

Project Update: September 2012

A) Mangrove Plantation:

Around 12000 mangrove propagules were planted in Vasantapur and Marichapalli village with the active participation of community members. It is noted that we established a mangrove nursery in Badkot village in previous RSG to store mangrove seedlings that has been used in the mangrove planting activity. The project aims to conduct and continue mangrove restoration efforts in coastal villages with a sustainable way.

B) Community Awareness Programme:

The awareness campaign was initiated in target villages in order to mobilise and elicit their support and commitment towards the mangrove restoration activities. The programmes were conducted at the villages of Vasantpur, Babandhia, Kathuaganda, and Chinchiri.

C) Mangrove Educational Programme in Schools:

Monthly mangrove educational programme has been conducted in targeted schools. Each educational programme included with an open discussion and interaction with students and teachers on the topic and importance of mangrove ecosystem, display of various mangrove related poster etc.

D) International Children's Mangrove Art Contest:

An International Children's Mangrove Art contest was conducted in 15 coastal schools, in which 60 student participants attended. Five best entries were sent to Mangrove Action Project (MAP), USA for further award to best art works. This event has enhanced awareness level not only amongst the students but also the members of their families on the important role that mangrove forests play in the lives of the coastal communities. This provides an opportunity for our project team to build relationships with schools, teachers and children with mangrove information. Educating children on the importance of mangrove ecosystems is critical to effecting long term change.

E) Stakeholder Meeting:

A stakeholder meeting has been conducted at Sankhapur Cyclone Shelter on 26th July 2012 on the occasion of International Mangrove Action Day. The meeting was attended by 48 participants which includes forest Range officer Mangrove Forests (wildlife) Division, Rajnagar, representatives of various VMCs, Women SHG, local NGO, school teachers etc. In this meeting various mangrove related issues and valuable suggestion discussed.

F) Promotion of Alternative Livelihood of Mangrove forest dependant families

We have been organising two training programme for farmers to supplement their livelihood. One is on SRI (System of Rice Intensification), organic farming which is health for coastal ecosystem and another is mushroom cultivation where 84 numbers of small and marginal farmers participated.