

OXFAMOrganised : A CASE STUDY

Oxfam (India) Trust has identified certain issues of importance to form the central concern for its operations in India. Each regional office is the lead office for one such issue; for instance the Oxfam, Calcutta, is the lead office for the Gender issue while Oxfam, Bhubaneswar, is the lead office for Drought. Each office staff has a central focus of work eg. Drought, gender etc thus making the person the lead person on that issue.

Oxfam Bhubaneswar: like all other Oxfam Office has presently under preparation a regional strategic plan on each issue.

While considering Drought, the problem has been looked at, taking into consideration the rainfall, topography and drainage, land and land use, soils, erosion, ground water, surface water, agriculture and crops, vegetation, livestock, other economic opportunities, social and organisational and developmental efforts amongst other things.

AIM

The essence of the aim of the strategy of Oxfam in its National Plan on drought is "To contribute towards enhancing the capability of vulnerable sections in rural areas to seek long-term solution to withstand the effects of drought"

STRATEGY

The strategy in a nutshell is to gear all actions with drought proofing which is necessarily a long-term measure.

For this purpose a pilot implementation will be taken up which for instance could incorporate a few micro-watersheds as pilot projects. These would be done in a meticulous manner to serve as a demonstration model.

THE THREE YEAR OBJECTIVES & ACTIVITIES

For purpose of drought proofing, some objectives alongwith activities and impact indicators have clearly been suggested.

Stated briefly they are as follows.

OBJECTIVE - 1

PROMOTION OF MICRO WATER SHED AROUND WATER HARVESTING STRUCTURES

ACTIVITIES

1. Initiating projects including pilot projects.
2. Identification of rain water harvesting systems with ponds, percolation tanks, check dams, including renovation of existing water sources.
3. Action plan through participatory approach at village level.
4. Skill training in technical aspects of Micro Water Shed.
5. Linkages between NGO's/Village, Resources/Research Centres to demonstrate better water use.

IMPACT INDICATORS

1. Understanding of people's practices and villagers of feasibility.
2. Extent of people's participation.
3. Skilled approach to use micro-water shed approach.
4. Increased adoption of 'water-use efficient' methods.
5. Understanding of People's practices and institutional learning for Oxfam.

OBJECTIVE - 2

DRY LAND AGRICULTURE AND APPROPRIATE LAND AND WATER USE.

ACTIVITIES

1. Promotion of dry land agricultural projects.
2. Identification and demonstration of drought resistant varieties of crops.
3. Trainings in low cost techniques on land developing, catchment treatment, soil and moisture conservation structures etc.
4. Lobby with local agriculture/soil conservation department of Government for replication of techniques in government sponsored work.
5. Process documentation of activities.

IMPACT INDICATORS.

1. Greater adoption of drought resistant varieties.
2. Number of farmers adopting mixed farming systems.
3. Number of farmers adopting low cost techniques.
4. Greater adoption of dryland techniques.
5. Increased understanding of people's practices and NGO's and institutional learning for Oxfam.

OBJECTIVE - 3

IDENTIFY AND STRENGTHENING OF LOCAL COPING MECHANISMS.

ACTIVITIES

1. Promoting projects for the same.
2. Identification of traditional survival mechanisms.
3. Sensitise NGO's/Village Organisations to obtain water rights for landless, women and to facilitate the use of all ground water sources for sustainable nursery raising and vegetable growing.
4. Demonstrate kitchen gardening using waste water etc.
5. Encourage credit banks, grain banks and fodder banks through local contribution.
6. Identification of existing skills and feasible income generation activities using locally available materials and developing marketing of the same.
7. Provide logistics to support people's practices and support local administration in favour of the poor.
8. Support local organisations for revival and maintenance of common groves, grazing land, etc.
9. Training for maintenance of handpumps.

10. Promotion of percolation tanks to recharge ground water.
11. Construction of wells for the poorest villagers in chronically drought affected areas.

IMPACT INDICATORS

1. Understanding of traditional coping mechanisms of the poor.
2. Better ability of women and landless to cope with drought.
3. Poor farmers and landless have supplementary income to fall back on for coping.
4. Saving, credit and grain banks self managed by village organisations.
5. In drought years, the poor and women have a source of income and employment.
6. Better protected groves and grazing land.
7. Better drinking water supply provisions.
8. Better charged ground water tables.
9. Poor have alternative source of water for irrigation and drinking.

OBJECTIVE - 4

FACILITATE BETTER COORDINATION BETWEEN NGO AND GOVERNMENT FOR DROUGHT RELATED PROGRAMMES.

ACTIVITIES

1. Organise and facilitate workshop involving Govt. officials and NGO's in drought prone areas.
2. Exposure visits to NGO's/villagers to Research Institutes and vice versa.



3. Dissemination of information, research findings etc. among NGO's and Government.
4. Identify Voluntary Organisations concerned and active in Drought Action.
5. Promote Voluntary Organisations or orient existing ones to drought action.
6. Identify support needs of VO's and attempt to provide the need.
7. Mobilise technical support.
8. Promote nodal and other support structures.
9. Build Techno Managerial capability of Voluntary Organisations.
10. Promote Awareness Education and Orientation among Voluntary Organisations.

IMPACT INDICATORS

1. Common understanding of the problem among NGO's and Government.
2. Better coordination in planning and implementation of schemes.
3. Cooperation between NGO's, Research scientists/experts.

THE HYDERABAD PLANS

While the Oxfam, Bhubaneshwar, as lead office for Drought is expected to broadly plan its actions as mentioned — Oxfam, Hyderabad, however plans for the same aims and objectives with a slightly different parameter and area of planning priorities. Briefly speaking they are not essentially interested on creating temporary employment through physical work but an increasing focus on migration and other forms of socio-economic deprivation of the marginalised people.

This office also looks into the environmental perspective holistically and concentrates more on trainings, awareness building for drought mitigation through savings, grain banks etc.