Impact Assessment Report of

Infrastructure support to Ekalavya centre for Organic Agriculture research & training (ECOART)

Prepared For

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
Mumbai

Submitted By

SoulAce
Path to Sustainability

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Executive Summary

Ekalavya Organic Agriculture Research and Training centre at Jungurthi village, Tandur Mandal, Vikarabad District, the project "To provide Infrastructural support to ECOART Center for farmers"was implemented by Ekalavya Foundation witht the financial support of BPCL.
construction of 5 Farmers' Dormitory Blocks, 6 Staff Quarters, and one Dining Hall at the project location.

The interaction with the staff revealed that, because of the support of BPCL, centre's accommodation capacity has increased. Prior to that, they were facing difficulties in accommodating trainees and the environment was not comfortable for the trainers to stay. Due to which, they were facing difficulties in organizing courses, and participants were hesitating in enrolling.

By discussion with the faculties, they found that they were staying in Tandur town, far from the centre. Commuting daily was a difficult task for the faculties as the road connectivity is not good. Faculties were exhausted after coming to the centre, and going back to their homes was challenging for them. Because of this struggle, faculties were not able to deliver their services fully to the students and interact with them outside of class.

Construction of a dining hall is very beneficial for them; prior to that, there was no place for them to dine. They were using their store room to serve the food to all, and that place was not hygienic and good enough to have food there. With the support of the BPCL, now they have a well-constructed dining hall for the trainees and staff. The dining hall has a sitting capacity of 180 people.

It can be concluded that the financial support to the Ekalavya Foundation by BPCL for the construction of 5 Farmers' Dormitory Blocks, 6 Staff Quarters, and one Dining Hall has resulted in an increase in the capacity of the centre. Also, because of this support centre, they can increase their reach and will conduct batches in a well-equipped environment. This project will be beneficial for the farmers and farm labourers for long duration. This project will also contribute to create greater change towards more sustainable farming and the prevention of nature through organic farming.

Farmers dormitory- front view

Farmers' Dormitories--side view

Introduction

The Ekalavya Foundation, headquartered in Hyderabad, has been implementing rural development projects for the benefit of marginalised communities in the rural areas of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Uttarakhand states of the country.

Vision

Its vision is to increase the levels of income and raise the standards of living of the community, especially those belonging to the deprived and marginalized section, through sustained functional interventions in development, livelihood, health, and education.

Mission

- Enhancing production through Natural Resource Management without disturbing ecological balance
- Empowerment of Farmers through collectives
- Supplementing the existing curriculum with value-based inputs in schools
- Participating in activities to improve the existing health conditions with a special focus on rural and urban slum women and girl child
- Supporting the generation of sustainable livelihood activities to increase family income
- Transfer of technology –From the lab to the field and imparting training for taking up profitable non -Chemical agriculture.
- Creating of basic awareness of laws of the land in order to empower citizens on legal issues.

The various programs taken up by the foundation are: 1) Farmers societies for village development 2) Gram Sahayaks for Sustainable Communities 3) Protection of Natural Resources through Watersheds 4) Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) 5) Health Security through Sendriya Mitra 6) Project HARELA-Uttarakhand 7) Education programs for Better Citizens 8) Covid Relief Activities 9) Tribal Resource Centre 10) Knowledge on the Wheels -Mobile Van 11) Legal awareness programs 12) Akshaya Vidya(Urban) 13) Akshaya Vidya (Rural) 14) Sustainable Development with Livelihoods improvement 15) Farmer Producers Companies.

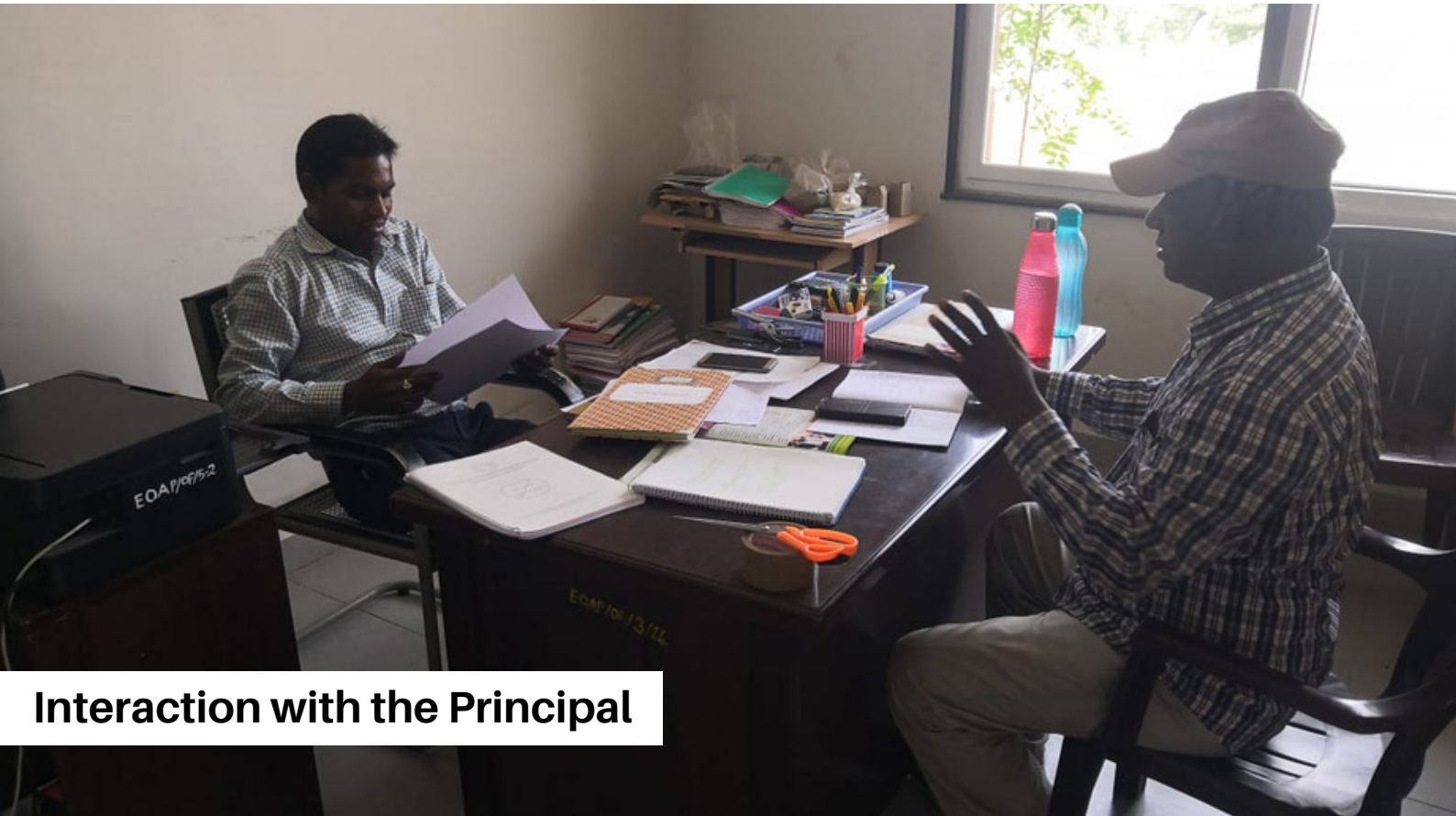
The foundation gives first priority to local participation in development activities. The formation of farmer societies is a step in that direction. The foundation encourages Women's participation in all development activities. The Women Farmer Societies in Adilabad and Kadapa districts are led by women and all programmes are actively implemented by them.

Research Methodology

- To assess the direct/indirect impact of BPCL's CSR project on the lives of targeted beneficiaries.
- To assess the quality and accomplishments of the project and its reliability and sustainability.
- This study compares the progress and success of the project in relation to its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.

Research Design

- The research design for the study was qualitative, descriptive research design. Taking into consideration and providing the opportunity to describe the project's current situation and its impact.
- The study includes primary and secondary research.
- The primary research includes interviews with staff and faculty of the Ekalavya Foundation and observation by the researcher.
- The secondary research was conducted through all the documentation & certificates relevant to the project.



Interaction with the Principal

Project

The Ekalavya Organic Agricultural Research and Training Centre was established in the year 2015 to conduct experimental studies on various methods of organic farming. Infrastructure includes Goushala, Solar Power Unit, Bio-Gas Plant, Farm Pond, College admin building, and Dormitories for students & farmers.

The Ekalavya foundation started the first Organic Diploma College in the Telugu States in the year 2015. The Ekalavya Agri-Polytechnic College is being run on the premises of the Ekalavya Organic Agricultural Research and Training Centre at Jingurthi Village, Tandur mandal, Vikarabad district.

The college has been recognised by Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University (PJTSAU). Apart from conducting the Diploma in Organic Farming course to students, the foundation also facilitates the training of local farmers on the subject of Organic farming. Batches of farmers attend two day training programmes at the campus during which they are exposed to all the important aspects of Organic farming. Knowledge is imparted through interactive and field sessions on the campus, focus is on taking the message that chemical farming effects the health of consumers as well as degrades the fertility of land, Organic farming reduces the financial burden of farmers as well as benefits the consumer and nature.

Support received from BPCL :

As per the MOU signed with Bharat Petroleum Corporation limited (BPCL), it was agreed to provide infrastructure support to the ECOART Centre for farmers. The support included the construction of 5 Farmers' Dormitory Blocks, 6 Staff Quarters, and one Dining Hall.

Each of the Farmers' Dormitory is 19' x 49' and has space for 12 beds/cots. 60 farmers and agricultural labour participating in the training on organic farming can be provided accommodation. Each staff quarter accommodates two faculty members from the Polytechnic college. The Dining Hall is an area of 57'6" x 25'6" and serves 180 people (Students and Farmers).

Current status :

All the buildings are complete in all forms and the Inauguration of Farmers' dormitories/hostel, and dining halls was done on 10/02/2021 at the college premises. At the inaugural ceremony, Sri K. Padmakar, CMD of Bharat Petroleum Corporation, and Sri Dattatreya Hosabale, RSS Joint general Secretary participated as Chief guest. The Staff Quarters are completed and await the staff to live in them.

EKALAVYA CENTRE FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE RESEARCH & TRAINING

(ECOART)

Gingurthy (V), Tandur (M),
Vikarabad (Dist), Telangana

Bharat Petroleum

Inauguration of

DINING HALL
FARMERS DORMITORY
STAFF QUARTERS

on 10/02/2021 (Wednesday) by

SRI K. PADMAKAR

Chairman & Managing Director
Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd

In the Gracious Presence of

SRI DATTATREYA HOSABALE

Sah Sarkaryawah, RSS

P. Venugopal Reddy
Chairman

T. Vinod Rao
Secretary

EKALAVYA FOUNDATION

BPCL-Inauguration -Plaque

Findings

Interaction with the Trustee Sri Gorantla Ramesh

“He informed us that the support received from BPCL has fulfilled a great need and has helped the organization to serve the farming community in a much more sustainable mode. The organization had made elaborate plans for conducting training sessions for farmers utilizing the new infrastructure it had developed. He reiterated that the Ekalavya Foundation works to increase the living standards of the community, especially those belonging to the deprived and marginalised sections, through sustained function intervention in development programs with special emphasis on farming, natural resource management, livelihood, health, and education.

He spoke of innovative activities taken up by the foundation, such as 1) FLD and OFT (Frontline Demonstrations and On Farm Trails 2) Vermi Compost under mango trees 3) Multilayer farming 4) Vegetable farming 5) Increased income through Bheema Kiran Onion farming.”

Interaction with College Principal Dr.Surender

He expressed that BPCL has been very kind to support the farmers' needs by supporting the building of Dining hall, Dormitories, and staff Quarters. He promised to make full use of the infrastructure developed by planning and conducting a number of trainings sessions for the farming community. He requested to support the organization in its future plans to develop Farm Ponds, Increasing green cover in surrounding villages and on the campus, Water Conservation , Green leaf manures and Energy plantations. A special request was made for support in purchasing a vehicle for field trips to students and farmers.

Staff quaters-- full view

Staff quarters-one side view

Observations :

It is observed that the support provided by BPCL has been put to good use and infrastructure has been created for the benefit of farmers who will be coming to learn about Organic farming. The buildings are constructed as per the guidance and needs of the project to serve the farming community. The Staff quarters will help the faculty stay on campus and render their valuable services to the students and the farmers.

Before these buildings were constructed, the farmers and students were put through hardship as they had to use the old Godown (Storage facility) for accommodation and dining purpose. As there were no staff quarters available, the staff had to stay in the far reaches of Tandur town. Commuting daily to the campus was a difficult task as proper road connectivity is unavailable.

The support extended by BPCL has helped the organization leap forward in its endeavour to strengthen the knowledge and practice of Indian farmers towards Organic farming

Key Highlights

- All the proposed construction has been done and followed the given guidelines.
- The infrastructure enhanced the capacity of the training centre.
- This construction will contribute to a great extent to serving the people of the farming community.
- The project helped the organization to increase its reach and organize more training on the various issues of farming.
- With the help of BPCL's for this project, organization planning to expand their work and target more beneficiaries.

Recommendation :

The Ekalavya Foundation is doing yeomen service to the farmers of this country, and the support provided by BPCL is of great help to the organization in giving training to the farming community. The funds received have been put to good use for the purpose they were intended for. The organization on behalf of the farming community and the student community, thanks Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. management and their staff for their kind gesture. The support will go a long way in shaping the future farming needs of the country, which are entirely based on organic farming.

As the foundation has made full use of the funds as per the MOU with the BPCL without any deviations and served the purpose it was intended (For the farming Community). It is recommended that the Ekalavya foundation be supported in future also.

OECD Framework

Criteria	Justification/ Arguments supporting or against the Criteria	Ratings
Relevance Is the CSR Project meeting the needs of the beneficiaries?	Yes, it is meeting the needs of the beneficiaries. The project is located in rain-fed areas where agriculture is entirely dependent on rainfall. There are no irrigation facilities and the development of watersheds and open wells are the solutions. Shifting to organic farming from chemical intensive farming is another must for farmers to make agriculture economically available and sustainable. The infrastructure created will enhance the learning environment for the farmers.	●●●●●
Coherence Is the CSR intervention in line with other similar Interventions of the State or the Central Government?	The project is fully integrated with the activities that the organization is doing in the field of organic farming. The structures add value to the College buildings and seamlessly integrate with the environment. The accommodation needs of the farmers, staff and students are fully met by these building.	●●●●●
Effectiveness Has the program met its objectives ? To what extent the expected result have been achieved ? Has it reached the Right Target Groups?	Yes, the buildings have been built in the stipulated time frame and are ready for use by the farming community, the college staff, and the students. It has reached the right target group. Due to the COVID pandemic, many trainings plan were cancelled as per the instruction of the government.	●●●●○
Efficiency The extent to which the CSR Project delivers, or is likely to deliver, results in an economic and timely way.	The CSR project has delivered its full potential, accommodation for 60 farmers can be made and the dining hall can accommodate 180 people dining at a time. The staff quarters can accommodate 10 staff members living on the campus.	●●●●●

Index : 5 Points - Very High ; 4 Points - High ; 3 Points - Moderate ; 2 Points - Low ; 1 Point - Very Low

Criteria	Justification/ Arguments supporting or against the Criteria	Ratings
Impact What difference does the intervention make? The extent to which the intervention has generated or is expected to generate significant positive or negative, intended, or unintended, higher level effects.	As the project is located in a remote rural area with little road connectivity, the farmers attending the training programmes need residential accommodation along with dining facilities for meaningful learning. The Staff accommodation facilities in the form of staff quarters will reduce the cost of tedious travel from the nearby Tandur town and allow more quality time with the students and farmers. The intervention has thus generated a positive effect.	● ● ● ● ●
Sustainability Will the benefits last?	The buildings were built with no compromise in quality and they willbenefit the staff, students, and farmersfor many more years to come. A RCC Building built with quality standards can benefit the users for over 100 years.	● ● ● ● ●

Index : 5 Points - Very High ; 4 Points - High ; 3 Points - Moderate ; 2 Points - Low ; 1 Point - Very Low