CBO RELIEF INITIATIVE-II
Building Resilient Communities

During this month last year, Barefoot College International (BCI) was busy supporting, coordinating, and fundraising for multiple on-ground initiatives run by our partner Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) in their remote, rural communities. What started with voluntary contributions from colleagues (14% of their salaries for 3 months) to establish a corpus for the CBO Relief Fund, eventually ended up gathering funds from other generous donors to support our ground initiatives. During that first phase, we were able to reach 30,385 beneficiaries in 18 states through 32 partnering CBOs.

However, it was widely understood that the pandemic will have ramifications for a long time to come. Hence, it was important to develop medium to long-term programs (6-18months) that promised significant and sustained impact in building self-reliant and resilient communities. That gave birth to the second phase of the CBO Relief program. The idea was to identify a few innovative, ground-relevant programs, and work on their proof of concept. Eventually, reliable solutions would be created that could be replicable by other organizations and scalable at the pilot location.

The feedback from our ground partners and insights derived from our first phase data suggested that interventions in Livelihood and education were most needed. Proposals were then called for in the thematic areas of Livelihood (Agriculture & Allied Activities) and Education (Non-formal / Alternative). Out of the 19 proposals we received, the programs proposed by SUTRA and SAMPARK were selected based on their effectiveness (practicality, innovativeness, replicability, and sustainability) with due consideration given to the experience of these organisations in the proposed domain.

This progress report will provide an overview of on-ground developments in the past 4 months (January to April) and initial impact experienced by our communities so far. Happy reading!

PROGRAM OUTREACH

10 VILLAGES
120 CHILDREN

10 VILLAGES
200 FARMERS

SAMPARK

AIM

To support Small and Marginal farmers through promotion and provision of extension services in indigenous, eco-friendly, organic farming.

This is being done by:

- Supporting farmers through fair and sustainable livelihoods
- Promotion of desi-seed variety and eco-friendly organic farming practices
- Making farmers self-reliant in organic farming
- Improving soil health
- Improving nutritional intake for the family of the farmers

PROJECT LOCATION

Farmers from the following villages in Petlawad block, Jhabua district, Madhya Pradesh:

1. Khakhrapada
2. Bhabhrapada
3. Jambupada
4. Chawrapada
5. Titodeepada
6. Narsingpura
7. Kalighati
8. Kachrotia
9. Kudal
10. Runaji

SUTRA

AIM

To improve learning outcomes of children of migrant families working in the unorganized sector whose education have been neglected due to the

- Inability to follow the local language often used in the classrooms
- Limited time and energy their parents devote post working hours to take care of their education
- Absence of smartphones at home to attend online classes

PROJECT LOCATION

10 tuition centers have been supported in the following villages in Solan District, Himachal Pradesh:

1. Bhim Colony
2. Preet Nagar
3. Haraipur: Eeeta ka Batta
4. Harijan Basti
5. Haraipur
6. Mhaisi Palasi
7. Dadi Kaniya
8. Manpura-2
9. Taliwala
10. Peersthan

SAMPARK

PROGRAM BENEFICIARIES

200 Small and Marginal farmers (out of whom 80 are covered in the Rabi Season) with landholding between 2 to 10 bigha

ACTIVITIES

November '20

1. Selection of farmer
2. Preparation of the field
3. Distribution of seeds
4. Handholding support for sowing

Local Farmers at the seed bank in Sampark's campus

December'20

1. Extension service for
   a. First irrigation,
   b. Bio-inputs preparation (Fertilizer,decomposer and nitrogen solution)

Demonstration session on nitrogen fertiliser prparation

SUTRA

PROGRAM BENEFICIAIRES

120 children from migrant families working in the unorganized sector (construction work)

ACTIVITIES

January '21

1. Selection of villages
2. Selection of associated primary schools
3. Selection of instructors
4. Selection of children
5. Baseline survey
6. Five-day Orientation cum capacity-building session for instructors
7. Initiation of classes
8. Deployment of testing tool (First)

Top to bottom: Scene from the 5-day orientation session; children gathered around for an interactive game sesssion

SAMPARK

2. Preparation of Wheat Biodiversity Plot by cultivating 23 desi crop varieties of wheat

January'21

Extension Service for

1. Production and distribution of fertilizer solution
2. Weeding using Cycle doras

From the top: Women farmers collecting fertiliser solution they prepared during the session; a farmer using cycle dora for weeding

February' 21

1. Extension support for Tri-monthly Spraying of bio-fertilizers and compost

SUTRA

February'21

1. Deployment of testing tool (2nd)
2. Initiation of monthly meeting with teachers
3. Initiation of monthly meeting with parents and community members
4. Initiation of Mahila Mandals in the community (for community involvement, sensitization and improving women's agency)

Top to bottom: Children displaying their work in a training centre; Placards made for elicitation

March'21:

1st meeting with Panchayat Representatives and village stakeholders covering all the centres

SAMPARK

Sprayiing of bio-fertlizer

March'21

1. Extension service: Removal of invasive weed
2. Baseline Survey initiated
3. Farmers' meet organised at Sampark Campus

Stills from the Farmers Meet which was attended by 260 farmers; information was given by renowned farmers, scientists, and department officials on 23 desi wheat varieties and basic practices for organic farming

April '21

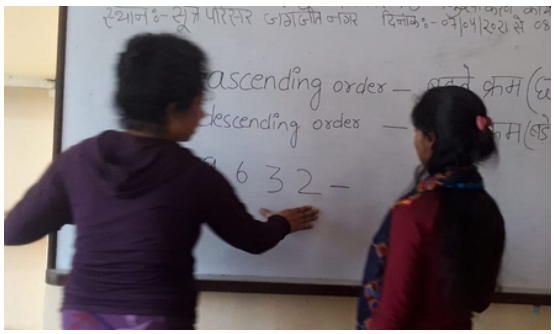
1. Harvest of Wheat
2. Purchase of wheat from the Farmers by SAMPARK

SUTRA

Meeting with PRI representatives

April' 21

1. Testing tool (3rd time)
2. Quarterly refresher training for teachers



Session by Ms. Priayanka, the training lead (top) and Ms Anisha from the BCI team (bottom)

Recurring Activities

1. Classes (Mon-Saturday)
2. Test tool deployment (every 3rd fortnight)
3. Meeting with Instructors (Monthly)

SAMPARK

From the top: Farmers cutting the wheat in their field; image of the wheat harvest purchased by Sampark

FUTURE ACTIVITIES
(May'21 to Nov'21)

1. Marketing of produce by Sampark team
2. Endline survey
3. Initiation of 2nd phase of the program (Support for Kharif season) which shall support 120 farmers in organic farming.

CHALLENGES

1. Delay in the farming cycle due to changing climatic conditions and increasing temperatures
2. Slowing down of operations and survey deployment due to the pandemic and the enforced lockdown

SUTRA

4. Meeting with Panchayat representatives (Every quarter)
5. Meeting with parents, community members, and Mahila Mandals (Monthly)

Women from the Mahila Mandal discussing the gender norms prevalent in their community

FUTURE ACTIVITIES
(May'21 to Dec'21)

- Selection of new children to replace those who have been promoted to the 6th grade
- Continuation of the recurring activities mentioned above
- Endline survey

CHALLENGES

1. Space constraints at villages to conduct the tuition classes
2. Disruption in the attendance of children due to frequent travels by their families to native states during festive seasons
3. Frequent change in residential locations of migrant families due to shifting jobs resulting in some children dropping out of the tuition classes

SAMPARK

IMPACT TILL NOW

80

farmers supported from sowing to sales

12

Extension support sessions held in 6 months

260

farmers attended the Farmers Meet to know more about Sampark's initiative

~Rs7*

increase in per kg purchase price as compared to market price

Others

- Conducive eco-system created for the farmers in the 10 villages to try put first-hand organic farming practices in their fields
- Strengthening of seedbank, input, and fertiliser dispensary at Sampark campus

SUTRA

IMPACT TILL NOW

10

Instructors trained on interactive class facilitation techniques

120

Children receiving support to improve learning outcomes

>80%

attendance in all tuition centres

83

Women covered under 6 Mahila Mandals

Others

- Sustained increase in the number of students who have acquired the tested skill-sets**
- Improved involvement of the community in children's education: 3 monthly meetings organized with parents and community members for each tuition center (30 in total); 5 meetings with PRI members and important village stakeholders

**from initial data. Exact figures shall be calculated once impact evaluation survey for rabi season is completed on ground*
*** Refer to appendix more details*

Rameshwar Malawad in his wheat field

Rameshwar Malawad is a farmer from Bhabharpada Village in Jhabua district, MP who lives with six others at home, all involved in farming. Last year for the Rabi season, he decided to ditch the seeds and inputs sold widely in the local markets and instead collected the desi black wheat seeds from SAMPARK. The SAMPARK staff recount the diligence with which Rameshwar Bhai followed all that was taught during the extension services from preparing nitrogen solution and compost to using *cycle doras* for de-weeding. How did it all go for him? Rameshwar Bhai says, " While earlier I had to pay a hefty price for seeds, this time I received the seeds from SAMPARK without any cost. Moreover, instead of receiving the market price of Rs18 per kg on my harvest, I was paid Rs 25 per kg by Sampark. The harvest was in fact collected at my doorstep. My family and I have really benefited from being a part of the program. So has my soil too through the usage of organic inputs in the field!

Amra Malawad who comes from a seven-member strong farming family collected the Paigambar variety of wheat from SAMPARK which is considered the earliest variety of wheat in India (cultivated first during the Indus Valley Civilisation). Amra Ji attended each and every training-cum demonstration session held by SAMPARK and made sure to implement all the new techniques learned in his own field. He is fascinated by the easily replicable techniques that he learned during the course of the program. With a smile, he says " Using *cycle doras* for de-weeding is such a saver for small farmers like me! It has not only reduced the physical labour that we put in but has also reduced the expenses we made on weedicides. In fact, on seeing me use the cycle weeder, many farmers in my village have been motivated to use it in their own fields!

Amra Malawad trying the cycle -dora in his field

Jyoti is a cheerful 8-year-old girl from Peersthan Village in Himachal Pradesh studying in the fourth grade. Her parents work as daily wage workers at a construction site. She is really fond of studying and within a short span from the program initiation, she mastered many frequently-used Hindi and English words. She says she loves to sing and dance and her eyes brighten up as she says “When I grow up, I will become a Police Officer!”

Sonia is a 10-year-old from Preet Nagar in Himachal Pradesh who lives with her parents and five sisters. Her parents migrated from Bihar. Apart from studying she likes to help her mother with household chores. She says with a grin,“ My favorite part of studying is reading stories!”. She has consistently been the first one to attend the tuition class and her instructors note that her diligent nature has resulted in a significant improvement in her performance in class. She says with the most enthusiastic smile, “I want to be a teacher when I grow up so that I can support my parents and make them proud.”

APPENDIX

Change in learning outcomes
of children as captured by the testing-toolkit developed by sutra***

Skills tested	Percentage of students with the skill-set ((First Test)	Percentage of students with the skill-set (Second test)
Can Read single digit number	92	98
Can Read double digit number	60	87
Can Write single digit number	66	83
Can Write double digit number	38	68
Can do Simple Addition without carry over	38	61
Can do Simple Addition with carry over	19	51
Can do Simple Subtraction without borrowing	21	42
Can do Simple Subtraction with borrowing	11	32
Can do Simple Multiplication without carryover	15	24
Can do Simple Multiplication without carryover	5	8
Can do Simple division without remainder	6	19
Can do Simple division with remainder	3	4

	Language 1 (Hindi)		Language 2 (English)	
Skills tested	**Percentage of students with the skill-set** ((First Test)	**Percentage of students with the skill-set** ((First Test)	**Percentage of students with the skill-set** ((First Test)	**Percentage of students with the skill-set** ((First Test)
Can identify letters	80	98	88	89
Can identify simple words	55	84	42	78
Can speak up simple sentences	34	56	12	36
Can speak a paragraph with limited comprehension	13	26	3	8
Can say a simple paragraph with comprehension	8	17	3.	7
Can write letters	52	83	58	88
Can write simple words	29	73	30	74
Can write simple sentences	17	29	11	9

**** While the first test was deployed at the start of the program, the second was deployed 6 weeks from the program start*

कृषि को रसायन से मुक्त रखने हेतु संपर्क समाज सेवी संस्था ने आयोजित की कार्यशाला

जैविक खेती का लाभ लेने वाले कई विद्वानों ने साझा किए अपने अनुभव किसानों ने शिरकत कर सीखा जैविक पद्धति से खेती करनेका हुनर

पेटलावद। ग्लोबल वार्मिंग तथा पर्यावरणीय असन्तुलन की चुंनोतियो के बीच किसानों को रसायन मुक्त कृषि के लिए प्रेरित करने के उद्देश्य से स्वयं सेवी संस्था संपर्क म. प्र.ने गेहू की जैव विविधता प्रक्षेत्र एवं टिकाऊ खेती महोत्सव का आयोजन सम्पर्क ग्राम परिसर में किया गया जिसमें क्षेत्र के 20 से अधिक गाँव के सैकड़ों महिला पुरुषों किसानों ने भागीदारी कर 23 दुर्लभ प्रजातियों के गेहू की फसल के चारित्रिक गुणो नका अवलोकन किया तथा जहर मुक्त खेती की तकनीक व जैव आदन निर्माण प्रक्रिया के बारे में जाना।

कार्यक्रम में अतिथियों ने महात्मा गांधी के चित्र पर सूत कि माला चढ़ाई व तुलसी पत्रों का पूजन किया ततपश्चात संपर्क निदेशक नीलेश देसाई ने स्वागत भाषण करते हुए कहा कि इस समय पूरा विश्व जहरीली खेती के दुष्परिणाम भुगत रहा है। यदि मानव स्वास्थ्य को बचाना है तो जैविक खेती के अलावा कोई अन्य रास्ता नही है । कार्यक्रम के मुख्य अतिथि कृषि विज्ञान केंद्र के संचालक डॉ आई एस तोमर ने कहा कि 70 के दशक में हरित क्रांति के बाद पर्याप्त खाद्यान्न पैदा हुआ परन्तु उसकी गुणवत्ता पर सवाल खड़े हुए इससे स्वास्थ्य संबंधि कई समस्याएं सामने आई इसलिए आज टिकाऊ खेती का महत्व बहुत बढ़ गया है। हैदराबाद से आई पोषण विशेषज्ञ सुश्री कोमल जायसवाल ने कहा कि रासायनिक उवर्रक व कीटनाशक के अंधाधुंध के प्रयोग से धरती का स्वस्थय खराब हुआ है ओर कृषि उत्पादों की गुणवत्ता घटी है। सर्वोदय विचारक राजेश जैन ने कहा कि खेती में कंपनिवाद बढ़ा है नतीजतन कैंसर हृर्दय रोग, गुर्दा रोग, शुगर जेसी घातक बीमारियां बढ़ गई है इसका एक मात्र उपाय गो आधारित कृषि है।कार्यक्रम में लहसुन कास्त विशेषज्ञ नानालाल धाकड़ ने रासायनिक खेती के दुष्प्रभाव बताने वाली गीतिका प्रस्तुत की इस अवसर पर जैविक किसान फादर मालहोग कटारा ,श्रीमती तारशिला भूरिया ,रामलाल पाटीदार ने भी जैविक खेती की सफलता के अपने अनुभव साझा किए। अतिथियों व भागीदारों ने परिसर में स्थित जैविक आदन निर्माण कार्यशाला व सामुदायिक बीज बैंक में रखे दुर्लभ प्राचीन बीजो का अवलोकन किया गया । कार्यक्रम के दोरान क्षेत्र में लम्बे समय से जैविक खेती में जुटे किसान अनसिंग सोलंकी ,दशरत आंजना ,रामलाल पाटीदार ,नगला निनामा, सोमेश्वर, गल्लाबा, तारशिला आदि को सम्मानित भी किया गया।कृषि विज्ञान केन्द्र के वैज्ञानिको ने दुर्लभ प्रजाति के गेहू सोना मोती ,कालीबाली, कल्याण सोना, मुंदरी, जावा गो दी, कठिया, बुन्देली कट्टी, लालिया व साडपूरी को राष्ट्रीय बीज बैंक में किसान के नाम से पंजीकृत करवाने का सुझाव दिया उन्होंने किसानों के जैविक आदान निर्माण करने व उसके उपयोग को खेति में सकारात्मक हस्तक्षेप बताते हुए इसकी प्रसंशा की कार्यक्रम मे उपस्थित किसानों ने गेहू कि विभिन्न प्रजातियों का रेटिंग भी किया। कार्यक्रम का संचालन वरिष्ठ पत्रकार हरिशकर पंवार ने किया। आभार प्रदर्शन श्री लक्ष्मण सिंह मुनिया ने किया।

वैज्ञानिकों ने किसानों को रसायन मुक्त कृषि के लिए प्रेरित किया

जैव विविधता प्रक्षेत्र व टिकाऊ खेती महोत्सव हुआ

पेटलावद. किसानों को संबोधित करते डॉ. आईएस तोमर।

भास्कर संवाददाता | पेटलावद

ग्लोबल वार्मिंग तथा पर्यावरणीय असंतुलन की चुनौतियों के बीच किसानों को रसायन मुक्त कृषि के लिए प्रेरित करने के उद्देश्य से गेहूं की जैव विविधता प्रक्षेत्र एवं टिकाऊ खेती महोत्सव का आयोजन संपर्क ग्राम परिसर में किया।

आयोजन स्वयं सेवी संस्था संपर्क मप्र ने किया। जिसमें क्षेत्र के 20 से अधिक गांव के सैकड़ों महिला-पुरुष किसानों ने भागीदारी कर 23 दुर्लभ प्रजातियों के गेहूं की फसल के चारित्रिक गुणों का अवलोकन किया। साथ ही जहर मुक्त खेती की तकनीक व जैव आदन निर्माण प्रक्रिया के बारे में जाना। संस्था के निदेशक नीलेश देसाई ने कहा इस समय पूरा विश्व जहरीली खेती के दुष्परिणाम भुगत रहा है। यदि मानव स्वास्थ्य को बचाना है तो जैविक खेती के अलावा कोई अन्य रास्ता नहीं है। मुख्य अतिथि कृषि विज्ञान केंद्र के प्रमुख डॉ. आईएस तोमर ने कहा 70 के दशक में हरित क्रांति के बाद पर्याप्त खाद्यान्न पैदा हुआ परंतु उसकी गुणवत्ता पर सवाल खड़े हुए। इससे स्वास्थ्य संबंधी कई समस्याएं सामने आई, इसलिए आज टिकाऊ खेती का महत्व बहुत बढ़ गया है। हैदराबाद से आई पोषण विशेषज्ञ कोमल जायसवाल, राजेश जैन, लहसुन कास्त विशेषज्ञ नानालाल धाकड़ ने भी संबोधित किया। संचालन हरिशंकर पंवार ने किया। आभार लक्ष्मण सिंह मुनिया ने माना।

Media coverage of Sampark's Initiative