

Women At The Centre of Biodiversity



Editorial...!

Today the concept of development is incomplete without a gender component that permeates at all levels. All over the world humans have developed partially different, partially common understanding interlinking the nuances of survival in complex ecosystems. This knowledge of diversity, characteristics, selection, care and conservation is particularly rooted in the knowledge of women. Recognition and respect for the local knowledge of women and men is important starting point.

Particular attention needs to be given to women's participation and research in decision making and implementation process. It is necessary to ensure the participation of women at all levels of research and implementation in the definition of projects and programs. Participation is understood to involve responsibility trust and Co-operation. This means "empowerment" of women to gain more autonomy and decision making power over their lives and the circumstances in which they live.

Gender consideration takes a prominent note in the approaches taken by GREEN Foundation to ensure livelihoods and conservation of Biodiversity.

..... Dr. Vanaja Ramprasad
Managing Trustee.

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Evolution of GREEN Foundation

GREEN Foundation (GF) is a community based organization that works with small and marginal farmers, backward castes and women in the semi-arid regions of Kanakapura Taluka, Ramanagara District in Karnataka State.

GF's intervention commenced as a modest effort with five women farmers and a handful of seeds in Dharmapuri District of Tamil Nadu in 1996. With its passion, commitment and dedication to conservation of bio diversity and improvement in livelihoods of marginal and subsistence farmers, its activities currently benefit 4000 farmers across 150 villages. Over the past decade, GREEN Foundation's interventions have touched upon different dimensions of sustainable agriculture that have helped the farmers in securing seed, food and better livelihoods. The GF's intervention in this region during late 90s was an important step as Kanakapura was considered one of the most backward Talukas of the state. Modern agricultural technologies were not accessible to the poor farmers and, even if they did, they were not suitable to the resource poor situations but paved way for gradual erosion of local land races of major crops as well as traditional knowledge of seed saving and cultivation practices. The activities of the organization include: Conservation of agro-biodiversity; Promotion of ecological agricultural practices; establishment of community managed seed banks and Seed conservation.

Map of the Project Area



Vision :

A well preserved Eco-System Diversity for sustainable rural livelihood of the present generation without eroding the resource base of the future.

Mission :

- ◆ Conserve local seed diversity, promote an increased reliance on bio-diversity based ecological agriculture, and use these as foundations for endogenous growth and development of rural communities.
- ◆ Create a gender-sensitive environment which enhances leadership skills in women.
- ◆ Contribute to livelihoods of people by creatively marketing "value added" cultivated and wild agro-biodiversity.
- ◆ Connect the natural elements - soil, water, air, sunlight and seed - to ensure an abundance of nutritious food and other basic needs of communities.
- ◆ Continue to nurture community participation and assist in building robust people's institutions.



Core Activities and Achievements

Agro biodiversity Conservation

Agro biodiversity Conservation has been the heart and soul of GREEN Foundation's journey. GREEN has focused on agro biodiversity conservation to enhance the livelihoods and food security of small and marginal farmers. The approach is through awareness programs, workshops, and documentation.

Exposure visits

Exposure visits are an extension to the development work as it leaves a deep rooted impact in the minds of the people present and this is why it becomes absolutely necessary in bringing a gathering. Field days and Fields visits are a tradition in GREEN Foundation. A minimum of 5 field days are conducted in GREEN's project area every year. This becomes a strong platform for the farmers to interact, communicate and discuss the various technical aspects of the crop.



Field Days and Field visits

Field Visit to Kulumedoddi and Field Day at Kolalagundi

Field visits are conducted for farmers in one village of a cluster and participation is local to this cluster. Field visit to view paddy varieties was organized on 19th November 2009 morning at Kulumedoddi by farmers of different villages. 31 women and 33 men, a total of 64 farmers attended.

On 19th November 2009 afternoon field day was organized in Kolalagundi village to view the 37 different rare varieties of ragi in the farm of Mr. Puttayya's belonging to Sri Malleshwara KSHG and also farmers visited different SRI paddy fields to see the performance of different traditional varieties. In this event around 120 farmers participated, 69 women and 51 men. Initially the farmers visited Selam sanna paddy plot of Mr. Kempayya's farm.

The farmers visited Gandhasale paddy plot of Mr. Bhimesh, all the farmers noted the

salient features like the tillers, drought resistance, the aroma, the fodder and yield.



Field Day at Gulaganahalli

Field day on rare variety demonstration of wet land paddy was organised at Gulaganahalli on 23rd December 2009. 33 men and 59 women totally 92 farmers participated in this event. Mr. Puttaswamy had sown 28 rare varieties of wet land paddy in 5 guntas of land. In these 28 varieties few were early maturing and few were late maturing. Each plant had a minimum of 42 to 48 tillers. All these varieties had sustained the delayed rains and had grown well

Regional field day - Gundenatti, Belagaum district



Field day at the network level was held on 9th November 2009 at Gundenatti in Khanapur Taluk of Belgaum District. Mr. Hanumanthappa Tegur, a farmer provided a plot to grow 58 local varieties of paddy. The crops had grown well inspite of untimely rain. Mr. Abhay Mutalik Desai, from Krishi prayog parivar Belgaum and district president for Organic Krishi mission was invited as chief guest. Dr. C.S.P. Patil, Executive Director, GF informed about the organization's aim and objectives. Scientist from Agri University spoke about crop varieties in paddy. Farmers from surrounding areas and from different seed banks showed interest to see the field. Even Agriculture scientists from Mudigere, organic farmers from far off place near Goa visited the field and saw the varieties. Around 550-600 farmers participated in this event. News about the field day was reported in Kannada news papers.

Seed Production Workshop

Seed Production workshop was organized on 11th and 12th January 2010 at Pyramid valley, Kebbedoddi. In this workshop seven women; and five men and field managers participated. The resource persons were Ms. Deepika Kundaji, Auroville, Ravi Kumar, Mr. Bore Gowda, Progressive Farmer, Mandya, Dr. CSP Patil, Executive Director, GREEN Foundation, Mr. Ningappa Kakol, Deputy Director, GREEN Foundation.

The main aim of the workshop was to facilitate high quality seed production among the farmers and training on various aspects of seed production is essential. The training was imparted to the members of KSHGs and field managers so that in future they can be the resource persons to train other farmers. The workshop covered all the areas of seed production like Land preparation, Seed treatment, Pest and disease management, time of sowing and harvest, seed processing and storage.

The outcome : The farmers and GF staff learnt about importance of maintaining the genetic diversity and production of pure and quality seeds.

Agro biodiversity Utsav 2010



Celebration brings us the images of colours, culture, gatherings and lots of happiness. Year 2010 has been declared as the "International year of Biodiversity (IYB)" by United Nations. For past decade and a half, GREEN Foundation has been conserving agro biodiversity with very small and marginal farmers in the state of Karnataka, India. Thus, celebrating harvest has become a culture in GREEN Foundation, where many exposure visits, field visits and seed fairs are organized regularly. Keeping in mind the

theme for this year, a Biodiversity Festival was organized and enthusiastic participation of the community made this event a grand success.

Utsav 2010 was celebrated on 18th February, 2010 at Dr. Rajkumar open auditorium, Kanakapura. 250 men and 275 women farmers from the project area participated in this event.

The Guest of honour were Dr. S. A. Patil, Chairman, Organic Agriculture Mission, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore; Sri Neelakanta Nagappa Kurubaru, President, Jagruta Kurubara Cooperative Society, Belagaum Taluk; Sri. K.B. Nagaraj, President, Organic Agricultural Mission, Kanakapura Taluk; Shri. H.K. Siddaraju, President, Taluk Panchayat, Kanakapura.



The festival had special significance as it coincides with the post harvest "Vasantha Habba" (spring festival). The farmers though busy with the post harvest work participated with enthusiasm. Traditional bullock carts decorated and painted in bright colours, and exhibiting the huge heirloom diversity of finger millet and paddy were taken in procession through the main roads of Kanakapura, Ramanagara district of Karnataka. The procession was led by "Kamsale" dancers' troupe dancing to various folk songs. Utsav exhibition displaying traditional agricultural equipments; heirloom seed varieties; and publication by GREEN Foundation was inaugurated by chief guest, Dr. S.A. Patil. Then welcome message was delivered by Mr. CSP Patil, who talked about GREEN Foundation. Following this, Guest of Honour Dr. S. A. Patil explained about the importance of organic agriculture and threats from chemical agriculture.



Promotion of Kitchen gardens



Kitchen gardens are promoted in the project on a large scale among the farmers aiming to revive the tradition of wholesome nutrition to the family. GREEN has facilitated 197 kitchen gardens in the last year. Wide indigenous varieties of vegetables like beans, okra, greens, tomatoes and chillies are grown.



Community Seed Banks and Field Gene Bank

A large collection of traditional varieties of paddy, ragi (Finger millet), minor millets and vegetable crops is being maintained in the gene bank at Field Office, Doddamaralawadi, Kanakapura taluk. Nine community seed banks are being maintained by the farmers in the project area. The Field Gene Bank aims to serve and fulfill the rights of rural communities in on-farm conservation of agricultural biodiversity, recovery and restoration of both the materials and related knowledge and utilization of their plant genetic resources. The facilities serve as back-up systems for which lost and endangered materials are revived, and also serve as drought mitigation and management strategy at community level.



Crop	Varieties
Finger Millet	55
Wetland Paddy	92
Dryland Paddy	29
Vegetables	112
Millets	9
Oil seeds	12
Medicinal seeds	19

Sustainable Agricultural Practices

Sustainable agricultural practices complement the wider ecological systems as they these practices are based on the issue of the conservation of the environment.

Organic farming Training and Workshop



Organic farming training cum workshop was organised from 4th to 8th June 2009 at Pyramid Valley, Pyramid Spiritual Trust, Kebbedoddi, Harohalli, Kanakapura Road, Bangalore Rural District, Karnataka. Totally 40 participants (Men - 30; Women - 10) participated in this workshop. This workshop was organised as a collaborative approach from GREEN Foundation and ICCOA.

The training aimed at inspiring the farmers to shift from conventional agriculture to sustainable agriculture. The training also aimed at helping the organic farmers in increasing their knowledge about organic farming. This five day training was to equip the participants with all the necessary tools of organic farming.

Farmers Field School Training and Workshop



GREEN Foundation had organized Farmers Field School training cum workshop in Pyramid valley from 22nd October 2009 to 5th November 2009 with the technical assistance from AME Foundation. This training was organized in order to build capacity with respect to community based bio-diversity management among the staff of network partners and farming communities in CBM-SA project. The Specific objective of this training was to train the participants on Operationalising Community based Biodiversity

Management and LEISA. It was Training of facilitators (ToF) a 15 - day residential training. The participants in turn would be able to help their respective organizations in promotion of CBM programmes in a more intensive and systematic way.

The key focus of this training was on proper conservation, development and utilisation of the natural farm resources viz. soil, water and bio diversity. The training mainly focused on:

- Ø Community based Biodiversity Management: Concepts and practices
- Ø Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture: Concept and Practices.



The training focused on interactive group learning and aimed both at knowledge development and skill upgradation through peer learning. The farmers actively participated in this training.

Bee keeping training

Bee keeping training was organized at Bilidhale and Kolalagundi on 7/12/2009 and 8/12/2009 respectively. Resource persons from Keystone foundation imparted the trainings.

In the two day training, they discussed about different types of bees available in India, uses of bee keeping, market demand for Honey and its by products and rearing techniques. After discussion the farmers were taken to the field to collect bee hives and its installation in bee box. Later discussed about its maintenance, honey collection and yielding potentials.



Activities and target achieved during the year 2009-2010
under sustainable agricultural practices

Sl.No	Activity	Female	Male	Total
1	Kitchen garden	75	122	197
2	Low cost vermicompost	33	92	125
3	Jeevamrutha	40	80	120
4	Mulching	08	52	60
5	Sand urea	34	69	103
6	Herbal Solution	10	15	25
7	Beejamrutha	14	26	40
8	Basket Compost	04	18	22
9	Enriched vermicompost	09	31	40
10	Azolla	05	14	19
11	Vermiwash	09	19	28
12	Fish oil	03	05	08
13	Panchagavya	10	12	22
14	EM Technology	01	04	05
15	FPE	04	10	14
Total		259	569	828



Land Development Activities



Enrichment of soil nutrient is one of the important components of sustainable agriculture. Soil fertility could be restored and enhanced effectively through soil and water conservation measures like leveling, bunding and silt application to the lands.

Just because of poor economic situations the small and marginal farmers were unable to take up such an important aspect of land development. Realizing this GREEN Foundation took initiative to assist twenty Village Development Committees to take up land development activities such as trench cum bunding and silt application during 2009-10

In total 103 acres of land belonging to 20 VDCs comprising of 93 farmers was developed and GF's financial assistance for this activity was Rs. 3,60,000.

Land Development	Area Development in Acres	No. of Beneficiaries
Silt Application	51.85	38
Land leveling	51.15	55
Total	103	93

Participatory Guarantee System

The PGS Organic India Council (PGSOIC) meeting was organised by GREEN Foundation at Fireflies, Kanakapura on June 1st and 2nd 2009. The council has decided to register itself as a separate legal entity in the form of a "Society" under Societies Registration Act, 1860 in the state of Andhra Pradesh. One representative for each of the ten different PGS Facilitation Councils in India present at the meeting would be its "Founder Members".



PGS farmer meetings were conducted at two different places in the project area to discuss about implementation of the programme according to modified guidelines.

Based on the discussions of PGSOIC meeting held at Fireflies, PGS guidelines were discussed clearly and agreed to adopt in all locations.

PGS farmers' meeting was held at Kodihalli involving about 100 farmers and at Maralawadi with 42 farmers to discuss following issues.

- 1) Introduction of PGS to new groups
- 2) PGS implementation guidelines
- 3) Marketing linkages for organic products
- 4) Action plan for the programme implementation



Dr. CSP Patil, Executive director, GREEN Foundation explained the importance of organic farming PGS and its advantages over third party certification. He briefly described about the advantages of sustainable agriculture in reducing their input cost, getting nutritional food and wider adaptability to harsh climatic situations. He also mentioned that the PGS system is more suitable to small and marginal farmers as this is a trust based certification and certification is very economical.

New PGS guidelines were explained by Mr. Ningappa, Deputy Director, GREEN Foundation to get feed back from the participants. According to new guidelines, to become eligible under PGS one should adopt organic farming completely in his land. During the meeting Role and Responsibilities of local group, organic farming guidelines, field certification by peer appraisal committee were discussed. Usage of traditional varieties in organic farming was discussed and agreed by all the participants but some participants also asked permission for use of improved varieties in their farming. Finally group members agreed to use traditional varieties as well as improved varieties but not hybrids and GM seeds. Marketing linkage details were discussed by Dr. Ravindra Kulkarni, Director, GREEN Foundation.

By implementing PGS in the project area four groups consisting of 32 organic farmers received PGS certification and another four groups consisting of 22 farmers who are under conversion will be able to receive the PGS certification by 2010.



Community Based Organisation - Janadhanya

GREEN Foundation has facilitated the forming a Farmers' federation, Janadhanya under Societies Registration Act 1960. The main aim of the Janadhanya is to empower the farmers who are the members of the federation to evolve as a robust rural institution. In this backdrop GREEN Foundation has initiated 37 Krishi Swasahaya Sanghas (KSHG) previously called as village development committees (VDCs), formed by the farmers of the project area.



The main aim and objective of Janadhanya are :

- i) Saving local seeds and production
- ii) Promotion of Organic farming
- iii) Certification through Participatory Guarantee System
- iv) Development of Seed bank
- v) Improving status of KSHGs
- vi) Marketing of Organic products

Annual General Body Meeting - 2009

The federation held its Annual General body Meeting on 31st August 2009 at Degula Math, Kanakapura. Representatives from 23 Village Development Committees, Directors of Janadhanya and the GREEN Foundation team attended the General body meeting.



Elections for members of executive committee and governing body were held and all the members were elected unanimously. Mr. Shivarudraiah belonging Veeraiahnadoddi (Vigneshwara VDC) was elected as the new president of Jandhanya. Mrs. Shivamma as vice-president, Mr. Venkataraju as Secretary and Mrs. Nagarthna as treasurer are the other members of the governing body. The outgoing board of Directors were felicitated. The women representation in the new Board has increased which in turn will motivate more women to be part of rural institutions activities.

Janadhanya BODs Meetings :



Janadhanya Board of directors meet every month at Field office to discuss various issues faced by the members of the KSHG. The main agenda of the meeting includes trainings, Janadhanya objectives, roles and responsibilities of the board of directors, seed procurement for seed initiative, collection of seeds from farmers to seed banks, and land development activities.

Trainings to KSHGs :

Intensive training at the KSHG levels have been conducted to strengthen the Janadhanya Federation and place it on a firm footing. The trainings generally starts off with the trainer introducing GREEN Foundation and support given by GREEN Foundation to Janadhanya federation. The trainer also talks about the importance of having the federation and what exactly the board members, their capacity, and skills are.



The working committee will have the authority to take decisions and help farmers in their village. Training and suggestions for cultivating organic farming are given. Group Certification through PGS, marketing linkages, financial support for the land development activities are discussed and information is disseminated in these trainings.

Book Writers Training : Three day book writers training was conducted from 25th to 27th May 2009 at Maralawadi, Field Office for the literate members of KSHGs. The objective was to build capacity and confidence among members of KSHGs to independently maintain the books of accounts of each group.

Community Seed Bank Management Training:

Training was held on 23rd March 2010 at Maralawadi for the smooth functioning of the activities of the seed banks by understanding the roles and responsibilities of the seed bank members.

Training on Capacity Building "Towards Self - Managed VDC"

The need for capacity building of organisation is a continuous ongoing effort to enhance and empower the employee with the necessary set of skills. Capacity building training "Towards self - managed VDC" was conducted at the GREEN Office, Bangalore by senior management consultant Mr. Vishwanath Rao on 6th and 7th August 2009 and a follow up training on Need Assessment was held on 4th September 2009.



The training aimed at equipping the staff of GREEN to empower the members of VDC to independently look after the affairs of Janadhanya.

Janadhanya Seed Savers - Dreams Realized



GREEN Foundation had initiated Janadhanya Seed Savers, a forum of seed savers. Farmers of Janadhanya are engaged in subsistence farming. Janadhanya seed savers is a symbolic initiative that has been founded as a counter movement based on fifteen years of experience and broad understanding of the nuances of seed collection, maintaining an ex situ collection and multiplying them on farmer's land. Over the years the concept has grown across the state of Karnataka and extended to other states in south of India.

Janadhanya Seed Savers received a contribution of Rs. 1.35 lakhs from the seed distribution which is tremendous achievement considering this the debut year. This shows that there is rising demand for indigenous seed and more people are shifting to sustainable agriculture.

CBM South Asia Programme

Project Goal

Enhance livelihoods and wellbeing of farming communities of South Asia through increased food and nutrition security and climate change resilience achieved by means of conservation and sustainable management of the biological resources related to agriculture.



Objectives

To strengthen capacity of farming communities of South Asia to conserve, utilize and benefit from their genetic resources through appropriate technical, institutional and policy support

To increase productivity of biodiversity-based production systems of poor farmers for improved livelihoods and their resilience to climate change

Community-based Biodiversity Management in Karnataka

As Karnataka has 10 agroclimatic zones, GREEN Foundation has decided to implement this project in three different agro-ecological zones i.e. Northern Dry zone, Hilly zone and Northern Transition Zone to represent plant genetic resource diversity and conservation activities from different agro-climatic conditions.

saMvaad

The major focus of CBM-India Programme include: capacity building, knowledge exchange, policy analysis and advocacy. For this, along with carrying on-farm in-situ conservation of plant diversity in Karnataka by GREEN Foundation and animal genetic (Deccani breed) diversity in Andhra Pradesh by ANTHRA, CBM-SA India programme proposes to set-up an e-mail based discussion group, "SaMvaad."

SaMvaad provides a space to assess the trends in conservation and use of genetic resources and document the associated knowledge.

Regional Capacity Building Training Programme on Participatory Plant Breeding: The PPB training was organized from 29th October 2009 to 3rd November 2009 at Pokhara, Nepal. Dr. CSP Patil attended this training, the specific objective of this training aims to exchange, experiences and to enhance, understanding of effective approaches, towards the conservation and sustainable use of plant genetic, resources for food and agriculture through breeding approach. Provide contemporary framework on Participatory Plant Breeding (PPB) for crop improvement and biodiversity management in the context of food security and climate change. To provide step wise methodologies, processes and tools on PPB approach and provide in-depth learning opportunities to the participants. To develop a detail country specific activity plan for PPB integrating with on-going CBM country programmes.

Community-Based Biodiversity Management - South Asia Proposal
Development Workshop - 26th & 27th June 2009
Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh

The two-day workshop to develop the proposal on CBM-SA, India began as planned with sharing of experiences/case studies on biodiversity. The network members presented the case studies focusing on one of 3 aspects as :

- knowledge loss leads to genetic loss;
- policies lead to genetic and biodiversity loss
- community-lead biodiversity management

"Day and Night cannot Dwell together" - The Human Strand in the web of life - A compilation of case studies on community effort in conservation across different ecosystems

These case studies were compiled on the basis of :

- o Loss of community knowledge and genetic resources
- o Negative impacts of mainstream research and development on biodiversity and livelihoods
- o Successful community initiative (good practices) on biodiversity management

Network

The main aim of GREEN Foundation is to spread the awareness of traditional seed conservation and sustainable agricultural practices in a large scale. The programmes has to benefit more and more number of farmers across the state. With this backdrop GREEN Foundation spread its work to nine districts of northern Karnataka which are rich in agrodiversity. Mass Communication programs like meetings, trainings, workshops, seminars, fairs, field days etc are conducted on a regular basis to give awareness on sustainable agriculture to the community and policy related to agriculture. These mass communication programs have created awareness about the importance of GF practices to thousands of farmers.



North Karnataka received incessant rains causing flood in almost 15 districts of northern Karnataka during October 2009. The devastation caused by floods are huge with lakhs left homeless and landless.

On 7th, 8th February and 26th, 27th February, 9th, 10th, 16th March, meeting were organized at Gundenatti village for the base line survey for the project of Community based Biodiversity - South Asia. The vegetable seeds selection and collection methods, importance of kitchen garden were also discussed with farmers. Diversity mapping of field crops and vegetables of both Kharif and Rabi season. Also discussed on PGS an alternate certification.

Trainings :

Training cum Workshop : One day training cum workshop was organised at Mangenkoppa on 12th December 2009 on conservation of local varieties and use of SAP like seed treatment, sowing methods. 25 farmers including 6 women attended this training. Shankar Langate, Kilari, Gundu and Baneshappa Mitagar were the resource persons. Ms. Sharada Gopal and staff of Jagruti, an NGO of Network attended this training. Mr. Shivaraj introduced GREEN Foundation

and its objective to bring together farmers to save traditional seeds by organic farming.

Training at Guddada Hulikatti : On 2nd February 2010 training was organized at Guddada Hulikatti village, a group of 33 farmers who were practicing organic farming since one year participated in this training.

Training to Kaleshwar Swadeshi Beeja Bank Memebers : Training was organised for Kaleshwar Swadeshi beeja bank, Ittagi, Tq: Hoovinhadagali, Dist: Bellary, for 28 farmers (20 Men; 08 women) of this group on preparation of Farm Yard Manure and Vegetable Seed Production on 8th August 2009.

Krishi Jayanthi : On 8th May 2009 'Krishi Jayanthi' was organised at Swarnavalli math near Sirsi. Our Network coordinator Mr. Shivaraj attended this and told about GREEN Foundation activities and importance of organic farming, also narrated about the importance of traditional varieties of paddy and vegetable seeds.

Visit to Greenland, North Karnataka by CEO, GF :

Dr. CSP Patil visited North Karnataka project area from 26th August to 27th August 2009. On 26th morning visited Gundenatti demo plot along with 15 farmers.



Handicraft Initiative

Handicrafts training and production is a new initiative started by GREEN Foundation to improve the livelihood security of the farmers of Kanakapura Taluk during the lean period. The artisans have the ancestral skill in basket weaving and were selling these baskets in the local market. Some of them have neglected these skills since the poor economic returns have made it unattractive. GREEN Foundation has initiated the Handicraft project to revive the skills and also to provide an alternative income generation initiative. GREEN Foundation's first initiative is to involve women and upgrade their skills to produce products for secured markets. The artisans are trained to produce eco friendly products with canes and banana fibres.



Advocacy and Policy Workshops

A National Consultation on Farmers' Rights to Genetic Resources - Stewardship or Ownership? - 22nd and 23rd May 2009

The consultation was held in Bangalore on 22nd and 23rd May 2009. It was co-sponsored by GREEN Foundation, Bangalore, and the Center for Gandhian Studies, Bangalore University. The participants included all groups of stakeholders in the issues that were discussed, including farmers and farmers' representatives, NGOs, the PPVFRA, legal experts, as well as social activists and concerned citizens.



The first day of the Consultation focused on the broader understanding of the Plant Variety Protection and Farmers Rights Act, to finer aspects of the limitations within the Act and the lack of harmony between the different legislations and the Seed laws.

The second day was devoted to presentation by farmers on their experiences in developing, selecting and conserving their varieties

The proceedings of the two day Consultation were concluded with recommendations of the jury which came up with a number of actions which they felt relevant to take this debate forward. In brief, these included the following:

1. The PVPFRA should consider the possibility to take up the task of registration of farmers' varieties and also create a committee for the 22 agro-biodiversity hot spots.

§ the committee should consist of one farmer, a Panchayat member, one NGO and a plant breeder representative.

§ This is to protect farmers' rights, gather information and take up the task of registration instead of leaving it entirely to the farmers.



2. The equity from benefit sharing should go to the farmer as well as the committee, keeping in view the market potential and benefits expected. Review of assessment of benefits should be conducted at regular intervals.
3. Farmers should be excluded from the Seeds Bill.
4. Farmers should be given all assistance to conserve and propagate their varieties



Culture and Biodiversity

Vulnerability to climate change varies across regions, sectors, and social groups. Understanding the regional and local dimensions of vulnerability is essential to develop appropriate and targeted adaptation efforts. With the much talked summit on Climate change happening at Global level there has been a lot of media coverage on climate change. The irony of the whole issue is that it has not reached the rural India. The awareness on changing climate is very less but let us not blame the farmers for the climate change. Majority of the small and marginal farmers are still the preservers of the nature's bounty. These farmers have to be alerted on the changes in climate and its impact on farming. GREEN aims at bringing more area under millet production as millets are going to be the food of the future and will help tremendously in combating the climate change.

GREEN Foundation summarized field day by organizing a street theatre on the issue of climate change and the benefits of sustainable farming in Kanakapura Taluka, Karnataka on 12th December 2009. The play was staged before an audience of 150-200 people in the area. There was a rich blend of culture and diversity.

Farmers of the Janadhanya Federation were stage players and play aimed at the farmers and the people of the area. The play was based on abuse of the soil and the environment in the name of green revolution and government subsidy on the chemical fertilizer. The play called for an action against government policies on agricultural subsidies given to the farmers. The Government at present is giving importance to the high yielding varieties. The negative impacts of the chemical farming were highlighted.

The highlight of street play was

- a. Call to get back to natural farming to combat varying weather patterns.
- b. Not to fall prey to Government subsidies and contract farming.
- c. Restore and give more emphasis traditional seed varieties and farming techniques.

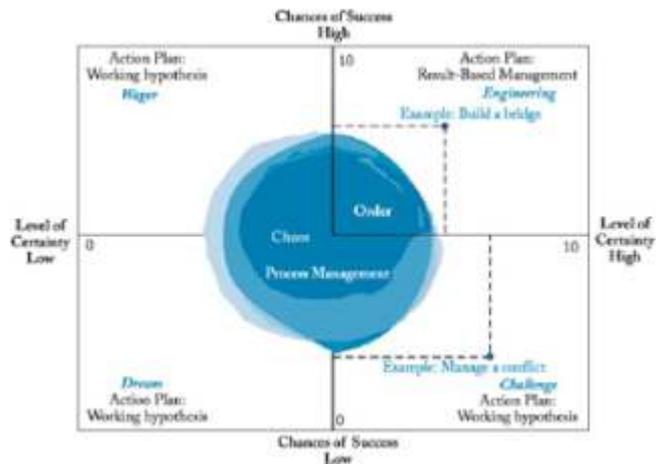


Workshops and Trainings attended by the staff

SAS² Introductory Workshop,
Fire Flies, Bangalore

The Introductory Workshop on Social Analysis Systems (SAS²) was hosted by GREEN Foundation with the help of Local Initiatives for Biodiversity, Research and Development (LI-BIRD), Nepal. This workshop was facilitated by six facilitators from Carleton University, LI-BIRD, Development Research Communication and Service Centre (DRCSC) and Living Farms. In total seventeen participants from Canada, Nepal and different states of India

i.e. Karnataka, Orissa, West Bengal participated in it. Along with Mr. Jacques M. Chevalier the Resource person of this workshop, Mr. Daniel J. Buckles from Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada has developed "SAS², The Social Weaver: A Handbook for Collaborative Inquiry, Planning and Evaluation" for collaborative inquiry grounded in action. For details visit www.sas2.net.



The aim of the training was to give:

1. Hands-on learning experience using SAS², tools for group-based inquiry and problem-solving
2. A chance to appreciate and acquire the skills to adapt SAS² tools to specific situation

Training provided enough opportunity to work in a group and learning by doing. The SAS² tools learnt helped in identifying problems, actors and options.

Each exercise has given hands on experience to participants on how to use SAS² tools in "Community-based Biodiversity Management" and "Agro-biodiversity" projects going on in GREEN Foundation. Participants felt that these exercise helped in understanding the systems and organizing their activities systematically.

The workshop ended with a positive note that SAS² tools will be used by the field staff working in "Community-based Biodiversity Management" and "Agro-biodiversity" projects of GREEN Foundation.

Outstanding Organic Agriculture Techniques Conference :

Organic Farming Association of India (OFAI) and Third World Network (TWN), Malaysia in association with the National Centre of Organic Farming (NCOF) had organised the first (Regional) South Asia Conference on 10th and 11th September 2009 at GKVK campus, University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. All our field staff participated in this event. In this conference the speakers were mainly pioneer organic farmers who have done organic farming for more than a decade. This formed a base for knowledge-sharing.

Madurai Symposium 2009

Dr. Ravindra Kulkarni attended the Madurai Symposium organized by Dhan Foundation from 14-18 September 2009. This symposium focused on Advancing Development towards Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Dr. Ravindra Kulkarni presented a power point presentation on 'Conserving Bio-diversity for Enhancing Rainfed Farming to meet MDGs' on 17th September 2009.

Folk Medicinal Practitioner meet:

On 26th and 27th September 2009 Folk Medicinal Practitioner Meet was organized at Valley school. Mr. Shivakumar, Mr. Nithin Muralidharan along with two practicing farmers attended this meeting. It was a platform to share their healing experience and practices. This meeting helped to create a Network among folk medicinal practitioners and documentation was made on Natural healing.

Case Study Writing

Ms. Ramaa Satish attended a 3-day training programme organised by Communication for Development and Learning from 19th- 21st January 2010, Bangalore.

Looking Ahead.....

- ◆ In the effort of building a robust farmers' federation like Janadhanya in order to make the farmers self-reliant for their livelihood GF has entered into a collaboration with Dhan Foundation, a professional development organisation, who have experience in promoting people's institution to enhance livelihoods it has been decided to bring the synergy of the two organizations, to directly make a dent on poverty. Dhan has agreed to form around 200 SHGs in the 2010-2011 and converge with GREEN's activities. The spread of the work covers two hoblis in the Kanakapura taluk.
- ◆ To prioritize Seed conservation and distribution through networking, establishment and maintenance of Community seed banks.
- ◆ To increase the productivity of biodiversity based productive systems under community based biodiversity across the India partners



Calendar Of Events - April 2009- March 2010

April 2009

Ms. Marianne Van der Pol, Project officer from Communications Department, Hivos, Netherlands visit on 1st April 2009.

Mr. Anand from Digital green visited our project area on 25th April 2009

Mr. Ningappa Kakol attended a training programme on "Contemporary and Participatory Approaches in Plant Genetic Resources" at Wageningen International, the Netherlands from 6th April 2009 to 1st May 2009.

Training on Panchagavya at Veeraiahnadoddi on 14th April 2009.

Visit to Kamadhenu Seed bank on 24th April 2009 by 30 students from Hyderabad Post Graduate diploma in rural development and marketing.

May 2009

A National Consultation on Farmers' Rights to Genetic Resources - Stewardship or Ownership? - on 22nd and 23rd May 2009

Book Writers Training for the Village Development Committee members was held on 25th to 27th May 2009

June 2009

Organic farming Training and Workshop, Pyramid Valley, Kanakapura

4th June 2009 to 8th June 2009.

The PGS Organic India Council (PGSOIC) meeting was organised by GREEN Foundation at Fireflies, Kanakapura on 1st June and 2nd June 2009.

PGS farmers' meeting was held at Kodihalli on 29th June 2009

CBM network India and CBM network South Asia had jointly organized a three day training workshop for the partners of CBM network India on Livestock Production, Resources and Breeds. The training workshop was anchored by Anthra (one of the partners) at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh from 23rd to 25th June 2009.

July 2009

PGS farmers' meeting was held at Maralawadi on 1st July 2009

Training cum meeting for the Board of Directors - Jandhanya was held on 9th July 2009

August 2009

Training on Capacity building towards Self Managed VDC was conducted on 6th and 7th August 2009 at Bangalore Office.

PGS Meeting was held on 20th and 21st August 2009 at Maralawadi and Veeraiahannadoddi.

PGS farm appraisal was conducted on 28th, 29th and 30th August 2009.

Dr. CSP Patil visited North Karnataka project area from 26th August to 27th August 2009.

The robust farmers' federation held its Annual General body Meeting on 31st August 2009 at Degula Math, Kanakapura.

September 2009

Training on Need Assessment on 4th September 2009 at Bangalore Office.

Outstanding Organic Agriculture Techniques Conference was held on 10th and 11th September 2009 was attended by the staff of GREEN foundation.

On 2nd September 2009 our Network Coordinator Mr. Shivaraj C Hungund had taken up the survey of Sorghum in interior places of Muttagi. Muttagi is a village in Basavana Bagevadi Taluk of Bijjapur District.

Dr. Ravindra Kulkarni attended the Madurai Symposium from 14th to 18th September 2009. This symposium focused on Advancing Development towards Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

On 26th and 27th September 2009 Folk Medicinal Practitioner Meet was organized at Valley school. Mr. Shivakumar, Mr. Nithin Muralidharan along with two men farmers attended this meeting. It was a platform to share their healing experience and practices. This meeting helped to create a Network among folk medicinal practitioners and documentation was made on Natural healing.

October 2009

Regional Capacity Building Training Programme on Participatory Plant Breeding was organized from 29th October 2009 to 3rd November 2009 at Pokhara, Nepal. Dr. CSP Patil attended this training.

E-Newsletter - Sasya Shyamala launched on October 16th on the Eve of World Food Day to disseminate information and create a Network with other NGOs.

November 2009

Farmers of Kulumedoddi visited different paddy plots on 19th November 2009

Ragi Field day at Kolalagundi on 19th November 2009

Field day at the network level was held on 9th November 2009 at Gundenatti in Khanapur Taluk of Belgaum District.

On 13th November 2009 at GF office, Maralawadi PRA has been conducted using Four cell analysis.

Remko and his colleague from Netherlands who are independent filmmakers and working with school children in Netherlands on exposure to various aspects of Millennium goals. They visited GREEN Foundations' project area on 11th November 2009

On 27th November 2009, 25 member farmer group from Foundation for Ecological Security, Chintamani visited our project area to see agrobiodiversity, community seed bank and sustainable agriculture practices

December 2009

Bee keeping training at Bilidhale and Kolalagundi on 7th and 8th December 2009

Awareness on Global Warming and Climate Change at Kanakapura Taluk, Karnataka, India on 12th December 2009

Paddy field day was held at Gulaganahalli on 23rd December 2009

Field visit was organised for farmers from Kadapa district to show Agrobiodiversity, community seed bank and kitchen gardens on 17th December 2009 and training on Sustainable Agriculture, PGS and GF activities on 18th and 19th December 2009.

January 2010

Seed Production Workshop on 11th and 12th January 2010 at Pyramid valley, Kebbedoddi

Ms. Ramaa Satish attended a 3-day training programme organised by Communication for Development and Learning from 19th to 21st January 2010, Bangalore.

February 2010

SAS² Introductory Workshop, Pipal Tree, Fire Flies, Bangalore, from 11th to 13th February 2010

Agrobiodiversity Utsav 2010 on 18th November 2010, at Dr. Rajkumar Auditorium, Kanakapura Taluk.

March 2010

Community Seed Bank Management Training: It was held on 23rd March 2010 at Maralawadi for the smooth functioning of the activities of the seed bank.

Land Development Activities

Totally 20 VDCs comprising of 93 farmers got the benefit of silt application and trench cum bunding.

Training on Handicrafts from Banana fibre in Alanatha from 03rd March to 07th March 2010



GREEN Foundation Publications:

- ◆ Hidden Harvests - captures a decade of GF's work experience on conservation of biodiversity and sustainable agriculture biodiversity - the lifeline of sustainable agriculture
- ◆ Investing in Indigenous Knowledge - compilation of cumulative experiences of PCI
- ◆ Banking on Seeds - a process documentation of experiences and learning of CSBN
- ◆ Rediscovering Foxtail Millet - description of the rich diversity of 'Navane'
- ◆ Seed Quest - a journey through space and time
- ◆ Fostering Fodder - importance of fodder, characteristics of minor millets, fodder trees, legumes, varieties of local fodder
- ◆ Seed to Food - From subsistence to surplus
- ◆ Feeding the Nation - Discover Diversity - gives information on the range of crops grown in all its glory and diversity
- ◆ Day and Night Cannot Dwell Together The human Strand in the web of life - The publication emphasis on Loss of community knowledge and genetic resources and community interventions as good practice in biodiversity conservation
- ◆ Sustainable Agricultural Practices - A manual of the organic practices sources to re-enforce internal input farming system for conserving biological diversity, improve soil health and enhance productivity of soil
- ◆ Susthira Krushi Padathigalu - (Vernacular) - A manual of the organic practices.
- ◆ Bejjada Butti (Vernacular) - Seed Catalogue
- ◆ Jola - Kappu Nelada Bili Muthu (Vernacular) - a book on Sorghum
- ◆ Savayava Krushi Endarenu (Vernacular) - A handbook on the principles of organic farming

GREEN Foundation wishes to thank the following institutions for their financial support

HIVOS USC CANADA AGRITERRA DIGITAL GREEN
LI-BIRD Nepal, Govt. of Karnataka Govt. of India (M.T.)

Our Bankers : CANARA BANK, JP Nagar Branch, Bangalore

Auditors : VR MURALI & CO., Chartered Accountants, Bangalore

GREEN Foundation thanks its staff, farmers, Janadhanya federation members, community seed bank members, for their time and effort

Board of Trustees :

Mr. D. Ashok (Chairman), Dr. Vanaja Ramprasad (Managing Trustee)

Dr. H. Sudarshan, Dr. A.R. Vasavi

GREEN Family

Dr. Vanaja Ramprasad, Dr. CSP Patil, Mr. KP Suresha, Mr. K Mahesh, Mr. Shashidhara,
Ms. Ramaa Satish, Ms. Suma Srinivas, Ms. Veena Pachapur, Mr. Shivakumar, Mr. A.C. Pandu,
Mr. Ravi, Mr. Harish, Mr. Kumaraswamy, Mr. Shanmugan, Mr. Shankar, Mr. Deepak,

Mr. Gangadhar, Mr. Kempaiah, Ms. Chamudeshwari

Dr. Deeksha Sharma, Mr. Shivaraj Hungund, Mr. Srikanth Ravaloji,

Mr. Ramesh G Hegde, Mr. Siddu pujar

Salary Details

Salary	Male Staff	Female Staff	Total Staff
Less than Rs. 5,000	2	2	4
Rs. 5000 – Rs. 10,000	7	2	9
Rs. 10,000 – Rs. 20,000	2	0	2
Rs. 20,000 - Rs. 30,000	2	0	2
Honorarium Staff			
Less than Rs. 10,000	0	1	1
Rs. 10,000 – Rs. 20,000	2	2	4
Total	15	7	22

We welcome your contributions. Please draw your Cheques / DD's in favour of "GREEN Foundation" payable at Bangalore.

All contributions will be exempt under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act (1961). As GREEN Foundation is registered under FCRA, we are eligible to accept Foreign Donations.

Do get in touch!!!!!!!

GREEN Foundation

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30, SARYA TV AAR, 19th Cross, H.S. Patra, 8th 2nd Stage, Bangalore - 560 076

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2009 - 10

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS			
Particulars	Foreign Contributions	Domestic Funds	Total	Particulars	Foreign Contributions	Domestic Funds	Total
Cash in hand	397	-	397	PROJECT SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES			
Cash at Bank	840,079	339,548	1,179,647	Baseline Survey - Handicraft	-	34,000	34,000
Grants Received from:				Group Formation	-	19,770	19,770
Murugesh Institute for Development Co-operation - HVDS (INL)	3,250,395	-	3,250,395	Federation and Marketing Expenses	41,138	-	41,138
USC (CANADA)	1,879,280	-	1,879,280	Project Meeting Expenses	21,480	6,393	28,055
ADRIYERA (IN)	426,821	-	426,821	SAP and Research Activities	236,682	8,154	244,817
U-BIRD (NIPAL)	2,398,339	-	2,398,339	Seminar & Workshops	571,190	-	571,190
DIGITAL GREEN	464,431	-	464,431	Soil and Water Conservation	340,000	-	340,000
				Training & Capacity Building	458,371	-	458,371
Domestic Contribution	-	296,418	296,418	Case Study & Publications	701,010	-	701,010
Donation U/A BGG	-	23,000	23,000	Overhead Cost	152,000	-	152,000
Corpus Fund U/A BGG	-	2,500,000	2,500,000	North Karnataka Flood Relief Fund	7,500	-	7,500
Bank Interest	133,792	130,373	264,165	ESTIMATED COST			
Settlement of Advance	393,661	-	393,661	Murugesh Omni Van	-	374,380	374,380
Staff Advance	507,700	-	507,700	Hero Honda Splendor	46,900	-	46,900
Withdrawn at Field Despoits	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	UPS Systems	-	44,720	44,720
Sale of Old Vehicles	111,500	-	111,500	Mobile	5,324	-	5,324
				PROFESSIONAL CHARGES			
				Audit Fee	32,156	3,664	35,820
				Tax Audit & Certification Fee	7,845	1,298	9,143
				Consultancy Fee	351,270	-	351,270
				ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
				Bank Charges	1,915	-	1,915
				Communication Expense	99,453	2,280	101,933
				Computer Maintenance	50,926	-	50,926
				Electricity & Water	32,464	-	32,464
				Honorarium	694,974	106,440	801,434
				Membership Fee	10,923	-	10,923
				Office Maintenance & Supplies	15,693	-	15,693
				Rent	225,000	-	225,000
				Postage & Courier	29,717	-	29,717
				Provident Fund	145,288	-	145,288
				Printing & Stationery	95,254	9,027	104,381
				Repairs and Maintenance	6,713	2,765	8,978
				Salaries	2,042,565	-	2,042,565
				Staff Medical Insurance	3,933	-	3,933
				Travel & Conveyance	443,708	8,739	454,447
				Vehicle Repair and Maintenance	52,882	-	52,882
				Website Maintenance	13,000	-	13,000
				OTHERS			
				Short term Deposit Made	2,000,000	2,300,000	4,300,000
				Programme Advance	393,661	-	393,661
				Staff Advance	794,200	-	794,200
				Advance - ANHREA, Pune (PCRA No.08390314)	200,000	-	200,000
				CLOSING BALANCE			
				Cash in hand	17,131	-	17,131
				Cash at Bank	1,294,355	267,555	1,561,910
Total	11,108,364	3,311,339	14,419,743	Total	11,108,364	3,311,339	14,419,743

As per our report of even date

for V.R. Murali & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm's Registration Number: 0521785
CA V. Rangendha Murali
Proprietor
Member No. 27951

Place: Bangalore
Date: 24th June 2010.



for and on behalf of the Board of Trustees
A. Ashok
Chairman
V. Varunja Ramprasad
Managing Trustee

