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PREMIUM



Proposal for establishing a Sustainable Bridge School through Organic Farming

Project Background

Today small farmers are facing many challenges because of failure of crops and marketing the commodities grown by the farmers. The cost of cultivation/agriculture practices becomes not profitable and they have to invest more money and human resources for chemical fertilizers, pesticides, etc. Due change of attitude of farmers and oriented more towards high yield crops within given period made the soil infertile and salinity. This pushes the farming community further vulnerable and poverty.

As result of drought thousands areca nut farms were dried up and become barren land, migration of people to in search of employment has created many problems of school drop out of children who went along with parents, old age people got affected care and support. In migrated area these population faced harassment and exploitation by the coffee estate owners.

Situation of Sustainable Agriculture

Farming communities had been practicing sustainable agriculture practices which were got from their ancestors but as the time pass and his greediness to get more in short period through high yield variety who would consume more chemical fertilizers pesticides have had bad impacts on the food chain and sustainable food security. But trend has now been slow changing and government mind set also been changing ad showing more interest towards sustainable agriculture. Even Government has made Sustainable Agriculture policies and through which trying to motivate the moss farming community from Chemical based cultivation to organic base farming.

Organic farming is gaining momentum all over the world as it offers a means to address food self reliance, rural development and nature conservation. The common thread in this approach is the sustainable use of bio-diversity, in terms of contributions to the agriculture. People's consciousness towards; healthy food, ecology and pollution free environment through conventional farming and organic farming. At present about Million hectares of land area is under organic farming in the world and expected market of organic food is to touch more than \$191.9 billion \$ by 2030.

The COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the organic food industry. Due to the uncertainty, consumer purchasing patterns have changed as consumers have become more

aware of the importance of a strong immune system, resulting in a preference for organic and natural foods.

Situation of Child Labour Practices

There around XXXX Cores child labours are there in the India in the proposed project state, there are xxxx lakhs child laborers are there (According to the reports and news publication). They are working in hazardous and non-hazardous sectors. Domestic works, looking after goat, sheep or Cows/Bufalos, working agriculture field, hotel, garage, construction works, brick making industries, coffee estate, Areca nut processing units, some of the are working as land labourers.

There is need to emphasis much to tackle the child labour issues to minimize the further trapping of thousands of children who are the assets of the nation to these social evil practices through this sustainable project intervention.

Goal of the Project

To bring changes through action, among the farming community from chemical based, environmentally degradation agriculture practices to eco-friendly farming techniques and methodologies at the proposed organic farm through which rehabilitate and rejoin the working/school dropouts to mainstream of education.

Vision of the Project

To ensure adaptation of sustainable and economically viable agriculture practices which would in turn leads to environmentally friendly bio-diversity improvement and rehabilitate and rejoin the child labours through this farm-based intervention.

Objective of The Project

The objectives are as follows:

- Up-grade the skills and methodologies of sustainable farming among the farming communities and youths
- To eradicate the child labour practices through continuous intervention of rehabilitation and rejoin the child labours
- Impart the skills-oriented training to the child labours and farming members on various sustainable agriculture and other allied skills for self employment and self sustainability

- To enhance knowledge of farmers on improvement of soil fertility and land productivity
- To reduce the dependence of farmers for most of the inputs like seeds, manures and plant protection material by sourcing local resources there by reducing the cost of cultivation
- Judicious use of precious water sources and maintenance of production level
- To Improve farmer's income through production of quality produce
- To increase the rural employment opportunities to prevent migration to urban areas
- To equip the farmers to effectively mitigate the drought prone areas
- To bring about suitable institutional changes in teaching and research on organic farming and providing marketing facilities.
- Ensure conservation and regeneration of Indigenous varieties of food and vegetables suited to the ecological niche.
- To Integrates the on –farming, seed conservation through participation of Targeted families
- Promote bio-pesticides and disease management
- To extend the horticulture promotion programme for economic

Project Beneficiaries

Child labours, bonded labours, working children from different sectors and farming communities.

Project Activities

- To run child labour rehabilitation centre for working and school drop outs
- To construct training cum residential centre for working children
- To conduct sensitization trainings on various sustainable agriculture activities
- Promote organic manure (vermi compost/compost) production and application
- Promote bio-pesticides and green manure
- Fodder production for enhancement of animal husbandry activities
- Nursery development and distributions
- Horticulture promotion (Sapota, Mango, Guva etc.)
- Promotion of Kitchen Garden
- Developing organic products, marketing networks and linkages
- Promotion of Community Seed banks and seeds storage devices

Farm based activities

Areca nut, Coconut, fruits like Sputa, Banana, Guava, Papaya, Jackfruits, and Vegetables (tomato, drum stick, urinal, chilies) medicinal plants. bund plantations (Teak, Glyrisidia, Pongemia, Silver trees,) fodder development,

Non farm based activities

Dairy units, country chicks, Bee keeping, Vermi compost production units, Bio- pesticides preparation units, kitchen garden, nursery raising units, Azolla cultivation, solar energy units and biogas units.

Justifications for the Project Component

1. Child Labour rehabilitation cum training centre

As the child labour rehabilitation cum training centre is important component of the farm based project intervention where the centre directly provide shelter and training to the working children who will be brought from different sectors; agriculture, hotel, garage, construction units, brick making industries etc and also this center will provide training to the farming communities from surrounding villages and also the parents of the working children; besides project intends to cover skills training to the youths and child labours on various job orientated skills. In these aspects this project component would play vital role and contribution to make this project intervention most effective and success.

2. Horticulture plants Promotion

Horticulture plants would support to the agro-community to get rid of poverty through giving additional income, fuel to the targeted families. As this could not be the major agriculture activities and it is only seasonal. It would enhance the income of the farm, Mango, Guva, Lemon, Sapota etc are the important horticulture fruit yielding plants. As we are promoting farm ponds this would enable the organisation to watering the horticulture plants properly.

3. Vermi compost and compost production units

These units would have direct impacts on farming community economic capital on agriculture practices and also these activities would give additional income if they promote

these activities as commercial to sell the compost manure and earth worms. As the production of compost and vermi organic manure would reduce the dependency on chemical fertilizers and also would support favorable environment to the soil microbial activities. This has very good impact on soil fertility and productivity.

4. Kitchen Garden Promotion

Promotion of Kitchen Garden not only provide additional income through selling vegetables but also give fresh vegetables to the neighbors through which health status of the inmates and beneficiaries also been improved.

5. Promotion of Registered Association of Farming groups

Project is intended to promote registered farmers association to promote this farm-based production and learning and take on the project's interventions and success stories to larger communities and also effectively strengthened this to promote strong market for organic farm-based food products. Association of Farmers groups will be formed and registered and this group will involve in planning, implementing and monitoring process of the farm based project. Also steps would taken by this farmers associations to develop strong networks of marketing, group certifications and institutional development at district and state level would ensure the sustainability of the farm based project beyond the envisaged objectives of the project.

Project Strategies

Participatory planning, implementation and management will be adopted in the proposed project where people would involve in all the phase of project implementation. Strong Local institutions build up from the beginning of the project, including Self Help Groups (SHGs), Women federation, and Association of Organic farmers to promote the organic based crops, vegetables and fruits which would be grate demands in coming days. Linkages and networks with grassroots level institutions to taluk and district level government and other farmer's cooperative societies to ensure an effective growing, storage and marketing of food grains and vegetables.

Planning to manage the watershed, rainwater, irrigation

The proposed land will be treated on a watershed development concept which includes, rainwater harvesting structure, ground water recharge through farm pond construction. Earthen bunds, stone bunds also would be adapted in this land.

Fencing and forest trees, bund methods etc. to prevent erosion

Stone and bubbling wire fencing to the boundaries with forest tree-plants inside the fencing like Teak, Silver tree, Neem, Pongemia and jackfruit. Earthen bunds and stone bunds will be constructed to prevent soil erosion.

Local Seed Bank

Yes, the farm will be entirely organic. Compost and vermi compost manure production will be undertaken in the farm. As our organization had developed seed bank in the project area we intend to have a local seed bank. Since we are working on a local seed collection and management for xx years, we do not seem to face any problem in procuring/collecting seeds.

Plan to manage the seasonal crops, rotation, fallow time etc.

We will manage the seasonal crops, annual crops and long years crop in the following type. In the following activities some of the activities would result production within year, some of the activities 2 to 3 years and some of the activities would take 4-6 years to give yield. Timber yielding plants would take 15 years. Under other activities which would be practiced throughout the year.

Sl. No	Seasonal crops	Annual Crops	Long years plantation crops	Other un-seasonal activities
1	Vegetables	Banana	Teak,	Bee Keeping
2	Pulses	Mango	Pongamia,	Vermi compost
3	Medicinal plants	Coconut	Amla,	Azolla
4	Papaya	Areca nut	Jack fruits	Nursery raising
5	Drumstick	Sapota	Guva	Dairy management
6	Kitchen Garden	Cashew nut	Neem	Poultry

Budget

The organization need at least 1 to 2 acres land is suitable to promote proposed sustainable agriculture cost xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx which includes demonstration plots, Kitchen Garden, vermin compost units, small dairy units, Children play grounds Bridge Schools, training centre for the proposed pilot project.

Outcomes of the Project

- There will be well equipped child labour rehabilitation cum training centre

- Every year xx working children (Child labours) would be rejoined to mainstream of education
- 1xx to 2xx farmers would be trained up on sustainable organic farming every year
- Increase production of Vermi/compost organic manure production per year in the neighbor villages
- xx families will be adapted sustainable methods of agriculture practices every year
- Reduction of cost of cultivation for the farmers and improvement of crop yield
- Increase of organic food productions
- Increase of Horticulture plantation
- Improved health status of the children
- Bee keeping as subsidiary occupation provide additional income to the families
- xx Families would have adapted Integrated Pest Management practices
- Reduction of Chemical Fertilizers usage to grow crops.
- There would development of Human resource of farming communities on various
- Sustainable agriculture skills

Conclusion

The idea of running a sustainable farming to run self sustained bridge school and other community development activities which will be help us to reach the maximum number of working children and school drop outs deprived their childhood and education who will be brought into the mainstream of education. This infrastructure developed now will be helpful. Totally this Farms will be become the important asset of the Organization and it will support various means initiate development activities for needy children and people. This project could be replicate by other development institutes.

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