



**SGP** The GEF  
Small Grants  
Programme



Land Degradation



Biodiversity Conservation

**SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES  
FOR WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT,  
WATER HARVESTING AND LIVELIHOODS**



**CEE**  
Centre for Environment Education



develop a project which promotes and protect the wastelands through rainwater harvesting, and increasing green cover in the unutilized barren lands along with livelihood generation through pisci-culture, vermin composting and increasing soil fertility several discussions at the community level and with **GEF SGP, CEE** led to develop a more hands on project.

### Project Rationale

Several discussions to encourage sustainable livelihoods in villages led to negotiate what contributions can different stakeholders make. Due to lack of adequate irrigation facilities, traditional system of agriculture, unavailability of improved variety of seed etc. The poor can hardly manage their own needs for 12 months through only agriculture



### Project Background

Palamau in Jharkhand is famous for its rich biodiversity. It shelters a variety of trees, animals, herbal plants, microorganism etc. The Palamau plateau extends over an area of 127.49 km, which is full of forest, rivers and rivulets. Only 26 percent area is under net sown area. In spite of having a rich bounty of nature it still remains to be one of the most backward areas of the country with a large tribal population. Poverty and illiteracy are deeply rooted. Although rich in resources it still requires greater emphasis in linking communities to access resources; creating capacities and confidence in a range of livelihood issues.

**Society for Environment & Social Awareness (SESA)** has been working in the area since 1992 with the objective of conservation and promotion of natural and cultural heritage. The organization has been working largely with women, providing skills for entrepreneurship development, traditional healthcare and sanitation.

The **NGO** approached with an idea to **GEF/UNDP Small Grants Program (SGP)** to

**GEF Thematic Area:**  
**Prevention of Land Degradation**

**Project Area:** Basu, Rabdi, Bhusra villages in district Jharkhand.

**Beneficiaries:**  
**1200 House holds (HHs)**

**Total SGP Grant:**  
**INR Rs 14,81,000/- (US \$ 33326)**

**Total Co-financing:**  
**Rs 711,621**

**Project Time Period:**  
**1st May 06 to 31st Dec 09**

**Partnerships:**  
**Banks, NABARD, Panchyats, Forest Deptment; Fisheries; NREGA.**



With many landless families farmers having very small land holding the issues are far stretched. The project need to aim to support livelihoods, and build on the positives which people already have in their grasp assets

- The area suffers from many problems low productivity of lands.
- Less to minimal exposure to communities for low cost technologies.
- Limited accers to credit, resource and individual ownerships of assets.

The **NGO SESA** through continual discussions explored on the issues of **what is that the project is doing new and innovative?** Thus the activities were discussed with all crossection of comminutes using more participatory, gender sensitive and process based approach.

### Project Activities

- Organizing regular, timely 14 trainings and 4 exposure visits for capacity building of village women, gender sensitization, leadership development etc.





- Formation of **12 Self Help Groups (SHGs)** organizing trainings for book-keeping, accounts managements. A total **168** women benefitted with **Rs. 2.50** lacs savings. Nearly **Rs. 1.10** lacs was arranged as **Bank Loans**. This is first time the accounts were opened by women.
- Providing training to the women for manufacturing of sal leaf plates, and starting production and marketing there after for invome generation in 2 villages.
- Construction of 2 ponds in villages to collect rainwater.
- 06 Irrigation Pumps shared through the SHGs and 2 persons trained in every village for repairs and maintainence.
- Agricultural income increased by nearly Rs. 3 lacs per annum for 48 house holds (HHs). Pisciculture taken in link to the fisheries Dptt.
- Promoting equitable distribution of resources to all HHs. Nearly 25,000 plantation taken up with families. Karanj; Mango; Moringa; Jackfruit; Guava; Ecyplations and others. More emphasis to have individual or common lands for fruits species.



- More low cost, easy to adapt vermin composting taken up in 2 villages. Nearly 35 compost pits developed with farmers sharing the costs. Nearly fertilizer saved for Rs. 25,000/- per season for 2 years. Communities have been sharing the earth worms.
- 6 lift irrigation units have been started, benefitting nearly 85 HHs and 25 Hectares of waste land brought under cultivation of rice crop. This has provided additional incomes to 68 Households in area varying from Rs. 25,000, Rs. 35,000 per year per family.
- 5 units of Gobar Gas have been installed as a new technology on individual HHs. 25 smokeless chulhas have been made. Nearly 5000 kgs of cow dung is used by HHs on monthly basis. Nearly Rs. 1000/- worth of fuel wood is saved per month through Bio Gas units. A preliminary study on chulhas has suggested a saving of 30-50% on wood and nearly 3/4 hours for women.



## Project Achievements

### SHG FORMATION

- Peoples Group Motivation & Participatory approach
- Institution Development/ Group Savings Link to Banks.

### LAND LEVELING

- Increased Agricultural Land Area leading to increased productivity in private lands.
- Increased Income generation.
- In-Situ Rain water Conservation
- Reduced Surface Run off, better Water management.

### POND CONSTRUCTION

- In-Situ Rain water Conservation
- Irrigation sources & Pisciculture

### PLANTATION

- Increased green coverage in the unutilized land
- Reduced pressure over forest
- Availability of fire wood & fodder at community land
- Increased bio-mass, and water collection.

## Impacts

### Details of Health Card

All the SGP village house hold have been issued ICICI Rajive Gandhi Hastashilpa Health Card. Rs.100/- is charged for BPL, SC & ST family per year & Rs. 200/- for others. Each family (four members) can avail himself Out Patient door medical facility up to Rs. 7500/- a year and Operation cost up to Rs. 7500/- any where in the country. SESA Mobile Health Van empanlled as OPD by ICICI bank is providing free medical services to the SGP House holds in the 3 target villages.

Text Prabhjot Sodhi, Kaushik Mallick, Colours 9810037571/SGP/December/10



**Society for Environment & Social Awareness SESA**  
 President - Prof. S.C.Mishra  
 General Secretary - Dr. Kaushik Mallik  
 Project Director cum Treasurere - Dr. Jasbir Bagga  
 Old I.T.O.Road, Redma, Daltonganj - Jharkhand  
 Redma, Daltonganj - Jharkhand  
 India. Pin code : 822 101  
 Ph. : 06562-222968  
 Email : sesa\_environment@yahoo.co.in

**Regional Co-ordinator**  
 Centre for Environment Education,  
 A-5, Bar munda, HIG Colony  
 Bhubaneswar-751013,  
 Tel:0674- 2551344  
 Email: ceebhubaneshwar@ceeindia.org

**National Co-ordinator**  
 GEF UNDP Small Grants Programme  
 Centre for Environment Education, Delhi,  
 C-40 South Extension-II,  
 New Delhi-110049  
 Ph.: 011-26262878-80  
 e-mail : prabhjot.sodhi@ceeindia.org  
 www.ceeindia.org