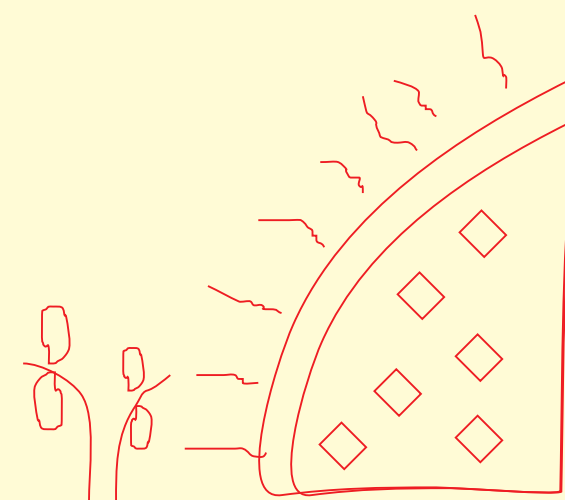




Case Studies on Improving Food Security through Sustainable Agricultural Practices and Strengthening Local Biodiversity Management

By Prayatna Samiti, Udaipur, India



About Prayatna Samiti

Prayatna Samiti is a voluntary organisation working since 1989, committed to the socioeconomic development of poor and vulnerable rural communities of Udaipur district located in Southern region of Rajasthan state of India subcontinent. The organisation believes in capacity of rural communities to work for their own welfare. It believes in the collective strength of communities to achieve a just society, free of exploitative forces.

The organisation sees its role as a facilitator for community action, to support the efforts of communities to come together to take the responsibility of development. It works to promote self empowerment and leadership abilities among marginal farmers and rural labourers by developing institutional structures, management capacity and leadership abilities.

Vision

The vision of Prayatna Samiti is to promote self empowerment and leadership abilities amongst deprived sections of rural communities for their sustainable livelihood.

Mission

Promote self-empowerment and leadership abilities among deprived sections of rural communities. We believe that all people have ability and the right to provide for themselves and contribute to a healthy, sustainable economy. Our efforts are concentrated on developing institutional structures; management capacity and leadership abilities in these people so that they can achieve social justice and equality of their own.

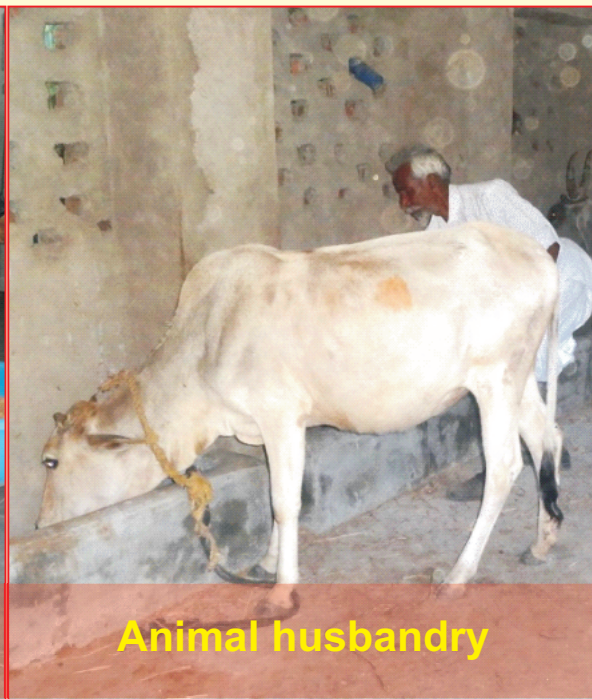
Thematic Areas



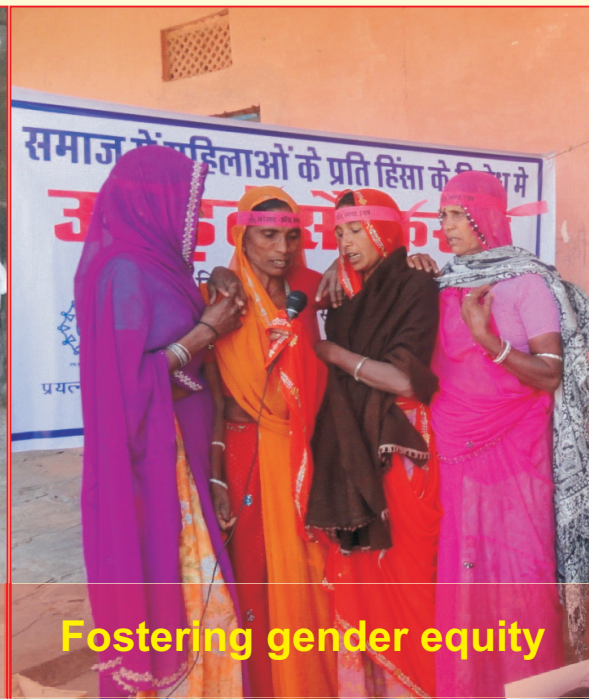
Community management of commons



Sustainable agriculture



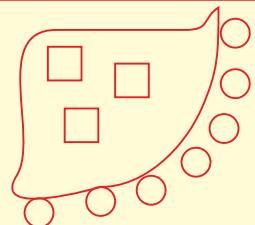
Animal husbandry



Fostering gender equity



Enhancing access to community rights



About the Project

Rationale

Due to the small amount of crop cultivated area farmers are unable to earn the sufficient incomes. Market-driven agriculture has caused a huge set back in production of traditional grains which are good sources of nutrients necessary for human health. The project addresses vulnerable ecosystem by fostering minor millets and vegetable cultivation with the set of Good Agricultural Practices and good governance. The project addresses women with the objective to increase food security, improve livelihoods, and conservation of biodiversity.



Work site

Villages of Southern region of Rajasthan.
Patch of Tropical Dry Deciduous Forest.
Extremely undulating terrain with a limited crop cultivation area.

Target group and stakeholders

Indigenous people belonging to Meena tribe who are marginalized farmers; they practice agriculture and animal husbandry as traditional livelihoods; and lack skills in productive cultivation and animal husbandry. The approach involves Women Self Help Groups, Biodiversity Management Committees, Gram Sabha members, Village Panchayat.



Major Activities



SHG formation leading to financial security:

SHG formation leading to financial security:
Formation of 5 SHGs consisting of 65 women members.
Achieving ownerships through monthly savings.
Inter loaning on seeds, animal feed, medical treatment and education.

12 Trainings on Minor Millets and Vegetable Cultivation and Organic farming lead to improve production:

Reintroducing minor millets and vegetables; Nursery raising; Row sowing; Bed cultivation; Maintaining distance between plants; intercropping; Plant growth supporting measures; Slope treatment; Green Houses; forward market linkages; Application of bio pesticides and growth promoters.



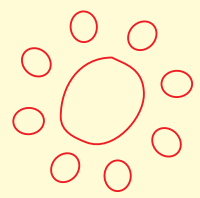
10 Seed Banks leading to food security:

2 ha land area utilized for production of minor millets – Foxtail millet, Proso millets, Finger millet. The production recorded was 13.5 q per hectare. People started consuming minor millets and protect seeds for next season.

40 Nutrition Gardens leading to food security and livelihood security:

8 types of vegetables introduced to address malnutrition and promote livelihood security. Per garden yield recoded as 65 kg. A saving of INR 900 done per month by each women. Excess of vegetables sold in the market.





Case Study of Nathi Bai: Cheena raised in the field

Family background:

Nathi Bai is a forest dweller belonging to Meena tribe with 5 family members. Crop cultivated area 1 bigha (0.22 ha) is very difficult to lead a dignified life. Income mainly dependent upon agriculture.

Problem identification:

Limited crop cultivated area; health disorders fever, common cold, joint pain due to inappropriate diet; lack of cultivation skills.

Project objective:

Promote food security through introduction of nutritious crops and biodiversity conservation.
Develop traditional crops cultivation skills thereby enhancing production.

Activity and approach:

Grain seed bank of Proso millet introduced through SHG.
2 kg seeds and trainings for cultivation provided by Prayatna Samiti, Agricultural colleges and Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

Results:

Utilization of crop cultivated area for minor millets cultivation.
She harvested 4.5 kg grains from 0.5 kg sown seeds. The grain was consumed by the family members. Chapatis were prepared and taste was appreciated by the family members.
0.5 kg of the harvest was added to the existing seeds in the traditional earthen pot.

Challenges:

Heavy rainfall retarded the harvest.



Case Study of Gomali Bai: Vegetable paradise in Ven village

Family background:

Gomali Bai, a forest dweller, belongs to Meena tribe living with her husband and 2 children she resides in Ven village.

Agriculture contributes to more than 50 per cent of the family's income.

Project objective:

Promote food security through introduction of nutritious crops and biodiversity conservation.

Develop traditional crops cultivation skills thereby enhancing production.

Problem identification:

Limited fertile land and existence of slopped surface.

Inadequate nutrition.

Lack of cultivation skills for existing crops thereby resulting low production.

Activity and approach:

Introduction of vegetable seeds of tomato, bhindi, brinjal, spinach, bottle gourd, ridge gourd through SHG. Woman found interested in vegetable cultivation.

Vegetable cultivation training provided by Praytana Samiti and Pacific Agriculture College.

Results:

Gomali Bai raised nursery with row sowing of seeds and protected by Green net.

Utilized fallow land area on the foot hills.

Bed cultivation, used supporters for increasing size of fruit.

Prepare and sprayed five leaf extract for pest eradication.

Sold vegetables in the local market. Saved INR 900 in a month by growing vegetables. 0.25 kg harvest per day.



Case Study of Dhooli Bai: Foxtail wagged after a long span

Family background:

Residing in Ven village with family members consists of 2 adults and 3 children.

Family's sources of income depend mainly on agriculture which contributes more than 60 per cent to the total annual income.

Problem identification:

Limited crop cultivated area.

Health disorders fever, common cold, joint pain due to inappropriate diet.

Lack of cultivation skills.

Project objective:

Promote food security through introduction of nutritious crops and biodiversity conservation.

Develop traditional crops cultivation skills thereby enhancing production.

Activity and approach:

Grain seed bank of foxtail millet introduced through SHG.

2 kg seeds and trainings for cultivation provided by Prayatna Samiti, Agricultural colleges and Krishi Vigyan Kendra.

Results:

Utilization of crop cultivated area for minor millets cultivation.

She harvested 4 kg grains from 0.5 kg sown seeds. The grain was consumed by the family members. Chapatis were prepared and taste was appreciated by the family members.

0.5 kg of the harvest was added to the existing seeds in the traditional earthen pot.

Challenges:

Heavy rainfall retarded the harvest.



Thanks !

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