Minutes of Partners Meeting-cum-Workshop

Date: 12-06-2015

Venue: Mahatma Phule Samaj Seva Mandal (MPSSM), District Solapur, Maharshtra

The meeting was opened with a brief introduction of all the 11 participants. Mr. Sodhi talked about UNDP GEF SGP and how it works establishing partnership with NGOs working in areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change, land degradation, waste management, etc. He also spoke about the need to understand the expectations of the partners and the needs of the community. He added the purpose of the workshop is to meet with the expectations of our stakeholders, i.e. Government of India, State and Districts Government, GEF UNDP.

The GEF UNDP SGP programme is operational in 134 countries and India is recipient of the highest grant, i.e. US \$15 million so far. This makes us answerable to any queries that come from any of our stakeholders and it is the SGP's moral responsibility to satisfy their requirements as the top most priority.

India receives US \$140/150 million as the GEF grants every cycle of 4 years but there are no proposals received for FSP and MSP from NGO partners. The partners do not even apply for various awards; talks and workshops that are announced nationally and internationally — the excellent work being done by our partners is, therefore, not recognized beyond their territories, and thus limits their influence on policy level and decision making; and also unfortunately do not effectively empower communities.

He also shared the idea of result based monitoring system, and shared that it is being followed at by other countries and we are, therefore, influencing at the policy level. He also talked about the success of Biodiversity Green Haat organized at MoEF&CC from 6th to 12th April, 2015 with support of our project partners displaying their products and linking them with market. This provided a great exposure to the work being done by our partners. He also emphasized that our NGO partners should become a member of Global GEF NGO Network, who will continue to receive regular information of the good work done and also the various awards announced globally.

It was also felt that the NGO partners should also send us updates from time to time on their achievements and good resolution photos so they can be uploaded – a photos to have good captions clearly mentioned.

Mr. Sodhi also discussed on work being done for capacity building of partner NGOs:

- Leadership development and confidence building to share their knowledge and experience
- Identifying technologies and skill development for linking their products with market
- Capacity building on awareness and usefulness of activities, briefing on nutritional value of local variety of food items, like millets and medicinal plants, etc.

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- Technological awareness on soil contents, soil erosion to improve the land quality for increased production
- Systematic approach in farm recharge, rain water harvesting, waste management
- Use of local technologies to suit the local needs like local construction material for biogas and cook stoves
- Use of folk and cultural media for awareness raising
- Providing specific occupational skills
- Sensitizing the communities on limited resources and identify the real problems, crises and the sustainable practices
- Developing local level institutions for people who are controlling the resources, and making awareness of their legal rights

The meeting ended with vote of thanks and partner NGOs shared their contacts with each other.

Enclosed: List of Participants

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