

Enhancing Livelihood Opportunity of Rural Poor through Integrated Natural Resource Management

Annual Progress Report
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Summary

The project Enhancing Livelihood Opportunity of Rural Poor through Integrated Natural Resource Management is being implemented in five villages of Lalitpur district – Solda, Pisanari, Saounrai, Sakra and Anaura. Of these villages Anaura village is an old village, while the rest are new for the organisation. The project is being implemented with financial support from Jamsetji Tata Trust, Mumbai, and technical support from Pradan, New Delhi.

Demonstration activities were started in Solda village after microplanning. Along with Anaura intensive activities were carried out in Solda village. In all the five villages proposed activities like training, farmers exposure visits, crop and vegetable production, sustainable rice intensification (SRI) introduction, etc., were carried out.

The following is an overview of the project:

- In Solda village, apart from awareness and organisation building, traditional bunding and bunding along fields and ponds was carried out to promote agriculture based livelihood.
- As against target of bunding of fields and ponds for 10 families and 40 acres only six families and 20 acres of land could be covered because of excessive rains.
- The target was also to carry out traditional bunding on 50 acres land of 30 families. Again because of excessive rains work could be carried out only on 28 acres land belonging to six families.
- Rain water and productive soil have been retained on the land on which bunding has been done. As a result, five families in Solda and Anaura village carried out rice cropping through SRI, and they got 60 times yield as compared to traditional methods.
- In the upper part of fields, seven families have for the first time gone in for soya bean cropping.
- New variety of *arhar* (yellow lentil) has been introduced in the area.
- Thirty-four farmers in Solda and Anaura villages have raised gram, wheat and vegetable cultivation following scientific method.
- Ten farmers in Soda and Anaura villages have opted for mixed farming and sown gram, wheat and mustard.
- Twenty-five farmers of Solda and Anaura villages have adopted *Jeevamrit* demonstration model and another 20 farmers in both the villages have adopted *Neemastra* demonstration model.
- As against target of vegetable cultivation on 10 acres land of 50 families during kharif crop vegetables could not be sown at all because of excessive rains.
- During Rabi crop the target was 15 acres land belonging to 30 families. Out of these 26 farmers cultivated vegetables very well and on an average earned Rs 40 per day, or Rs 1,200 per month. Additionally, they used vegetables like brinjal, tomato, coriander, chillies, etc., in their food.
- A total of 37 farmers were accessed directly. It is hoped that after Rabi crop, remaining farmers in the village will be benefitted.
- Eighty farmers were taken on excursion tours. Initiatives like use of organic manure and seed drills for sowing have been started by a few farmers.

- Understanding of farmers towards watershed and agriculture based livelihood has increased. Villagers in Solda have formed Siddh Baba Water Conservation Self Help Group for water conservation. This group is preparing microplan and work plan, and is making financial transactions.
- Lastly, the organisation has developed good relations with stakeholders like gram pradhan, panchayat members, krishi vigyan Kendras, agriculture experts, progressive farmers, agriculture department and district administration.

Project Background

The project is being implemented in five villages in Madawara development block of Lalitpur district. Most of the villages in the block are located in forested and hilly area that is full of stones and is inhabited by Saharia tribes and backward classes. Deprivation in the area is at its extreme as the area lacks livelihood resources and employment for full year is not available to a large population. As a result, poor tribals and other people migrate to cities. This particularly affects children, who become malnourished and do not have access to basic facilities like education and health.

Residents of the area are not able to take benefit of non-timber forest produce. The Government has given agricultural land on lease to tribals, but because of lack of resources and irrigation facilities they are not able to cultivate their land. Usually they sub-let their lands for a few hundred and may be for a few thousand rupees to others who have resources. As a result land has not become a mean of livelihood for the poor. People are increasingly becoming disenchanted with agriculture.

Land in the area is undulated. Though the area received average rainfall, rain water flows down and with it takes away productive soil. It is because of this the organisation has formulated the project Integrated Natural Resource Management to reduce poverty by enhancing livelihood options through soil and water conservation and awareness generation among farmers.

The project is being run in five villages. Of these four in Madawara block have been taken up in 2013, while work in one village in Birdha block is underway since 2011. Overview of the villages is presented in table 1.

Table 1: Overview of the Project Area

Village Name	Block Name	Gram Panchayat Name	Total Families	Total Population	Males	Females	SC/ST Population	SC/ST Population %
Saurai	Madawara	Saurai	660	3650	1937	1713	1252	34
Pisnar	Madawara	Siron	147	931	489	442	613	66
Sakra	Madawara	Dhaurisagar	78	388	204	184	359	92
Girar	Madawara	Girar	338	1833	1019	814	925	50
Solda	Madawara	Uldanakhurd	77	356	188	168	271	76
Anaura	Birdha	Anaura Talgaon	790	2975	1564	1411	1041	35
		Total	2090	10133	5401	4732	4461	353

Objectives and their Fulfilment

Sl.	Objectives	Objectives Fulfilment	Result
1.	Developing land fit for agriculture, preparing fields, ponds and bunds	6 families – 20 acres 7 families – 31 acres	Satisfactory
2.	Providing irrigation facility through natural resources	Irrigation has been made available through ponds and bunding	Satisfactory
3.	Awareness generation and sensitisation	Beneficiaries have become aware and sensitised	Satisfactory
4.	Coordination with Agriculture Department, Forest Department, Panchayati Raj Department and other Government Departments	Five farmers have received nozzle with pipe for drip irrigation	Satisfactory
5.	Constitution of water user group and its strengthening	Siddh Baba Save Water Self Help Group has been formed in Solda village, four farmers groups/self-help groups have been constituted in four other villages	Satisfactory
6.	Formation of seed bank by the target community	Seed bank will be formed in March 2015	In process
7.	Capacity building Farmers Pradhan and gram panchayat member Resource institution and resource person	Farmers capacity has been built Mutual cooperation and participation have increased Good relations have been developed with organisations making innovation in agriculture and with Krishi Vigyan Kendra	Satisfactory Satisfactory Satisfactory

Activities and Target Fulfilment

Activity	Target	Completed	Results
Resource mapping	02	02	Satisfactory
Selection treatment area	02	02	Satisfactory
Orientation of villagers in household resource base planning	02		Satisfactory
Intervention mapping activity	02	01	Satisfactory
Cost estimation of project activity	02	01	Satisfactory
Formation and strengthening of VLC	24	24	Satisfactory
Formation and strengthening of user groups	26	26	Satisfactory
VLC bank account	01	01	Satisfactory
Educational excursion	02/80 people	02/80 people	Satisfactory
Record keeping	26	26	Satisfactory
Capacity building	02/26	02/26	Satisfactory
Demo activity – field, pond, bunding	10 families/40 acres	06 families/20 acres	Satisfactory
Traditional bunding	30 families/50 acres	06 families/28 acres	Satisfactory
Kharif intervention	20 families/20 acres	37 families/08 acres	Satisfactory
Introduction of new crops –SRI	25 families/20 acres	6 families/2 acres	Satisfactory
Vegetables	50 families/10 acres	26 families/2 acres	Satisfactory
Rabi intervention	20 families/20 acres	35 families/10 acres	Satisfactory
Introduction of new crops – SWI	20 families/20 acres	10 families/10 acres	Satisfactory
Vegetables	30 families/15 acres	26 families/07 acres	Satisfactory

Capacity Building

Capacity Building Activity Name	Date	Venue	Topic	No. of Participants	Resource Person
Staff training	19.02.13 to 20.02.13	BSS Office, Madawara	Information about project	08	BSS head
Microplan training	21.02.13 to 23.02.13	BSS Office, Madawara	Formulate microplan in selected villages	18	Trained organisational workers
Group formation – Siddh Baba Save Water Self Help Group	March 13	Solda			Organisational workers
Groups meetings	March to December 13 – total 20 meetings	Solda	Objectives and functions of groups	12	Organisational workers
Farmers' educational excursion	07.03.13	ABSSS, Tikamgarh Gandhi Smriti Bhawan, Chhatarpur Vijavar, Chhatarpur KVK, Tikamgarh	Soil and water conservation, organic farming, crop production, knowledge of new techniques, vegetable cultivation, experience sharing	40	Agriculture scientists, agriculture specialists, Krishi Vigyan Kendra Tikamgarh
	08.03.13			40	
	09.03.13			33	
	10.03.13				
	11.11.13	ABSSS, Tikamgarh		40	
	12.11.13				
	28.12.13	KVK, Lalitpur		33	
	29.12.13				
Staff monthly meetings	January to December 13 Total 12 meetings	BSS Office, Madawara	Project progress, strategy, responsibility, experience sharing	08	Resource person
Finance training	18.12.13	Solda	Financial management	20	Accounts expert
Rural and self-help group training	17.12.13	Solda	Group work, savings, inter-lending	35	PC and BLW
Seed processing and practical training	October 13	Solda	Seed processing	11 farmers	PC and BLW
Seed germination training	October 13	Solda	Seed germination	35+15	PC and BLW
Paddy and wheat crop sowing	September 13	Solda			PC and BLW

training					
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Results, Impacts and Sustainability

Results

With training and exposure visits the farmers have learnt, understood and witnessed new experiments. These experiments have motivated them to experiment in their own fields. They are now raising vegetable, paddy, wheat, gram, pea, *arhar*, soya bean, etc., in their fields. Vegetable production has proved to be very beneficial for the farmers. With the use of fresh vegetables from farms like green vegetables, brinjal, tomatoes, beans, garlic, coriander, etc., the farmers are saving Rs 20 to 40 per day.

Capacity of workers associated with the project has also been built upon. They have gained knowledge and experience in soil and water conservation, new agricultural techniques like SRI method, scientific method of cropping and vegetable cultivation.

Impact

The farmers have developed understanding among farmers to conserve rain water and productive soil in their own fields. They have come to realise that farming on own agricultural land is the only mean of sustainable livelihood. They have also come to realise that if they adopted proper cropping pattern in their own fields throughout the year they would not have to migrate in search of livelihood. But lack of irrigation resources during summers and Anna Pratha¹ are coming in way.

Farmers have become aware in Solda and Anaura villages and they are making all out efforts to raise Rabi, kharif and jayad crops. The farmers are bunding their fields, making arrangements of water from sources like ponds, wells, etc., to raise crops soya bean, *urad*, paddy, millets, maize, wheat, gram, pea, *masoor* and vegetables. It is expected that the number of progressive farmers in the two villages will increase considerably.

Sustainability

- Continued dialogue with selected farmers
- Promotion of organic farming
- Motivating farmers to opt for vegetables, flowers, fruits, etc., on farm baulk
- Getting facilities from the agriculture department
- Form farmers' clubs and self-help groups at village level
- Create employment opportunities
- Form cluster level organisation of progressive farmers
- Make successful efforts for agriculture based livelihood by experience exchange

¹ This is a system in which cattle are left loose during summers to graze as availability of fodder sharply declines during this period.

Impediments

The project has been implemented as per project outline: selection of villages, Microplanning, selection of activities according to community concurrence, etc. The work started with the visit of Pradan team for technical assistance. While digging earth, the labourers hit stones after 2 feet and they refused to dig further. The matter was brought to notice of Pradan team, which with the concurrence of villagers wrote to Mr Sachin Patwardhan of Jamsetji Tata Trust seeking his permission to use JCB machine and tractor. A village level organisation of villagers called Siddh Baba Save Water Self Help Group was formed, its account opened in bank and from this account payment of labours engaged in the work was made.

Request

It is felt that apart from livelihood, which this project takes care of, education and health related activities should be run for overall development of poor tribals. In view of this Jamsetji Tata Trust is requested to sanction an integrated project, covering livelihood, education and health sectors.

One way out to ensure these is through livelihood route. According to an estimate the area produces about 60 truckloads of *mahua*, 50 truckloads of *amla*, 5 truckloads of *chiraunji* and 20 truckloads of *bel*. Trading is done by local businessmen, who earn huge margin. If self-help groups start trading in these commodities, the benefits will be distributed among the tribals and with increased money in their hands they will be able to arrange for, may be in time to come, education and health.

Activities in Tables

List of Farmers Opting for Fields and Ponds – Solda

Sl.	Name and Father's Name	Area
1.	Ajuddi Saharia S/o Gorelal	3 acres
2.	Shyam Saharia S/o Himma	3 acres
3.	Devsingh S/o Nannu	3 acres
4.	Gorelal S/o Hira Lal	3 acres
5.	Kuji S/o Ragge Saharia	4 acres
6.	Sobaran S/o Ganga	4 acres
	Total	20 acres

Families Opting for Traditional Bunding – Solda

Sl.	Name and Father's Name	Area
1.	Devsingh S/o Nannu	5 acres
2.	Mohan S/o Mulle Saharia	5 acres
3.	Shyam S/o Himmat Saharia	4 acres
4.	Buddhe S/o Punne Saharia	4 acres
5.	Janaki S/o Halle Saharia	4 acres
6.	Ratiram S/o Ramdin	6 acres
	Total	28 acres

Details of Kharif and Rabi Crops 2013

	Village Solda		Village Anaura	
	Name of Crop	Beneficiaries No.	Beneficiaries No.	Total
Kharif	Vegetables	09	17	26
	Arhar	10	11	21
	Paddy	04	02	06
	Urad	09	-	09
	Soya bean	07	-	07
Rabi	Wheat	07	07	14
	Gram	11	10	21
	Mustard	03	02	05
	Vegetables	10	16	26

Notes

1. Number of beneficiaries in kharif in Anaura was 18 and in Solda was 19. Total number of beneficiaries in kharif was 37.
2. Number of beneficiaries in Rabi in Anaura was 17 and in Solda it was 18. Total number of beneficiaries in Rabi was 35.
3. A total of 37 farmers were accessed directly and they were benefitted.
4. Seeds were given to only those farmers who agreed to seed processing and sowing and irrigation with new technology.

Village Anaura: Details of Farmers Adopting SWI

Sl.	Farmer Name	Total Land	Quantity of Wheat Seed Sown
1.	Tulsi Rjak	30 dismil	3 kg
2.	Moti Pal	60 dismil	6 kg
3.	Sarmanlal Sahu	30 dismil	3 kg
4.	Mardan Ahirwar	20 dismil	2 kg
5.	Ramdas Vishwakarma	50 dismil	5 kg
6.	Ramlal Sahu	20 dismil	2 kg
7.	Bablesh	30 dismil	3 kg

Seed Processing

All the farmers carried out wheat seed processing and sowing between November 15 and December 30.

Sl.	Farmer Name	Processing Date	Sowing Date
1.	Lakhan Saharia	17-11-2013	18-11-2013
2.	Roop Singh	03-12-2013	04-12-2013
3.	Rati Ram	03-12-2013	04-12-2013
4.	Ram Charan	03-12-2013	04-12-2013
5.	Sukhlal Saharia	20-12-2013	21-12-2013
6.	Ram Singh	20-12-2013	21-12-2013
7.	Gorelal	20-12-2013	21-12-2013
8.	Tulsi	25-11-2013	26-11-2013
9.	Motipal	25-11-2013	26-11-2013
10.	Sarmanlala	29-11-2013	29-11-2013
11.	Mardan Ahirwar	02-12-2013	03-12-2013
12.	Ramdas Vishwakarma	08-12-2013	09-12-2013
13.	Ramlal Sahu	16-12-2013	17-12-2013

List of Farmers Sowing Vegetables

Village Solda (Rabi Crop December 2013)

Sl.	Name	Father/Husband Name	Area	Crop Name
1.	Kashiram	Gorelal	05 dismil	Brinjal, tomato
2.	Halkai Saharaia	Mulle sharia	05 dismil	Brinjal, tomato
3.	Janki Saharia	Hallo Saharia	05 dismil	Brinjal, tomato
4.	Ramcharan	Sooraj	05 dismil	Brinjal, tomato, chilly
5.	Ratiram	Ramdin	10 dismil	Brinjal, tomato, chilly
6.	Pushpa Devi	Diwan	05 dismil	Brinjal, tomato
7.	Jagar	Gore Lal	05 dismil	Brinjal
8.	Ramswaroop	Gore Lal	05 dismil	Brinjal
9.	Shobharam	Ram Prasad	06 dismil	Brinjal, tomato
10.	Gore Lal	Miththu	05 dismil	Brinjal, tomato

Drip Irrigation Facility from Horticulture Department: Village Anaura

The following farmers were provided drip pipe, valve and nozzle for irrigation. They were also provided saplings of mango, guava, lemon, jack fruit, amla, etc., for plantation.

1. Surendra Singh
2. Rajendra Singh
3. Basante Kushwaha
4. Munaa Kushwaha
5. Gorelal Kushwaha

List of Farmers Sowing Mustard: Solda Village

Sl.	Name	Area	Seed Quantity	Processing Date	Sowing Date
1.	Ramcharan Yadav	5 dismil	10 g	21-10-2013	22-10-2013
2.	Rati Ram Yadav	10 dismil	10 g	30-10-2013	31-10-2013
3.	Halkani Saharia	20 dismil	40 g	22-10-2013	23-10-2013
4.	Sarmanlal	20 dismil	40 g	25-10-2013	26-10-2013
5.	Mardan	20 dismil	40 g	21-10-2013	22-10-2013

List of Farmers Sowing Vegetables: Village Anaura

Sl.	Name	Father Name	Date	Type of Crop		
				Chilly	Brinjal	Tomato
1.	Sarmanlal	Gunu	01.10.13	5	55	
2.	Moti Pal	Janku	12.10.13	10	10	5
3.	Jodhan Pal	Mardan Pal	13.10.13	5	55	
4.	Jorawal	Mardan Pal	15.10.13	5	10	5
5.	Manipal	Mardan Pal	15.10.13	5	10	5
6.	Surendra Singh	Ravir Singh	17.10.13	5	55	
7.	Mardan Ahirwar	Chaina Ahirwar	20.10.13	5	10	5
8.	Haraklal Rajak	Pyarelal	20.10.13	5	10	5
9.	Rajendra Singh	Komal Singh	21.10.13	5	10	5
10.	Gore Lal	Gutai Ahirwar	13.10.13	10	10	5
11.	Jahar Singh	Bhawani Singh	20.10.13	5	10	5
12.	Janki Prasad	Chaina Ahirwar	25.10.13	5	10	5
13.	Ram Charan Sahu	Nandu	23.10.13	5	10	5
14.	Gulle Ahirwar	Gutai Ahirwar	25.10.13	5	10	5
15.	Tulsi Rajak	Pyarelal	25.10.13	5	10	5
16.	Munna Mate	Mauji Kushwaha	25.10.13	5	10	5

Activities in Photographs

Pond Making on Fields



(Left) Demarcation of a pond on the field of a farmer and (right) pond filled with water



More ponds on lands of farmers



Some more ponds

Traditional Bunding



A glimpse of traditional bunding underway on the fields of farmers

Other Activities





