

**GUIDANCE WORKSHOP REPORT**  
**5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2014 AT SHILPI RESORT, UDAIPUR**

Mr. OP Sharma, Country Director, Wells for India opened the workshop and briefed about the objective of the meeting. After a round of introduction, Mr. Sodhi briefed about the expectations from the workshop to touch base not only on what GEF/UNDP SGP and Wells for India expect but also to have a view from the partners as to what are their expectations from the meeting. A total of 19 persons participated – **a list of participants is enclosed.**

Each NGO partner was requested to give a brief up-date on the work done in their projects so far, what have been the challenges and issues emerging and also what help they require during the course of the project. The partner-by-partner details are as under:

**GRAVIS:**

The project became operational on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014. The PRA was conducted in five villages. All these villages have a separate Panchayat. The main activities of the project are taken up from Prasoon village. The staff has been briefed and they are made aware of the available government schemes. The project has been linked up with NABARD. There is an acute problem of water in the project villages. The government has dug out bore well about 40 kms away which is linked with a water pipe for making water available to the community. The tests were conducted by GRAVIS on the quality of water and the Fluoride contents were found to be much higher than the permissible levels.

- They intend using some locally developed water filters.
- The ground in the fields is very sandy and how to bind the soil for expecting increased cultivation is an issue. They wish to seek help from the project on this.
- Our partners should provide progress in a specially designed format incorporating specific achievements on GEF thematic areas for providing the details – the format is being sent to GRAVIS separately.

**GVSS:**

The project is on agro-biodiversity in 10 villages. The NGO has discussed the project with the community. The quantity of available water does not meet with the requirement of existing varieties of wheat and other crops. New varieties are being introduced that can withstand on lesser water and other horticulture activities are being introduced. They intend making 20 SHGs out of which 10 have been constituted. Primary data collection on agriculture, like amount, quality and the soil condition is being done to apply the learning in the field. New energy efficient cook-stoves are being introduced. Agro forestry is being introduced for making available additional fodder and wood. A study has been done on animal husbandry and why a particular size and type of animals are diminishing.

- Three Check Dams will be set up for supplementing the water availability for longer duration of the year.
- Mr. Sodhi advised that they should consult an agricultural scientist before launching new varieties to bring in the confidence of the communities and avoid any unwanted setbacks. - Our partners should provide progress in a specially designed format incorporating specific achievements on GEF thematic areas – **Annex 1 enclosed** for providing the details.
- The case studies should also be shared.

**GVNML:**

The entire project area is dependent on weather conditions. An observatory for weather monitoring has been set up which will guide the farmers to adapt to changing circumstances. *Tankaas* are being built for storing drinking water and for increasing the moisture content in the surrounding farms. The community is being empowered through trainings to safeguard their natural resources. Mr. Sodhi advised that when they visit Hyderabad to GEF/FAO project where their visit is scheduled from 10-13 March 2014 they should develop a case study for applying the lessons in their area. Our partners should provide progress in a specially designed format incorporating specific achievements on GEF thematic areas for providing the details. The format is being sent to GVNML separately

**SAMARTHAK SAMITI:**

They were so far dealing mainly with forest produce and worked for 12 years on Tendu leaf. The activities were limited to collection and sale only. There is a need to diversify and hence had a training on honey collection and were not involved more seriously due to financial constraints. The market linkages are weak and need to be established. The products like *Jamun juice*, *mehandi* (available in the area) and aloe vera juice are being produced and marketed. The other medicinal herbs, like *shikakai*, *red-arandi*, etc. are being grown and marketed which are adding to income enhancement of the community. Mr. Ramesh Savalia informed that they should get the products tested from the Hyderabad laboratory to bring in more authenticity to the quality of the products. They will form 20 SHGs and 400 villagers will be involved. Four numbers of Nursery raisings will be done in the project instead of the planned two. Mr. Sodhi told that the GEF/SGP projects are flexible but please do advise us of any variations, if any project partner wishes to do. The minimum objectives set out in the proposal should be met with and if any additional activities are to be taken up, the partners are free to do that. The *Jamun* are grown in the rainy season and drying it takes a number of days. They intend using a solar dryer for quick drying of seedlings which was agreed to. They wish to seek technical support for upgrading the quality and packaging cost. Honey collection is objected to by the Forest Department and hampers the collection. A visit was made to the GEF/UNDP SGP-supported CARD project and they tried the honey boxes under the Planning Grant, but due to temperature variations in the area, the bees did not survive.

Our partners should provide progress in a specially designed format incorporating specific achievements on GEF thematic areas for providing the details. The format is being sent to Samarthak Samiti separately.

**KOTDA ADIVASI SANSTHA:**

It is a very backward area of Rajasthan and the migration is a big problem in the project villages. In the year 2009, received Rs.19.16 lacs as GEF/SGP support and the progress of activities was presented through a power-point. A total 5 villages and 3,500 households are involved and the total land area of 2,491 hectares has been impacted. New ways of cultivation were adopted in one demonstration model and replicated in all the project villages. A Counselling Centre has been established and the community mobilization is done. They used NREGA funds for NRM activities. The testing of soil was done, quality seeds provided, seed bank made and focused on cash crops over vegetable cultivation for better income. A stock of 700 kgs of maize seeds is still maintained in the Seed Bank. Goat rearing and poultry also introduced for increased income. Goat sharing system adopted and the number of goats increased from 400 to 550 and covered additional households. 30-40% farmers grow wheat in the areas they were not growing in the past. Enhanced 20-35% cropped area, Rs.2,000 to Rs.5,000 additional income ensured to 74 participating households. Very strong Gram Sabha in place to take all decisions. They have submitted a fresh proposal

for up-scaling of activities and after the workshop, they were guided through one-to-one meeting on the focussed approach to be adopted, how to establish linkages and accessing the co-financing. The proposal will be revised by them and will be resubmitted to CEE-West for inclusion in the next RCM.

#### **SANGAM SANSTHA:**

They have completed one GEF/SGP project successfully. The project is very close to Kotda and the conditions are similar to that of Kotda with same tribal communities. A Krishak Club has been formed and SHGs are already in place. Demonstration models established and compared with the areas where non-project interventions were done. 500-700 families are involved and 7-8 kms radius brought under cultivation. Done work in 5 villages. In a one-to-one meeting, they were guided as to how to refine their proposal and resubmit for linking up clearly with the GEF thematic areas and aligning with the expectations of the WFI. Our partners should provide progress in a specially designed format incorporating specific achievements on GEF thematic areas for providing the details. The format is being sent to Sangam Sanstha separately.

#### **PRESENTATION BY MR. OP SHARMA, WFI:**

He gave a very elaborate power-point presentation with explanations in **Hindi language** for better understanding by the NGO partners who come from remote areas and are not very good at understanding the English language. His presentation covered, through **pictorial descriptions**, as to how the indicators are to be worked out in each project, keeping in mind the following points:

Management Systems to be developed in the project (to include structure with roles, responsibilities and accountability);

Process involved rather than priority on completion of activities;

Project framework development;

Based on the project activities, objectives and goals are chalked out.

He pointed out that we should look at reversing the trend to move from activity based to output based approach. We should think upward and plan down-ward on the activities keeping the overall objective in mind. Mr. Sharma explained clearly the difference between “supervising the tasks” and “monitoring”. The monitoring includes a component of “correction” when any observation is found. The monitoring covers the aspects of “Progress Monitoring”, “Impacts Monitoring” and “Process Monitoring”.

He explained through description of formats as to how the baselines are to be delivered and what all are the areas where data collection should be done. The performance measurement indicators were also explained with the help of a chart. He shared all the formats with the partners and emphasized that the baseline development should be a top priority for all the partners.

Mr. Sodhi suggested that all project partners should draw out their draft Log Framework Analysis and also develop the baselines. Mr. Sharma volunteered to provide support whenever approached by any partner in defining the LFA clearly.

Looking at the financial release (quarterly basis for WFI) and on three-instalment basis for GEF/SGP, it was felt that the joint-partners of SGP and WFI should submit separate quarterly reports, accounting for the funds and the activities accordingly. The ledgers should also be

maintained separately for GEF/SGP and WFI at the NGO level as the funds released by WFI are under FCRA. GEF/SGP should, in future, incorporate in the MoA that the funds released are non-FCRA.

#### **OTHER ISSUES:**

The NGO partners enquired about the financial reporting periods which were clarified for SGP and WFI. The explanations for cash and in-kind co-financing were provided for accounting for in the reports. The UCs are to be submitted separately for SGP and WFI. It was decided that the partners will provide separate quarterly reports to WFI and SGP as the reporting requirements are different in both the cases.

#### **MR. PS SODHI, COUNTRY PROGRAM MANAGER, GEF/UNDP SGP:**

Mr. Sodhi informed that the partners should explain in their reports on what innovation is being adopted in their projects – it is not only the technology but what new processes that you will follow is also an innovation. Any additional financing from new sources is also an innovation.

The quality of reporting should be impact oriented instead of mentioning only the number of meetings, number of persons participated in the training programs, but the focus should be more on what emerged out of these meetings/training programs. The details of GEF/SGP FSP were explained and how their inputs should feed into the indicators and outputs of the FSP. We at the program level are establishing more links with the programs and projects of other agencies. A visit has been organized to GEF-FAO/SPACC project at Hyderabad for cross-learning. The project partners should provide a feedback on the developments in the field which should link up with the overall monitoring indicators. We should focus on developing entrepreneurs with the help of SHGs.

We need photographs of the sites before starting the project and at different stages of the project and then finally at the end of the project to gauge the ultimate success of the project. We upload all the data, information and the photographs on the global intranet. Even the copy of MoA is uploaded. We use interns to upload the data on the intranet. Our NGO partners can also make use of the interns in their projects for developing the website, document writing, and for preparing final impact assessment, etc.

A presentation was given by Mr. Sodhi covering most of the points listed above and also to explain additional clarifications. These points included the following:

- 1) What is innovation;
- 2) Concept of QQT (Quality, Quantity and Timeliness);
- 3) Link up with GEF MSP and FSP projects in the area;
- 4) Link up with State, Central Government programs, Banks, Pollution Control Boards, Biodiversity Boards, Research and Test Laboratories;
- 5) Link up with Industry Associations, like Foundries, Copper, Ceramics, Glass, Metal, etc.) and for CSR activities;
- 6) Baseline needs to be developed;
- 7) PRAs as a tool for social inclusion and social mapping;
- 8) Learn from each other and share and have exposure visits;
- 9) Establish business models;
- 10) Project extensions require advance approval from the CPM;
- 11) Explained the Logos and how to prepare Banners and Boards;

- 12) How case studies and story writing works and how the pictures speak for itself which should be included in the Reports;
- 13) Brochure needs to be prepared for each project in a standard format;
- 14) Link up with websites of each other (NGOs to GEF/SGP and on GEF/SGP website to have a hyperlink with NGOs' website);

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks at 17.10 hrs.

**ONE-TO-ONE MEETINGS:**

Separate meetings were held with each project partner to understand the nitty-gritty of their activities/problems and to provide solutions, and assistance for learning visits and to bring out project monitoring tools in their respective projects. On case-to-case basis, the draft impact monitoring charts were developed for each one of them and were asked to keep reporting to us in future, on the parameters developed for each one of them.

**MEETING WITH FES (FOUNDATION FOR ECOLOGICAL SECURITY):**

A meeting was scheduled with FES on 6<sup>th</sup> March morning to provide detailed assistance on how to conclude the activities of OP4 project, prepare the final evaluation report as the one provided by them was not satisfactory compared to the work that has been actually done on the ground. The draft brochure provided by them was also not satisfactory. Guidance was provided on what all impacts are to be captured. A stage-by-stage strategy was adopted in the project on developing a variety of livelihood packages, capacity building of community and community leaders, developing synergies, and establishing links at the Federation Level. They were asked to incorporate this strategy also in the brochure. They were also asked to re-submit the revised Final Report along with the revised version of the Brochure.

A copy of the Presentations provided by Mr. Sharma and Mr. Sodhi are enclosed.