



Project Document

***Ensuring food security for the natural resource dependent
marainal households in India***



.....securing nature

DOLPHIN FOUNDATION

Borthakur Clinic Road, Kharghuli
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Organizational Details :

DOLPHIN FOUNDATION is a frontline non-profit making non-governmental regional Research & Nature Conservation Social Organization of the northeastern region of India involved in biodiversity conservation through strategic researches and actions, promoting sustainable livelihoods for natural resources dependent communities mainly through women empowerment, building/strengthening rural institutions, natural resource management programs evaluation. Conceptualized and founded in the year 1992 the organization has its own administrative setup and office based at Guwahati, Assam in India. DF is duly registered under Societies Registration Act, Foreign Contribution Regulation Act. (Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India), 12A & 80G of Income Tax Act of India, System for Award Management (SAM) and Grants-Govt. under Govt. of US.

Chief Functionary	Contact details of the Organization
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Mission Statement :

Strengthen biodiversity conservation in the northeast region of India through strategic researches and actions, environment education, promoting sustainable rural livelihoods mainly through women empowerment, institutionalization to build & strengthen rural institutions, monitoring & evaluation of natural resource management programs and policy advocacy to uphold environmental stability.

About the present program on Food Security

Ensuring food security for the natural resource dependent marginal households in India

Title : “Ensure food security for 500 households in India”

Project Background :

Livelihoods of the rural poor in India has always been continuously at stake even after 66 years of independence of the nation. This is especially true for the underdeveloped northeastern states of the country because of many reasons – difficult terrain, diverse ethnic groups with their complex socio-political situations, lack of political will and sincerity among the government agencies. Till date the Food Security Bill of Indian Government has not been implemented in the region for the reason which can be best described by the political leaders. All these has been forcing the poor communities to depend more on the natural resources to earn their livelihoods and this has been the main cause of depletion of the forest resources threatening the rich biodiversity of the region. The northeastern region of India has got a special place in the world map for its rich biodiversity, a home of many globally important and endangered species. Hence it is considered as biodiversity hotspot and comes under the Eastern Himalaya Eco-region complex. The region has many important protected areas for conservation of many endangered and endemic species, these includes National Parks, Sanctuaries, protected wetlands etc. Most of these protected areas are situated in remote underdeveloped locations. The indigenous communities living around these protected areas are considered as the most socio-economically deprived groups in India who do not enjoy even mere food security. Their livelihoods are badly affected by recurring flood, crop depredation by wild animals besides restrictions on forest based practices due to inaction of Wildlife Protection Act. Before formation of protected areas the local people of the fringe areas used to earn their livelihoods by extracting biomass from the forests. But, all these livelihood rights were curtailed immediately after declaration of the protected areas. No policies were adopted by the authorities to support their livelihoods which indulge the local people to involve in illegalities to earn livelihoods which have been putting the purpose of conservation in jeopardy.

Dolphin Foundation has been working for the socioeconomic development of the people living in the fringe of the forest protected forest areas of the region for last 22 years. The various programs of Dolphin Foundation have been basically trying to address the key issue of livelihood of the poor communities living in the periphery of the remote protected areas. The program has made strategic approaches to improve the socio-economic condition of these communities by awareness & motivation, capacity building through an alternative sustainable livelihood generation program. The organization had completed socio-economic status study of over 100 fringe villages located at the vicinity of these protected areas of Assam and the detailed village profiles have already been prepared with updated baseline information.

Through this project Dolphin Foundation will replicate an innovative successful strategy to promote and scale up the sustainable traditional livelihoods for ensuring food security to the

500 households from these surveyed villages under three protected areas – Manas Tiger Reserve, Pabitora Wildlife Sanctuary & Beepor Beel Bird Sanctuary in Assam(India). The illiterate unemployed destitute women of the communities are the worst sufferer as they bear the responsibility of their households. Project will strengthen these women to help earn livelihoods and thereby ensure food security for their households.

Business plan :

The basic idea of the program is to scale up the sustainable traditional livelihoods practiced by the women folk of the target communities and bring them up to the commercially viable level. This will empower the womenfolk of the community, make them able to contribute to the family income and obtain food security from the project promoted livelihoods. The project has utilized the already available baseline data and other socio-economic research and Livelihood Feasibility Study findings on the target villages generated by Dolphin Foundation and worked out an implementation plan to replicate its livelihood strategy in the target villages. Local likeminded Community Based Organizations(CBOs) will be identified, motivated and involved as local partners in project implementation. The needy beneficiaries will be selected through an unbiased process involving the village heads and partner CBOs. The selected beneficiaries will be given all the necessary trainings on the feasible livelihoods of their choice to develop the required skills by involving trainers from concerned expert agencies and departments. The trained beneficiaries will be provided with initial materials and equipments to help adopt the project promoted livelihoods. Market links will be developed to facilitate easy access to the potential markets by involving the government, public & private sector cooperatives. The beneficiaries of the project will be highly encouraged and assisted to form local Cooperatives (SHGs). Besides, they will be facilitated to get access to finance for promotion. A follow up system will be developed to concurrently monitor the success/failure of the project and correct the current and future components.

This project will be a part of the ongoing alternative sustainable livelihood promotion program for the natural resource dependent communities in northeastern region of India which is under implementation by Dolphin Foundation.

Anticipated impact of the project :

A considerable section of the affected target communities will be able to earn their livelihoods despite of all the stated problems like - damage caused by annual flood, prohibitions in livelihood earning due inaction of Wildlife Protection Act, depredation by wild animals etc. This will ensure food security for the targeted households even during the project implementation and sustained source of primary income for the future years. The target communities will understand the importance, scope and benefits of scaling up of traditional livelihoods and able to sell this concept to their fellow villagers. The womenfolk of the target communities, who are

generally not the earning member of the family, will be empowered to become financially independent and able to contribute to their family income. The cooperatives developed under the program will go long ways and multiply with enhanced growth improving the economy of the affected communities and the local areas. Illegal biomass extractions from the protected areas will be controlled favoring restoration of key habitats(protected areas). A continuous support from the donors through Global Giving will help the program to cover more such households and bring benefits of the strategy to more people in need. Besides, this endeavor will facilitate in making the strategy more refined based on updated knowledge and lesson learnt and will help leverage additional resources for continuation.

Dolphin Foundation - Project Budget

Budget Categories	Unit cost	No of Units	TOTAL
Operating Costs			
Part Honorarium for 1 project field staff (unit -months)- Total 2 nos	\$200.00	24	\$4,800.00
Field Travel cost for Staff including vehicle hire and fuel(unit-per day)	\$100.00	100	\$10,000.00
TOTAL OPERATING COSTS			\$14,800.00
Training cost			
Cost of arranging awareness motivation drives	\$200.00	8	\$1,600.00
Printing & developing mannuals / brochures (@ \$10/5 beneficiaries)	\$10.00	100	\$1,000.00
Training cost for Handloom (Weaving Training)	\$100.00	250	\$25,000.00
Training cost for Sericulture (Silk wrom rearing Training)	\$75.00	150	\$11,250.00
Training cost for Apiculture (Honey bee culture Training)	\$50.00	100	\$5,000.00
TOTAL TRAINING COSTS			\$43,850.00
Goods			
Cost of providing Handloom set to 250 Handloom beneficiaries	\$200.00	250	\$50,000.00
Cost of providing equipments to 150 Sericulture beneficiaries	\$50.00	150	\$7,500.00
Cost of providing Apiaries to 100 Apiculture beneficiaries	\$30.00	100	\$3,000.00
Cost of providing initial materials for 250 Handloom beneficiaries	\$150.00	250	\$37,500.00
Cost of providing initial materials for 150 Sericulture beneficiaries	\$30.00	150	\$4,500.00
Cost of providing initial materials for 100 Apiculture beneficiaries	\$20.00	100	\$2,000.00
TOTAL GOODS			\$104,500.00
All Total			\$163,150.00

Budget Notes – Beneficiaries imply Beneficiary households (250+150+100=500 households)

Ensuring food security for the natural resource dependent marginal households in India

Scaling up of Traditional Livelihoods by Dolphin Foundation....



Earning livelihood has been a major challenge for the natural resource dependent marginal communities living around the remote Protected Forest Areas of rural India. These communities are considerably underserved due to the remoteness of the area they live in and deprived because of inaction of Wildlife Protection Act. Their traditional forest based livelihood rites were all curtailed after the forests at their neighborhood were declared as Protected Areas. Most of these areas are also highly affected by extreme annual flood besides extensive crop & property damage from wild animal depredation, a big blow to their ever bad economy.



Awareness generation & Motivation Program

Dolphin Foundation has been working in these areas in the North Eastern Region of the country for more than two decades now. The organization has been taken a strategic robust approach to address these issues starting from carrying out socio economic studies, village profiling & need analysis, awareness & education, motivation & capacity building to support these underprivileged and deprived communities.

The basic idea of the program is to ensure food security to the target communities living in the fringe of Protected Areas



Skill development trainings on various livelihoods

of Northeastern India through scaling up of the traditional secondary Livelihoods up to an economically viable level. The poor & the illiterate womenfolk of the targeted households have been used as the media as they are the most suffered group in the community. To ensure the sustainability of the approach being made a “third front “has been developed at the



A SHG formed by Dolphin Foundation

local level by strengthening the community based organizations(CBOs).

The program has already covered 100 such villages successfully with significant level of impact and the strategy is under replication to cover more such areas.



A four year old Self Help Group formed by Dolphin Foundation

COMPONENT OF THE PROGRAM

- Socioeconomic survey(baseline study) of the target villages
- Awareness & Motivation Program
- Stakeholders identification & consultations
- Livelihood selection & Market feasibility studies
- Skill development trainings
- Supply of materials & equipments
- Institutionalization (Formation of Community based institution-CBOs, SHGs, Co-Operative Societies, VDC etc.)
- Facilitate excess to Finance & Market for promotion
- Strengthening of local CBOs to form a “third front” to ensure sustainability
- Network building



Beneficiaries of the Program

- Over 230 Self Help Groups(SHG) were formed from the program beneficiaries so far.
- Over 250 set of Fly Shuttle Handloom sets and Yarns were donated to the beneficiaries.
- Over 500 beneficiaries have been provided with materials required for sericulture.
- Over 500 beneficiaries were provided with Honey Bee culture equipments and materials(apiaries, honey extractors, protection nets etc).
- 8 numbers of Livelihood promotional exhibitions have so far been organized.



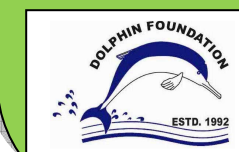
Livelihood Exhibition organized

- More than 50 hectares of wasteland have so far been converted to Castor plant garden (Food plant for Eri Worm) for sericulture development.
- The beneficiary cooperatives & SHGs were facilitated to micro-finance schemes under the government programs.
- Necessary market links have been established to help regular marketing of the products.
- Over 700 beneficiary women have already started earning from these livelihoods and obtained food security.

About Dolphin Foundation

Dolphin Foundation is a frontline Biodiversity Conservation Organization, which aims to strengthen biodiversity conservation through action-oriented field research, alternative livelihood generation, promotion of traditional knowledge (TDK), institutionalization, capacity building, socio-economic development, environment education, evaluation & monitoring of natural resource management programs, policy advocacy to uphold environmental stability; supporting people's livelihoods, healthcare & sanitation. Established in the year 1992, the organization has successfully implemented many projects related to rural alternative sustainable livelihood generation, community development, rural institution building besides implementation of other conservation, monitoring & evaluation programs. Promotion of rural sustainable livelihoods has been a focal area of the organization for the last two decades.

For more details of Dolphin Foundation, please visit www.dolphinasia.org or write to info@dolphinasi.org



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Achievements of Dolphin Foundation till date

- More than 100 villages located at the fringe of Protected Areas have been covered so far by the program.
- Over 300 awareness and motivation drives have been organized till date.
- Over 1100 people(women) were offered skill development training on various traditional livelihoods.
- Eight livelihood training centers on different livelihoods have been developed.
- 30 local CBOs from the project villages were strengthened to develop a “third front” at local level for livelihood promotion.
- More than 20000 pamphlets on technical aspect of different livelihoods have been printed and distributed.