

Annual Report

Voluntary Institute for Rural Development (VIRD) with the support of Aid-India is working for the livelihoods promotion of rural women in 2 villages i.e.; Mahidharpur & Serenabeda in Angul district of Odisha. The project is being implemented for the last year and it seeks livelihoods enhancement through a) Promotion of Vegetable Cultivation, and b) Promotion of Goat Rearing.

The project initiative has capitalized on Community Mobilization (10 women farmers in each of the 2 villages and 10 women swarozgaries in each of the 2 villages have been collectivized into “Women Farmers’ Group” and “Women Swarozgaries’ Group”).

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

a) Orientation on Group Norm & Book Keeping

VIRD engaged a trained and experienced social worker belonging to the same locality as Project Coordinator. The Project Coordinator has nearly 20 years of experience is an accredited trainer of different training institutes of the state. The Project Coordinator has oriented all the 40 Women Swarozgaries on Group Norm and Book Keeping. The Social worker who belongs to the same locality has done the follow up and provides handholding support to the members of the groups for Book Keeping and maintaining group norms.

b) Input Support for Vegetable Cultivation

Input support in terms of seed for vegetable cultivation has been provided to the women swarozgaries. The women swarozgaries has been provided seed for Tomato, Brinjal, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Bitter gourd and Runner Beans. It is important to note that all the women swarozgaries have grown vegetables and have been able to generate income selling the vegetables in weekly markets apart from consumption in their families.

c) Support for Goatery

20 Women Swarozgaries (10 women of Mahidharpur & 10 women of Serenabeda) have been provided support for Goatery. Each of the Swarozgaries has been provided Rs. 4000 (Rs. 3000 Aid India support + Rs. 1000 VIRD’s Contribution) for purchase of goat. All the women Swarozgaries have purchased goats and Insurance of the goats has also been done.

d) Training of Women Farmers on Government Schemes and Organic Farming

Training of Women Farmers on Government Schemes and Organic Farming was organized on 24th March 2017 at Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra, Mahidharpur. The Training was facilitated by Deputy Director, Horticulture, Angul and Block Agriculture Officer, Banarpal, Angul, Mr. Manoj Satapathy, Program Coordinator, VIRD and Mr. Basanta Kumar Sahu, Project Coordinator, VIRD.

Learning Expectations of the participants were collected and mentioned in the Parking Space for discussion by the facilitators. Issues discussed in the training and the participants got knowledge and skill on the following themes;

- i) Field Preparation
- ii) Crop Rotation
- iii) Seed Collection, Preservation and Sanitization
- iv) Preparation of Seed bed and care of the Seedlings
- v) Transplantation of Seedlings
- vi) Rational use of water and use of Organic Manure
- vii) Use of Pesticides (Chemical & Organic) to deal with different types of pests
- viii) Methods and processes of preparation of Organic Manure and Pesticides
- ix) Methods and Processes of Mushroom Cultivation
- x) Government Schemes and Programmes on Horticulture and Ways and Means of Accessing the Schemes and Programmes

The Public Education Material developed by Director, Horticulture, Angul was distributed among the participants. The Training had an Interaction session between the Facilitators and the Participants in which the Women Swarozgaries raised their issues and concerns which were addressed by the facilitators.

The Training Program ended with Group Discussion, Preparation of Future Plan of Action and Vote of Thanks.

e) Orientation on Schemes and Programmes for Women and Livelihoods

Orientation on Schemes and Programmes for Women and Livelihoods was organized on 25th March 2017 at Rajiv Gandhi Seva Kendra, Mahidharpur. The Training was facilitated by Veterinary Officer, Banarpal, Mr. Manoj Satapathy, Program Coordinator, VIRD and Mr. Basanta Kumar Sahu, Project Coordinator, VIRD.

Given the fact that most of the participants are engaged in Goat Rearing and have been financially supported for the enterprise, the orientation was planned on goat rearing. Learning Expectations of the participants were collected and mentioned in the Parking Space for discussion by the facilitators. Issues discussed in the orientation and the participants got knowledge and skill on the following themes;

- i) Preparation of the Shed
- ii) Selection of Breed
- iii) Immunization
- iv) Types fodder and methods of giving fodders
- v) Common Diseases, Prevention & Treatment
- vi) Importance of Insuring the Goats
- vii) Facilities provided by Veterinary department and government schemes and programmes for promotion of goat rearing including construction of sheds
- viii) Backyard Poultry
- ix) Convergence among Government Schemes and Programmes for promotion of Animal Husbandry

The Orientation had an Interaction session between the Facilitator and the Participants in which the Women Swarozgaries raised their issues and concerns which were addressed by the facilitators.

The Training Program ended with Group Discussion, Preparation of Future Plan of Action and Vote of Thanks.

f) Animal Health Camp: VIRD organized Animal Health Camps in each of the project villages. Veterinary Officer, Banarpal and Stockman went to the both the villages and discussed various preventive measures that need to be taken to keep the livestock healthy. In the Health Camps, goats, their kids as well as the poultry birds were immunized.

g) Signing of Agreement: VIRD sent sample copy of the Agreement to Aid-India that was signed between the organization and the women Swarozgaries. After the feedbacks from Aid-India it was modified and accordingly Agreement has been signed with each of the Women Swarozgaries.

h) Training on Marketing of Forest Produce as Group Venture: Training Programs on “Marketing of Forest Produce as Group Venture” were organized in each of the project villages. The Trainings were facilitated by a social activist engaged in promotion of

marketing of forest produces. Women of the area collect Mahua and sell them to petty traders. More often than not; the petty traders act as middlemen and deprive the primary collectors of remunerative price. Women were oriented on maintenance of practices of cleanliness and hygiene in collection, primary processing and storage of Mahua. They were oriented on the benefits of Collective Marketing (Marketing as a Group Venture) so that they will have the bargaining power against the petty traders. There were 50-60 women present in each of the orientation programs.

i) Interface Meeting with Line Department Officials: VIRD Interface Meeting of the Women Farmers and Swarozgaries with officials of Line Departments i.e.; Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Women and Child Development Departments. Block Agriculture Officer, Banarpal, Veterinary Officer, Banarpal and Supervisor, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) attended the program and apprised the participants on schemes and programs of their respective departments. Public Education Materials developed by the Departments were distributed among the participants. Women discussed various problems they face in accessing the schemes and programs. The officials discussed Grievance Redressal Mechanism of the public authorities and shared their contact numbers with the participants.

OUTCOMES

The project based livelihood promotion initiative has impacted the livelihood of the participating households in terms of adding value to the cattle wealth owned by the households and enhanced income from sale of vegetables in the market. Given below is the gist of own-account narration of the women swarozgaries.

a) Goat Rearing

Name of the Beneficiary	Purchase Value of Goat	Present Value (After 1 year)	Remarks
Mahila Naik	4500	10000	A single goat purchased at the price of Rs. 4500 (Rs. 3000 Aid + Rs. 1000 VIRD + Rs. 500 Own Contribution) has given birth to 2 Kids. The present market value is Rs. 10000
Kanta Naik	4000	7000	A single goat purchased at the price of Rs. 4000 (Rs. 3000 Aid + Rs. 1000 VIRD) has given birth to 1 Kid.

			The present market value is Rs. 7000
Babita Naik	4000	8000	A single goat purchased at the price of Rs. 4000 (Rs. 3000 Aid + Rs. 1000 VIRD) has given birth to 2 Kids. The present market value is Rs. 8000
Rama Naik	5000	11000	A single goat purchased at the price of Rs. 5000 (Rs. 3000 Aid + Rs. 1000 VIRD + Rs. 1000 Own Contribution) has given birth to 2 Kids. The present market value is Rs. 11000
Kuni Naik	5000	14000	A single goat purchased at the price of Rs. 5000 (Rs. 3000 Aid + Rs. 1000 VIRD + Rs. 1000 Own Contribution) has given birth to 2 Kids. One of them is a male kid that could be sold at a higher price compared to a female kid. The goat is expected to deliver once again within a couple of months. The present market value is Rs. 14000
Chumki Naik	4000	8000	A single goat purchased at the price of Rs. 4000 (Rs. 3000 Aid + Rs. 1000 VIRD) has given birth to 2 Kids. The present market value is Rs. 8000
Bijuli Naik	4000	6000	A single goat purchased at the price of Rs. 4000 (Rs. 3000 Aid + Rs. 1000 VIRD) has given birth to 1 Kid. The present market value is Rs. 6000
Sushama Naik	4000	8000	A single goat purchased at the price of Rs. 4000 (Rs. 3000 Aid + Rs. 1000 VIRD) has given birth to 2 Kids. The present market value is Rs. 8000

b) Vegetable Cultivation

Case Study-1

Shantilata Sahu has the reputation of a progressive farmer in her village Mahidharpur. The family depends on cultivation and grows food crops cereals, pulses etc. for household consumption. The family grows vegetables on a piece of land measuring 72 decimal which is sold in the market. Shantilata has an open well in the midst of the land which contributes to irrigation of the land. However; growing vegetables in the summer is difficult as water is not available in the well during those days. “A farmer who grows vegetables in summer earns far more than a farmer who grows vegetables in winter and rainy season, as vegetables are sold at a higher price in Summer”, says Shantilata.

Shantilata grows Tomato, Ladies Finger, Cucumber, Cabbage, Runner Beans mostly during winter and rainy seasons and confines it to an area of land that could be irrigated by the open

well in summer. Irrigating the land manually is arduous. Even then, the labour and sweat of the family bear fruits with income from vegetable cultivation that contributes to her daughter's education at Bhubaneswar.

Shantilata is one of the 20 women farmers that have been supported under the project. She was provided capacity building and input support (Seed) for cultivation of vegetables. Shantilata has earned more than Rs. 40000 from vegetables this year compared to Rs. 30000 earned last year. She goes on to add that seed support provided by VIRD-Aid India was of some help, however; the capacity building support that she got in terms of learning on good practices and handholding support have been of great help. She refers to the support she got from the Project Coordinator, VIRD and the access she got through the projects to the officials of Agriculture Department in crop planning (mix cropping), manuring and controlling pests.

Shantilata concludes saying that input support in terms of provision of quality seeds, fertilizer and promotion of organic farming will help small and marginal farmers of her village.

Case Study-2

Subhadra Nayak, a woman farmer of Mahidharpur grows Cauliflower, Brinjal, Cucumber, Ladies Finger, Beans and Leafy Vegetables on her land measuring 64 decimal. The Open well in the midst of the land is used to irrigate the vegetable crops. Subhadra points out that non-availability of water impedes the farmers from growing vegetables. She used to face the same problem earlier and had to renovate the well this year spending around Rs. 30000 on it. She went on to add that with the availability of water, she has been able to grow vegetables in summer which were sold at a price far more than they are sold in winter. As a result; the family has been able to earn Rs. 50000 from selling vegetables in the market compared to Rs. 30000 that was earned earlier.

Delineating the difficulties she faces in enhancing her income through vegetable cultivation, Subhadra points out non-availability of quality seeds, fertilizers and pesticides and non-availability of cash to purchase the inputs from the market prices of which are increasing exponentially every year. She went on to add that the seeds, fertilizers and pesticides that they purchase from the market at times fail to deliver the desired result. She knows that

chemical inputs worsen the quality of the soil, but with no option left she uses them in her field.

Subhadra points out that she has heard about farmers getting benefits from using indigenous seeds, organic inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides and hormones and expresses interest to learn about them through exposure and capacity building so that she would be able to use them in her field.

FUTURE PLAN OF ACTION

VIRD has arrived at the following Action Points for strengthening the project outcomes in the days to come

- i) Replication of the initiative on promotion of Goatery with addition of new women swarozgaries
- ii) Provision of Irrigation Facility through renovation of existing wells and support for cycle mounted solar powered water pumps
- iii) Promotion of Organic Farming through Exposure Visit, Capacity Building Trainings, Demonstrations etc.
- iv) Provision of Input support such as; pest resistant varieties of indigenous seeds and support for preparation of organic inputs

Namita satpathy

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