

**MINUTES OF CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP  
7-9 JULY 2015, AT IIFM CAMPUS, BHOPAL**

**7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015:**

After a formal welcome and self-introduction by the participants, Mr. Sodhi explained the purpose of the workshop. He gave an overview of what the SGP program is and how the GEF funding mechanism works. The composition of the Regional Committees and the NSC and how the SGP PMU provides support was explained. The expectations of the GEF were explained as under:

- 1) Baseline development;
- 2) Having clear measurability in activities;
- 3) Ensuring sustainability of actions;
- 4) Institutionalization;
- 5) Environmental benefits;

Mr. Sodhi explained how the reports should be submitted and what it should constitute of and how the impacts need to be defined in the reports.

The expectations of the UNDP from the partners were also explained, as under:

- 1) What is the additionality SGP is bringing;
- 2) Gender equality and focus on women empowerment;
- 3) Resilient and empowered communities and clear indicators relating to this;
- 4) Documentation and clear impacts.

The expectations of the MoEF&CC from partners/projects were explained, as under:

- 1) Link to the District Collector on each project in the respective project areas;
- 2) Leverage the funds, resources, knowledge and practices with different Central, State and District Programs;
- 3) Link with State KVKs, SBBs and related programs of various ministries;

The expectations of SGP are:

- 1) Strengthening the communities;
- 2) Explore possibilities of scaling up and linking the local skills in managing resources
- 3) Proper reporting on project impacts, clear quantitative and qualitative aspects, use of various formats including UCs.

Above all he expressed that the local communities too have their vision, intent and needs and which is what the projects should consider focus and sustainability.

**Dr. P.S. Bundela, M.P. Pollution Control Board:**

He opened with the appreciation for the work done by Sarthak in Bhopal is worth admiring and is in the right direction. Dr. Bundela informed that he wanted to do it in Jabalpur when he was posted there and is happy to see the way it has taken a shape in Bhopal. He explained that all the human actions focus on environment. The MPPCB ensures enforcement of laws of the Pollution Control Board. Dr. Bundela encouraged the participants to work towards

good results, but with environmentally sound solutions. The pollution is a burning issue and the NGOs should take up projects relating to pollution control to align with the Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Programme. The MPPCB has done a lot of research work on waste disposal and the NGOs should pick up such quality projects. The NGOs should take up awareness programs and the beginning should be done from their own area to bring in a real change. During the Stockholm Convention, the member countries took decisions to bring in Pollution Control Acts in the respective countries. Dr. Bundela explained about the Water Cess, Air Pollution Control, Environment Act, Biomedical Waste rules, Hazardous Waste Rules, Municipal Solid Waste Rules, Ozone Depleting Substances Rules, The Batteries Management Rules, Plastic Management Rules, E-waste Rules, to serve as deterrent for the pollution.

**Mr. Shashikant Tripathi, Advisor, Jan Abhiyan Parishad, Govt of Madhya Pradesh:**

He spoke about human development and spoke that the development should not be limited to personal development. The overall development comes from community development. The crimes cannot be prevented because of the rules but through empowerment of the poor and inclusive growth of the marginalized. The self realization can only lead us to development and the beginning should be done from ourselves. Environmental data and its awareness do not lead one to environment protection. The action should start from ourselves and this is how the environment protection can take place. The action-oriented approach can only result into environment protection. The community development was explained through spiritual examples of mankind and group benefits rather than individual benefits.

**Dr. Pramthesh Ambasta:** He spoke that the SGP is a small grant but if it serves as additionality it is quite valuable, especially in the poor and tribal belts. It is important that the serious and deserving NGOs should be supported. We should meet with the expectations of the NSC by developing quality proposals. The Central India's tribal belt is the most backward area and we should keep a balance between environment and livelihood. The environmental protection can only be dealt with at the local level through the community level approach. All the success stories of SGP have come out from the community level approach only. The SGP grant may appear little, but the visibility is high of the actions from the areas where the intervention was most needed. We need to bring in partnerships and linkages with the government programs to expand the impacts and the scope of activities. Many success stories have come out of SGP especially where capacity building of women self help groups has worked well. In our proposals, we should also aim at market linkages to ensure sustainable operations. The SGP is an exciting program and if we show good impacts, a very strong case emerges for supporting the projects.

Mr. Sodhi invited expectations of the participants from the Workshop which were listed out on the writing Board. The main topics on which the participants were interested in are:

- 1) Possibility of SGP in urban areas
- 2) GEF Focus areas in detail;
- 3) Reporting;
- 4) Community co-financing and funding
- 5) Format discussions on proposals

The participants gave presentations, one by one, as under:

**Bhagirath Gramvikas Pratishtan:** Working in 65 villages and 5,000 biogas units have been set up with the help of 60 SHGs. The baseline data collection is done for the number of animals before taking a decision to set up a unit for each household. They are putting up three models of biogas units, (1) bricks; (2) ferro-cement; and (3) bamboo models. 450 biogas units will be made under SGP in 50 villages. Two fodder plots will be developed. For each 2 cum unit, Rs.2,800 is paid by the beneficiary and Rs.9,000 is the subsidy availed. NABARD and NGO will provide the balance. Bhagirath provides training for 10 days at a cost of Rs.6,000 including boarding and lodging wherein two units are made in front of the trainees. Those who are interested in visiting and getting the training can get in touch with them directly or through SGP.

**Gram Sudhar Samiti:** Working in Sidhi district with Baigas, the PVTGs. They will set up seed banks and do organic farming. They invited Sarjana to their site to get trained on SRI technique in growing rice. They have made a Producer Company and have 150 members. They have obtained Rs.25.64 lacs as co-financing and have linked up with MNREGA and have set up 9 ponds and 4 check-dams. Five new SHGs have been developed. 100 new local varieties of rice will be conserved.

Mr. Sodhi suggested that all data relating to irrigation, cultivable land, forest land etc. should be developed. The organic farming should be certified through Participatory Guarantee System. Lok Panchayat is doing it in the SGP project and those interested can visit them. The details of SRI project should be sent to Mahatma Phule. NBPGR has developed a format to show conserved varieties and we should get our varieties registered and should also list out contents on our products.

**Dr. Ashis Mondal, ASA (Mobile: 09425010783. Email: [asa@asabhopal.org](mailto:asa@asabhopal.org)):** They work in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh on farm based livelihoods., with 300 professionally qualified persons and work in 1300 villages and with 1,40,000 persons. They linked water to agriculture and felt this is the basic requirement of farmers as the rain-fed agriculture is a mere gamble. They work on three foundations, i.e. water, agriculture and agri-business through SHGs. They have included women as farmers, including providing training to them on agricultural practices. They are not chasing the donors any more since 2011 but depend upon MNREGA for water and accessed a co-financing of Rs.67.0 crores in Madhya Pradesh last year. Mr. Sodhi insisted that we should take a pride in doing the NGO work and spend sufficient time in systematic planning.

**Dr. Arun R. Joshie (Mobile: 7869501992. Email: [ceo.asadevelopmentservices@gmail.com](mailto:ceo.asadevelopmentservices@gmail.com)):** The agriculture is no more a technology-oriented subject but it is now more of an institution-centric and process-centric topic. The Government is also going to announce a National Agriculture Market Organization. Agriculture is still an unorganized sector inspite of changing marketing scenario, and entry of multinational organizations. The formation of Producer Companies became an Act in 2003 according to which 10 or more members can form a Producer Company. The Producer Company can be registered at the Regional Registrar of Companies. There are 1,46,000 members and 80-90 Producer Companies are operational in Madhya Pradesh. The composition and conditions of a Producer Company (Farmers Interest Groups) were explained. The Farmers Groups can have better negotiation of price and can reduce substantial transaction cost. The Producer Companies relating to Fish and Milk are not getting registered as no written or unwritten guidelines are provided or decisions taken by the Government for this sector.

**8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015:**

The participants were invited one-by-one to give their presentation, as under:

**Dharti:** The project is on “Securing and enhancing agricultural land and livelihood opportunities among Saharia tribe in Vijaypur Block of Sheopur District to deal with 15 villages, 3175 households and 17508 persons in a highly backward area. They will focus on minor forest produce (including honey), on-farm and off-farm activities, the capacity building and marketing. The traditional skills will be developed and 500 smokeless cook-stoves will be introduced.

Mr. Sodhi suggested that partners like GSMT and The Serve India are doing a good job on honey and the partners who are interested in knowing should make a learning visit to adopt the best practices. Mr. Sodhi desired that the learning from the Workshop should be adopted in the projects and these could be taken up as additional activities in the respective projects.

**Dr. G. Kinhal:** Mr. Kinhal spoke about not blaming the government and the facilities but more focus should be on doing the activities on the ground. He informed that having worked with FRLHT, Bangalore for 7-8 years, the culture and concepts of NGOs are deeply engraved in his mind. Mr. Kinhal spoke about formulating the Producer Companies. Everyone who is producing the goods can benefit from the Producer Company as it is a direct value chain link. The focus should be on generating ideas and meticulously planning and taking them to the conclusion. There is no shortage of funds for any good work and a concept.

**Lokmata Rani:** Kultali and Gosaba Blocks are the most vulnerable blocks which are the target villages of the project which fall under Coastal Zonal Region 1. The entire dependence for livelihood is only on agriculture and fisheries but the agriculture is no more profitable because for six months the water is logged and for the remaining six months there is no water available for agriculture. The communities have no skills for alternate livelihoods and under the project the skill development will be done for 350 persons. The project will also support 500 fuel-efficient cook-stoves to reduce dependence on the fuel from forests. 50 indigenous varieties of seeds and 30 locally extinct varieties of fish will be conserved. They will link up with State Biodiversity Board. SRI technique will be adopted for sowing rice. The NGO desired to know the right varieties of grass and fodder that can be put up on the embankments. Mr. Sodhi suggested them to link up the West Bengal Agricultural Research Institute who will provide the most appropriate varieties. The NGO was also informed that there are special funds available from MoEF&CC, GoI for setting up jetties in the Sunderbans area that can support their initiative on strengthening the embankments.

**What is an Innovation:** Mr Sodhi Facilitated a discussion on what do we understand by innovation. A side discussion emerged on what is innovation. While discussing the innovations, an NGO partner shared lot of thoughts and a good deliberations happened:

- adapting to changing scenario is innovation. If the government reduces the subsidies on a particular type of toilet, there are other options available with local material to adapt to more economical models.
- The ferro-cement toilets and bamboo biogas units have been adopted and patent is being applied for are technological innovations.
- An NGO *informed that innovations are not imposed, but they emerge out of local needs, discussions and added that it is the process. He shared how they improvised in*

*fitting simple technology to reduce drudgery.* For carrying feedstock for poultry, a local rail track line (1 feet broad) was laid for 200 meters long rather than hand carry the produce and raw materials through small open wagons with capacity of 25/35 kgs and this means of improvisation/created an innovation.

- As per Nishwarth, Gabion structure formation in remote *Sahariya PTG tribe and they designing and fixing issues around green plantations* is also an innovation in terms of process followed in setting up simple measures of soil harvesting through their own labour.
- As per Paramparagat, the medicines with high impacts were produced with proper systems in testing and validation but lacked marketing because of packaging and hence adapting to address the market needs through local people managing the value chain through rigorous trainings is also an innovation.
- Another NGO informed that many a times there is a hesitation in adopting new things, but when it is practiced the results emerge and become demonstration models and bring good results.
- Mr Sodhi shared how Sujagrati by planting Guggal on ravines through effective collection of seeds locally and then the harvesting of the guggal through the use of sickles forms many a ways of innovation.
- The disposal of waste toothpaste tubes was a problem with Sarthak's waste management project and now they are being used to crush and convert into a sheet which is being used for serving as a roof which is a better substitute for plastic sheets has been finding local solutions to global problems.
- One partner shared that Innovation is all about Processes, Actions and Technologies. Mr Sodhi then explained on the issues how we need to look into the projects and clearly write about innovations which include how designs improvised to meet the needs of people. **Shared the ideas on Transformational Thinking:**
  - It is all about doing more on what we do good, what factors will make it more sustainable and remunerative
  - Also do something which we have not done, tried and do it differently in a manner to ensure sustainability.
- Mr. Sodhi requested while sending QPRs and MTR Reports, the partners should provide details of innovations properly happening in their projects. Also guided the new partners to carefully define Innovation and Creativity
- Mr. Sodhi informed that innovation is not only the adoption of technology alone, it can be adopting new systems, practices and finding solutions. The focus should be on innovation for improved environmental practices. *It is Unique, not regular based on local requirements.*
- Idea development , interpretation one to one meetings, links to institutions, stakeholders
- Thinking of a **long term perspective** and not a 'one off grant' mechanism
- **Scaling up** efforts which are simple, cost effective and easy to understand and practical to delivery
- **Creating** wider visions i.e. results, benefits and impacts-exchange visits-lessons
- Encouraging **community led mechanisms** and management systems e.g. federated groups.
- *Innovation is Generation, acceptance and implementation of new ideas, processes, products and services resulting in profit.*
- *Innovation is also Install Peer Learning Approach; Inputs of NewKnowledge. Excursions; Reproduction of Knowledge in a public Seminar; Skills to transfer, back new knowledge to familiar context*

**Nishwarth Samiti:** They are working with Sahariya primitive tribal groups in Karahal Block in Sheopur District with a focus on improving their livelihoods by rejuvenating the local resources where 50% of the population is landless. They will work in 7 Gram Panchayats in 19 villages and 2059 households. The project will improve agro ecology and ensure sustainable biodiversity, also ensure increased agricultural productivity and increased minor forest produce with market linkages. They will also promote smokeless chulhas for reducing dependence on forests. They will start developing micro-plans for each Gram Sabha and develop baselines.

**Paramparagat:** The project is managed through the Chattisgarh Traditional Healers' Association. They have been working since 2004 on medicinal plants, treatment and diseases, giving courses, etc. Dr. Nirmal Awasthi told that the saplings are grown in nursery and then transferred to cultivation plots by the SHGs. BMC and PBR are formed to help in ABS. There are 60 SHGs. He shared how they generate Rs.10,00,000/- as co-financing annually by collecting 50 paise monthly by 5000 sadhus.

**Spandan:** The NGO shared about the millet based project in Khandwa wherein the main activities are: to check soil erosion; undertaking micro-planning; promotion of traditional millet crops; and awareness generation on the importance of traditional millets cultivation. They have 80 gene banks. They shared the main difficulty in millet processing and marketing is the de-hulling and trashing of millets. For this they have linked with ICRISAT. For the 300 smokeless cook stoves, they have taken technical support from AKSP. They are planning to develop BCC material in the local language and are also promoting Afro-asian language. The CPM briefed about Jeevan Amruth and the importance of lab test for organic manure to prove authenticity.

**Swantantra Yuva Shakti Sangathan (SYSS):** The NGO shared briefed about their project on "Community action to reduce pressure on forest through sustainable land use" in 7 villages of Seoni District in Madhya Pradesh. The main activities covered by them are -

1. Smokeless chullahs
2. Training on making Agarbatti, Lakh, Dona Patta and marketing these products.
3. Organic farming of Minor millets and their marketing;
4. NTFPs collection and marketing
5. Training on Tailoring and marketing;
6. Poultry culture (Kadarnath, Deshi breed)
7. Vegetable seed distribution for kitchen gardens
8. Alternate energy resource - biogas plant
9. Distribution of seeds for Desi Rice and Fodder varieties
10. Pond, bund and well formation through MNREGA.

They also shared that the Lakh costs about Rs. 200-300/- per kg. Solar cooker is not that successful as they can only make rice and dal and not roti and sabji. Many NGOs requested the CPM to suggest on the millet dehulling machines as the one given by ICIA does not leave behind the quality seeds. They also emphasized that the better seeds increase the productivity by 20%. The CPM suggested that the partners should include the names of tribes in their reports. The NGO shared that under the CSR program of Jagarhi, the cooker costs Rs. 500/- per farmer.

**Mr. P.S. Sodhi:** Mr. Sodhi explained the difference between renewable energy and energy efficiency and how to calculate the CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction from various activities. The calculation of fire-wood v/s. CO<sub>2</sub> emission reduction was explained. The partners were informed of the expectations of *GEF in terms of measurable results and how GEF is different from other donors*. The partners were asked to link up with State Biodiversity Boards. The details, rules and regulations of forming the BMCs were explained and the website of NBA was explained.

Mr. Sodhi suggested that it is preferable not to make biogas units of more than 2 cum for each household as biogas units of more than this capacity can have problems for the households. *In many States, the State Governments provide subsidy only up to 2 cum for HH and opting for a capacity more than this is not suitable financially also with small and marginal farmers, when they have 2/3 livestock.*

**GSMT:** The project will be in 8 villages of PVTGs in Zari Jamani, Rai Gaon, Tatanji Blocks of Yavatmal District. The income for the community is from NTFP and with vanishing NTFP resources, suicide cases started going up in the area. The project mainly focuses on livelihoods through NTFP, like honey/gum collection by institutionalization and setting up federations. They established a Producer Company two years back. They are using the smokeless cook-stove technology from Arti and **linked this with Forest Department and have planned to have cook-stove for each household**. This is more like a policy impact in their own area. Each cook-stove, with pipe is costing about Rs.600/-. They want to double up the production of honey collection from 22 kg to 50 kg and are procuring the packaging machine from Wardha.

**Dr. Arun R. Joshie – Address on Business Model in the Rural Context:** The Government has identified 42 occupational skill-packs and standards based on global standards. He explained different business models, like Super Market model, Farmer Entrepreneur Model, Contract Farming, Cooperative Model, Farmers Producer Companies, Farmer as full owner and decision maker – FPCs.

Mr. Sodhi suggested that the grants are not to stay for long. The partners should look at business approaches and develop ideas and link and leverage from other sources.

**Sarthak:** In the year 2008, the average generated waste was 250 gms which has gone up to 400 gms now. The quantity of waste has now gone up in Bhopal from 450 MTs to 750 MTS during the past 7 years. With the increasing waste, the municipalities are showing inability to manage it properly. The dumping sites are increasing and the cost of transportation is going up because of rising fuel prices and the increasing quantity. Sarthak started the waste management in 14 zones which has now spread to 70 zones covering a population of 20.0 lacs and are working with 18 SHGs. The Bihar Government has made the Sarthak project a “model project” and is being replicated in all the Districts of Bhopal.

**Dainik Bhaskar:** Want to take up a project on native medicinal plants in 32 cities and for their survival. The details of Mr. Gautam of Dainik Bhaskar will be shared with all the NGOs. Bibhu will monitor the programme which will be supported by Gursimran. A concept will be shared with all the partners. The partners can use the name of Dainik Bhaskar. Paramparagat offered 5,000 medicinal plants to Dainik Bhaskar.

**Samvardhan:** They received a planning grant and are now ready to prepare and submit a proper proposal. They work with Gond, Bhoi and Dhimar community of fishermen. They want to work in Karanja block near Bembla river involving 10 villages and wish to deal with food security. The sand has been covered in the river by 5 ft soil deposit which will result in eco-restoration linked livelihood. Want to develop a syllabus to be introduced in the schools on studying the rivers and their constituents and benefits. The Maharashtra Government has issued an order that the silt from the rivers can be extracted which can be used as manure.

**Sacred Earth Trust:** The project is on collection of plastic, thermocoal, plastic bottles and cleaning it, compressing and using as building blocks/toilets. These buildings are earthquake resistant and water proof.

**Mahatma Phule:** They have linked up community centred water harvesting structures through MNREGA. The way the MNREGA programme has been linked, the difficulties faced and how they have been overcome were explained.

**Mr. Sodhi** explained the Results Based Monitoring system and its components. The success indicators were explained and how the partners should report to us for facilitating reporting appropriately to GEF and UNDP. The blank forms of RBM system will be sent to all the partners and we would expect you to provide the information on all the parameters.

**Mr Sodhi, explained the concept of One Person Company:** This concept of OPC was introduced under the Companies Act 2013. Under this Act, the liability is limited to the available business assets. Only Residents of India can start the OPC. The NRIs or foreign citizens cannot form “One Person Company”. The company will have one shareholder and minimum one director. One nominee is required who can run the show after the demise of the shareholder but cannot interfere in day to day affairs. Only one nominee can be the nominee for one Company. Taxes will be applicable as per the prevalent tax rate of 30% + education cess. There is no requirement for AGMs. Only the Resolutions shall be communicated to the Registrar and a minute book maintained. The owner can take loan from self and claim interest and can also take property on hire. All the contracts done under the OPC are to be shared with the Registrar. The OPC can be with a paid up capital of less than Rs.50 lacs and a turnover of less than Rs.2.0 crores for 3 years.

The partners can encourage individuals and provide consultancy how to constitute an OPC. For details, one can consult a website [www.cabks.in](http://www.cabks.in) or obtain information from [bhavesh@cabks.in](mailto:bhavesh@cabks.in).

The various details were explained through pictures - of branding, Community Biodiversity Register and its registration under NBPGR, different types of compost pits, poultry forms and their systems, different designs of fuel-efficient cook-stoves, business enterprises, least-cost rain-water harvesting. The details of toilets built from fly-ash, livestock Travis, solar dryers, honey collection ways were explained, different technologies were demonstrated through pictures. The details of how to tell a story with pictures were explained through photographic description. The details of co-financing were explained.

**9<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015:**



The day started with a visit to Sarthak's project site where the participants were shown the collection of plastic bags, their bundling done and how the plastic bottles/other plastic waste and e-waste is managed as a business model.

This was followed by a visit to Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering at Nabi Bagh. Dr. PC Bargale, Head, Technology Transfer Division and Nodal Officer, Institute Technology Management Unit welcomed all the participants. After explaining to him the purpose of the visit of GEF/UNDP SGP team and the composition of the participants, he requested, Dr. Uday R. Badegaonkar, a Faculty from TT Division to give a power-point presentation to the participants. Dr. Badegaonkar gave an overview of CIAE and then followed with the topic on "Conservation Agriculture". According to him, conservation agriculture means (1) minimum soil movement; (2) using 30% crop residue in the fields; and (3) rotation of crop. This was followed by a visit to their Laboratory where different types of agricultural equipments were shown and the participants took keen interest in understanding each item for their own use. This was followed by sharing of the Training Booklet and the Pricelist of each item with each participant. The participants were also exposed to poly-house culture and the crops grown under controlled conditions, followed by a visit to CIAE's renewable energy centre. It was a great enthusiastic visit for the participants and they learnt easy to handle technologies and the equipments for their day-to-day use.

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