

Climate Adaptive Sustainable Agriculture & Livelihood

Caritas India Climate Adaptive Sustainable Agriculture & Livelihood programmes emphasis to empower the community to take control of their environment through preservation and promotion of eco-friendly measures and practices for sustainable social, cultural, and economic development. This integrated approach involves the conservation and management of soil and water, improving the quality of crop production through organic farming, kitchen gardening, production and use of vermi-composting and bio repellents. The entire process will be strengthened through active involvement of local community based organizations.

Specific objectives:

- Increased bio-diversity and sustainable regeneration of natural resources through promotion of soil and water conservation measures as part of the farmers normal agricultural activities
- Empowerment of the target group on Climate Adaptive Sustainable Agriculture & Livelihood and promotion of self-governance through strengthening of the community based organisation

Impact

For the last 40 years Caritas India have supported more the 500 Climate Adaptive Sustainable Agriculture & Livelihood projects through its partners. Some of the models created are replicated by Governmental agencies such as:

- The Roof Water Harvesting project in Kerala replicated by Kerala Government as "VARSHA" project.
- 3 Partners in Karnataka has mobilized projects of World Bank as the follow up of the NRM programme of Caritas India
- NRM programme in Imphal, North East supported by Caritas India helped them to upscale Climate Adaptive Sustainable Agriculture & Livelihood initiatives (several Good models are developed there)
- Harith Asha programme of Chattisgarh improved the confidence of partners in Chattisgarh. Caritas Australia selected this project for their project compassion for the year 2009 to raise funds.
- The Organic System of Rice Intensification promoted as part of the support of Caritas India is being replicated by many farmers in India (more than 1000 farmers are into SRI now)
- Caritas India has been in the working group member for the formulation of 12th 5 year plan of planning commission.
- Strengthening Adaptive Farming in Bangladesh, India and Nepal programme in Madhya Pradesh raised the food security of farmers from 6 to 8 months in a year and also increased number of locally produced food items from 10 to 21.

Way Forward

- Through awareness programme/training/exposures, many people will be aware of the present situation of the natural resources and take initiative in conserving and managing the resources.
- The implementation of Climate Adaptive Sustainable Agriculture & Livelihood projects created confidence among people for taking up larger level interventions and also to take part actively in local self-governance.
- The implementation of Climate Adaptive Sustainable Agriculture & Livelihood programmes helped in socio-economic improvement of many people in India.
- Caritas India became the lead agency for promoting sustainable agriculture among the partners of Caritas Asia (23 Member organizations in Asia) due to its expertise in Sustainable Agriculture.
- Caritas India could effectively intervene in the areas where farmers commit suicide. FARM programmes of Vidharbha, Andhra Pradesh and Wayanad District of Kerala helped in mobilizing more than 20,000 farmers in promoting sustainable Integrated Farming.

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