V. P Sharma joined us again on the on the second day for the VIth session. He again very briefly discussed MANAGE its achievement and its affiliation with exercising innovations to strengthen developmental practices. He shared information about various such institutes in different part of the country and provided the name specifically, for each region and suggested to visit the organization’s website for more such information. The need to visit these institutes and departments by the Regional officers/coordinators was felt and the benefit of establishing linkages with these agriculture institute and departments shared clearly.

Dr. Sharma explained the need of participatory approach through various examples and shared the various aspects of accessing the information for taking a decision to impact the project/programme positively. He covered most of the aspects related to project management and carried out some exercises, involving the participants to explain his point further.

A need to know the what why and how was felt before implementing a project, he mentioned that



Explaining the incidents he shared an experience of a project he has done with J & K Trust, it was a live stock related project in which MANAGE was involved for Monitoring and Evaluation. During the course of interaction with the stakeholders he receives more information from a person who had very less livestock. Therefore he stressed on the need to be receptive about any piece of information without a prior mindset. He also stressed on the benefit sharing mechanism stating that everyone involved need to be benefited.

One another example was shared with the participants by involving them it was
Preparation Action

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 1% | 99% |
| 99% | 1% |

PT Usha's effort was considered to be an example where when compared 1% time goes into preparation and 99% in action and stark opposite is the case with disaster management where preparation requires more time. He stressed on the importance of review planning and action for achieving the set goals.

Day 3 - 23rd March, 2012

Session VII, VIII AND IX: Development of the SOPs for the GEF SGP, CEE

Mr. Sodhi discussed GEF incremental benefit (IB)/cost benefit. IB is currency valuation. E.g. No. of SHGs get access finance, cook stove reduces Co2 emission. Mr. Sodhi cited an example of Vivekanand, an NGO where 100 biogas plants reduce 540 million ton carbon emissions. He mentioned few other examples like 100 SHG members get access to finance and saving of 20000 INR, additional income of RS. 15/per day, due to saving of time for fuel wood collection etc.

Mr. Sodhi also discussed GEFability – It is to convert in value term the benefit – Saving, Land under productivity, vegetable production and nutrition increase, fodder and milk production.

Mr. Sodhi also discussed green haat and community voices (CV) that are to be a part of COP 11. The following points were discussed:

- Green haat, From 2nd till 22 -3 people should be with one partner
- SGP Group -RC
- The partner should have the material /product in sufficient quantity
- Project packaging should be done in proper way which should have all the logos clearly
- Community voices (CV)– 13.00 to 17.00 – 2-3 NGO participants attend the – 1 women must, 300 sq. mt., TV, Computer, Poster space, Map, brochure, location map, product info, village/PRA map. 3 % knowledge management can be used. Video clip, product composition, product packaging with logo
- Regional Coordinator cyclic participation, 3 in each cycle.
- Finalized schedule will be sent by April End to RC from Mr. Anil Arora
- Minimum product for Green Haat – 100 Travel and boarding by SGP. Staff will be interpreters.
- CV - Have community based livelihood.
- What community has done will be the key of the CV.
- CV is the first time initiative in COP 11
- No controversial issues to be raised.

Mr. Arora and Mr. Sodhi also discussed the formats of proposal. The following points were discussed:

- Activities are written in plan of action; budget and outcome/output should be same.

- Consultations/guidance should not be provided to all NGOs only good NGOs should be considered.
- Discuss SGP-OP5 indicators in details. – keep relevant indicators only.
- Cross cutting themes are important and especial focus should be given to indicators, IB and GEFability.
- Quarterly Progress Report should be based on indicators
- Keep in constant touch with the NGOs, at least once in a month.
- Give comments on phone and if necessary in writing to National Coordinator and NGOs.
- Write letter to District Collector when the project is sanctioned.
- Linkages with the middle level officials should be maintained.

A presentation was made by Dr. K. Balasubramanian, Chairman, NonFerrous Materials Technology Development Centre (NFTDC), who joined the workshop on the last day, on organizational complexities and knowledge creation and knowledge integration. His presentation talked about knowledge in depth and how knowledge can be integrated with technology.

Mr. Sodhi discussed the Intel supported project titled “Together we can! – Harnessing the power of green lifestyles in youth” and the Archaeological Survey of India supported project titled “Cultural Awareness workshops” with the participants

Mr. Sodhi conducted an exercise on “WHO IS POOR” with the participants.

Mr. Sodhi closed the workshop by thanking all the participants and speakers.

ANNEXURE I

List of the speakers:

- Dr. V.P. Sharma, Director of MANAGE.
- Mr Shailendra Kumar Joshi, IAS, Principal Secretary, Irrigation Dept. Govt. of Andhra Pradesh.
- Dr. Ruchi Pant, Programme Officer, UNDP.
- Dr. R. Hampaiah, Chairman, Andhra Pradesh(AP) Bio-diversity board.
- Dr. P. Thamizoli, National Biodiversity Authority of India (NBAI).
- Dr.N.K.Sanghi, Dryland Agriculture expert from Central Institute for Dryland Agriculture, Hyderabad.
- Dr. C.S. Reddy, Founder and Chief Executive Director, APMAS.
- Dr. K. Balasubramanian, Chairman, NonFerrous Materials Technology Development Centre (NFTDC).

List of officials from CEE:

- Mr. Prabhjot Sodhi
- Mr. D.P. Rath
- Mr. Anil Arora
- Ms. Rashmi Gangawar

- Mr. Jitesh Yona
- Mr. Satish Kumar
- Mr. Satish Awate
- Mr. Mukesh C
- Mr. Ramesh Salvia
- Mr. Bijoy Goswami
- Mr. Joseph Kujur
- Mr. Sameer Dutta
- Ms. Indira Prakash
- Ms. Swarnamayee Aheibam
- Ms. Madhulika Singh
- Mr. Bibhu Prasad Tripathy
- Ms. Hemlata Kumari
- Mr. Ashok Kumar