

Proposal 16: Sustainable Rural Development and EcoVillage Training Program in India

Submitting MGs / CSOs	NGO: EcoEarth Alliance Partnership Initiative (EEAPI) and IIRD
Countries of Implementation	India and other Asian countries
Agro-ecological context	Semi-arid drylands
Duration and Total Budget	3 years, \$ 591,000

Major groups (MGs) concerned:

- NGOs
- Indigenous Peoples
- Farmers
- Business and Industry
- Scientific and Technological Community
- Women

Success indicators:

- No. of women, NGOs and government officials trained
- Resource center and network established (1)
- Success stories identified and documented to support local learning

Partners to be engaged:

Asian Productivity Program, National Productivity Organization in India, Ministry of Agriculture, Global Ecovillage Network.

Expected Outcomes and Contribution to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Enhanced capacity of grass roots communities to implement integrated sustainable rural development actions and to benefit from sharing of successful sustainable livelihood improvement experiences. Impact on MDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.

Proposed Objectives and Approaches

- Train 24 women eco-volunteers on environmental management, organic agriculture, herbal health, micro-finance management and community development in Aurangabad District.
- Train 200 NGOs /CSOs working in the field of rural development in different parts of India in order to implement programmes based on sustainable livelihoods and multi-sectoral rural development.
- Train government officials from the Asian Region and NGOs from around the world in an integrated, multi-sectoral approach to sustainable rural community based development.
- Establish a resource center for NGOs working in sustainable livelihoods and to support local and national advocacy and educational activities. Establish regional training and resource centers in various regions of India. Establish a network of organizations working for sustainable livelihoods in rural areas of India.
- Community based integrated approaches to sustainable rural development, such as village exchange visits, gender focused community training and learning appropriate intermediate technologies.

Building upon Experience

For the past decade, IIRD has been active in: communities mobilization, including workshops with grass roots communities; identification of success stories in villages and training centers where the Training Programs are be conducted; development of a series of tools and capacity building instruments, including evaluation and inventory of community needs and accomplishments.

Major Group Inputs

Provide training and establish a resource center for on-going learning about and sharing of SARD good practices.