



CIRHEP ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

About CIRHEP



CIRHEP (Centre for Improved Rural Health and Environmental Protection) is a legally registered, non-governmental, voluntary organization engaged in promotion of sustainable rural development and natural resource management in the dry land areas Dindigul, Madurai and Theni Districts of Tamil Nadu. It also works for the improvement of the health and nutrition of rural people and protecting the rural landscape and environment through promotion of watershed development and sustainable agriculture approaches. It also supports the rural community by providing environmental education children, nutritional, establishing replicable models on ground, empowering women by promoting entrepreneurial collective actions. Founded in 1994 by Mr. P.M. Mohan and Ms. K. A. Chandra who have well experience and expertise in development alternatives. The organization is governed by a General Body and Executive Committee and Office bearers from various fields

with clearly defined roles and functions. The organization is also having a team of well experienced and committed staff members who have technical expertise in the field of Watershed Development, Natural Resource Management and Sustainable Agriculture Alternatives with profound knowledge and understanding on socio, economic, and cultural issues of rural sector.

Over the years, CIRHEP had implemented many collaborative projects both with the support both State as well as Donors from abroad and successfully implemented various programs with significant outcomes and impacts on people's livelihood and empowerment. CIRHEP works with farmers promoting organic agriculture and bio-dynamic inputs in their watershed areas, promoting a sense of responsibility through environmental education, working for women empowerment, working with adolescent girls and children as part of an integrated community development approach with an intention to reduce poverty, improve livelihood and access to enough quality food for the rural to lead active and healthy lives.

CIRHEP is always believe in local takeover of its project initiatives after the project completion and as a result many of its previous projects, especially watershed programs are now being governed by respective local communities in the target villages. CIRHEP is still do a facilitation

role with its local committee members by constantly reviewing and supporting them in areas they need back up support. All the project interventions and activities have been planned based on the vision and mission of CIRHEP which are envisaged by its founders with periodical review and analysis of its board members. Having its vision and mission as guiding principle, the projects have been planned in a participatory approach with intensive and interactive consultation and process with target communities. In short, we are building communities before building projects.

Vision

Building the Capacities of the Rural Communities in conserving the Vaigai – Kaveri river watersheds in Dindigul, Theni and Madurai Districts of Tamil Nadu and making the area sustainable for better livelihood.

Mission

To create a sustainable human – ecology relationship and improve the quality of rural life by striving to alleviate poverty, provide education and conserve the environment with active participation of the rural community.

Approach

The unique Community Driven Participatory Development approach of CIRHEP places communities at the heart of all development activities. We help them build upon their assets, enhance their capacities, and ensure their active participation in all stages of development. Hundres of thousands of non-literate rural folks, especially women, have transformed themselves into effective agents of change and emerged as

strong community leaders, innovators, seed savers, resilient farmers as a result of relentless capacity building processes.

Geographical area of operation



CIRHEP's geographical area of operation has been spread over in 3 Taluks in Dindigul District, Tamil Nadu, South India. Around 32 villages in Nilakottai Taluk in Kadavakurichi Reserve Forest, 15 villages around Oddanchatram taluk and 7 villages around in Vedesandur taluk.

Beneficiaries and stakeholders

The target beneficiaries of CIRHEP are predominantly resource poor, small and marginal landholding farmers, women, youth, students and their associate groups like farmers groups, women groups, youth clubs, seed producers, farmers producer organizations, network of seed producers. CIRHEP also have a list of stakeholders ranging from various line department, Panchayat leaders, consumer network, policy makers and also elected people's representatives like MLAs and MPs within its constituency.

Key projects implemented during the year 2021-2022

Future Earth Asia -Common activities – 2021-2022



CIRHEP is part of Future Earth Asia Network. The network comprising 11 members in Asia. Through this network, CIRHEP has implemented 2 projects during this reporting year. One is common activity project and the other one is Friend Group project. Both projects have been planned based on the common program goal evolved by the network for each phase. This year is the bridge year of the program phase started in 2017 and in fact this year is the bridge year for the next phase starting from 2023. As it is the bridge

Project title:

Advocacy for influencing State policy on phasing out of pesticides and establishing model pesticide free buffer zones around schools of selective villages in Nilakottai.

This project is a unique one that we planned to educate the school children to demand their right to study in a pesticide free environment and this is very much focused on rural school children. At CIRHEP working area, many governments runs schools are surrounded by farmers field and they

year, the same project goal is correlated to the project goals of both common activity project and the Friend Group supported project. As far as common activity is concerned, the network members identify one particular theme to be focused in the common activity. In that line, CIRHEP has planned this project.

farmers are using pesticides which lead to the frequent exposure of pesticide to children. Hence, this project is planned to educate the farmers as well as the authorities to take appropriate action to announce the school zone as pesticide zones.

Key activities implemented:

(i) Baseline Survey

Baseline survey was conducted with an objective of identifying the various types of pesticides used by farmers in various types of crops, flowers, vegetables in the 5 panchayats namely Musuvanuthu, Veelinayakkanpatti, Mallanampatti, Kombaipatti and Nilakkottai Panchayats. Vegetables like Onion, Brinjal, Tomato, Lady's finger, Moringa, Cluster beans, Banana and flowers like Jasmine, Mullai, Pitchipoo, Arali, Sampanki, Kanagambaram and cereals like Paddy are the various types of crops are cultivate in the area and predominantly for the demand for flowers in Madurai Market both for domestic and international export. A baseline survey format was developed in which questions have been asked to get the responses and with the help of the format, the CIRHEP staff members done the survey on 17.07.2021 and 18.07.2021 and then on 20.08.2021 and 28.08.2021. Around 5 in each panchayat were interviewed for this survey.

(ii) Conducting Survey on pesticide handling and precautionary measures on ground by involving the youth volunteers in Villages

Under this, we have conducted another survey with 10 school children and 10 farmers (3 men and 7 women) to find out the precautionary measures that are followed while handling/spraying pesticides. For conducting this survey we have identified rural youth and organized a orientation training for them, explaining the objectives and also the kind questions they have to ask in the target villages. A survey questionarie was evolved and the youth

volunteers were oriented on what information they have to collect from the school children and farmers. After the orientation, the youth volunteers i.e., 2 volunteers in each village were involved in the survey in the month of September to November 2021

(ii) Cycle rally involving rural youth volunteers and signature campaign:

The Cycle rally was organized in 5 villages (by the 15 school children and 3 youth volunteers in each village) with the objective of sharing the information on the pesticides that they have gathered in the survey and getting signatures from the general public on the demands of banning deadly pesticides, intervention of the State to monitor the sale of banned pesticides in the pesticide shops and declare 2-3 kms in the vicinity of schools as pesticide free buffer zones. Students carrying the pluck cards with the following slogans.

- Stop advising farmers to use chemical fertilizers.
- Provide subsidy support to bio inputs and promote organic agriculture.
- Ban the use pesticides around schools and ensure school is safer place for children.
- Stop contamination of pesticides in water bodies and in the environment.
- We want to eat nutrition rich and poison free food in schools.
- Ensure nutritional security of children in Anganwadies and noon meal programs.
- Support farmers to grow local foods and give premium price.

- Encourage farmers to conserve soil health and water quality.
- Recognize and Reward for farmers innovations on climate resilient practices

(iii) Submission of demands with authorities

Based on the information collected from the survey, recommendations and demands consolidated, got the signatures of people and submitted to district collector and MLA. The demands to the MLA was to stop subsidies to chemical farming through pesticides, monitoring systems on the sale of banned pesticides in pesticide shops, make every pesticide shop should paste a notice on the walls listing the banned pesticides and they are not selling in this shop and this has to be checked by the Agriculture Extension officers to verify and sign monthly in a register maintained at the shop. The other demands are mainly on State should come forward

to give subsidy to farmers through supply of organic inputs.

Key outcome of the project:

- Firstly, there was a common reflection by farmers that the change should start from the mindset of farmers. If the farmers started to refuse to buy and use pesticides automatically there will be a drop in sale of pesticides in their shops and that will be the real change. One of the significant as well as disturbing information that we gathered from the survey was that it is the pesticide shops are the prime in advising farmers on what pesticides should be used for a particular problems rather than the agriculture officers.
- Secondly, another key point that we gathered in the survey was that the use of insecticides and weedicides are in par with pesticides which means that the farmers, the children, women, general public are now in double to triple exposures to deadly chemicals.
- And the third important information was the use of these deadly chemicals without protective mechanisms like face masks, hand gloves and cleaning of their body with soap water after handling it.

Name of the Project: Strengthening climate resilient agriculture practices through greater agro bio-diversity cropping system for ensuring food and nutritional security.



This project is the Friend group supported project and most of the activities are very much similar

and they are actually a continuation of the project phase in the bridge year.

Support Agency: Future Earth, Sweden

Key Activities:

- Strengthening of existing organic farmers in crop/ production and vegetable production through kitchen gardens.
- Strengthening of bio input & bio pesticides production units in 10 farmers fields
- Creating marketing linkages for organic produces.
- Survey on millet cultivation, consumption of millet food etc.
- Strengthening and management of seed bank
- Support to seed savers and seed producers
- Facilitating stakeholders' consultation processes for bringing appropriate policies.
- Organize traditional food mela for women group members focusing health and nutrition issues.
- Aawareness program on climate change for college students
- Workshop to consolidate and documentation of best organic agriculture practices

Project Achievements:

- Farmers by and large started to realize the climate crisis and as a result around 50% of the farmers switched over to adopt climate resilient practices like millet based mixed farming system, intercropping with pulses and oil seeds for additional income and ecological pest management through cultivation of pest repellent crops like castor on the bunds.
- Around 200 farmers continued the backyard kitchen garden that they started last year. In the backyard kitchen garden they added more greens and vegetables which ensured their

family poison free vegetable with sufficient amount of nutritional requirements.

- The farmer producer organization started buying cattle feed in total quantity from the producer and selling to small and marginal farmers at nominal rate. Milk procured from members of the producer organization and encouraged direct selling to consumers at fair price.
- More number of farmers returned their traditional seeds to the community seed bank managed by the farmers. Around 105 women farmers have contributed in the seed saving initiative with 10 species of millets, pulses and oil seeds. .
- 80 families involved in extracting castor oil in a traditional method, which is used for cooking and medicinal purpose.
- The farmers continued to explore the government schemes and subsidy through their constant effects with officials. A about 80 farmers were received loan amount of Rs. 65,00,000 (Agriculture loan) from primary agricultural credit society. They invested the loan amount on agriculture and animal husbandry which helped them to get additional farm income.

Introduction:

This is a 5 year project started in April 2016 and ends in July 2021. Hence, few activites were implemented from April 2021 to July 2021. CIRHEP has been engaged in watershed programs for more than a decade and as of now it has completed 10 watershed project, mainly with the support of NABARD and few other agencies like TAWDEVA and some CSR support like Amway. Over the years, our experience tells that watershed

development has proved that it enhance the water tables in the project area and also increase agriculture outputs. It has also brought about many changes within families and the village – politically, socially, and culturally. Watershed management is an adaptive, comprehensive, integrated multi-resource management planning process that seeks to balance healthy ecological, economic and cultural / social conditions, within a watershed. It serves to integrate the planning of land, water and community participation. It has been established that watershed management has (i) recharged ground water table (ii) restored soil fertility and helps in soil conservation (iii) restores water for drinking and other human purpose (iv) helps light climate change and promote sustainable agriculture (v) protected biodiversity of the project area.

Key activities implemented during this year:

- Summer plough
- Digging of Well recharge pit
- Fodder Development
- Integrated Farming System
- Promotion of Kitchen Garden
- Drip Irrigation & Micro Sprinkler
- Gio Hydrological Study
- RML Subscription
- Exposure Visits and Peer learning
- Education kit - Manual on Climate Change adaptation

Impact of the program:

The execution of above activities have created a wide range of impact both on the livelihood options of the rural community as well as the regeneration of productive resources and other natural resources. Improved soil and water regime for better crop productivity which resulted in the increase of farm

income. Similarly, it also increased the adaption to climate change through climate resilient farming systems approach and diversification of livelihoods. Overall, it reduced the vulnerability situation and improved the potential of risk mitigation measures largely adopted by the farming community. Under this project, the outcomes have been measured against the 4 set outcomes at the beginning of the project.

Outcome 1:

Improved soil and water regime for better crop productivity and resultant increase in income of farmers.



This has been observed in 3 areas like increased adaptation of summer ploughing, deep tillage and excavation of well recharge pits by farmers.

A total area of 397 Hectares have been covered under summer ploughing. This practice has increased the water content of the soil and also it reduced the soil erosion. The farmers practices it were benefited with pest control and it also reduced the weeds on farm lands.

Similarly, the practice of deep tillage are achieved in 115 hectares of land. Deep ploughing turns out large sized clods, which are baked by the hot sun when it is done in summer. These clods crumble due to alternate heating and cooling and due to occasional summer showers. This process of

gradual disintegration of clods improves soil structure and including quick rain water infiltration. The rhizomes and tubers of perennial weeds (world's problematic weeds viz., *Cynodondactylon* and *Cyperusrotundus*) die due to exposure to hot sun.

Thirdly, a total of 104 well recharge pits were dugged. Well Recharge pits are made near the wells to divert the surface runoff water that the mineral rich top soil into the open well through filter pipes and conserve the water resource by raising the ground water level. The purpose of well recharge pit is to ensure that rainwater percolates into the soil. A recharge pit allows the rainwater to replenish the groundwater by recharging the underground aquifers. Because of recharge pits, the water table in the wells have increased than its level prior to construction of well recharge pits.

Outcome 2: Increased adaptation to climate change through climate resilient farming systems approach and diversification of livelihoods.



Around 105 fodder development units were established and this has increased the availability of key fodder grasses like Co4, CoFS 29,

Subabool and Sesbania. Fodder availability increased among those who have raised these crops and as a result of this, the number of livestock units has increased in the project area. This has led to increase in assets among farmers and a sustained source for income for farmers. Due to increased number of livestock units, the potential for availability of organic manures has also increased. Availability of fodder throughout the year has led to reduction of distress sale of cattle due to non-availability of fodder especially during the dry season. Earlier farmers used to cultivate annual crops of red sorghum and after threshing out the grains, the chaff was provided to cattle within the farm. Farmers had to sow these single cut fodder species every year. Now with multi-cut fodder including Co4 Super Napier, CoFS 29, farmers are able to meet their fodder requirements throughout the year.



Increased availability of diverse vegetables at household level has been made possible through support from this project. Due to kitchen garden activity, there has been an increased production and consumption of vegetables within the household. On an average there has been a 20-25% increase in availability of vegetables grown within the household. This has led to corresponding decrease in purchase of vegetables from the market. This has also contributed to

reduction in expenditure within the household. On the other hand, it has also helped in contributing to increase in nutrition security of the households in the project area.

Increased productivity due to high quality organic manure (vermicompost, compost, bio gas slurry and tank silt application) was noticed among farmers who have been benefited from undertaking this activity. Farmers who have applied vermicompost, compost and tank silt application has benefited the farmers through increased yield and this was possible mainly because of the improvement in soil physical and chemical properties. This in turn has led to increased water infiltration and moisture retention in the soil. Application of tank silt has significantly improved the soil properties and has led to increased yield among a number of crops.

Increased efficiency in irrigation / increase in area of irrigation and subsequent increase in production was noticed wherever sprinkler, micro-sprinkler and drip irrigation has been introduced. Farmers who were earlier using flood irrigation for their fields were able to irrigate their fields only for 2 hours. Introduction of sprinkler, micro-sprinkler and drip irrigation has led to increase in the number of irrigation hours without reduction in yield. On an average farmers are now able to irrigate for 5- 6 hours due to increased efficiency in irrigation through sprinklers, micro-sprinklers and drip irrigation.

Shifting from mono crop to mixed cropping (millets+pulses+cotton) has happened in many of the farmer beneficiaries of the project. Multiple / mixed crops has reduced the risk of crop failure

which was the norm during monocropping days. Mixed cropping of millets +pulses has enhanced the availability of millets and pulses thereby increase in protein availability for the farming family. Some farmers had also introduced mixed



cropping within cotton and that too cotton raised with indigenous seeds (karunganni) cotton.

Increased adoption of herbal plants at household level has happened due to awareness created from introduction of herbal gardens through this project. Almost every household which was a beneficiary to this project has at least 3 – 4 herbal plants within their kitchen garden. These herbal plants were useful in preparing herbal decoctions and other forms which they used for regular health aspects. This has contributed to reduction in purchase of off the counter medicines.

Outcome No. 3 – Reduced climate change vulnerability with improved risk mitigation measures

To achieve this outcome, providing advisory services to crop cultivation was done on the project. As a result, climate vulnerability has been reduced and they are reflected on the followings. Crop advisory services were provided to farmers in addition they were also provided with (i) daily market prices, update for two crops,

and markets for each crop, highest and lowest prices and arrival of crops (ii) Crop advisory / best practices for major crops in the area which included relevant timing for sowing and other crop management practices (iii) weather forecasts on temperature, rainfall probability and relative humidity (iv) agriculture and rural news. Support to the extent of Rs. 150000 was provided as subscription to RML to ensure that agro-advisory services are provided to farmers in their own mobile phones in vernacular (tamil) language both through SMS as well as voice messages. On a cluster basis and dissemination of crop weather advisory to farmers linked with IFFCO Kisan Sanchar Ltd. Around 90 farmers have been benefited from this. Voice message and text message services were provided for agriculture and agri allied activities. 2 Voice Message & One Text Message per day. First Voice Message service was based on agriculture activities of the project and the second Voice Message was based on agri allied activities (Animal Husbandry , Health, Sanitation, Women development, Livelihood education, Government sponsored scheme etc).

Outcome No. 4 – Knowledge Management

This outcome envisaged a strong knowledge management system established which enabled documentation and dissemination of knowledge and lessons learned from the project to different stakeholders including policy makers and planners. Based on the project's learning, dissemination materials, audio visual materials were developed for knowledge dissemination. Certain specific

activities were designed to achieve the outcomes which are as follows:

Posters and Pamphlets, Educational Kit manual climate change Adaptation

These are instruments by which mass awareness is created. These posters and pamphlets are also low cost items. Pamphlets of vermicomposting, rainfed indigenous cotton, Covid – 19 safety and precautions, fodder management for milch animals, cattle insurance scheme, goat rearing, bio-gas plant construction and usage, micro-irrigation systems, package of practices on cotton and pulses, preparation of plant growth promoters and dryland farming practices. Among posters, vaccination table for milch animals, vaccination for goat and sheep, Integrated farming system, climate change adaptation measures, agro-advisory services, comparison of micro irrigation and flood irrigation, Preparation of concentrated feed, Bio gas construction process, Watershed – issues, solutions and interventions, beneficial insects, 7 tips for doubling farmer incomes and watershed maps.



Project title: Climate Change Adaptation Project

Support organization: Adaptation Fund Board, USA.

Implementing Agency: NABARD

Project Implemented by: CIRHEP Jointly with Village Watershed Committee Srirampuram Malvarpatty



Key Activities implemented:

This is just a follow up of the activities implemented in previous years. The follow up activities have been monitored with the support of Village Watershed Committee of Srirampuram Malvarpatty. A package of various activities have been implemented in this project which includes soil and water conservation, agronomical activities, capacity building on bio input preparation, redesigning of farm with crop diversification and also providing advisory services. They are:

Digging of sunken pond, planting of fodder trees for gully stabilisation, adding fruit trees in the backyard, broadening field bunds and planting with pulses, agro horticulture, excavation Well Recharge Pit (WRP), Soil testing and issuing soil health card, Summer ploughing, Deep Tillage, Green manure cultivation, Vermi Compost, Tank silt application, Bio fertilizer, Bio control agents, Egg cards, Pheromone traps, Azolla demo unit, Honey bee keeping, Alternate varieties – demo, Alternate crops – demo, Intercropping, Crop

rotation, Seed treatment, Kitchen Garden/Nutritional garden, Poultry unit, Agriculture tool bank for SHG, Weather based Agro Advisory Services, Crop insurance, Farmers



trainings, Exposure visit, Posters and Pamphlet on climate change Adaptation, Audio visual tools - short films, Staff training and Watershed level knowledge management are implemented.

Outcome:

- Significant improvements have been seen in the soil and water conservation aspects in the watershed resulting in better capture of rainfall, ground water recharge and increased water availability for drinking and irrigation and improved soil fertility contributing to increased crop production. The net sown area has increased in the watershed and there is more availability of fodder for livestock.
- Communities have received gainful employment under the project especially during the lean months of the year. Apart from providing employment and income, provided multiple environmental services such as increased ground water recharge, water percolation, enhanced water storage in tanks, increased soil fertility, soil moisture,

crop yield, fodder availability and overall income of the family, decreased ambient temperature, reclamation of degraded lands and Carbon sequestration.

- The activities have the potential to provide guaranteed benefits such as desalting of water bodies accompanied by silt removal and application to crop fields, land development leading to land leveling and cropping, fodder trees for gully stabilization (as a drought proofing activity) with appropriate species choice and construction of Sunken pond.
- Women SHG members are more active and have accessed institutional finance for undertaking income generation activities and entrepreneurship development.
- Agricultural production and biomass have increased with enhanced incomes and savings from purchase of fertilizers & pesticides, fodder etc. Social cohesion aspects have improved including the gender relations between women and men, girls and boys.
- Women are now more vocal and participate in meetings and are involved in the decision making processes at households and community level. Women discuss specific issues of improved water, sanitation and personal hygiene and other social issues impacting their lives and livelihoods. Women now collectively help other women and families in distress.
- Distress sale of cattle has reduced in the village due to availability of increased biomass and access to institutional finance. Targeting aspects have been consciously addressed for inclusion of the poor and most vulnerable individuals and families under the

project and supporting them with specific project activities based on their specific requirements and vulnerabilities.

Project Title: Awareness to poor rural children on the importance of healthy food in order to build immunity in the context of Covid-19.

Support Agency: The Sidhwa Trust

The objective of the project:

The objective of the program was to providing awareness for the poor rural children on the importance of taking healthy food in order to build immunity. Apart from that, the objective was to orient and practically demonstrate on how the children can learn and improve their knowledge and understanding on the plants, crops, trees around them and its uses and how they could design their own kitchen gardens in order to grow their own food.

The interventions:

The children have been selected from the most vulnerable families in the working location of CIRHEP and they were also taught about their school subject in order to have the touch due to closure of schools. The children were oriented about the preventive measures like frequent hand washing with soap, maintaining personal hygiene, keeping social distancing, wearing of face masks. Eating nutri-millets and also the preparation methods of Nilavembu Kudineer and Kapasura Kudineer.

The impact of the program and the key learnings of the children:

- The children were updated with new knowledge on the importance of building body immunity and the intake of good foods like millets, fibre and protein-based pulses on their daily diet. The children are told us that they will include the above food items at least one time a day.
- The children were learnt about the importance of social distancing, wearing of masks and the personal hygiene and frequent hand washing with soap water.
- They have gained a better understanding on the environment around them and also the importance of tree plantation and preservation of the planted trees and their role in it.
- They have also gained knowledge on traditional and country seeds of vegetable and the importance of vegetable garden at their backyard. Some of the students are already started the gardening at their backyard.
- The children are started to save seeds around them, especially tree species and planted to start home forestry and nursery. More students are showing interest in seed conservation, especially on traditional seeds. They shared the learning of the camp with their parents and urge them to practices poison free methods of vegetable production and complete avoiding of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. There is a growing interest among the children on learning and studying their school subjects.

Project title: Education support to Women Shg members Family.

Support Agency: LIFE, JAPAN



This program is just a follow up on the previous year support given by LIFE, JAPAN. The objective on the project is to help and support poor economical background families, especially higher educational support through a capital loan support to women group. CIRHEP team identified the right beneficiaries with the set of criteria framed in consultation with LIFE and the women group members. Around 50 students from 5 villages so far benefited from this support from LIFE and women group is managing the recovery from the beneficiaries and evolved systems for reuse it for other needed families. As of now, an amount of 25 lakhs revolved in this loan benefited around 50 students. The CIRHEP team has been supported for educating the borrowers and the women groups to conduct regular meeting, preparing and submitting monthly reports with concrete impacts of the support and verification of

books of accounts and collection details of the loan recovered and reinvested amount.

Acknowledgement:

On behalf of the Board, CIRHEP wishes to acknowledge all its donors for their continued support in implementing the project at our target villages. We thank Future Earth International Network, CIRHEP Friends' Ground in Sweden for its support and contribution for implementing the project on strengthening climate resilient approaches through greater agro biodiversity initiatives. NABARD has been instrumental for CIRHEP to become a resource agency in watershed programs and also extending our watershed development projects to other needy areas through Adaptaton Fund Board, USA. We

also thank the resource people from NABARD and line departments namely, agriculture department, horticulture department, veterinary department, Gandhigram rural institute for providing their expertise in designing, planning, implementing and also capacity building processes. We also thank Sidhwa Trust for supporting the poor children with healthy food during covid-19 pandemic. The support of LIFE Japan is extremely helpful for the women groups to understand the value of education and it helped them to maintain the seed money to support the needy village people for their children's education

Conclusion

The Indian NGO sector is currently in flux, coping with mandatory regulations and funding shortages. Hence, CIRHEP is concentrating on building institutions like Farmer Producer Organizations, Village Watershed Committee and associating with them to strengthen their ability to grow as a self-dependent organization. It has always been the focus CIRHEP to think ahead and redefine its stance in order to effect visible and long-term change through its activities. There has been a lot of introspection, which has resulted in more result-oriented planning and resource management. With this as a backdrop, the CIRHEP Board of Directors and staff are considering developing a strategy to help them change with the times and develop a SMART plan to take the organisation to the next level. Support. Without this collective support, CIRHEP would not achieved the significant outcome of the projects. We also thank the local village watershed committee, local farmers groups, women groups and youth clubs for their immense support and contribution for the successful implementation of various projects during this year. We expect the same kind of support and cooperation from them in the coming years too.

