



SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme



Biodiversity Conservation



Climate Change

PROMOTING RENEWABLE ENERGY ALTERNATIVES THROUGH COMMUNITY LED APPROACHES



Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF), India





Project Background

Nilgiris is one of the largest tribal areas in the state of Tamilnadu, India. The most common tribes are Paniya, Kurumbas & Kattunayaka. The quality of life for these tribal communities still remains to be a challenge, as they have a “limited access” into the various schemes benefitting them. The efforts are continuously made by a range of stakeholders, including the Government of India (GOI) to mainstream the tribal and marginalized communities and ensure their involvement and benefit from the programs.

Centre for Tribal and Rural Development Trust (CTRD), the NGO has been working in these areas for the last 22 years and has taken up the challenge in the district in block Gudalur and neighbouring areas in the district.

To enhance and balance the well being, livelihoods capabilities, equity and sustainable actions in the villages with locals, CTRD has been working with **Raleigh India** to address the grass root actions through British and other international volunteers, including Indian Nationals. Many participants from the partnership have felt that these voluntary actions lead to better confidence building and learning, and

No. of Beneficiaries:

500 Households.

Name of the Organisation:

Centre for Tribal and Rural Development Trust (CTRD).

Geographical Areas:

30 tribal villages of Gudalur Block, Nilgiris District, Tamilnadu.

GEF/UNDP SGP Grant:

Rs 23,00,000/-

Co Financing:

Rs. 7,85,000/- (Community)

Rs. 28,00,000/- (Airbus Corporate

Foundation) Rs. 10,00,000/- (Others)

Project Time Period:

April 2010 to April 2013.

Project Partners:

Airbus Corporate Foundation (ACF);

RALEIGH India; BANKS;

Agricultural University; DRDA;

State Departments, GOI and

Government of Tamilnadu (GoTN.)

accelerate change at community levels. This has also created a **new spirit of voluntarism in the industry as well as in the civil society.**

The NGO approached the **Global Environment Facility (GEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)- Small Grants Programme (SGP).** Several discussions and informal meetings led to develop a common understanding on the ideas between the stakeholders. During the process, the **Airbus Corporate Foundation** also joined the emerging partnership to provide funds and volunteers.

Taking a more practical approach between all partners, a project developed addressing the challenges of working together in a carefully chosen poverty focused area.

The project is titled “Promoting the adaptation of renewable energy by installation of Bio-Gas units in tribal and other deprived villages of Gudalur Block of Nilgiri District”. All the different partners, MoEF, GOI, GEF, UNDP, Raleigh, CTRD, Airbus Corporate Foundation, SGP, Local Communities through small self help groups (SHG) and CEE joined hands in the project sharing and synergizing in terms of roles and responsibilities and sharing costs and decisions. Simple and easy to understand methods to implement the project have been mutually agreed between the partners.

Bio-gas Plant

A plant consists of a masonry digester and a metallic dome which functions as gas holder. The plant operates at a constant gas pressure i.e. the gas produced is delivered at the point of use at a pre determined pressure. The gas holder acts as the lid of the digester. When gas is produced in the digester, it exerts upward pressure on the metal dome which moves up along the central guide pipe fitted in a frame which is fixed in the masonry. Once this gas is taken out through the pipeline, the gas holder moves down and rests on a ledge constructed in the digester. Thus a constant pressure is maintained in the system at all times. There is always sufficient slurry liquid in the annulus which acts as a real seal and prevents the gas from escaping through the bottom of the gas holder.





Project Aims

The project aims to enhance incomes, quality of life of the tribal and marginalized communities by promoting a range of renewable energy options e.g bio-gas units, smokeless chulahs, solar driers etc, local biodiversity through community participation, enhancing local skills, management practices and build capacities sustainably.

Project Strategy

The project strategy in 3 phases has been developed by CTRD Trust in discussions with locals and GEF/SGP, CEE.

Phase I: Mobilize communities through the use of 'Participatory Micro Planning' (PMP) methods to identify, analyze and prioritize the needs of the community.

Phase II: Facilitate and promote informal kinship based common interest self help groups (SHGs) for increasing self-help, collective bargaining, community negotiations and for implementation of the program.





This is supported through regular meetings, record keeping at the local levels and links with the local banks.

Phase III: Enhance the skills and capacities in a range of activities through **community volunteers** and **local grass root persons**, (both men and women) to plan, implement, manage and monitor resources and activities.

Project Activities

- 10-12 Self Help Groups with nearly 150 women members have been promoted in the villages. All SHGs have bank accounts and the members are regularly saving. Rs. 20-50 per month, per member.
- The project will develop 70 Bio-Gas Units jointly through **MoEF GOI-GoTN, GEF/UNDP SGP, and Airbus Corporate Foundation (ACF)**, support.
- Capacity building and exposure visits of the local tribal men and women for the bio-gas plants assembly, management and operations (1-2 cubic meters size) on individual/family basis and livestock management skills.
- Develop smokeless chulas (500), livestock sheds (50), fodder plots (50-70) etc., through the SHGs members in villages. The project has a strong focus to maintain equity among people, provide livestock to the beneficiaries through SHGs.
- Develop nutritional fodder plots and promote fodder availability with the use of azolla.
- Facilitate more access to quality livestock and livestock management practices through **community pay and use systems**. Promoting **paravets** (local livestock community development persons)
- Facilitate the Airbus Corporate Foundation member's visits in the project areas, ensuring their participation in the '**hands on development actions**' as has been undertaken by Raleigh's India program with CTRD.
- Local men and women as community volunteers to be trained on management and operations of bio gas units & promoting conservation practices in local biodiversity issues.



Project Benefits and Impacts:

- Smoke and soot are minimized in homes. This will improve the health of the local women. Kitchen and utensils would be cleaner.
- Cooking time as well as cleaning time is saved. The housewife can use this spare time gainfully for the family and enterprise management.
- Women and children freed from the drudgery of fetching fuel wood from the forests.
- Bio-gas plant affluent as manure, rich in nitrogen and humus will help improve the soil structure and crop yield.
- Depleting fossil fuels like kerosene and natural gas are preserved and use of the renewable energies promoted.
- Helps in minimising deforestation thus improving the ecological balance of the areas.
- Introduces pressure cookers as an additional benefit, reducing cooking time substantially thus using less gas for cooking, improving the nutritional value of food.
- Plantation along the margins of land holdings and around houses in homestead land. This improves local bio-diversity and access for long term gains and acts as carbon sinks.



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