

Progress Report

1. **Name of the Project** : - Promoting Sustainable Agriculture, Nutrition and Safe drinking water for the communities in Bundelkhand
2. **Implementing Agency** : - Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS)
3. **Supported by** :- People for Progress in India
4. **Progress Period** :- July 2016 - May 2017
5. **Project Area** :- Village Sichoura, Gahara, Sihan Bagari, Maheva, Bamhori Kaji of Karvai Development Block in Mahoba District of Bundelkhand (Uttar Pradesh), India
6. **Activities**:-To achieve the overall goal of the project and its objectives will achieve through following interventions/activities accomplished during the project period:

6.1 Formation of CBOs

GRAVIS project team organized village level meetings to formation of village level community based institution called VDC. During village level meeting all house hold representation there. In this meeting the GRAVIS staff explains about project and its objectives to the participants in detail. We know about composition of social characteristics in the meeting. During this meeting villagers elect the members unanimously for village development committee (VDC), who give their full of support to take care of project activities, selection of beneficiaries for project activity, monitoring of the activity, etc.

Now we organize VDCs training at its center in Mahoba (Bundelkhand) with the intention of raising awareness among villagers on their roles and responsibilities in the project. Furthermore they were informed about government schemes, government linkages and their personal rights, aiming for them to recognize their self-reliance in a long term. VDCs play an important role in the project villages benefiting at least 60% of the households (i.e. 850 households) that are involved in the project. The meeting provided training to VDC members of all five villages on issues regarding the procedure of selecting beneficiaries and the monitoring of field work.

Details of training given below in table;

S.No.	Name of village	Block	District	# of members including female
1	Sichoura	Karvai	Mahoba	15
2	Gahara	Karvai	Mahoba	12
3	Bamhori Kaji	Karvai	Mahoba	12
4	Sihan Bagari	Karvai	Mahoba	13
5	Maheva	Karvai	Mahoba	13
	Total			65

Additionally they were informed on increasing government linkages and other schemes run by the government. The VDCs are established through local elections and play an important role in monitoring work and carrying responsibility within the project. Each of these committees is comprised of 10 to 15 members of one village, of whom approximately 40% are female, that are willing to contribute to the development of their village. Our community work is mainly designed to solve problems of rural communities, particularly women and small scale farmers, with an integrated approach. It is therefore necessary to involve the community in the implementation of the project to raise the self-reliance within the village.

VDCs have major responsibilities that range from planning and executing to monitoring projects. A series of capacity building interventions are planned for the VDCs and for the community in general. It is envisaged that the VDCs will start working actively on their own during the project and will maintain the initiatives after the successful implementation. The approach of strengthening communities by leveraging, networking and mobilizing community resources will ensure that the project activities will be carried out by communities.



Formation of the VDC 24 October, 2016

6.2 Establish Nutrition Garden (AHUs)

Village Development Committees (VDCs) select the 20 beneficiaries for horticultural nutrition units. We organized a training for all beneficiaries, so that they know how to look after the individual plants and maintain the horticulture units themselves. For this training, a plant expert from the horticulture department Government of U.P supplied technical support for the GRAVIS team and the beneficiaries. Members of the GRAVIS team monitor the horticulture units regularly, but the trainings generally ensure good maintenance of horticulture units with healthy plants. On the 20th of November 2016 GRAVIS distributed the resources for AHUs for 20 low income farmers in five villages. These included 20 fruit plants (Jackfruit, Lemon, Awala), barbed wire and iron pipes for the safety of the plants.

List of nutrition garden (AHU) beneficiaries:

S.No.	Name of beneficiary	Name of Father/Husband	Village
1.	Sh. Ram Lal	Sh. Raja Bhai	Bamhoura Kaji
2.	Smt. Man Kanwer	w/o Sh. Surendra Singh	“ “
3.	Smt. Susma	w/o Sh. Rakesh	“ “
4.	Smt Surendra Singh	w/o Sh. Sita Ram	“ “
5.	Smt. Rekha Singh	w/o Sh. Jagman Singh	Sichoura
6.	Smt. Kamlesh	w/o Sh. Durgresh Singh	“ “
7.	Smt. Munni	w/o Sh. Tiriya	“ “
8.	Smt. Jayanti	w/o Sh. Ashoka	“ “
9.	Smt. Vimla	w/o Sh. Vijay Singh	Gahra
10.	Sh. Amit Kumar	s/o Sh. Ram Baran	“ “
11.	Sh. Arjun Singh	s/o Sh. Rajendra Singh	“ “
12.	Sh. Sajjan Singh	s/o Sh. Ram Das	“ “
13.	Sh. Babbu	s/o Sh. Mal khan	Sindhan Badhari
14.	Sh. Kashi Prasad	s/o Sh. Sukhnandan	“ “
15.	Smt. Shaul Kumari	w/o Sh. Ran Vijay	“ “
16.	Sh. Brij Lal	s/o Sh. Kalu	“ “
17.	Smt. Girja	w/o Sh. Ram Sufal	Mahela
18.	Smt. Bhagwati	w/o Sh. Dwijendra	“ “
19.	Smt. Saroj	w/o Sh. Shiv Kumar	“ “
20.	Smt. Safal Nigam	w/o Sh. Dwijendra	“ “

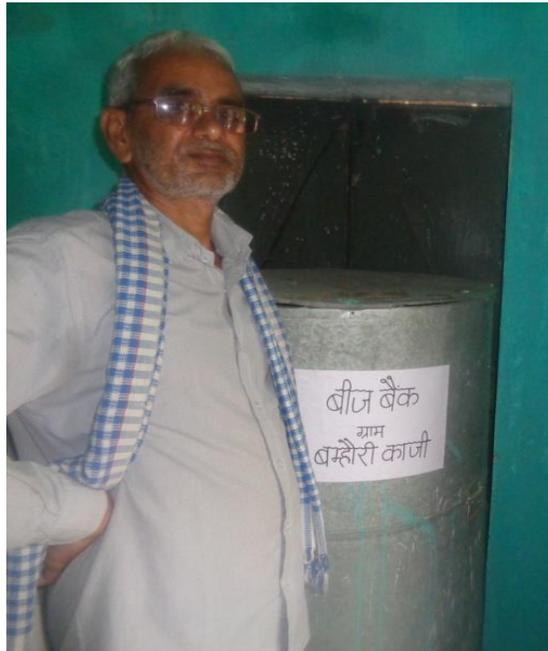
6.3 Development of Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration through seed Distribution

Due to a lack of rainwater, poorly fertilized land and good quality of crop seed many farmers in the District of Mahoba have a meager income and a small production of crops which forces them to migrate to other states. GRAVIS provided 100 poor farmers with 16kg of high quality improved variety of green pea seeds for 1.5 acre of cultivation. Each farmer has to prepare his land before sowing. All farmers the farm yard manure (FYM) in their field and spread it on the field and then farmers plow their land twice to mix the

FYM with the soil and to remove all weeds from the field. Now the farmers' field is in good shape and ready for cultivation.

After rainfall, the farmers start crop seed sowing with lining and spacing to ensure proper plant growth. Farmers were very happy to see a good growth of their crops in the field. For the first time, they harvested a good amount of crops. In the same field, they saw two and a half times more production, because of using proper seeds and a Package of practices (PoP).

After harvesting the crops, the farmers took the seeds to the seed bank of their village, so the seeds are stored properly and can be used for planting crops the next season. Farmers who keep the seeds in seed banks are trained on keeping the seeds safe, so the quality of seeds stays good. For example, they use bio pesticides like ash or neem leaves and keep the seeds in air-tight and waterproof containers.



Farmer in seed bank

6.4 Education Session on Nutrition and Water quality

We organized ten trainings in target project villages on education and water quality, in these training sessions total 250 farmers participated including female. The Resource persons of these training were Sh. Umesh Kumar Misra and Sh. Budh Bilas who are expert of the topics.

The training educated to the farmers on the importance of

Health and hygiene:

- a. Cleaning the water storage pots
- b. Washing their hands before eating
- c. Using the drinking water after filtering or boiling and cleaning with alum
- d. Covering the drinking water pots
- e. Using water from safe utensils
- f. Preference to harvest rain for drinking and agricultural purposes
- g. Check/testing of water in the Govt. Laboratory

Nutrition:

- a. Awareness of malnutrition in children and pregnant women
- b. Awareness of nutritional benefits of horticulture units and kitchen garden
- c. Awareness of health benefits of green vegetables and herbs to ensure sufficient iron intake
- d. Awareness of vitamin A, B, C intake via fresh fruit and vegetables
- e. Teaching about the production of a variety of dairy products in the beneficiaries' homes, like curd, butter, cream etc.



Training on water purification

After the training, we observed a significant change in health/hygiene practices and water cleanliness. Also, the consumption of green vegetables and fresh fruit had increased. Therefore, similar trainings will be organized in future as they show immediate improved nutritional and hygiene behavior.