

LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME

Livelihood Programme

What we do?

Poverty is popularly cited as a principal driver of biodiversity loss and degradation. This is very true in the case of Wayanad district where the tribal community culture and the biodiversity loss in tribal habitations directly related to the factor of poverty. The challenge is how to make *Poverty focused conservation* as the approach that optimizes conservation and livelihood benefits together.

It is still a challenging goal for CAbC for reaching to the poor community with the goal of improving their livelihoods in a sustainable manner, although the Centre has been most visible for its interventions in biodiversity conservation issues in the district. It is repeatedly emerged in several external and internal meetings of MSSRF that, much more needs to be done to address the various dimensions of livelihoods and poverty of the poorest of Wayanad district.

In order to address this need, Prof. M. S. Swaminathan's concept of the "do ecology"

which revolves around creating an economic stake in conservation to serve simultaneously the causes of conservation as well as livelihood security; will be taken as the core strategy of CAbC in the coming years to reach the goal of sustainable livelihood building. Towards this direction CAbC plan to undertake in partnership with other appropriate institutions a coordinated project like, the establishment of an 'Herbal Bio-valley' starting from the Silent Valley Rainforest up to Wayanad. The aim of this Valley is to provide infrastructure for decentralised production supported by key centralised services in areas such as preparing products on franchise, labeling and marketing. The post-harvest infrastructure and facilities for value addition are an important component in this initiative. The whole programme will be organized on a hubspokes model with CAbC serving as the facilitating hub. Schemes like the agri-business centre of NABARD will be facilitated to strengthen this venture.

For the success of this intervention, two kinds of professional skills (i) those related to commerce, business, trade, finance and



related activities, including product design and marketing and (ii) those related to social mobilization, community and social development will be acquired by the CAbC staff and work in a more focused manner in the coming months.

Goal 1: Integrate 1000 families into bio resource based products market value chain

This goal is targeted at building capacity of those

families below poverty line to improve their livelihood security by promoting their market access and strengthening market capability on bio-resource based products. Market creation will take in two different forms: markets in uses of land (by way of promoting cultivation of medicinal plants and promoting organic farming) and markets in specific flows of biodiversity based products (herbal products and spices).



CABc is popular among the people for its work in the area of study and development of medicinal plants and efforts in revitalization of primary local health care traditions. This activity that aimed at using both medicinal plants and the knowledge domains of communities, particularly traditional healers and women to improve their health and economic status, had shown some commendable results. The Green Health Campaign is the most potential intervention of CABc to show an example for sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity and local knowledge for income generation. The major impact of this programme is heavy reduction in health care expenditure among the families of nearly 500 women involved. Some success factors for the future:

- ◆ Membership campaign to join the Green health programme Initiating an Ethno-botanical and gender study Establishing a centralized nursery for important medicinal plants.
- ◆ Federation of the women groups.
- ◆ Registration of few rural/tribal innovations.

- ◆ Bio-prospecting of 2-3 species of medicinal plants

Other commercially important biodiversity based products will be identified and production will be organized through Kudumbasrees or SHGs. The Bio-health programme of CABc will play a major role in this regard and so as the activity on production of bio-inputs for farming. This goal will be achieved through organizing:

- ◆ 50 women groups to manufacture herbal products;
- ◆ 25 groups in the area of fruit and vegetable processing
- ◆ 25 units in the area of traditional rice varieties
- ◆ 25 units to promote the processing of spices
- ◆ 25 bio-input production units
- ◆ 25 plant propagation units
- ◆ 25 units of mushroom production units;

Goal 2:
Revitalize the Traditional Practices of one tribal dominated village

Traditional knowledge, the information that people in a

given community, based on experience and adaptation to a local culture and environment, have developed over time, and continue to develop, is used to sustain the community and its culture and to maintain the genetic resources necessary for the continued survival of the community. But the once flourished traditional knowledge is eroding from the phase of earth at an alarming rate for reasons known and unknown to the humankind. A rich tradition will extinct unless due attention is given to protect the traditional practices. This goal primarily aims at conserving at least a handful of such important traditional practices associated with natural resource management through revitalizing them. Major activities planned for the success of the goal: -

- Detailed study and documentation of the traditional practices associated with livelihoods with the help of knowledgeable individuals in the village.
- Sensitize the villagers through awareness programmes about the revitalization of traditional knowledge in to the day to day life.
- Develop strategies for applying the traditional knowledge in the day to day activities through adding value to them
- Help the community to enjoy the government aids or government programmes for livelihood betterment by partnership and networking with local governments.
- Protection of traditional practices by registering such practices

CABc is trying to achieve the following goal by undertaking the following activities:

1. A well prepared document on traditional practices of the selected tribal dominated village
2. Sensitized Community through capacity enhancement of tribal youth for the safeguard of potential traditional practices.
3. Attempt to initiate a few micro enterprises based on traditional practices leading to livelihoods through establishing partnership and networking.
4. Attempt to register a couple of cases of traditional practices for recognition and reward

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