

PROJECT IV : SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Comprehensive Agriculture development programme in Rural Purulia (including Livestock , Water Management , Pisciculture , Animal Husbandry , Horticulture and Organic Farming etc) in collaboration with Syngenta Foundation India : 87% of the total work force of these villages is engaged in agricultural and allied activities. But Purulia, being a drought prone district with wide expanses of arid land has rendered traditional agriculture a difficult option for the villagers as a source of earning. Newer technology alone can motivate them to return to the soil & take up agriculture as a livelihood. Our objective is to bring a holistic improvement in the life of the tribal and backward community of Purulia district. Primary focus will be given on Employment Generation utilizing the existing natural resources for more production, improving efficiency in life-stock management and better water management for suitable livelihood and agriculture. Side by side, we have also to work with them for improving market linkages and developing agro-based and other rural enterprises for generating employment. Once employments are generated, the people can hopefully be motivated for promotion of literacy, health-awareness, sanitation etc, in other words for overall betterment in their life pattern. With this idea in view , Nanritam is working in collaboration with Syngenta Foundation India , that will lead to Poverty alleviation and prevent forced migration among the farmers.



Sustainable agriculture programme has been launched in Barandanga, Para, Purulia since May 2010, with 70 farmers in 10 villages of Para Block. Due to extreme drought situation this year, Kharif paddy cultivation could be done by 40 farmers only in these villages. Out of these, S.R.I (System of Rice Intensification) technique could be launched successfully on 6 bighas of lands that are adjacent to ponds and rivers. After harvesting paddy, mixed vegetable crops like cauliflower, cabbage, Brinjal, tomato, Bitter-gourd, string beans, pumpkins were cultivated successfully by 54 farmers. A model demonstration plot at Nanritam's project campus at Para Block yielded several tons of tomatoes and other veg crops even under the prevailing adverse situation. These short-term vegetable crops in the farmer's fields also gave good return of money. Seeds were distributed to the farmers at 50% subsidy from Nanritam Krishi Kendra (NKK). In the Boro season, wheat and mustard were cultivated with improved technique by 500 farmers that yielded 1.5 to 2 times more produce than earlier years. Due to acute shortage of water, 4 pump sets and 2 suction pipes were distributed on participatory mode, covering 18 hectares of land belonging to 120 farmers. Final irrigations of the wheat fields were supported by River bed digging at 50% cost in 14 areas, as the river water completely dried up due to scanty rainfall. About 35 women's groups in the villages comprising of more than 400 women have done mushroom cultivation with substantial production of the crop, after having training from Nanritam Krishi Kendra. At present more than 1000 farmers in the Para Block are associated with NKK, and the figure is expanding still. Two full-time Agriculture Extension Officers are posted at Nanritam Krishi Kendra to provide all sorts of technical support to the farmers.



The initiative that has been taken in the Para block :

- Formation of local farmers' groups across in 33 villages :
 - i) Imparting transfer of knowledge (through education and field training) of advanced agricultural technologies for attaining sustainable improvement of agriculture.
 - ii) Training through exposure visits of farmers to progressive farmers who are already following advanced agricultural techniques (and integration of the same with good local practices).
- Facilitating supply of necessary quality inputs like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc, to the farmers, through the farmers' groups mediated by NANRITAM.
- Facilitating and strengthening of marketing initiatives by farmers and villagers through linkages with various networks. NANRITAM will try to ensure that the farmers of its project area get proper price for their produce, also, help them to hold and stock their produce in transit, when needed. In providing such assistance in marketing, Syngenta Foundation India will be the main collaborating partner of Nanritam.

In March 2011, Nanritam has signed up a project with CBM (Christophel Blind Mission) on Organic Farming as a part of 'Inclusive Organic Agriculture' utilizing the capacities of the Disabled and women population for their income generation. The training programmes with Exposure visits will start from April, 2011 before launching the project in Purulia district and later involving the other districts of the state.



PROJECT - V : LEARN TO EARN

Vocational Training & Livelihood Generation

Nanritam has been trying, through these years, to empower the under-privileged to stand on their own feet, to support themselves & their families. For this we have been providing vocational trainings in various skills and have also tried to promote entrepreneurship, with our limited resources.

Our Vocational Training and Livelihood Generation programme

In both the urban slums and the rural areas of Purulia District, West Bengal, we are running training programmes for women in various forms. In Purulia District, where we work, 70% of the population lives below the poverty line. The primary source of income is unskilled labour & farming. Educational status of the populace is very poor with hardly 15-18% having primary education and a meagre 5% being school graduates. The tribals of the region follow a matriarchal family system. The chief bread earners in this region are women. However, their educational status is dismal, with most being illiterate. They thus have to resort to assorted seasonal activities like making cowdung cakes, paddy cutting, animal husbandry, collecting wood chips, daily labour etc in order to make a living.

To enable these women to have a steady source of income and to lead a better life, Nanritam conducts various kinds of training programmes for them.

Training Provided at Para :

The training programmes done at our rural unit at Para, Purulia, include Knitting, Tailoring, Carpentry, Embroidery, Fabric painting, Poultry farming, Health Worker training, Incense-Making, Mushroom-Cultivation etc.

EMBROIDERY UNIT AT BOLPUR: A training cum production unit operates here with 450 rural women involved. Our artists make a variety of products with emphasis on quality and usability. The embroidery of the products deserves special mention. They specialize in Kantha work which is upto the market standard. Our products include Sarees, Bedcovers, Pillow Covers, Salwar Suits, Kurtas, Punjabis, Small Bags and many kinds of gifts items. We take the initiative to sell these products by arranging exhibitions so that these rural poor women can earn their living. Products are made to order as well. We also cater to organizations with bulk order requirements for bags and such items.





SKILL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT WITH NCRI (NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RURAL INSTITUTE UNDER MINISTRY OF HRD) FOR PURULIA DISTRICT:

NANRITAM has signed up an agreement with NCRI with the objective of promoting Livelihood , local Cultural tradition and enhancement of skill among the youths in the age group of 18-25 years particularly from BPL category as well as literate and semi-literate women and SC/ST groups from low-income group families.

BPO TRAINING CENTRE :

NANRITAM has launched its first BPO centre at Belghoria, North Kolkata in collaboration with Nasscom Foundation and Accenture on 7th March 2011. The target is to train 50 youths per quarter and in total 200 youths in one year. Fifty students belonging to the underprivileged class from suburban Kolkata and North 24 pgs within the age range of 18-28 years are being groomed for total personality development, communicative English, Basic computer training, organising skill and management of events with assessment of their aptitude by expert clinical psychologist. Out of them, thirty students have been placed in IT companies, after successful completion of the training.



PROJECT VI

ECO-FRIENDLY PROJECTS

In Purulia, NANRITAM has been trying to take up eco-friendly projects, to maintain and enhance the natural beauty of the place, as well as promote healthy utilization of natural resources.

The following new projects have been taken up:

- Electrification through utilization of solar energy:
 - a) We are procuring electricity for our school & clinic and also for operating the water pump from a solar unit.
 - b) Storage of solar power with storage battery & inverter
- Rain-water Harvesting for preservation of ground water
- Bamboo plantation (with tissue-cultured hybrid variety) to promote cultivation & livelihood generation
- Afforestation : A green movement in barren para has proved fruitful
- Organic farming to promote cultivation & livelihood.

Conventional Electricity has reached our project site since November 2009.

THIS YEAR'S SPECIAL EVENT

The year-long programme of the Birth centenary celebration of Revered Swami Lokeswaranandaji Maharaj of Ramakrishna Mission, our prime inspiration and benefactor that was inaugurated on 1st March 2009 by the then External Affairs Minister Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee, came to a befitting conclusion through seminars, cultural programme and

Reminiscences on Swami Lokeswaranandaji Maharaj organised on 18th April and 19th April, 2010.

On 18th April a seminar was held for the youths at Eastern Zonal Cultural Center, Salt Lake City on 'In Search Of Success'-Based on Indian Culture and Tradition'. The seminar was intended to make the youth brigade of modern times aware of their social responsibilities.

About 700 youth participants attended the seminar. The inaugural lecture was delivered



by Revered Swami Sarvapriyanandaji of Ramakrishna Mission, Belur Math. Shri Asok Mohan Chakrobarti, Chief Secretary of West Bengal chaired the session.

In the 2nd session six youth representatives ranging from High school students, Engineering graduates to IT professionals spoke of their ideas and aspirations on 'Individual Social Responsibility'. The session was moderated by Revered Swami Sarvapriyanandaji.

Post-lunch session was interactive and was conducted by Revered Swami Ishatmanandaji, Secretary, Ramakrishna Mission, Arunachal Pradesh with active participation of the youth representatives.



The final session was on 'Be and Make', where eminent personalities established in their own fields spoke on the subject. The speakers were Dr R.P. Sengupta, world famous neuro-surgeon, Mr Gautam Mohan Chakrobarti, Police Commissioner of Kolkata, Dr K.P. Pappu, Former Director of CINI, at present attached to UNO and Revered Swami Suparnanandaji, Secretary Ramakrishna Mission, Narendrapur.

On 19th April, 2010, Revered monks of the Ramakrishna order, Swami Divyanandaji, Swami Balabhadranandaji, Swami Sandarsananandaji, Swami Chidrupanandaji and Shri Saktiprasad Misra, a highly respected teacher of Purulia Ramakrishna Mission paid their tribute in memory of Revered Swami Lokeswaranandaji Maharaj.

This was followed by an extraordinary Odissi dance recital by famous dancer Ms Sharmila Biswas and her troupe, that was highly acclaimed by the august gathering.

CHANDER HAT – A village Fair

NANRITAM had organised a village fair, CHANDER HAT, its debut attempt, at Barandanga, Para, Purulia for three days from 25.6.2010 to 27.6.2010. The gala occasion was inaugurated by the Hon'ble District Magistrate of Purulia. In his inaugural speech, Hon'ble D. M. emphasised the need of such fairs for promotion and propagation of the culture and heritage of a place and offered to extend all possible support from the District administration.

Enthusiastic participation of scores of people was very encouraging. Local villagers as well as people from far and wide participated in their own capacities - some took part in the workshops, some came to display their products for sale, still others staged cultural programmes and the rest came for entertainment. A beautiful statue of a tribal mother figure made of paper, rags and mud was placed at the entry point to the Fair.



D.M. lights inaugural fire



D.M. addresses the gathering



Tribal mother-figure at fair



Folk song - Baul



Sculpture workshop



Chhou dance

Workshops-Variou workshops started in the fair ground from 10am daily and included those on

agriculture and training on various handicrafts as under :

- 1) Agriculture workshops were conducted on 25th and 27th June in collaboration with Syngenta Foundation Of India. 30-40 farmers from different villages participated in the workshops. Agro-Scientists and experts discussed on improved scientific methods of farming, various problems that crop up in practice and their remedy, water management, kitchen gardening and management of live-stock. The workshops were concluded with Interactive sessions with the farmers.
- 2) A three-day workshop on Arts & crafts was held, 4-5 hrs a day, by the famous artists of Purulia. Hands-on trainings were arranged on paintings by pastel and water colour, Fabric painting, Ceramic & plaster of paris relief work on stones and potteries, making of traditional Chhou masks of Purulia etc. Tremendous enthusiasm was noticed among the children, adolescents and the youths for these workshops. Requests poured in from the participants for conducting regular training classes on these issues, which is under consideration.

Exhibitions – Two exhibitions were opened to the public by the Hon'ble D. M. of Purulia who was immensely impressed by the visual experiences displayed in the exhibitions, one on photography by Mr Swapan Dutta and the other on paintings by the highly-acclaimed artist of Purulia, Mr Ashis Nandi.

The photography display was an attempt to project Purulia in various perspective - its seasonal festivals like Karam, Vadu, Makar, its places of archaeological interests, its traditional dance forms like Chhou, Jhumur and Ethnic arts & paintings on the mud walls of the tribal cottages. The painting exhibition was on the two important characters of Indian heritage, Buddha and Ravana, as well as the Landscapes of Purulia from different aspects.

Cultural Programmes were conducted in the evening all three days :

- 1st day – Karam dance by tribal students and a video documentary on Purulia
- 2nd day – Jhumur song by Pandit Mihirlal Singh Deo
– Chhou dance by Ustad Chittaranjan Kumar & Troupe
- 3rd day – Kathi dance by Tribal students
– Baul song by Sasti Das Baul & Troupe

The Temple Inauguration at Para



The long-awaited temple of Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Sri Sarada Devi and Swami Vivekananda was inaugurated on 10th January, 2011 in Nanritam's rural project campus at Barandanga, Para, Purulia. Consecration of the temple was carried out by Revered Swami Puratananadaji, Assist. Secretary, Narendrapur Ramakrishna Mission.

Revered monks of the Ramakrishna order - Swami Viswanathanandaji, Swami Atmapravanandaji, Swami Sivapradanandaji, Swami Ritanandaji visited on the occasion. Former Chief Secretary, Mr Asok Mohan Chakraborti's active presence in the day-long programme was inspiring to one and all.



Revered monks from other Ashramas in and around Purulia graced the occasion. The District Administration including Hon'ble DM, ADM, SDO and SDPO attended at different times of the day. 3500 villagers were served Prasad at 12 Noon.

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VITAL DETAILS OF NANRITAM

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Registration Number :	S /11 / 8102 of 2001 - 2002
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FCRA No. :	147120781
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All contributions to NANRITAM are exempted from Income Tax under U/S 80(G) of Income Tax Act

OUR COLLABORATORS

Partnership with Central/State:	Government of India – National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) Government of India – National Council of Rural Institute, HRD
Grants Received :	Cognigent Foundation India Syngenta Foundation India Nasscom Foundation Helpage India AID, USA American Service to India CBM Kirpalani
Collaborators :	Alokon Eye Care Centre