

Stitching BVA (Dutch Lenten Campaign) Reporting Protocol for International Projects

1. General information

Project number	Project No: # 002102
Project title	Promoting Climate Resilient Agriculture, Environment and Biodiversity for sustainable livelihood of the poor and marginalized farmers of Dindigul District in Tamil Nadu (India)
Contact person	Ms.A.Maria Rose Leema
Email	simcodess@gmail.com
Running period	October 2022 to September 2023
Reporting period	1st October 2022 to 30 th September 2023

2. Overview of the project

<p>Describe the situation (socio-economic, political and cultural) in which the project was carried out. <i>This means the context in which the project was carried out as well as an analysis of the problems that gave cause for setting up the project for the target group(s) concerned.</i></p>	<p>Dindigul district, like many other regions in India, has been affected by droughts and water scarcity. Rural areas often face the brunt of these conditions, impacting agriculture and livelihoods. In such situations, families, particularly those in vulnerable economic conditions, may choose to migrate to urban areas and neighboring districts for better employment opportunities. Families from drought-affected rural areas often migrate to urban centers like Karur, Thirupur, Coimbatore, Salem, and Namakkal. These areas are known for their thriving textile and garment industry, offering employment to a significant number of people.</p> <p>Migration of individuals and families to urban and neighboring industrial districts has both positive and negative effects on Dindigul. It may relieve the pressure on local resources and provide opportunities for families to earn a livelihood. On the other hand, it may also result in the depletion of the local workforce and a decline in agricultural productivity in Dindigul.</p> <p>The socio-cultural and economic situation in Dindigul district is influenced by factors such as drought, rural migration to industrial areas, and the significant textile and garment industry in nearby districts. The impact of these factors is multifaceted, affecting both the communities in Dindigul and the regions they migrate to in search of employment and economic opportunities.</p> <p>The present political scenario is not much favourable to the people. Corruption and bribery are widely prevalent. Only one fourth of the government programmes reach the deserving people. Popular and</p>
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	<p>attractive schemes are announced by the governments and there is no scope for any sustainable development programme. The poor are apolitical and they vote to the party that gives them more money during the time of election. The central government and the local state government are at logger heads. Both are opposed to each other and hence, the central government does not extend adequate support and cooperation to the local state government of Tamilnadu. It adversely affects the overall development of the people.</p> <p>Heavy taxation and ever-increasing price hike of basic commodities become heavy burdens to the people, especially, the poor and marginalized.</p> <p>Though basic infrastructure is moderately well in the state, livelihood becomes a major issue followed by health issues. In addition, natural resources are limited in the state. Depletion of biodiversity, green cover and forest area and water resources pose major challenges to sustainable agriculture on which more than 65% of the people depend upon.</p> <p>Climate change increases the vulnerability of the poor, and those dependent on natural resources for their livelihoods. It leads to less secure livelihoods due to depleted social, financial, physical and natural resources and human assets; increasing health risks due to diseases like malaria, dengue, cholera, dysentery, malnutrition and exposure, and constrained economic opportunities due to short- and long-term impacts of droughts and floods, and other extreme events. Taken together, all these factors render attaining the millennium development goals (MDGs) difficult.</p>
<p>Target group (as described in the project proposal)</p>	<p>Target Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Target groups are Small and Marginal Farmers of Three Blocks of Reddiyarchathiram, Dindigul and Athur. ➤ There are also landless agricultural labourers who work in the farms of small and marginal land holders during the agricultural seasons. ➤ There are tribal populations in and around Sirumalai Hills, Panri Hills, Adalur Hills. ➤ The project will reach out to nearly 100,000 population in a period of three years, 33000 plus Population every year. ➤ 10000 to 12000 People will participate in each of the three blocks annually.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Marginal farmers will be 40% ▪ Small Farmers will be 30% ▪ Landless farmers will be 20% ▪ Tribal population will be 10%
<p>Objectives (as described in the project proposal)</p>	<p>Objective:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increasing food security, income generation and environmental sustainability 2. Building capacities and empowering communities towards sustainable agriculture, Aquaculture development and climate change adaptation interventions
<p>Expected project results (as described in the project proposal)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 45 Green Earth Teams function in 45 villages ✓ 18 Miyawaki Forests are established ✓ 25000 Woody Trees planted by School students / youth ✓ 3000 contour bunds established for rain water harvesting ✓ 60 Minor Check Dams established in 30 villages for rain water harvesting and recharging ✓ Bio-Diversity Registers maintained in 45 villages ✓ 22500 Palmyra Seeds planted ✓ 25000 Seed Balls sown in forest areas / Hills ✓ 4500 T-Shirts and Head Caps with awareness of Climate Change printed ✓ 10000 Campaign materials / Hand bills & 180 flex / Banners printed and published ✓ The Green Cover of the 45 Villages increased by at least 5 to 10% over the baseline. ✓ Biodiversity of plant species improved by at least 10% ✓ Children and Youth are sensitized and get involved in mitigating the impact of climate change (At least 3000 students participate in tree planting and awareness generation activities) ✓ At least 300 farmers are able to harvest rain water and prevent soil erosion through contour bunding and summer ploughing ✓ The ground water table in at least 45 villages gets increased by 10% ✓ The youth become aware of the importance of biodiversity and document the same with the support of the elders in the villages

3. Project results

Description of the activities that have been carried out:

1) Annual Review Meeting cum Training to Staffs and Volunteers:

The annual planning meeting was held for a period of two days. The focus of the meeting was on the project line items planned. They were discussed in detail and the logistics were worked out. The staffs, volunteers, representatives of PRIs leaders of five villages represented their members. The Director and Programme Officer of SIMCODESS, Ms. A.Maria Rose Leema facilitated the meeting and the dates of the meeting are as follows:

- 21/10/2022
- 22/10/2022

No of Participants - 50

- Staffs - 05
- PRI leaders - 05
- Volunteers - 40



2) Mass Rally by School Students:

To highlight Global warming and Climate Change issues and the strategies and practices to find solutions, mass rallies by the students from 5 schools were organized successfully. The cooperation and support of the school managements was encouraging and praise-worthy. The rallies were impressive and catching the attention of thousands of publics in the villages and the passers-by. The details of the rallies are as follows:

Dates	Mass Rally by School Students	Villages / Venues	Participants
14.11.2022 (Morning)	R.C Shayarani High School	Chinnalapatti	314 Students
14.11.2022 (Evening)	Loyola Hr.Sec.School	H.R Kottai	207 Students
15.11.2022	Sacred Heart Middle School	Aathoor	183 Students
18.11.2022	St.James Hr.Sec.School	A.Vellodu	218 Students
23.11.2022	Diraviam Girls Hr. Sec. School	Kamalapuram	296 Students
	Total	5	1218

The students raised slogans loudly to capture the attention of the public. They also held placards with messages to stop anti-environmental activities such as use of plastics, and encouraged tree planting, rain water harvesting, conservation of biodiversity etc.









CAMPAIGN AGAINST GLOBAL WARMING & CLIMATE CHANGE





3) Formation of Green Earth Team - Capacity Building:

With the noble purpose of conserving the Nature and Biodiversity in the local agro-eco system, SIMCODESS planned to form Green Earth Teams in each village. During the reporting period, Green earth Teams were formed in each of the 15 villages. The entire village members were oriented on their roles and functions. Though we planned to give intensive training to 60 volunteers and activists in agriculture, the farmers wished to include more numbers from each village for the training. Hence, 7 Days training were organized in selected villages where farmers from two to three villages participated. In each training more than 60 members participated and benefited.

They were trained in the concepts of Ecological Justice, Climate Change, Tree plantation, Rain water harvesting and watershed etc. However, a 5 member Team was elected to lead the members in each village. Following are the particulars of teams formed and trained:

Dates	Place of Training	Participants
22.12.2022	Melapatti	60
24.12.2022	Kuyavannayakkan patti	61
27.12.2022	Thottanagar	66
07.02.2023	Dharumathupatti	63
08.02.2023	Maravapatti	61
15.03.2023	Vannampatti	62
16.03.2023	Koothampatti	65
	Total	438

Training Team:

- Dr. V. Nithiya, Gandhigram Rural University, Dindigul
- Mr. Pamayan, Thirumangalam
- Mr. Xavier, Agricultural Specialist, Vattaparai
- Ms. A.Maria Rose Leema, Programme Officer, SIMCODESS
- Mr. Visuvasam Gnana Arokiam, Director, SIMCODESS





GREEN EARTH TEAM MEMBERS MEETINGS...





4) Training Small Farmers in Sustainable Organic Farming Practices:

This was the most important training in making the farmers realize the need for organic farming and develop confidence and courage to adopt organic farming. Three modules of training were conducted for a period of two days each. The thematic area included the following:

- ✓ Concept / Theory of Organic cum integrated farming.
- ✓ Organic inputs preparation
- ✓ Organic Pest repellent making and crop protection.

Training Particulars:

Dates	Venue / Place	No of Participants	Facilitators
06.01.2023	Kummam patti	40	Dr.V.Nithiya, Gandhigram Rural University
09.01.2023	Vakkampatti	39	Mr. Pamayan, Thirumangalam
12.01.2023	Vannampatti	40	Dr. Borian, Gandhigram Rural University
20.01.2023	Koothampatti	38	Mr.Xavier, Agricultural Speicalist, Vattaparai

27.01.2023	Veerakal	39	Dr. Parimala, GTN Arts College, Micro Biologist, Dindigul
30.01.2023	Ariyanallur	37	Ms. A.Maria Rose Leema, Programme Manager,
	Total	233	

The training methodology included lecture, group discussion, presentation of case studies, sharing of best practices and Question hours. The interaction of farmers with one another was quite impressive.





5) Establishment of Miyawaki Forest:

The Miyawaki method is a technique for creating dense, native, and fast-growing forests in a short period. It was developed by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki. The goal is to establish a self-sustaining, biodiverse forest that mimics the structure and composition of a natural forest.

In each Block, two Miyawaki method of forest creation was planned. To begin with, the Miyawaki Forest was established in two villages at Dindigul Block. Responsibilities were entrusted to an activist with interest and involvement in environment and ecology. In the following six months, another four forests were created. So, a total number of **6 Miyawaki forests** were established. Efforts are being made to tie-up with the local Panchayat (PRI) Raj Institution for maintenance and conservation of the forest.

In each forest, more than 15 varieties of wild trees and indigenous trees numbering more than **3000** were planted. Diversified tree saplings were planted closely to ensure faster and taller growth of trees.

The details of forests created are as follows:

Dates	Place / Village	No of Saplings planted	Person Responsible
24.02.2023	Thottanagar	400	Ms. Monicka
06.03.2023	Melapatti	380 + 50	Ms.Gnana Sowanthari
04.06.2023	Ariyanallur	500	S. Jancirani,
11.06.2023	Veerakkal	510	R. Amalorpavam
18.06.2023	A Vellodu	655	V.Leema
26.06.2023	Pithalaipatti	525	R. Palaniammal
TOTAL	6	3020	









6) Meeting and Training of Tamil Nadu Ecological Conservation Council (TNECC):

SIMCODESS along with like-minded NGOs formed the Tamil Nadu Ecological Conservation Council for protecting the environment and advocating for climate justice in Tamil Nadu. During the reporting period, three meetings of the members of TNECC were convened to discuss the local issues affecting agriculture, environment and biodiversity.

The participants enlisted major five issues in their respective district and discussed on the same. The members proposed lot of suggestions for resolving those issues.

The participants were encouraged to suggest the methods and mode of organizing the Campaign against Global warming. It was planned to take up the campaign in six districts of Madurai, Virudhunagar, Dindigul, Theni, Trichy and Pudhukottai.

The particulars of the meeting are given below:

Date	Venue	Participants
17.12.2022	Natro animation Center, A.Vellodu	60
20.12.2022	Natro animation Center, A.Vellodu	62
06.03.2023	Dindigul	68
	Total	190





7) Campaign - against Global Warming and Climate Change:

The historical campaign against Global warming was initiated in six districts. In each campaign, on an average, more than 150 youth participated and campaigned against global warming. Students, Youth and Volunteers and members of Farmers Groups and other Community based organizations promoted by the members of the Tamil Nadu Ecological Conservation Council (TNECC). Of the six districts proposed, the campaign was carried out in all the six districts and the details are as follows:

Sl. No	Dates	District	No of Participants
01	09.02.2023	Madurai	160
02	21.02.2023	Virudhunagar	145
03	06.03.2023	Dindigul	198
04	16.04.2023	Tiruchirappalli	165
05	30.04.2023	Pudukkottai	129
06	07.05.2023	Theni	138
	Total	06	935

- The Youth were issued with T- Shirts acknowledging the support of Vastenactie while passing on the message of addressing the global issue of climate change.
- Besides, a team of cultural artists were hired, oriented and trained on the concept of Global warming and the team campaigned through folk arts such as drum-beating, question and answer session using jovial techniques and interesting story telling etc.
- More than 1000 public participated in the campaign while another 1000 plus people were listening to the programmes staying at their homes and nearby shops, markets etc.
- Handbills on the thematic area of global warming and climate change and the actions to address those issues were issued to the participants and the public.









8. Rainwater Harvesting through contour bunding and Summer Ploughing:

Contour bunding involves constructing small, semi-circular barriers along the contours of the land to slow down water runoff and encourage water absorption into the soil. This method helps in conserving rainwater and preventing soil erosion.

Similarly, another simple method of rain water harvesting and ground water recharge is Summer ploughing, also known as pre-monsoon ploughing, is the practice of tilling the soil during the dry months before the monsoon. It prepares the land for sowing and enhances soil health. The land is ploughed to break up soil clumps, mix organic matter, and aerate the soil.

During the reporting period, 100 farmers were enabled to access the earth mover to engage in raising the bunds along their borders of land and also the tractor for ploughing. Though it took 2 to 4 hours of work depending upon the land size of the individual farmer, SIMCODESS met the cost of hire charge of the earth movers and tractors for two hours each.

Contour bunding and summer ploughing were carried out in the last week of April and the first and second week of May 2023. When there was rain on the third week of May and the last week of May, the farmers witnessed that their lands were filled with water and later it was fully absorbed by the land. The ground water was recharged. Generally, the top moisture will last for only a couple of days after the rain. But this year, farmers could notice that the moisture of the top soil lasted up to five days. They also reported on the reduced level of soil erosion.





Following villages and their farmers benefited directly:

SI	Name of Village	Number of Farmers	Month & Year
1	Vannampatti,	7	April 2023
2	Kuyavanayakkanpatti,	6	April 2023
3	Melapatti,	7	April 2023
4	Thottanagar,	8	April 2023
5	Karisalpatti	8	April 2023
6	Koothampatti	7	April 2023
7	Dharumathupatti	6	April 2023
8	Kummam patti	6	April 2023
9	Vakkampatti	8	May 2023
10	Veerakal	6	May 2023
11	Ariyanallur	5	May 2023
12	Maravapatti	5	May 2023
13	V.Mettupatti	6	May 2023
14	A.Velloodu	8	May 2023
15	Pithalaipatti	7	May 2023
	Total	100	

9. Construction of Minor Check-Dams:

Minor check-dams are small-scale structures built across streams or water drainage lines to slow down and retain water, promoting groundwater recharge, rainwater harvesting, and supporting agricultural operations.

- Site Selection and Survey:
 - The experienced farmers identified suitable locations based on topography, hydrology, and water flow patterns.
- Design and Construction:
 - Designed the check-dam dimensions and materials based on the local conditions and water flow requirements.
 - Constructed the dam using materials like stone, soil, concrete, and other locally available resources.
- Rainwater Harvesting Integration:
 - Channelled rainwater into the check-dam by creating diversion channels or using appropriate catchment systems.

- Ensured the check-dam had a provision for rainwater storage and percolation into the ground.
- Groundwater Recharge:
 - Retained water in the check-dam infiltrates into the ground, replenishing the groundwater table.
- Agricultural Enhancement:
 - Farmers used the stored water for supplementary irrigation during dry periods to enhance agricultural productivity.
 - Promoted efficient water management practices among farmers, optimizing the utilization of stored water for crop growth and often for their livestock.





During the period under review, **16 Minor Check-dams** were built with the support and participation of the local farming communities and the youth. Following are the details:

Since this is a pilot initiative, only one check-dam was allotted to each of the 16 villages short listed under this programme.

Two Teams for Construction purpose was hired. Each team had a mason and two assistants.

SI	Name of Place / Village / Hamlet	Commencement	Completion
1	Melapatti,	02/05/2023	06/05/2023
2	V.Mettupatti	06/05/2023	10/05/2023
3	Kallodai,	11/05/2023	14/05/2023

4	Alamaraparai	12/05/2023	15/05/2023
5	Koothampatti	16/05/2023	20/05/2023
6	Kummam patti	16/05/2023	19/05/2023
7	Ariyanallur	20/05/2023	24/05/2023
8	Pithalaipatti	21/05/2023	25/05/2023
9	Dharumathupatti,	25/05/2023	30/05/2023
10	Vannampatti	26/05/2023	30/05/2023
11	Vakkampatti	31/05/2023	04/06/2023
12	Veerakal	31/05/2023	04/06/2023
13	South Mettupatti,	05/06/2023	10/06/2023
14	Chinnapuram	05/06/2023	10/06/2023
15	Thottanagar,	11/06/2023	15/06/2023
16	Kanthasampuram	11/06/2023	15/06/2023

10. Planting Palmyra Palm Saplings (*Borassus flabellifer*):

Planting Palmyra palm tree seeds is an excellent initiative for environmental improvement and livelihood enhancement. Palmyra palm (*Borassus flabellifer*) is a versatile tree with numerous benefits for both the environment and the community.

1. Seed Collection and Treatment:

Collecting Seeds:

- Obtained Palmyra palm seeds from a reliable source (mature fruits from healthy trees).
- Cleaned and separated the seeds from the fruit pulp with the help of the trainees of different programmes.

Seed Treatment:

- Soaked the seeds in water for two days to soften the outer shell and improve germination rates.
- Treated the seeds with a fungicide to prevent fungal infections during germination.

2. Site Selection and Soil Preparation:

- With the support of the local farmers, a suitable planting site with well-drained soil, adequate sunlight, and ample space for tree growth, was chosen in each village.
- Prepared the soil by loosening it and incorporating organic matter to improve fertility.

3. Planting:

Digging Holes:

- Dug holes in the prepared soil, about 2-3 inches deep and at least 1 meter apart.

4. Planting Seeds:

- Placed the soaked and treated Palmyra palm seeds in the holes, covering them with soil and pressing gently.

Watering:

- Watered the planted seeds thoroughly immediately after planting to settle the soil and provide moisture for germination.







Particulars of Palmyra Palm Tree Seeds Distributed and Planted:

SI	Name of Village	No of Seeds distributed
1	Vannampatti,	1200
2	Kuyavanayakkanpatti,	800
3	Melapatti,	1000
4	Thottanagar,	1000
5	Karisalpatti	1000
6	Koothampatti	750
7	Dharumathupatti	800
8	Kummam patti	800
9	Vakkampatti	1100
10	Veerakal,	1000
11	Ariyanallur	1200
12	Chinnappapuram	1200
13	V.Mettupatti	800
14	A.Vellodu	1350
15	Pithalaipatti	1000
	Total Seeds	15000

11. TREE Planting Day in Schools:

Tree Planting Day in rural schools is a valuable initiative aimed at promoting environmental awareness, conservation, and sustainable development. Rev.Dr. P.Thomas paulsamy D.D, Bishop of Dindigul Catholic Diocese, Preside over the function. It encourages students, teachers, and the community to actively participate in tree planting activities, fostering a sense of responsibility and love for the environment. Tree Planting Day in rural schools of India serves as a powerful tool for shaping environmentally conscious citizens and contributing to a greener, more sustainable future. Here's how the Tree Planting Day was organized by SIMCODESS:

- ✓ Conducted awareness campaigns within the school, educating students about the importance of trees, environmental conservation, and the benefits of planting trees.
- ✓ Involved the parents, local authorities, and community members to participate in the event and contribute to the cause.
- ✓ Chose native and suitable tree species that thrive in the local environment, considering soil type, climate, and water availability.

- ✓ Arranged necessary tools and materials, such as shovels, saplings, compost, and water.
- ✓ Organized a ceremonial tree planting event with the participation of students, teachers, and community members.
- ✓ Educated the students of each school about post-planting care, including watering, protection from animals, and periodic monitoring.
- ✓ Planned follow-up activities to track the growth and progress of the planted trees, reinforcing the importance of their role in the ecosystem.













SI	Name of the School	No of Students	Date of Tree Planting
01	St.James Hr.Sec.School, A.Vellodu	305 Students	05/08/2023
02	Infant Jesus Hr.Sec. School, Maravapatti	548 Students	12/08/2023
03	St.Antony's Hr.Sec.School, Kosavapatti	2703 Students	19/08/2023
04	St.Xavier Hr.Sec.School, K.Avarampatti	987 Students	20/08/2023
05	Cheran Vidhyalaya Metric Hr.Sec.School, Chinnalapatti	2997 Students	26/08/2023
06	Cheran Global Metric School, Sithayankottai	611 Students	27/08/2023
Total	6	8136	

12. Reforestation through Sowing Seed Balls:

Reforestation through sowing seed balls is an effective and practical approach to restore green cover, combat deforestation, and enhance environmental sustainability. Implementing this initiative across 15 villages in Dindigul District can significantly contribute to the region's ecosystem and benefit the local communities. These activities took place in september 2023 when the monsoon started.

- ✓ Conducted workshops to educate the community, especially students, about the importance of reforestation, biodiversity, and the technique of seed ball preparation.
- ✓ Organized interactive sessions, discussions, and awareness drives to engage the villagers and encourage their active participation.
- ✓ Collaborate with local forestry departments to identify and collect native seeds suitable for the region's ecosystem.
- ✓ Involve the community, especially school children, in preparing seed balls by mixing seeds, organic compost, and clay to form small, easy-to-sow balls.
- ✓ Conducted a survey to identify suitable reforestation sites within the 15 villages, considering soil quality, water availability, and biodiversity needs.
- ✓ Planned a seed ball sowing event involving community members, school children, and volunteers in each village.

- ✓ Allocated specific dates for each village to ensure widespread participation and successful implementation.
- ✓ Conducted a demonstration on seed ball sowing, emphasizing proper techniques and ensuring uniform distribution across the planting sites.
- ✓ Appointed volunteers and experts to supervise the sowing process, ensuring adequate coverage and optimal dispersal of seed balls.



<p>State the <u>project results</u> achieved, point by point, and as specifically (quantitatively) as possible.</p>	<p>Achieved results</p>	<p>Describe the target group reached. <i>Specify in m/f, age, etc.</i></p>	<p>How was this result achieved?</p>
	<p>1. School students gained knowledge on climate change and Global warming</p>	<p>1218 students of 12 to 18 years of age were reached 60% of them are girls</p>	<p>Mass Rallies were organized in 5 Schools Campaign materials on issues of climate change / global warming were displayed in placards held by the students during the rally.</p>
	<p>2. Green Earth Teams were formed and trained in 15 villages.</p>	<p>438 people (258 Women and 150 Men) above the age of 18 years to 58 years</p>	<p>They were trained in the concepts of Ecological Justice, Climate Change, Tree plantation, Rain water harvesting and watershed etc . 5 Member team in each village was formed as executives / responsible persons</p>
	<p>3. One third of the Farmers trained adopted Organic farming practices in at least 50% of their farm lands</p>	<p>233 Small and Marginal farmers of 15 villages 148 are women farmers and the remaining 85 are men farmers.</p>	<p>The farmers were trained in three modules on Organic farming, Organic inputs preparation and pest management practices. 6 Days of training were given to the farmers.</p>
	<p>4. Six Miyawaki forests have been established</p>	<p>3020 Tree saplings of 15 varieties of native trees were planted in six villages</p>	<p>Children, Youth, Women and Farmers from 6 villages were involved in planting. The NREGA Workers are maintaining the plants by watering them PRIs are involved in this effort.</p>

	5. The Inter-district level Network for Ecological Conservation got strengthened	190 staffs and volunteers from 15 NGOs participated. 108 were women and the remaining 82 were men.	Orientation Meeting Workshop on identification of key issues district wise was organized. Focus Group discussion on issue basis took place.
	6. The people in six villages were sensitized on the issue of climate change and global warming	935 Youth including 550 women participated in the campaign activities 2000 public participated in the campaign as passive listeners.	Campaign activities including Mass Rally, Folk Arts, Poster and Banner campaigns were undertaken by members of TNECC in six districts
	7. Rain water harvesting structures (contour bunding and summer ploughing) created	100 small and marginal farmers of whom 61 are women farmers and 39 are men farmers	Earth movers and Tractors were hired for two hours for each farmer to create the bunds and execute ploughing
	8. Minor check dams have been established	16 Minor check-dams one each in 16 villages were constructed.	Concrete structures were made out of Reinforced Cement Concrete, Blue-metal stones etc
	9. Palmyra Palm Tree seeds were sown in 15 villages	15000 Seeds of Palmyra palm tree were sown with the support of 7000 plus farmers and youth of whom 60% were women.	Seeds of palm trees were collected from reliable sources 15 Villages were short listed Pits were dug with spades and iron axe Seeds were inserted and after laying of bio-manure and soil
	10. Students gained knowledge and understanding of nature, environment, and Biodiversity	8136 students 3900 Girls 4236 Boys	Tree Planting-day was observed Each school was issued with necessary tree saplings and farming tools collected from the community and the

			<p>schools</p> <p>Along with students, the PRI / NREGA Workers too participated in planting work</p> <p>Each School was issued with 100 to 150 tree saplings and 6 schools were covered</p>
	<p>11. Reforestation was done</p>	<p>8000 Farmers and Students were involved</p> <p>5800 women and 2200 men participated</p>	<p>Seeds were collected</p> <p>Bio manure and Soil were collected</p> <p>Seeds were inserted in to the clay-balls made of soil and water and they were left to dry in the Sun.</p> <p>Later the dry-balls were dispersed in to forest area and road sides for germination during the rainy season</p>
<p>Describe any deviations in relation to the <u>intended results</u>.</p> <p>Which unplanned results have been achieved?</p>	<p>Unplanned results</p>	<p>Describe the target group reached. <i>Specify in m/f, age, etc.</i></p>	<p>Explanation of this result</p>
	<p>1. The students have established Bio-diversity registers in their respective villages.</p>	<p>200 Students of whom 120 are girls and the remaining 80 are boys.</p>	<p>Each school was issued with a record book in which the children were to write the names of species and other details of the trees, bushes, herbs and greens. They investigated it with elders of the village and some hermits in the foot hills of Sirumalai.</p>
	<p>2. Knowledge sharing with other partners</p>	<p>10 Staffs and the Directors of Power and SIMCODESS</p> <p>Of them, 3 are males and the rest are females</p>	<p>Meeting and Sharing between the directors, and staffs of AHIMSA, POWER and SIMCODESS Dindigul on 26/09/2023</p>

			They shared their best practices as part of their knowledge sharing visit
	3. The students and farmers gained knowledge on organic farming	5 Staffs including the Project Director 15 students and 30 farmers from Velayudampalayam	NSS Camps – GTN Arts College, Dindigul Velayudapalayam on 29/09/2023 Orientation to students and farmers on organic farming, environment and biodiversity

Reserach Students Documendation - Bio-DiversityRegister





<p>Describe any intended results which were not achieved.</p>	<p>All intended results were achieved.</p>
<p>Indicate how this project has directly or indirectly contributed to improvement of the target group.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Farmers have adopted cost-effective and eco-friendly organic farming. It has reduced the cost of cultivation and the health challenges arising due to chemical farming ➤ Agriculture depends on Biodiversity, Water and Bio-manure. The project has improved rain water harvesting and ground water recharge through contour bunding and minor check-dams and summer ploughing ➤ Tree planting and afforestation programme including planting of palmyra palm tree seeds will enhance green cover, biodiversity, habitat of animals, micro-organism and the food chain.

- ✦ The children and youth have understood the concept of environment, biodiversity, afforestation, climate change and global warming issues and taken the responsibility to participate in addressing these vital issues
- ✦ The social responsibility and involvement of the children, youth, women and the PRIs has increased significantly.
- ✦ The local agro-eco climate has improved through rain water harvesting, tree planting and afforestation.

Meeting and Sharing:(Ahimsa and SIMCODESS)







Meeting and Sharing:(SIMCODESS and POWER)





4. Challenges, solutions and lessons learned

<p>Describe the challenges you have encountered during the implementation of this project and how this has been resolved.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tree planting days were planned in the first six months. But it could not be realized due to final examinations and public examinations from January to March 2023. Hence, they had to be postponed to August 2023. ➤ Government Schools were reluctant and even refused to cooperate with SIMCODESS. The management and teachers were more sceptical about NGOs and feared about the political pressure and departmental actions. Hence, SIMCODESS chose private management schools for execution of the environmental programmes. ➤ Construction of minor check-dams were postponed as September to December was rainy seasons. The process of getting approval from the local PRIs took time. Hence, it was executed in May and June 2023. ➤ Miyawaki forests and tree saplings planted had to be watered. The issue was discussed with the members of the Green Earth Team. It negotiated with the NREGA Workers of each Panchayat Raj Institution. Except one, all other PRIs agreed and deployed its work force to water the plants and protect them.
<p>Describe what your organization has learned during the implementation of this project.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Alliance building with likeminded people and organizations is truly helpful. It helps SIMCODESS to achieve its goals / objectives and that of the project.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Accessing government support and its line departments accelerates the realization of the project line items at a large scale. It is a major support. Maintenance of tree saplings, fencing, protection etc is a Herculean task. ❖ Government is a major service provider and linking the people and orienting them to access government safety net programmes will be much more beneficial to the communities. ❖ Similarly, building alliance with NGOs too facilitated project execution. It becomes an additional strength and moral support. ❖ People extend their unlimited support and cooperation as they realized that the programme was meant for them and they were involved from planning to implementation stage. Participation of people ensures ownership of the programme.
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5. Monitoring and evaluation

<p>Briefly describe how your organization, the partner organization and the target group were involved in the various stages of the project (design, realization and monitoring).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Annual Planning meeting is held to review the past activities and plan for the next year programmes. Along with the staffs, the volunteers and leaders of farmers groups and women associations attend the meeting and suggest suitable measures and express their felt need to the forum. They actively participate in planning the project line items. ○ While implementation, various committees like Green Earth Team, Farmers Groups, Women Self Help Group etc are formed and the planned line items are executed with their support, participation and contribution. People make the logistics arrangement. ○ The Project Director of SIMCODESS participated in all major activities and their inaugural sessions and encouraged the people. She accompanied the staffs and
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	volunteers in all their efforts. She collects the feedback from the participants and the staffs periodically and review them.
Briefly describe how and by whom the interim checks on the progress of the project were performed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The auditor's office staff checks the accounts and financial transactions once in 3 months and audit the accounts internally before filing it on the government online report system for all foreign donations. ○ The Director verifies the progress report of the coordinator and the accountant every month.
Please indicate how you have monitored the progress of the project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Programme Coordinator visit all the villages at least once in a month and assess the progress. ○ The Staffs of SIMCODESS submit their monthly progress report and it is reviewed in the monthly meeting ○ The Project Director, Programme Coordinator and the Accountant / Audit office staff sit every three months to check the financial transactions and spending and accounting / vouching for the same. ○ The Director of the Programme also makes surprise visits occasionally to ensure the execution of the monthly planned activities.

6. Durability of the project

<p>Describe how - in cooperation with the target group and other parties involved - the project will be independently continued upon expiration of the funding.</p> <p><i>Please specify the duties and responsibilities of the various parties involved,</i></p>	<p>In view of self-reliance, SIMCODESS forms various working committees. To ensure continuity of the environment and agriculture project, Green Earth Teams have been formed in each village. It will have 5 members who shoulder the responsibility to protect the common property resources like the forests, schools, water bodies etc. Each one will share the responsibility among themselves and monitor the same. Similarly Organic Farmers Groups and Women Self Help Groups are formed. These groups meet at regular intervals like monthly or Bi-monthly.</p>
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<p><i>the project management, etc.</i></p>	<p>The leaders of the committees represent the planning meetings, stakeholders' meetings and other special events. They will be gradually networked in to Tamil Nadu Ecological Conservation Council and made independent after the project period is over.</p>
<p>What arrangements have been made to cover the ongoing costs?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ It is planned to collect annual membership fee from the members of the Organic Farmers Groups / Women Self Help Groups. ✓ Efforts are made to negotiate with the local governance structure (Panchayat Raj Institutions) to allocate some fund for ongoing reforestation, tree planting and seed balls preparation etc. ✓ It is also decided to approach local donors / business houses and other well-wishers for project specific donations.
<p>In what way have you invested in quality improvement of your partner organization? <i>For example, by means of training staff, development of local expertise, exchange of knowledge/experiences etc.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ The Staffs were trained in Entrepreneurship Development Programme including preparation of organic inputs, Honey-keeping, Livestock farming, value addition etc. ✓ Each month the staffs will be oriented on a particular subject / topic for one day on the first working day of every month. ✓ The Staffs are taken for exposure to best practices and other NGO partners. Knowledge sharing and exchange programmes are organized at regular intervals. ✓ The staffs are part of all trainings, orientations and workshops on various subjects for the people. They too participate in capacity building programmes organized for the people.

7. Lobby and policy influencing

What organizations have you cooperated with? In what networks has your organization been active within this project at municipal, provincial or national level? What was the nature of this cooperation?

We lobbied with the government's **National Institute of Technology at Thuvakudi in Trichy** to extend technical Support and training to our women and farmers on EDP, Financial management etc.

SIMCODESS went to POWER Viralimalai and AHIMSA Vaiyampatty for an exposure visit.

It helped us in sharing our knowledge and learning from them their experience and technical aspects of value addition and food processing, Micro-finance etc.

It was a knowledge sharing meeting. All three NGOs agreed to advocate for millet promotion in their respective areas.



MEMBERS OF GREEN EARTH TEAM, WOMEN SHGs and FARMERS GROUPS PARTICIPATED IN THE GRAMA SABHA MEETING HELD FOUR TIMES A YEAR





What activities has your organization carried out in the field of lobbying/policy influencing (for example, with the municipal or national government) to bring the problems of your target group out into the open?

The people trained and motivated by SIMCODESS attended the Local Body Meetings of Panchayat Raj Institutions held four times a year to plan and execute local felt need of the people.

The meetings were held on the following dates:

- ❖ 02/10/2022
- ❖ 26/01/2023
- ❖ 01/05/2023
- ❖ 15/08/2023

Our people who are members of Green Earth Team and Organic Farmers Groups participated in the meeting and gave valuable suggestions.

They also insisted that the PRIs should pass resolution to incorporate Millet in the Noon Meal Scheme programme.

They emphasized that government should allocate subsidy for millet cultivation and supply quality seeds.

8. Budget

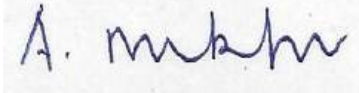
State the costs budgeted as well as the actual costs in the table below. Please specify the costs made in an enclosure/attachment (preferably in Excel), making further distinctions between the costs of the various parts of the project. Please explain the deviations between the budget and the actual costs.

Excel sheet of Budget and actual spending with statement of variance is attached

9. Remarks

NIL


10. Signature

Date	25.10.2023
Place	A.Vellodu, Dindigul District in Tamil Nadu India
Name	Maria Rose Leema
Signature	

Requested attachments

- Financial final report including income, expenditure and deviations from the budget is attached.
- Photos of the project activities – incorporated in to the report
- Case study of Farmers attached

The final report with the attachments emailed to projecten@vastenactie.nl


SECRETARY
SIRUMALAI EVERGREEN MULTIPURPOSE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
7/8, MIDDLE STREET, A.VELLODU - 624 307.
DINDIGUL DISTRICT, TN, SOUTH INDIA.

