

## Skoch Award – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### “LIVELIHOOD ENHANCEMENT OF FARMING COMMUNITY THROUGH HORTICULTURAL INITIATIVE”

For

### ACHIEVING RAPID TRANSFORMATION in “ASPIRATIONAL DISTRICT NARMADA”

Presented By

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#### OBJECTIVE:

- ✓ Integrated approach for over all development of tribals:
  - ✓ Generating more income from same unit area of land:
  - ✓ Waste management of crop residues:
  - ✓ Nutritional security for tribals:
  - ✓ Employment generation for the region:
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- Narmada district is a tribal district and has almost 44 % area each under cultivable and forest, and out of cultivable area approximately 46 % area is irrigated.
  - It is one of the Aspirational district identified by Niti ayog.
  - The geographical condition of the district has not allowed major industrial development and so agriculture is the major source of income.
  - Banana is major horticulture crop, with 9,100 hectare area of cultivation.
  - Removal of banana crop residue after harvest was major headache for farmer, which adds cost of handling around 10,000 to 12,000 per hectare.
  - Approximately 9.45 lakh tone of pseudostem waste is generated every year from banana cultivation in the district.
  - With vision of honorable PRIME MINISTER of doubling of farmer’s income and “Creating wealth from waste” - **BANANA PLUS** initiative was proposed by horticulture department, and processing of crop residue was started
  - Value addition of Horticulture crop and crop residue was initiate by intensive meetings and exposure visits of farmers and entrepreneurs.
  - Banana Pseudostem processing units were established by group of farmers under the name of “**Shashvat**” with support of horticulture department of Narmada district.
  - It has created direct and indirect employment to tribal community, with impact of reduced migration of tribals in search job.
  - By primary processing of one hectare area of crop resedue, it generates additional income of Rs. 1.25 lakh, with 135 mandays (doubling of income with employment generation).
  - Products like banana fibre, organic fertilizer (from Sap water) and vermicompost (from scutcher) is produced creating environment friendly solution of crop residue management.
  - As a movement for healthy and Organic India, highly nutritive sap water is used as a substitute of fertilizer reducing cost of cultivation and is also serving moto of Zero Budged farming.
  - This project has created awerness among farmers and helped in reducing hazards caused by fertilizer and pesticides to environment and human health.
  - The fibre is used for make handicraft material, and other products like, eco-friendly statues, handmade paper, sanitary napkins and sound proof mats.

- Scutcher is used to make vermicompost, nursery growth media and bio-decomposable nursery bag.
- As Narmada district is having added advantage of tourist to ‘Statue of Unity’, tribal women were trained for handicraft making. So, this may help to produce local products for tourist made from banana fibre. -employment
- Successful testing of making hygienic sanitary napkin has been done, with a vision of establishing small scale sanitary napkin unit at village level, for improving health condition of women, and better education of girls (by reducing drop out of girls from school).
- Efforts for making cloth have been carried out, for developing future textile industries based on banana fibre.
- An experiment of using banana sap of central core has been done by farmers, aiming at preparing *Ready To Serve Beverages* (RTS). This RTS is high in nutritive value and can be used for malnourished children and women.
- With development of tourism in Narmada district, Banana fruit processing has also been motivated. These have resulted in many small units. Different flavoured banana wafers, banana mixtures are made locally. These has generates additional employment and income from value addition.
- One of the farmers’ company “*Reva fresh fruit export*” is and number one farmer exporter of banana from Gujarat state.
- So cultivation of banana in Narmada district has created new dimensions through conversion of banana pseudostem stem processing and its diversified products which created revenue as well as employment for tribals.
- As traditionally tribals are associated with medicinal crops, they were motivated for commercial cultivation of this, and with the help of natural healers processing of medicinal crop was initiated under the scheme of horticulture department of Narmada district, Gujarat state.
- This units are handled by women FPO and natural healers.
- Along with this they were trained for processing of locally available minor and arid fruits, vegetable, aromatic crops.
- Horticulture crops were blended with bakery and other food items like biscuits (with minor millets), khakhara, Herbal tea, khathi Bhindi sharbat, and various medicines.
- Best quality of other fruits like one kilogram Guava fruit is produced in Dediypada Taluka of district.
- Farmers has also processed elephant ear, and started his local outlet. Green chilli processed into white powder is fetching Rs. 1000/kg.
- Ganagpur nursery is other successful example of exposure visit. Frequent training and visit by horticulture department to Indo-Israel project of “Centre of Excellence for Vegetable, at Vadrad, Sabarkantha district, created awareness about necessity of vegetable plug nursery. The vegetable plug nursery was established during June-2017 under schemes of “Pradhan Mantri Krushi Sinchay Yojana”, the group of farmers generated about 25 lakh of income by raising vegetable seedling.
- Intensive training was given for honey bee rearing by horticulture department in collaboration with forest and KVIC. Total 630 boxes were distributed to 74 beneficiaries during year 2018-19, under schemes of KVIC, tribal department and horticulture department.
- Practical production and training for mushroom crop was given at Zarvani village. This aim to produce mushroom to overcome malnourishment and to generate employment to tribal, at tourist places.