

Green Action Project Ghaziabad

Final Report

(May, 2010 to April, 2011)

Submitted to

The Gaia-Movement Trust Living Earth Green World Action

Maison de l' Environnement II.

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by

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The project at a glance

1	Name of the project	Green Action Ghaziabad
2	Operation area	5 villages in Ghaziabad district of Uttar Pradesh : Milakchakarpur, Badoli, Makraida, Bahdurpur and Mathurapur.
3	Project Leader	Mahesh Chand Meena.
4	Address	Green Action Project Ghaziabad, Near Government Public School, Bhikanpur Village Ghaziabad, U.P.
5	Telephone e-mail	maheshhumana@gmail.com +91 94 5752 3756
6	The project idea and who the project reaches	<p>The Idea of the project is to empower the poor farming community in the 5 villages by assisting them to form community organizations, provide education on vital issues such as global warming and climate change and how their consequences can be mitigated by conscious actions, and to connect the community to credit facilities and government schemes available for the poor. The farmers need knowledge and technical knowhow of modern methods of sustainable farming to produce high and healthy yields.</p> <p>The project is reaching to farmers and their families who live in a smoke polluted environment due to a swarming presence of brick kilns besides, the farmers using excessive chemical fertilizers in agriculture deteriorating the quality of soil and the produces.</p>
7	The people at the project	Project Leader, Area Leader and Development Instructor
8	The history in brief	The project was started on 1 st day of May, 2010 in collaboration between the “The Gaia-Movement Trust Living Earth Green World Action” and “Humana People to People India”. The project is located at Bhikanpur village in North Ghaziabad.
9	Partners in Development	The Gaia-Movement Trust Living Earth Green World Action

Presentation of the idea and the content of the project

Green Action Project was start on 1st of May 2010 in five villages of Ghaziabad District with an aim to empower the poor farming community in the 5 villages by assisting them to form community organizations, provide education on vital issues such as global warming and climate change and how their consequences can be mitigated by conscious actions, and to connect the community to credit facilities and government schemes available for the poor.

Project beneficiaries - The direct beneficiaries of the project are the members of the community based groups which will be formed in the 5 villages of Ghaziabad district. This amounts to approximately 1500 direct beneficiaries of the project who will be participating in the project activities. The project also indirectly benefits approximately 5.000 people in the implementation areas who will receive positive impact of project activities in terms of awareness about better sanitation and new methods in farming and gardening. They will also learn from the examples of their neighbors and group members.

Expected results

- ✓ 10 Women SHGs formed and 150 women empowered by inter-loaning and saving techniques. It is expected that these members will apply for loans and utilize the amount on household enterprises or purchasing livestock or any other personal use.
- ✓ 10 Farmers Clubs and 150 farmers with better yield after the training sessions and workshops on new methods on cultivation and with access to finance from local banks.
- ✓ 5 Village Development Committees established with good environmental plans developed for each village.
- ✓ 100 Kitchen gardens established by the Women Self Help Groups, where kitchen waste, EcoSan toilet waste, urine and waste water is utilized to improve the output.
- ✓ 1000 tree saplings planted and contours of vetiver grass established to restore degraded areas and simultaneously improve water infiltration.
- ✓ Women and farmers have been linked to Government schemes and services available for poor people.

The project in numbers – May, 2010 to April, 2011

Activity	Plan	Achieved	Difference
Formation of women Self Help Groups	10	10	0
Open Bank account for SHG	10	10	0
Meetings with Self Help Groups	120	135	15
SHG orientation workshop	0	2	2
SHG Kitchen Garden workshop	5	6	1
SHGs linked with Government schemes	10	0	-10
SHGs applied for bank loans for IGA	10	10	0
Formation of Farmers Clubs	10	10	0
Meetings with Farmers Clubs	120	85	-35
Farmers club Expert training	15	19	4
Farmers club orientation workshop	0	1	1
Farmers Exposure visit	0	2	2
Farmers linked with Government schemes	10	10	0
Formation of Village Development Com.	5	5	0
Meeting with Village Development Com.	60	60	0
Village environment and development plans	5	5	0
Establishment of Kitchen gardens	100	125	25
Establishment of vermicompost units	0	5	5
Trees Planted	1000	1050	50
Open Sundays	12	12	0
Activities supported by NOKIA			
Rally with school children on environment	2	4	2
Formation of Eco Clubs	6	6	0
Environment workshop	2	2	0
No. of shady trees planted	2000	2270	270
Activities supported by NABARD			
Formation of women Self Help Groups	50	32	-18
Open Bank account for SHG	50	13	-37
Meetings with Self Help Groups	166	116	-50
Other Activities			
ECOSAN Toilets in use	34	26	-8
ECOSAN toilet families with kitchen garden	34	24	-10
School Toilet in use	1	1	0
Cleaning actions	0	7	7
Meeting with school sanitation committee	42	44	2
Monthly meeting of PRI's	45	41	-4
Eye camp	0	1	1

The project achievements

Expected outcome: 10 Women SHGs formed and 150 women empowered by inter-lending and saving techniques. It is expected that these members will apply for loans and utilize the amount on household enterprises or purchasing livestock or any other personal use.

Formation of women's Self Help Groups - The project has formed 10 Self Help Groups with 15 members each saving a monthly amount of Rs. 100 per member. All the groups have a bank account where they deposit their saving which is left after inter loaning within the group. They charge 2% per month as interest, which adds up to their group saving and serves availability of capital to the group member to meet their emergency needs or to invest in income generating activity.

S. No.	Name of SHG	Village	Date of Formation	Group savings	Bank loan applied in (Rs.)	
					Activity	Amount
1	Laxmi	Milakpur	8 June	13,500	Tailoring shop	25,000
2	Aarti	Milakpur	20 Aug.	10,500	Tailoring shop	25,000
3	Radha	Makreda	10 June	13,500	Candle making	25,000
4	Geeta	Makreda	10 Sept.	10,500	Paper plates	25,000
5	Radha Swami	Bhadurpur	17 June	13,500	Candle making	25,000
6	Krishna	Bhadurpur	31Aug.	10,500	Tailoring shop	25,000
7	Astha	Samshepur	20 Oct.	9,000	Embroidery	25,000
8	Kameshwari	Samshepur	11 Sept.	10,500	Candle making	25,000
9	Mohan Baba	Mathurapur	15 Oct.	9,000	Candle making	25,000
10	Laxmi	Mathurapur	28 Nov.	7,500	School bags	25,000
		Total		108,000		250,000

The project has facilitated the groups to apply for a bank loan to start income generating activity and their applications are pending for approval in the banks. The office bearers of the groups are capacitated to maintain their records, handle the accounts and bank transactions.

Meetings with Self Help Groups - The project conducted 135 meetings with 10 SHG's during the year with groups meeting more than once during the month. In the meetings the members were trained to do the financial management within the group and with banks and members were imparted knowledge on health and hygiene, water and sanitation, education, environment and the local issues that affects their lives. The meetings have

become a platform where the group members share their problems and help each other in finding solutions. The project in 25 occasions invited government women health workers to address the women health issues and educate the group members on a healthy living.

Self Help Groups orientation work shop - The project organised 2 workshops with 210 members belonging to 23 SHGs including 13 formed under NABARD. In a workshop organized at the project office 30 SHG Leaders were trained in group management. In another workshop organized at Makreda village 180 group members were oriented on different government schemes and bank linkages. Amongst the invitees present were representatives from other organization, Branch Manager of Bank of India, Scientist from Agriculture Science Centre (KVK), Block Agriculture Officer, Agriculture Cooperative Member, Panchayat Secretary and representatives for HPPI Head Office. Apart from SHG members the other participants from villages included farmers, youth and members from Village Development Committee that added to 310 people attending. The workshops proved to be a good platform for interaction of the participants, experience sharing and learning about government schemes they can benefit from.

The groups have become capable of conflict resolution and are becoming powerful united force to fight against social evils and conservative traditions.

Expected Outcome: 10 Farmers Clubs and 150 farmers with better yield after the training sessions and workshops on new methods on cultivation and with access to finance from local banks.

Formation of Farmer's Clubs - The project has formed 10 Farmers Clubs with 15 members in each and the members are saving Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per month in their common saving, which is intended to use for inter loaning among the members to invest on farming inputs. Joint bank accounts of 2 Farmers Club per villages are opened and linked with NABARD to access government schemes, capacity building trainings, loans and subsidies on farm inputs.

Expert Training of Farmers – A total of 19, one day expert training of farmers were organized during the project period where more than 600 farmers from five project villages were oriented on new seed varieties, pest management, new farming technologies, importance of water and soil test to get more yield, different Government schemes and subsidies for the farmers. The trainers and Agricultural Experts came from Banks, Agriculture Science Centre, Horticulture and Agriculture Department. The farmers were mobilized to grow fruit trees and plant trees in common areas for environmental protection. During the workshop the agriculture expert visited some of the farms where farmers were facing problems of plant diseases and deficiencies and gave expert opinion for its remedy.

The bankers oriented farmers on available bank loans to farmers practicing modern methods of farming and Farmers Credit Cards.

The training was interactive and a lot of cross questions took place to establish a clear understanding amongst the farmers. The farmers were asked to fill up a form provided by National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development to assess the problems faced by the farmers so that a solution could be worked out.

Famer's club orientation workshop – Two farmer's club orientation workshop were organized in the month of December, 2010 and April, 2011 in village Bahadurpur and Shamsherpur where 258 farmers belonging to 10 farmers club along with village heads, village secretaries, Agricultural expert from Agriculture Science Centre and bankers participated.

The objective of the workshop was to provide knowledge of Farmers Credit Cards to the farmers so that they can avail low interest bank loan for agricultural inputs and machinery and are updated with latest agricultural developments. The workshop was very informative for the participating farmers as they look forwards to have access to more resources to develop and expand their farming.

The project has linked the farmer clubs with Pusa Agricultural Research Institute in Delhi to open seed and pesticides shop in the villages to benefit the farmers and the farmers clubs will earn a profit of 10% from the sale.

Exposure visit of Farmers Club - The project conducted two exposure visits of farmers where in one 30 farmers from five project villages visited Central Potato Research Institute, Modipuram where the farmers learned potato cultivation through latest methods, seed production of rice, wheat, sugar cane, lentils and mustard. They were informed that the farmers can produce the seeds and can sell it to the Institute at a higher price to ensure quality seed production/availability and a profitable income source for farmers. The second exposure visit was organized to Agriculture Research Institute, New Delhi where 15 farmers learned about cultivation of vegetables in green house and latest farm equipments designed by the Institute. The farmers were oriented on production of hybrid seeds of vegetables and cereals.

Vermin compost unit - The project has established 7 vermincompost demonstration units in 5 project villages. The farmers are oriented on its benefits in improving the soil quality, increasing water holding capacity, improving soil porosity and reducing the cost of cultivation at the same time adding nutrition to the soil. Many farmers have shown their interest in establishing vermicompost units. Presently, the project is multiplying the worms and it has been agreed with the farmers that they will get 2 kgs of worms and will

have to return 10 kgs on maturity of their units so that surplus worms can be given to more farmers to ensure its fast expansion.

Expected Outcome: 5 Village Development Committees established with good environmental plans developed for each village.

Village Development Committees - The Village Development Committees are formed and active in 5 project villages. The VDC's in the last quarter spearheaded construction of school boundary wall, tree plantation, monitoring of health and sanitation activities in the village and took part in key development discussion and decision making in different forums. In Makreda village the VDC found discrepancies in construction of school boundary wall, which they reported to the concerned authorities as a result the wall was dismantled and reconstructed using specified quality and quantity of construction material. The same VDC had earlier removed the encroachment from a village girls school land and developed it as an eco park for the girl students planting different varieties of plants. They have appointed 2 care takers for the Eco Park under government's rural employment guarantee scheme. In Shamsherpur village the VDC has solved the drinking water problem by installing a handpump with support from village Panchayat.

The VDC's have developed village micro plan, which includes the environment plan where development needs are listed on priority basis including, possible sources for resource mobilization and responsibility delegated. The plans are displayed in the Village Panchayat to review the development.

Expected Outcome: 100 Kitchen gardens established by the Women Self Help Groups, where kitchen waste, EcoSan toilet waste, urine and waste water is utilized to improve the output.

Self Help Groups kitchen garden work shop – In 6 women SHG work shops on kitchen garden 178 group members and other women learned to establish a kitchen garden and use of waste water for irrigation. During the workshops resource person from Agriculture Department informed the participants about organic cultivation practices, pest and disease control and benefits of eating vegetables for a good health. All the 178 participants have established kitchen gardens apart from 70 more families where they are growing seasonal vegetables like tomatoes, spinach, brinjal, radish, cabbages, cauliflowers etc. The kitchen garden is benefitting the family by creating clean green surroundings, waste water management, nutrition and economic benefits by saving on purchase of vegetables.

Monitoring the use of EcoSan toilets – Out of 34 ECOSAN toilets constructed 26 families are using them regularly. One family has withdrawn the compost from the chamber and used it in kitchen garden. The family head was satisfied with the compost as he was telling that it has increased the production and plants are having vigorous growth. The project is now motivating the other ecosan families to establish the kitchen garden to use the compost. So far 24 families have developed kitchen gardens.

Expected Outcome: 1000 tree saplings planted and contours of vetiver grass established to restore degraded areas and simultaneously improve water infiltration.

People’s mobilization - The project conducted two workshops with 200 participants including students, Eco Club members, farmer’s club members and members of SHG. In the workshops issues of deforestation, natural resource management, pollution, global warming and climate change were taken up and the participants were mobilized for tree plantation.

Tree Plantation – The project managed to plant 2570 shady and fruit trees with 81% survival. The need of planting vetiver grass remained irrelevant as the areas has its profuse growth.

Sl. No.	Plantation Place	Action Date	Trees planted	Survived
1.	Era College, Bhikanpur	15/10/10	250	218
2.	St. Ferns School, Bhikanpur	20/10/10	250	162
3.	Village Pond, Bhikanpur	13/11/10	130	120
4.	Samson, Bhikanpur	14/11/10	40	30
5.	SAH School, Mathurapur	19/10/10	250	175
6.	Govt. School, Mathurapur	31/11/10	200	170
7.	Brick companies, Mathurapur	13/11/10	200	70
8.	Sabtaya School, Mohanpur	03/11/10	200	180
9.	Village Pond, Bhadurpur	16/10/11	230	171
10.	Private School, Bhadurpur	16/10/10	30	20
11	Vedpal Vadik Public School,	28/02/11	120	115
12	Girls School, Makreda	10/03/11	220	220
13	Common camps, Attor	25/03/11	450	420
		Total	2570	2070

Plant Protection - The project staff mobilized community members through meetings to protect trees from grazing, separate meetings were conducted with goat owners to understand the value of trees and stop their goats entering the plantation sites.

Expected Outcome: Women and farmers have been linked to Government schemes and services available for poor people.

Already mentioned under SHG and Farmer's Clubs

Other Activities

Open Sunday - The project organized 12 theme based "Open Sunday" programs with themes based on Environment, Tree Plantation, Youth participation in Environment Protection, health and hygiene, water and sanitation and education etc. The participants in the programs were students, youth, farmers, SHG members, PRI members, Village Development Committees, government officials and toehr community members.

Modal garden - The project has established a model garden in Makreda village on a rented land using its own resources for the purpose of demonstration to farmers. The garden is planted with vegetables including tomatoes, potatoes, spinach, radish, carrots, brinjals and garlic. The modal garden has good organic vegetable production and it is visited by farmers and members of SHG and has inspired many of them. So far 18 farmers have established their gardens where they are growing flowers and organic vegetables.

Eye Camp - The project has organized an eye camp with support from Balaji Eye Hospital at project office in Bikenpur where 250 people got eye test and 18 were referred for operation.

Conclusion

The project in its one year of interventions managed to achieve its goals and the outcomes besides extra activities supported by NABARD and NOKIA.

The 150 members of 10 Women SHGs formed by the project are doing monthly saving, meeting their emergency needs through inter loaning and all have applied bank loan to start income generating activities. The members have been empowered with knowledge of different social and health issues and group management and this has implicated a change in their approach and personality to handle the situations of their concern. They have been oriented on different government schemes during the meetings and workshops, how to access them and were asked to disseminate the information to other women in the villages. This includes government services on reproductive and child health and will help in reducing maternal and child mortality.

The 10 Farmers Clubs with 150 members are saving Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 per month to build a corpus fund with an aim to have the member's access to capital to invest on farming inputs. The FC's are linked with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to access different government schemes. The farmers through expert trainings, workshops and exposure visits have been acquainted with modern methods of farming and linked with government institutions to have access to knowledge, resources, subsidies and loans. They have learned about new seed varieties, pest management, plant diseases and deficiencies, new farming technologies, importance of water and soil test to get more yields and Farmers Credit Cards. In order to rotate their crops for a better soil health and try other cultivations to enhance their income the farmers learned potato cultivation through latest methods, seed production of rice, wheat, sugar cane, lentils and mustard. This will certainly help in some of them emerging as progressive farmers and will set examples for others.

The Village Development Committees have become active in spearheading the development work in the village together with Gram Panchayat. They are also becoming influential, which is evident by the example of construction of school boundary wall. The village development and environment micro plan is being used as a guiding tool by the VDC, which is a positive sign of sustainable development.
