

DM2009 Project Summary

Project Number: 4097 Booth Number: 81

Wanted: 420 Women to Design and Grow a Sustainable Farming Model

COUNTRY: India

ORGANIZATION: VOICE Trust

FUNDING REQUEST: \$195,915

OBJECTIVE: To enable 420 women to design and adopt techniques to grow multiple crops on 420 acres of rain-fed lands spread across 42 villages. Furthermore, it is our aim to create a learning environment for alternative-crop systems, and to demonstrate how to add value to these models. We want to encourage women to engage in organic-manure production, to sell products such as vermicompost and botanical pest repellents, and to raise livestock. We will develop a communications plan with a graduated series of strategies. This plan will promote alternative-crop growth and highlight its successes to other farmers. Finally, we will establish sustainable agri-silvi pastures for crop and livestock integration.

RATIONALE: The proposed project villages are semiarid, with one season of cotton and without intercrops. This has become unsustainable because of erratic rainfall due to climate change. Village men migrate for alternative employment. Women cultivate cotton, which is labor intensive. They have no other choice, as they lack knowledge of alternative, sustainable crop models, despite their desire to grow such crops.

INNOVATION: Adopting an alternative crop system to suit climate changes is a local innovation. Women initiating decisions regarding crop diversity is another, as this is traditionally a male dominated industry. Agricultural integration of silvi pastures, and raising livestock as producers of dung instead of milk, are other innovations, as is constructing compost pits on farms.

CONTACT: Jasintha Amirtham
voicetrust.try@gmail.com
www.voicetrust.org.in