



Maharashtra

SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



Biodiversity Conservation



Climate Change



ORNAMENTAL FISHERIES

A way to Conserve Biodiversity and create Livelihoods



Govt. of India
Ministry of Environment, Forest &
Climate Change



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SHASHWAT

CEE

Centre for Environment Education



BACKGROUND

In the year 2000, the construction of Dimbhe Dam in the Pune district of Maharashtra led to displacement of 1253 households living in the valley of Ghod and Bubra Rivers. This construction not only submerged 11 villages but also destroyed the croplands of other 13 villages. To mitigate the challenges faced by these local primitive vulnerable tribal groups (PVTG's) and other tribal groups, a grass root level initiative was taken up by Shashwat. The PVTG's are Katkaris; other tribal groups are Koli Mahadeo and Thakars of the Pune district.

Shashwat helped them form loosely structured self-help groups (SHGs) initially aiding them to develop small scale fishing activities in the dam reservoir and also to improve conservation and agricultural production.

The available 1278 hectares of dam area could provide sustainable livelihood opportunities through fisheries and drawdown agriculture. Women SHGs were trained by Central Institute of Fishery Education (CIFE), Mumbai and Fisheries Department, Maharashtra Government on ornamental fish rearing in state-of-the-art cage culture techniques. The reservoir is stocked with fish and the local population is supported to obtain fishing leases, boats and nets. This project envisages helping tribal women to start a business in

Name of the Organization

Shashwat Trust, Manchar, Pune

Project Title

Ornamental fishery to provide tribal women alternative employment and Distribution of smokeless cook stoves

Geographical Areas

20 Villages dependant on Dimbhe Dam, Ambegav District, Pune

Project Time Period

October 2013- October 2016

SGP Grant Amount

₹ 22, 92, 000

Co-Finance

Cash- ₹ 1, 04, 32, 000

Kind- ₹ 1, 79, 650

GEF Thematic Area

Biodiversity Conservation and Climate Change

Beneficiaries

392 Families

ornamental fishery and thus increase their own household incomes besides utilizing the natural resource base of their area to the fullest extent.

Another issue intervened by Shashwat was the smoke in the kitchen due to inefficient wood burning cook-stoves which impacted the health of ladies adversely. An initiative was taken to install smoke free stoves in the household for better living and reduction in carbon emission.

OBJECTIVE

- To promote sustainable use, community based management and conservation of water based ecosystems in Dimbhe Dam area.
- To create alternate livelihood systems through protection of reservoir.
- To develop community based institutional arrangement and management plan for the women from the tribal communities dependent on Dimbhe Dam.



APPROACH

- The technical guidance of CIFE Mumbai and Fisheries Department, Maharashtra Government has helped in the development of fisheries which has led to the significant change in the livelihood of the tribal fisher folk.
- Aggressive stocking of the Indian major carps in Dimbhe Dam and introduction of cage culture and pen culture, of fish rearing have been successfully taken forward and maintained by the tribals with full support and involvement of Shashwat.
- A group of women were trained and supported by CIFE Mumbai on ornamental fisheries using cages.
- This intervention became a success and led to scaling up of the project so that many more women can take up ornamental fisheries as sustained livelihood option and take it up as proper business enterprise.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES		DESCRIPTION
1	Community mobilization and institutionalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Women's collective group was formed and detailed training on various aspects of fishery business was given.• Training was also provided on maintenance of records and book keeping along with developing bank linkages.
2	Training and hands-on experience on ornamental fisheries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A total of 50 women were trained in ornamental fisheries with detailed knowledge in cage culture and maintenance of floating cage.• A module was developed for training relating to ornamental fisheries and about 15 workshops conducted and more than 500 beneficiaries trained.
3	Setting up and Utilization of cages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All the 16 cages were repaired and placed in 4 villages for the breeding/ornamental fishes.• In addition to these the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai designed 4 modified cages made of galvanized iron for breeding ornamental fishes.
4	Setting up of institutional system and management structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meetings were held twice a month where ornamental fishery business was reviewed, assessed and further planning was devised for future implementation.• Earnings and expenditures were calculated and money is deposited in bank account at the end of the month.• Linkages with the local wholesale traders were also established.
5	Smokeless stoves	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two modified smokeless cook stoves installed in the school meant to cook for 60 tribal and primitive tribe children studying there.• 200 smoke less stoves installed in the tribal families of the villages.• Camps were organized to create awareness amongst the population about the ill-effects of smoke in the households.



IMPACTS

- 1278 hectares area of dam has been brought under sustainable harvest practices under the project.
- A total of 10,00,000 hatchlings of 4 different species were bred utilizing sustainable practices for income enhancement.
- 200 smokeless cook stoves have been installed in the tribal households which save 204 MTs of fuel wood resulting in annual reduction of CO2 emission of 367 Mts.
- 200 acres of submerged land was planted with 'Taag' and 'Dencha' seeds to provide food for the survival and breeding of fishes in the Dimbhe Dam.
- A module was developed for training about ornamental fisheries and about 15 workshops were conducted and more than 500 beneficiaries were trained.
- A total of 3.5 lakh rupees (US\$ 5200) of profit from the business was generated and deposited in the bank for further expansion of the business. A shop for the sale of ornamental fishes was opened by Shashwat for sustainable income.
- The project improved the Socio-economic status of the tribal women in the area. The community gained added income from poultry and Rs. 2, 16,080 was raised through sale of birds. 3,500 hatchlings were provided to 59 women from 16 villages. 20 tribal women were trained for stitching and tailoring activities. Rs. 40,000 was earned from the sale of raincoats made with the plastic sheets.



LESSONS LEARNT

Exposure to the outside world and avenues for learning new skills helps the community start own enterprise which accelerates the sustainability of the project. Exposure visits helps in gathering market experience and sharpening the communication skill-sets. By applying sustainable measures, the bio-diversity is conserved, ecosystem is maintained and carbon footprints are reduced by adopting smokeless cooking techniques. The ornamental fisheries should be developed by involving the local varieties which have more potential. Better livelihood options clubbed with biodiversity conservation can make the project viable with the added perks of reducing carbon emissions for a better tomorrow.



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