

Human Eyes

The Biannual Newsletter of Human Development Society

Issue 5

April 2012-September 2012

Director Speaks...

It has been quite hectic since the last issue of Human Eyes was brought out in September 2011. Development sector offers challenges as well as opportunities due to the dynamic nature of issues that one deals with in the sector. As we go on managing multiple projects with limited resources, at times management of projects takes precedence over networking, publications etc. While non-publication of Human Eyes for the period October 2011-March 2012 is a result of time constraint, we are happy to be back in form as we present the latest issue of the newsletter covering April-September 2012.

We are confident that our friends will notice the diverse capability of the organisation as our association with different organisations keeps on expanding. The latest to be added to the profile of HDS is the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. whose R&D Centre in Faridabad will be implementing during 2012-2019 different projects in villages of Faridabad under its Corporate Social Responsibility plan with the technical support of HDS. The reference period also witnessed successful completion of the project supported by Department of Science & Technology, Government of India which continued for three years. This and many other developments have been added to the newsletter to make it holistic.

We look forward to your valuable comments.

Sincerely,

Anil Kumar Das

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Events and Visits

Training of Partner NGOs of Mahila Panchayat Programme: HDS has been monitoring the Mahila Panchayat (MP) Programme in Delhi since the year 2010. The MP programme, managed by the Delhi Commission for Women, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi, is an important initiative for empowerment of women who are socially and economically deprived. *In view of the programme's increasing visibility and relevance, the Commission decided to expand it with new partner NGOs and more number of MPs.* Accordingly, eight new NGOs were selected for constitution of 16 MPs in new areas with effect from April 2012. An orientation training programme was organized at the office of DCW on 18th April 2012 for the benefits of new partner NGOs. Heads of partner NGOs and Programme Coordinators participated in the day-long event. HDS conducted separate sessions on MP programme components, documentation and CMIS (computerized management information system). The interactive training helped the Programme Coordinators understand different aspects of the MP programme management, reporting and requirements of monitoring.

Community Events for Injecting Drug Users: One important component of targeted intervention project for injecting drug users is community outreach which is achieved, *inter alia*, through regular visits to hotspots and community events. During the reporting period, community events were organized on 24th September 2012 in two locations of Najafgargh in west Delhi. Total number of high risk group (HRG) people participated in the two events was 85. People from nearby areas also participated in the events. Besides distribution of pamphlets, condoms, needles & syringes to the HRG population, street plays were enacted by a professional group.

Visit of Concern India Foundation: A team of Concern India Foundation (CIF), including head (programmes) from the organisation's Mumbai head office visited some of the project villages in Faridabad on 23 July 2012 where HDS has been promoting organic farming with the support of CIF since the year 2007. During the visit, the team members visited three villages namely Jasana, Tajupur and Rajpur Kala and interacted with several beneficiaries. They also inspected vermi-compost beds, NADEP structures and organic farms. The CIF team expressed satisfaction at the progress of project.

Visit of Lacon India to Faridabad: Lacon Quality Certification Pvt. Ltd.- the agency in charge of organic certification visited the project villages of organic farming project in Faridabad as part of its annual inspection plan. The auditor of Lacon India and Senior Project Officer, HDS visited the villages on 30th July 2012. During the visit, seven farmers were randomly picked up from the list of 44 farmers, who are under certification regime, for verification and audit of documents and practices. Prior to village visit, the auditor had conducted a comprehensive check of project documents at the head office of HDS in Delhi. As a result of inspection, HDS team in charge of organic certification could obtain clarifications on important issues. The visit of Lacon India was part of second year certification plan.

Project Updates

Targeted Intervention for Injecting Drug Users: The targeted intervention project for injecting drug users (IDUs), which is being implemented by HDS in west Delhi with the support of Delhi State AIDS Control Society, completed two years of implementation in June 2012 and entered into the third year. During April-September 2011, HDS organized several events and achieved important milestones as noted below.

- ✓ Total number of routine medical checkup conducted: 322
- ✓ Total number of ICTC referral cases: 154
- ✓ Total HIV test conducted: 125
- ✓ No. of HIV + detected: 1
- ✓ Attendance in Drop-in-Centre: 644
- ✓ Number of HRG counseled: 610
- ✓ Number of HRG tested for syphilis: 308 (none found positive)
- ✓ Two community events were organized on 24th September 2012 in two different locations in Najafgarh.
- ✓ A stakeholders' meeting was organized on 22nd September 2012 in the TI project office in Vikaspuri. The following persons attended the meeting: two police personnel from Vikaspuri police station, Dr. Sanjay from Najafgarh, rag pickers, local eatery owners and representatives of HRG. Besides project activities, issues that affect the IDUs and the role that the stakeholders can play in making the project successful was discussed in the meeting.
- ✓ Counselling of HIV infected people was organized under project component called GIPA on 28th July, 31st August and 29th September 2012. While three HIV + people participated in the first GIPA meeting, seven HIV + people each participated in the last two meetings.

It is heartening to note that the project received 'A' grade in the assessment conducted by Technical Support Unit for the quarter July-September 2012.

Promotion of Organic Farming: The Concern India Foundation-supported project in Faridabad entered the last of year of implementation in April 2012. During the reporting period, HDS further consolidated the project activities in the direction of sustainability. Important achievements during April-September are noted below.

- ✓ Lacon Quality Certification (Pvt.) Ltd. issued the second year SCOPE certificate under the NPOP standards and Swiss Organic Farming Ordinance for plant products originating in India.
- ✓ The audit conducted by Lacon India was very satisfactory and the SCOPE certificate was issued on that basis. Significantly, the internal control system for certification could be further strengthened on the basis of comments of the auditor.
- ✓ The certification process entered third year in the month of August 2012. Since non-conformities in regard to certification standards are very less this year, the conversion phase is most likely to end in the third year.
- ✓ Marketing of organic produce received great momentum under the guidance of HDS and also due to farmers' own initiatives. Certification has enhanced market value of the produce.

Monitoring of Mahila Panchayats: Mahila Panchayat programme is an important community-level dispute resolution initiative that primarily targets women at the grassroots. The programme also makes women aware of their human and legal rights. Regular monitoring of Mahila Panchayats (MP) by HDS has resulted in qualitative improvement in the management of Panchayats. The most important development during the reference period was the decision of the Delhi Commission for Women to expand the programme to other areas of the city. Accordingly, eight new partner NGOs were added to the programme in April 2012. These new NGOs would establish 16 MPs in different areas. HDS conducted an orientation training programme in April 2012 for the benefits of new partners. Besides submitting monthly monitoring reports, the organisation also participated in the review meetings of NGOs conducted in September 2012.

IOCL Project on Corporate Social Responsibility

We are happy to bring to the notice of our friends the commencement of a new project on Corporate Social Responsibility in Faridabad for R & D Centre, Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. in April 2012. The project will be implemented during the years 2012-2019. The project has three components viz. conduct of baseline survey in 11 panchayats of Faridabad district, evaluation of 59 CSR projects implemented by R&D Centre during 2007-2012 and project management consultancy for CSR projects to be implemented during 2012-2019. Achievements of the project during April-September 2012 are highlighted below:

- ✓ *First Baseline report for one panchayat completed and final report submitted.*
- ✓ *Second baseline report for 10 panchayats completed and draft report submitted*
- ✓ *Report of evaluation of CSR projects (2007-2012) completed and draft report submitted*
- ✓ *Commencement of Project management consultancy for implementation of CSR projects in one panchayat*

Final Highlights

Towards Understanding Vermi-compost Technology: The final project report and a manual on vermi-composting were submitted to the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India marking the successful completion of the project titled "Towards Understanding Vermi-compost Technology: Analysis, Experimentation and Standardisation of Practices". Implemented in collaboration with Central Potato Research Institute, Modipuram Campus and Department of Botany, R.B.S. College, Agra, the project continued for three years starting from December 2008. The three field locations where experiments were conducted were Faridabad, Modipuram and Agra. The project could identify one efficient local earthworm called *Lampito Mauritii* that can be used for vermi-composting.

Data Analysis of Social Research Projects: HDS successfully completed two data analysis projects during the reference period for the Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi. The projects are titled "Crime Victimisation Survey" and "Status of Healthcare with Special focus on National Rural Health Mission: Inputs of Elected Women Representatives".

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