



Biodiversity Conservation



FACILITATING NGO AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) Namely Lindane and Endosulphan through Promotion of the use of Bio-pesticides and Organic manures through Sustainable Agricultural Practices in Meerut and Muzaffarnagar districts of Uttar Pradesh

Project Objective:

The main objective of the project is to eliminate the use of deadly pesticides like Lindane and Endosulphan. Moreover it also aims at the inclusion of these pesticides in the list of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and Indian to join the list of over 50 countries which have banned their usage completely in agriculture.

Project Rationale:

The project was initiated in two districts of Western Uttar Pradesh covering four blocks in each district. The project was conceived based on a research conducted by the Janhit Foundation revealing the presence of these hazardous in the water of this region and also on the basis of surveys which testifies of the extensive use of these pesticides in this region mainly on the crop of Sugarcane, wheat and other vegetable crops like potato, tomato, cabbage, brinjals etc.

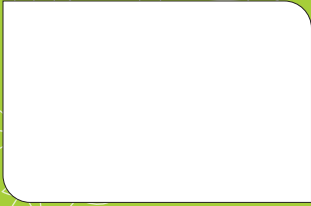
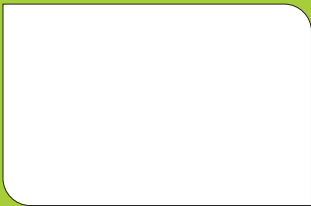
Two major spheres in which the organisation is active in are Conservation and Protection of Water Resources and Promotion of Organic Farming. This project was initiated by the organisation as the water bodies particularly the ground water which are being polluted continuously by the use of the hazardous pesticides like Lindane and Endosulphan amongst others can be saved if the usage of these can be prohibited. In addition, by making the farmers aware of the disadvantages of using these pesticides, the organisation shall also elucidate before the farmers the advantages of switching over to Organic Farming.

On the basis of prior surveys, 50 farmers were identified from each of the 8 blocks making it a total of 400 farmers who shall be motivated not to use these pesticides and instead depend on organic manures and bio-pesticides. The training programs for the farmers have been continuously organised by the Janhit Foundation in order to educate them about the alternatives. The organisation shall also be assisting the farmers in forming the self help groups which will practice organic farming in a sustainable manner. The farmers shall also be made aware of the market prospects of such crops grown and also assist them in getting them the actual worth for such crop and thus ultimately helping them in enhancing their income.



Geographical Area	:	Meerut and Muzaffarnagar districts in Uttar Pradesh
No of Beneficiaries	:	400 farmers, Janhit Foundation itself and its project partners.
SGP Grant	:	Rs. 1768125
Co Financing	:	Rs. 588000
Project Time Period	:	

SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme



Project Activities:

Survey and Research activities: Analysing the soil quality to find out the quantum of pesticide being used in agricultural activities in the target districts. The research activities shall also investigate into the cost spent by the agriculturists in using these pesticides and thus examining the cost benefit for the farmer if he switches over to organic inputs.

Publication of Literature:

Pamphlets and booklets were published to be distributed among the farmers at large to enhance their knowledge on the ill effects of the use of these hazardous pesticides. These were also used to make the sugar mill owners the stakeholders and convince them against the use of these pesticides.

Training Activities:

Regular Training Programmes, seminars and workshops have been conducted to promote the practise of organic farming and thus eliminate the use of any chemical based pesticides and in particular highly harmful ones like Lindane and Endosulphan.

Market for the End Crop:

The organisation has its own Organic outlet in Meerut named 'Organic Aaharam' so the market for the crops thus grown shall be easily provided and the farmer shall fetch the appropriate price for the same.

Results:

- 8 Meetings in 8 different blocks with the farmers and 4 meetings with Sugar Mill Association
- 400 farmers from 8 different blocks identified after documentation of primary and secondary data collected.
- Soil sample analysis of farms belonging to 100 farmers to find out the initial content of Lindane and Endosulphan was carried out to examine its use.
- 10 workshops organised for farmers, experts, experienced farmers, horticulturists and agricultural scientists.
- 8 Charcha Mandals held in which all the farmers involved were to discuss their problems and experiences with each other.
- Exposure Visit for farmers to Maharashtra Organic Farming Federation, Pune was organised for them to experience the advantages of Organic Farming.
- Linkages with the Organic Market was also set up with the help of creating liaison with the sugar mill owners and also through the Organic outlet 'Organic Aaharam' also run by Janhit Foundation.
- Self Help Groups (SHGs) of 20-25 farmers each has been formed who shall help each other to do Organic Farming in a sustainable fashion.
- Cleaner environment has been reached as the burning of agricultural waste has been restricted.
- A study is being documented to be submitted to the Government so that it can be used to bring in changes at policy level and ban the use of Lindane and Endosulphan in India and add them in the list of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).

Text by P.S. Sodhi



Janhit Foundation
180/7, Shastri Nagar, Meerut (UP) – 250002
Tel: 0121-2763418
Fax: 0121-2763418
E-mail: janhitfoundation@gmail.com

Regional Co-ordinator
19/323, Indira Nagar,
Lucknow 226016 U.P.
Tel - 0522-2716570, 2716628
Email: ceenorth@ceeindia.org

National Co-ordinator
GEF UNDP Small Grants Programme
CEE Delhi,
C-40 South Extension-II,
New Delhi-49 Ph.: 011-26262878-80
e-mail : sgpdelhi@ceeindia.org
www.ceeindia.org

