

Title of the Project: Bio-diversity conservation and Livelihood Project

Importance of the project

Livelihoods of local have always been in accordance with the local biodiversity and resources available. Loss of biodiversity and degradation of resources alter the livelihood pattern which may lead even to migration.

Engulfing of the fertile agricultural land by advancing ravines in the Chambal region has lead to loss of livelihoods and migration pattern. Loss of livelihood, migration and social conflict on account of degradation of land resources is common in the rural areas along the Chambal ravines. Identification of valuable bio-resources of commercial value and its conservation involving local may be able to arrest the loss of livelihood and degradation of land resources.

In Madhya Pradesh Guggul, *Commiphora wightii* is natural available in the Chambal valley. This red listed category of endangered plant species of high commercial value is on the verge of extinction. In the past there have been no effort by Government agencies to conserve *C wightii* through people's participation.

After a thorough interactive discussion and workshop among the rural people in the Chambal valley it had been concluded that they would like to retain their traditional livelihood of Guggul gum collection and conserve *C wightii* plants. On the basis of local demand and mindset the present three year project "Bio-diversity conservation and livelihood" has been designed for piparhi. Panchayat in Morena district, Madhya Pradesh.

Summary of Activities under the project

The project will be divided into several small manageable units and each unit will be handed over to a group of people in the village. The members of each group will be imparted technical training on various aspects. The Project is designed to touch 5 Self Help Groups in piparhi Panchayat, with each SHG having 10 members. The Project targets to raise 5,000 guggul plants and plant them successfully. Each member has to project his share of 50 guggul plants.

Less number(50 plants) per member is decided in view of the hostile terrain, water scarcity, problems of irrigation and after care. The planting material will be raised in nurseries managed by the locals.

The major minor forest produce in the piparhi.Panchayat are Satawar, Kareel and Chabani, that are of economical importance. These MFP's are collected by contractors and sold to high ended market. Simple processing can add value to these MFPs besides they can be conserved in a better way. Opening of an outlet and marketing of the valued products will also be an initiative under the project so that the local may continue their activities even after the project period.

Detail Project implementation plan

The Project will be implemented in a phased manner and will be focusing on four areas

- Human resource development of the stakeholders
- Bio-diversity conservation of the major plant species of commercial importance
- Value addition of major minor forest produce
- Marketing of minor forest produce

Human resource development of the stakeholders

The project will be implemented with the help of 5 SHGs, each SHG with 10 members. It has often experienced that a poor mechanism and investment in the building and empowering of SHGs lead to poor outcomes of the project. In the present project only 5 SHGs will be handled.

A huge investment of resources and energy will be towards strengthening SHGs to make accountable and active partners in the project with a provision of strong social audit system. In majority of the training practicing development managers,experts and facilitators will be invited as trainers for different aspects ranging from empowerment, social audit, resource distribution, team building etc in the areas of human resource development.

As the plant materials will be raised at local level near the plantation sites, experts have been identified to impart skill based training on nursery development, plantation techniques and after care of plants. This is to ensure maximum success of the plantation. As per the plan,5,000 plant of Guggul will be raised in the nursery and planted in the ravine area and barren area of the

Panchayat. Each member of the 5 SHG will have to plant and protect his share of 50 guggul plants. In order to ensure that each of them gets ownership rights to tap guggul once the plant achieve maturity, the local Panchayat will be involved to pass a resolution for the same. This will ensure ownership and accountability by individual members.

There are other MFPs which are of commercial importance that are traded by contractors while employing the locals as labourers. The contractors encourage maximum harvest without caring for the future. The SHGs will be trained and facilitated for sustainable harvesting for these MFPs and processed before trading it off. Food preservationists and technologists will be involved for the value addition and processing of the major MFPs in the area.

Bio-diversity conservation of the major plant species of commercial importance

The programme under the Bio-diversity conservation work will be plantation in the panchayat area. The planting material will be raised in the local near the plantation sites in one Nurseries. Each nursery will be raising 5,000 seedlings of Guggul. The estimated cost of seedling raising and the management cost is likely to be as low as two rupees per seedling. In order to keep the nursery activities a continuous programme, the SHGs managing guggul nurseries will be charging for the seedlings from the other SHGs. The money so earned will be invested for raising nurseries during the next year.

In order to ensure the success rate of the plantation, in the budget a provision of Rs40 per plant has been kept to meet the expenses for digging pits, fertilizers, transportation of the seedlings from Nursery to plantation sites and irrigation during the initial days. A budgetary provision of Rs 20 per plant also kept for replacement of the damaged seedlings and irrigation during dry season.

Value addition of major minor forest produce

The important major minor forest produce in the area are Satawar, Kareel and Chabani. These MFPs are value added and sold at premium rates whereas the locals collecting and conserving these are rarely benefitted.

Among the 5SHGs those 1 SHGs that have an inclination and interest towards processing and value addition will be identified to give advance level training..

Provision of Rs 10,000 for materials required for collection of Satawar, Kareel and Chabani is kept in the project. Besides this a revolving fund of Rs 10,000 is kept so that these SHGs can venture out for trading and bearing the shock if they happen to meet with a loss during their initial trading days. A provision of Rs10,000 each for value addition of the three MFPs will help to invest in minor infrastructures and materials required for processing and value addition.

Marketing of minor forest produce

The processed and value added products requires an outlet in the market. An amount of Rs 25,000 for materials and Rs 10,000 as a revolving fund will find the entrepreneurs a confidence to initiate marketing their produce.

Technical guidance

Dr Moni Thomas, Senior Scientist of Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Jabalpur as agreed to extend technical guidance as and when required in the implementation of the project

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