

COMMUNITY DRIVEN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE VILLAGE

with Technical Assistance from
ENVIS Centres &
Funding from
Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)



*"In the end, we conserve only what we love.
We will love only what we understand.
We will understand only what we are taught."
- (Baba Dioum, 1968)*

INTRODUCTION

The dream of making India a developed nation can be fulfilled with a multi-pronged strategy aimed at developing all villages to make them self-sufficient and self-reliant. This can be achieved with decentralized models of development empowering local youth and capitalizing through sustainable management of natural resources - land, water, energy and human resource.

India lives in the villages with 60 percent of its population belonging to the rural areas. The targets for India to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) would be difficult without the sustainable, self-sufficient and empowered villages. At least 12 of the 17 SDGs are directly linked to rural sustainable development and governance, and the rest too can only be accomplished through the holistic development of our villages.

CONVERGENCE OF ENVIS AND SAGY (MPLADS) IN VILLAGES

The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme titled Environmental Information System (ENVIS) since 1982-83. ENVIS, by providing scientific, technical and semi- technical information on various environmental issues, has served in facilitating policy formulation and environment management at all levels of Government as well as in decision-making aimed at environment protection and its improvement for sustaining good quality of life for all living beings. ENVIS is a decentralized network of 66 centres of which 31 Centres dealing with "State of the Environment and Related Issues" are hosted by State Government /UT Administrations, called ENVIS Hubs and remaining 35 Centres are hosted by environment-related governmental and non-governmental organisations/ institutes of professional excellence, with varied thematic mandates pertaining to environment, called the ENVIS Resource Partners (RPs).

These ENVIS Centres under the aegis of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change are in a position to do hand holding and provide technical expertise and other inputs on environment related issues to enable villages under the **Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY)** to develop into sustainable Model village with requisite funding from

Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS). The idea behind the SAGY Scheme, which was launched in 2014, is to make at least one village as "Model Village (Adarsh Gram)" from the Constituency of each Member of Parliament (MP), every year and understand the needs of the people, status of resources and formulate a village development plan which is executed with the help of various Administrative Departments. It is a rural development and cleanliness programme, broadly focusing upon the development in the villages which includes social, economic, cultural development and to spread awareness among the people on social mobilization of the village community. The Adarsh Gram Yojana envisages integrated development of the selected villages across multiple focus areas such as agriculture, health, education, sanitation, environment, livelihoods. The nature of involvement of the ENVIS Centres is aimed at strengthening the village community, including Biodiversity Management Committees (BMCs), Village Forest Committees (VFCs), with the overall objective of facilitating adoption of sustainable best practices. The convergence will occur at the district level, under the District Administrator. The programmes envisaged will be carried out under the guidance, knowledge and involvement of the respective Hon'ble Member of Parliament, with the ultimate objective of creation of a blueprint for holistic development ensuring sustainability in the environmental setup.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

1. To sensitize the village communities and stakeholders about environmentally sustainable development and protection and conservation of biomes, biodiversity and natural resources.
2. To build community driven approach for preservation and conservation of environment.
3. To create awareness about major environmental issues such as pollution, waste management, water management, soil management, biodiversity preservation, etc.
4. To work with the local government bodies and give technical support and enable setting up of community driven projects, such as solar energy, sewage treatment plants, etc.
5. To train the village community in the operation and maintenance of such projects.
6. To significantly upgrade the standard and quality of life of all residing in the villages.

APPROACH:

- Assessment of present status of the village through available information on parameters like land use pattern, population, topography, education facilities, agriculture practices, soil type, sewage system, solid and liquid waste management practices, water sources, water balance, cleanliness, sanitation, etc.
- Identification of gaps in the development of villages and develop a comprehensive programme to encourage best practices and improvement of deficient areas.
- The community-focused programme will be carried out by means of different media including films, audio, visual and print, theatre, advertisements, posters, seminars/workshops, competitions, meetings, exhibitions, health melas, etc. for spreading messages concerning environment and generating awareness among villagers.
- Following this, environmentally sustainable activities would be taken up on community driven approach.

FOCUS AREAS:

1. Biodiversity Conservation

The conservation of biodiversity consisting of all species (such as plants, animals and micro-organisms, their genes) on earth and several ecosystems (the terrestrial, marine and freshwater) of which they are a part is vital for our sustainable existence. The loss to biodiversity caused by factors such as climatic change, overexploitation of natural resources, habitat loss and pollution requires adequate attention of all the communities.

Components:

- Awareness programmes/workshops on concept of Biodiversity, its importance for maintaining balance in the ecosystem and sustainable existence.
- Sharing best practices in biodiversity management and traditional skills and knowledge for conservation
- Sensitization for conservation of forest and wildlife, grassland and sacred forest management, sustainable use of natural resources and developing alternate sources of livelihoods.
- Practices related to non-timber forest produce collection from forests.



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- Importance of social forestry, nursery raising techniques.
- Identification of biodiversity heritage sites & plans for protection through local and institutional participation.

2. Clean and Green Village

The efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage under the flagship programme of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan may be accelerated through sensitizing the village communities about health impacts of poor hygiene and sanitation and promoting best sanitation and cleanliness practices.

Components:

- Sensitization on hygiene and sanitation through community involvement, health impacts of poor hygiene and sanitation, motivation for building a sense of pride and dignity in personal health and hygiene especially among students and women.
- Formation of Village Development Committee and to gradually handover the responsibilities pertaining to water, hygiene and sanitation practices.
- Promoting use of dustbins for garbage and other waste, installation of dustbins in the selected areas.
- Evaluation of public taps, hand pumps and wells, knowledge on safe drinking water in public places, proper cleanliness and maintenance of surroundings of water resources to prevent diseases and contamination.
- Motivation for use of toilets, construction of toilets in the vicinity of agricultural land.
- Establishing green belts- planting trees having economic, environmental, social and cultural value in homesteads and public places - with forest/horticulture depts. and public and institutional involvement.

3. Waste Management:

One of the major sources of environmental degradation has been the improper disposal of waste generated which requires a combined effort at national, local and household level. Developing sustainable

solutions for proper disposal of waste and cost effective waste management strategy may help in combating the problem.

Components:

- Assessment of waste generation, sensitization about garbage collection, proper disposal of household/agriculture/animal husbandry/other waste, segregation and utilisation of household waste and other types of waste at source.
- Installation of dustbins in the selected areas.
- Workshop on Biocompost, Biofertilizer and Vermicomposting and construction of compost pits and providing vermin-pit and vermin-organisms.
- Facilitating cost effective and environmentally sound waste water and solid waste treatment technologies.
- Importance of recycling of waste, reuse for specific products and establishing process of recycling/reuse, etc.
- Facilitating creation of wastewater treatment plant to clean the civic effluent, building a landfill site to treat the solid waste and ensure its proper management.

4. Water Management and Sustainable Livelihoods:

Depletion in the ground water levels at an alarming rate due to over exploitation of water for agricultural and other uses, lack of replenishment of ground water sources, insufficient rainfall, deforestation and other land use changes is cause of concern. Efficient water resource management is the key to sustainable livelihoods by enhancing the productivity potential of the land through conservation of soil, water and restoration of vegetation cover.

Components:

- Watershed management especially renovation and revival of traditional water bodies, improved practices for water consumption.
- Popularising traditional methods of rain water harvesting- concept, principles, fundamentals, methods and economic aspects.

- Familiarisation of villagers to water budgeting.
- Developing different systems of rain water harvesting-rooftop and others.
- Techniques for groundwater recharge and water conservation.
- Concepts and various aspects of organic farming, crop intensification, promoting improved and sustainable agricultural practices, fish breeding and integrated aquaculture, integrated farming systems and livestock development.
- Sharing best practices in water resource management.
- Participatory Natural Resource Management.

5. Control of Pollution:

The rising levels of pollution are a cause of concern everywhere and even villages are deeply affected from all types of pollution be it air pollution from cooking fire and other sources, soil pollution from undue use of chemical fertilizer, pesticides; and water and land pollution from different types of wastes. The menace of pollution can be controlled to a great extent through a robust sensitisation programme.

Components:

- Sensitisation about the sources of air, water, land, vehicular and other types of pollution, health impacts of air pollution, waterborne diseases, minimizing the wastage of water and reuse and recycling of waste water.
- Detection of pollution of soil and water-sources and possible mitigation, prevalent best practices.
- Evaluation of chemical pesticide and fertiliser usage practices and environmentally viable solutions.
- Promoting use of clean fuels and clean technologies, facilitating installation of Bio Gas Plant and Solar Cooker.
- Water quality testing and awareness, setting up of water treatment plant.

Duration: The activities are expected to be completed within one year.

Cost: The actual cost for the activities shall depend on specific design

considerations such as the geographical spread, soil conditions, topography, population density, other environmental and social parameters, etc.

Funding: The funds will be provided to the ENVIS Centres from MPLADS fund by the district administration, after approval of the MP concerned.

The stakeholders:

MP concerned, ENVIS Centres, District administration, Village Panchayats, Self Help Group (SHG), Village Forest Committee (VFC), PRI members/School teachers/Front line workers (ASHA, AWW)/ Medical Practitioners. In addition, intra village organisations and NGOs help in motivating the villagers and also to spread awareness about new schemes and rights. Research organisations (both government and private) can also impact the rural environment through vocational trainings, scientific technological interventions.

Other Collaborations:

The Ministry welcomes any collaboration/ participation/ partnership in the programme from national and international organisations/ institutes/ agencies etc. to build a strong network which can be utilised for sustainable conservation and management of our natural resources.

Outcomes: The programme is expected to create the right atmosphere in villages to adopt environmentally sustainable practices on community level and bringing in sense of participation and ownership among people in the whole process. Creation of a sensitized community practicing sustainable environment friendly life styles, having cultural & social awareness. A socially, environmentally and economically empowered rural community will enable holistic development of a village towards sustainable future and improved life qualities.

For any queries/feedback please feel free to contact us at:

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