

Brief report on Group Strengthening programme

Sundarban Climate Adaptation

Implemented by DRCSC

Supported by Sign of Hope (SoH) & BMZ

Venue: Indraprastho, Dakshin Shibpur, Gayadham, Ramganga and Sagarmadhabpur villages.

Date: 21/5/18 - 26/5/18

Introduction: DRCSC is implementing a project titled “Sundarban Climate Adaptation” with support from Sign of Hope (SoH) and BMZ, Germany in 8 villages of Ramganga Gram Panchayat, Patharpratima Block, South 24 Pgs District of West Bengal. The overall objective of this project is to regenerate and protect the endangered flora and fauna of the Sundarbans in a sustainable manner and focus on reforestation and empowerment of the local population with regard to resource management and positive management strategies, thus contributing to the improved resilience of the target group in the face of natural disasters. Within the course of implementation of the activities and based on the primary information from participatory exercises, it was felt necessary to form groups from the vulnerable, poor households and strengthen and capacitate them for organizing themselves for adapting to climatic changes and thus giving a better future. In this regard a **one day training programme for group strengthening** was organized in **5 target villages** where nearly **529 group members** participated from **41 groups**.

Objective of the programme: The purpose of this strengthening programme is to orient and strengthen the group members on forming groups, its maintenance and nurturing it which will lead to develop self sufficiency and overall improvement of the area.

Discussion:

After introducing with all the participants, sharing of objectives has been done. The purpose is well explained with the group members present. In the vulnerable, hazard prone and saline prone region there is need for organized effort to cope/fight with the endless problems (ecological, economical, social and climate change). The community people have to know the positive adaptive strategies to live their life.



After that discussion was done on purpose for group formation;

- Improve savings in the family
- Improve the financial condition of the family
- Increase the group based organized effort for dealing any kind of issues
- Accessing various entitlements.
- Developing self-confidence.

Following that, discussion was done on rules & regulations of groups;

- ❖ Follow the Panchasutra (regular meetings, regular savings, regular inter-loaning, timely repayment and up to date books of accounts)
- ❖ Regularly attending the meeting
- ❖ Provide assistance in social development work.

Next, the activities of groups are shared;

- Administrative: Regular contact with Gram Panchayat, BDO, Bank and NGO
- Social: Raise voice against and prevent early marriage incidents. Facilitate more MGNREGS (100 days guaranteed job). Provide help to others in their crisis.
- Economical: Regular transaction with Banks. Planning for betterment of financial resources.

After that, discussion was continued with documentation and maintenance of different books for the group. There should be 4 copy books;

- 1) Meeting minutes Book: The meeting should be held twice in a month. The meeting minutes should include agenda, discussion and decision taken in the meeting followed by signature of each participant. Regarding this there should be request to all the group members to assist one another for completing this activity.
- 2) Cash Book: This book should contain the amount noted which is deposited by the individual member from the group and also at the end of the month, how much total amount is deposited is also noted in the book.
- 3) Loan Book: It includes how much amount is deposited and how much amount should be given to members as loan is noted in this loan book.
- 4) Savings Book: The detail of accounts including savings amount of each members is mentioned in this book.

Subsequently, the participants were divided in groups and they were requested to prepare presentations of what they have learnt so far. The members were divided in two groups and prepare presentation and deliver it in-front of resource person. This activity builds confidence among the participants and they have learned more through this approach.



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At the end feedback and evaluation session was conducted. The group members enjoyed the training and its methodology. They express that they will give focus on the rules & regulations of groups and improve the savings habit. They are very much interested in further this kind of training and more likely to be involved in practicing different approaches for sustainable development. They also requested DRCSC to provide every support/help/cooperation in reaching that goal and make the village/hamlet a place for better living. The participants from the groups said that after returning to their individual groups, they will share the learning to other group members those who did not make it for this training.

After that the one day training programme was ended by giving thanks to the participants.

Training Schedule:

Time	Topic	Methods	Materials
11am to 11:30am	Introduction	Participatory	Plants, leaves, seeds
11:30am to 11:45am	Objective of training	Lecture	Flip Chart, Marker
11:45am to 1pm	Reason for group formation, Rules & regulations of groups	Lecture and interaction	Flip Chart, Marker
1-2 pm	Lunch		
2 to 3pm	Activities of group, Various documentation of groups	Lecture and interaction	Flip Chart, Marker
3 to 4pm	Group Presentation	Lecture and interaction	Flip Chart, Marker
4 to 4:30pm	Feedback and evaluation of the day	Lecture and interaction	

List of participants in group strengthening training:

Sl No	Village	Date	Group Name	No of Part.	Resource Person	Venue
1	Dk. Shibpur	25.05.18	Asharalo (10), Santomoyee(10) Karunamoyee(10)	30	2	Rabindranath Das's House
2		24.05.18	Bharatmata(10), Laxminarayan(10), Sundarjiban(12)	32	2	Surajit Malik's House
3		26.05.18	Sarbajaya(11), Ma Bisalaxmi (12), Nodi(10)	33	3	Pares Bera's House
4	Indraprastha	21.05.18	Babaloknath (14), SanjherPradip(10)	24	3	GouriMondal House
5		23.05.18	Asharalo (13)	13	2	ARTC Office
6		22.05.18	Ma Sitala(12), Banbibi(15)	27	3	Adibasi ICDS
7	Gayadharm	24.05.18	Ma Bisalaxmi(12),Joyee(15) Subachya(12)	39	2	Gitarani Bera's House
8		25.05.18	Makhadija(11), Ma Fatema(12)	23	2	Monika Jana's House
9	Ramganaga	21.05.18	Priti(14),Sampad(15)	30	3	Snehalata Bera's House
10		22.05.18	Bidyasagar(14),Prachesta(15)	30	3	Soma Baize's House
11		23.05.18	Nibadita(15) Joyee(11)	26	2	Kajal Maity's House
12		24.05.18	Sagar(10),Nodi (10),Jaba(13)	37	2	Ranga Bhunia's House
13		25.05.18	Asharalo(16),Sathi(12)	25	2	Ranga Das's House
14		26.05.18	Jayeeta(12),Baisakhi(11) ,Rajlaxmi(09),Bandhu(10)	37	2	UjallaMaiti's House
15	Sagarmadharpur	21.05.18	Sidhidata(12),Naba Diganta-12, Ma Kali-12	36	2	SSK
16		22.05.18	Mahamaya(12),Annadata(12)	24	2	FP School
17		23-05.18	Joti-(12),Nayantara(12)	24	2	Kankariya School