



Conservation and Revival of Indigenous Fodder Resources for Sustainable Livelihoods

Project Objective:

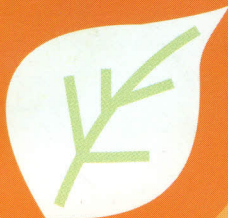
The objective of the project is to ensure fodder security for livestock for sustainable livelihoods of small and marginal farmers in rain fed areas of Karnataka.

Project Rationale:

GREEN Foundation, a community based organization is working with disadvantaged, groups of small and marginal farmers, backward castes, tribals and dalits, especially women, in the semi-arid regions of South India, towards the conservation of agro biodiversity and the promotion of sustainable agriculture. The Foundation is involved in encouraging Biodiversity Based Income Generation schemes and setting up community based and managed marketing arrangements for organic, grains, seed and craft products.

The project followed a complete participatory strategy by involving the stakeholders for various activities such as project planning, evaluation and learning. The project is based on the strong principals for enlarging people's capabilities in terms of skills, productivity and inventiveness. The strategy followed a 'Farmers First' approach and emphasized on building on local and traditional knowledge, thus making the project sustainable. The community will play a major role in the project cycle approach for better productivity. Seed Management Committees will be formed and will have the responsibility of sustaining the project.

Biodiversity Conservation



Geographical area	: 5 blocks in Karnataka
No of Beneficiaries	: 100 families' in 15 villages
SGP Grant	: USD 35,363
Co Financing	: USD 12,000
Contact details of partner	: Genetic Resource Energy Ecology & Nutrition (GREEN) Foundation PB No, 7651, 570/1, "Padmashree Nilaya", 3rd Main, 4th Cross N S Palya, BTM II Stage, Bangalore - 560076 Tel: 080-26784509 Fax: 080-26591729 Email: greenfound@vsnl.net

Project Activities:

The major activities undertaken under the project were:

Identification and Preservation of indigenous

fodder species: The project has attempted to identify most of the indigenous species of fodder through the communities use and cultivation practices. This process has helped in raising these varieties in the nurseries and making them available to the farmers. The project has thus enhanced the scope for the cultivation of the indigenous fodder species in community lands which can overcome the fodder scarcity especially in the dry months.

The communities are actively implementing the fodder preservation techniques introduced to them. Intensive training on fodder management has facilitated the acceptance of these techniques by the farmers.

Capacity Building: A variety of training programmes on fodder development and management were conducted for the communities. Farmers were trained on the usage of various fodder species and the importance of growing different varieties. Workshops were conducted to demonstrate various fodder preservation techniques and feeding methods. Farmers were also made aware of various livestock ailments and traditional remedial measures.

Networking: Links have been established with University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad (Karnataka) for the germination test procedure standardization of 57 fodder seeds identified in the project area.

Results:

- 4 nurseries have been developed in four villages namely Kanavemadapura, Therubeedi Yelachawadi and Dinnur and 10 species of fodder saplings are raised in these nurseries.
- 3 hectares of land in 5 villages have been covered under fodder demonstration for developing silage and local jowar species. 15 Demo plots have been established in the farmers' lands for cultivating different fodder species.
- Training and demonstration on the preparation of mineral mixture cake silage and bio-pesticide called "Poochi Marandu" were conducted for the farmers. This bio pesticide is produced and applied by the farmers on their demonstration plots.
- 8 Silo pits and 3 tower silos (using cement rings) and 9 Azzola pits have been established in the farmers' fields for demonstration.
- The project has identified 230 fodder species with the active participation of the communities and taxonomists. Meetings were conducted with the communities to share the rationale behind the fodder species survey. These communities mainly involved shepherds who are well aware of the plant species on which the livestock feed. The communities visited the neighbouring forests and identified rare and wild varieties of fodde, several grass shrub, fodder tree species and indigenous fodder varieties having medicinal qualities 20 unidentified varieties of fodder have also been found.
- Herbarium Sheets have been prepared for about 200 species of fodder trees, shrubs, climbers, grasses and medicinal plants. These sheets would be displayed in Seed Bank to promote awareness on indigenous fodder species.
- Fodder melas (fair) were organised in 2 villages. (Veerayanadodi and Dinnur). 500 minikits consisting of Red and white Sorghum seeds (1 kg each) have been prepared for distribution to the farmers through SHG federation.
- The project has ensured the availability of multiple fodder resources throughout the year thereby reducing the burden on the women who usually commute long distances alongwith their livestock in search of fodder.



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Environment &
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