

GDD Project
Progress Report of year 2
(July 01, 2022 to June 30, 2023)



Project name: Gender, Drought and Development (GDD).

Project villages: 3 (Three)

Villages Name: 1. Dhudhadiya 2. Aatiya and 3. Dhirasar

Block Name: Chohtan, Dist. - Barmer, Rajasthan, India

Supported by: PPI, USA

Implemented by - GRAVIS

Project Goal and objectives:

The **overall goal** of the project: Ensure gender equality leading to community development in 3 villages of Jodhpur through a holistic approach

Specific objectives of the project:

1. Support and train Community Based Organizations (CBOs - Village development Committee – VDC and Self Help Groups – SHG) to strengthen local leadership
2. Enhance water security and water safety
3. Improve crop production and enhance food security
4. Build solidarity and harmony

Duration and location of the project:

The project period for implementation is 36 months –from July 21 to June 24. It is being implemented in 3 villages in Barmer District, Rajasthan within Chouhtan Block

Progress made in year 2

July 2022 to June 2023 was the second year of GDD project. GRAVIS team made good progress during the year and achieved all planned targets. Local communities provided very active support. Details are given below:

1. Village Development Committees (VDCs) and their trainings

In the year, the monthly meetings of VDCs were organized regularly. The training was conducted for VDCs on the project goal and objectives and on common developmental aspects. Training was facilitated by GRAVIS project coordinator, field supervisor and senior VDC representatives. These trainings took place in project villages on public places. Public place was selected for trainings and meetings after discussing with the VDC members to access easily and every one can participate. The training was well attended by VDC members and they very actively participated.

Below given topics were covered during the training:

1. Exposure visits were planned for the farmers specially women to get knowledge on use of improved variety of seeds.
2. Benefits by government schemes to poor families, i.e Pension for older and widow women, MDM, SSA, MJSY etc

3. How to improve social and economic status of the community so they become self-reliant
4. Focus on old and traditional ways of managing natural resources.
5. How to maintain community-based structures and common land (pastures)
6. Promoting organic farming methods and discussions on benefit of adopting organic farming.
7. Encouraging community to make and use of organic manure and compost pits at home.
8. Concept of developing kitchen gardens to improve nutritional level of women, children and elderly.



VDC training

2. SHG training

Monthly meetings of SHGs continued. Total 17 SHG members participated in the training of SHG in Dhirasar village. Training was organised for the members to explain the roles and responsibilities of the members of SHG and to discuss development aspects. All SHG members participated very actively.

Below given topics were covered during the training session

1. Effective functioning of SHGs and their members' roles and their responsibilities
2. Orient the members on Punch sutras, which help SHGs to have better and long-term perspective about sustainability
3. Continuing small savings and inter loaning, regular meetings, saving deposits in banks, some cash in hand for any emergency, etc

4. Find out scope of income generation activities which will support to enhance income



SHG women participating in the training

3. Construction of Rainwater Harvesting Tanks (taankas):

Rainwater shortage and water insecurity is a major challenge in the remotely located villages in the Thar Desert. Water crisis mainly affects the lives of women and girls as they have to spend their more than half of the time in water fetching. This results in women and girls facing health issues. Enhancing water security is an important aspect for the rural communities. Under the project, the selection process for taankas begins in the first quarter of the reporting period year and needy households were selected by local community. 5 taankas were constructed during the year.

The construction work of taankas was actively monitored by the VDCs and the GRAVIS team. GRAVIS field team and the technical team of GRAVIS made regular visits to the construction sites in the target villages and provided supervision and support to the community. GRAVIS team also monitored structures after completion and found all the Tanka functioning well and fulfilling the drinking water needs of the beneficiaries. It has not only improved the water accessibility and availability but also improved the health status and has reduced school dropout rates especially among girls. Now women are free from the stress of fetching water every day from long distance, carrying multiple pots on their heads and are free from the physical exertion. With taanka, their family social status is also improved, especially the social status of women. The beneficiaries are very happy to have such effective taankas near by their home. They can also save INR 4,000 to 5,000 in a year as they don't have to spend on water

Table of Taanka construction beneficiaries during year 2

S. No.	Name of beneficiary	Sex (M/F)	Category of caste	Village	# of Family members
1	Mohini Devi	F	OBC	Dhirasar	08
2	Anu Devi	F	OBC	Dhudhadiya	09
3	Noji Devi	F	SC	Aatiya	08
4	Antari	F	SC	Dhirasar	07
5	Anchi	F	OBC	Dhirasar	06
	Total				38



Woman drawing water from her newly constructed taanka under GDD project

4. Bio Sand Water Filters (BSWF) and trainings on the use of filters

5 Bio-sand water filters were assembled during the reporting period for the project beneficiaries. For safe drinking water these filters were installed at taanka beneficiary's homes. Orientation sessions were conducted by the technical team of experts to the beneficiaries of BSWF about its use and its functions and on how to take care of BSWF. Team also explained that the use of BSWF is very easy and they can use it without any complications. During the field visits, the field team received positive acceptance for the BSWF from the beneficiaries. All those who have received BSWF are very happy to use these water filters because now the BSWF are providing contamination free water.

Trainings on BSWF during reporting period:

S. No.	Place of Training/Village	Date	Total participants	Male	female
1	Aatiya	20.09.2022	38	22	16
2	Dhirasar	21.10.2022	35	19	16
	Total		73	41	32



Training organised on Bio-sand water filters at GDD project village for villagers

5. Community Seed Banks (CSB)

4 CSBs were set up in year 1 of the projects. All CSBs are functioning well. The seed banks are available for all poor and local farmers. 2 more CSBs will be set up in year 3.

6. Climate resilient farming trainings

During year 2, two trainings were organized on above topic attended by 58 farmers. The trainings were attended with active interest by farmers.

The major focus was to discuss on different topics related to climate resilient practices and to train the community towards becoming more resilient.

- Unseasonal Rainfall and its unequal distribution across places.
- Adverse impact of extreme weather events on farming resulting in reduction in farm production
- In the Commons, Oran, gochar (pasture) the local grass and shrubs and trees reduced and its adverse effect on the live stocks

- Advice on usage of traditional local varieties of seeds which are not hybrid and which suited to the local conditions. Making people understand the benefits of using the same.
- Discussion on good quality of seeds storage, selections of quality seeds
- Discussion on the harmful impact of excess pesticide application on cultivation and productivity, Disease from hybrid seeds, Loss of interest among people in farming owing to increased challenges and lower profit
- All the farmers discussed on using traditional sources to use local grass and crop seeds.

7. Exposure visit to convention

During 2022, an exposure visit was organised at CAZRI and Agriculture University, Jodhpur. The farmers visited the field of different trials on different crops in scientific manner. There was farmer's interaction session with the agriculture scientists in Central Arid Zone Research Institute (CAZRI) and Agriculture University during the visit.

On 19th May 2023, the Agriculture University Jodhpur (AUJ) organise a farmer's event at Jodhpur. During this event, scientists delivered lectures on different aspects, i.e., seed multiplication, line sowing, best package of practices (POP), pest control, use of FYM, etc. AUJ provides 4 kg of mung bean crop seeds to the farmers during the event for sowing for improved varieties at their farm land in coming kharif session. Farmers were happy to received such good quality of seed and got scientific information regarding best agricultural practices. Over 30 farmers attended the convention.



"Traditional kharif crop seeds of Selected Arid Crops: Use and Future Scope" organised by Agriculture University, Jodhpur



Farmers are taking note and learn about best scientific agricultural practices during one day farmers expouser visit at CAZRI Jodhpur



Farmers visiting crop demonstration site in CAZRI, Jodhpur

Impact

- Knowledge of VDCs and SHGs enhanced further
- 5 new tankas were built providing water security
- 5 BSWFs were installed and 2 trainings on filters were held – for safe water
- Farmers knowledge was enhanced with trainings and exchange visit
- Seed banks are helping farmers to get good quality seeds when needed

Plan for year 3

In year 3, following activities will be taken up and the project will be completed.

- Trainings for VDCs and SHGs
- Construction of 5 tankas
- Installing 5 BSWF and training
- 2 Climate resilient farming trainings
- 2 Community Seed Banks