Project Report

On

First Ecological Agroforestry model farm in Bihar.

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INTRODUCTION

Khetee is a non-governmental organization located in Durdih, Bihar which is working for community development projects. Presently we have started with agroforestry projects, where crop diversification and natural farming practices are being promoted.

Vision:

Our vision is to make farming ecologically feasible and economically viable.

Mission:

To make farming sustainable and profitable in Durdih, Bihar, Khetee will introduce a farmer focused intervention model by promoting ecological agroforestry.

Proposed Project: To prepare a Model Farm based on Ecological agroforestry in Durdih and to replicate the same at 3-4 more places.

Objectives:

- To develop the first agroforestry model in Bihar to make farmers understand the alternative farming practices.
- To conduct awareness programs in the community regarding ecological and economical benefits of agroforestry models.
- To make the model farm as a training space to empower other farmers about agroforestry.
PROPOSED PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In the process of implementing ecological agroforestry projects in Bihar, Khetee has proposed following requirements:

Selection and preparation of the land: Land is unavoidable factor while thinking about farming. So, our plan is to select the land from community to develop agroforestry because community will have the ownership of the project (ref. page no. 6).

Irrigation facility: After selection of the land, irrigation plays an important role on the maintenance of the farm. Our plan is to use a submersible pump set and rain hose water system for reducing the amount of water usage (ref. page no. 8).

Electricity connection: To make irrigation system to work in farm, our plan is to utilize power from Bihar electricity board, so we need to set up electrical cable line from nearby transformer (ref. page no. 9).

Construction of the room: Our plan is to build the room which can be utilized in different ways. We need the room to keep farm equipments and harvested farm yields. Moreover, caretaker of the farm will also get space for taking rest (ref. page no. 9).

Implementation of agroforestry model: We are going to implement ecological agroforestry model which consists of live fence and mixed crop farm. Live fence will be designed for wind break and ensuring biodiversity while mixed crops are chosen for the income generation of farmers in different seasons (ref. page no. 10).

Documentation: In our project, we are trying to document various activities and processes on regular basis to ensure the quality and traceability both for the individual reflection and for that of entire project. We are preparing documents on the processes, activities and events involved, including the growth of various plants. We have also taken videos of the agricultural processes and related activities including interviews of farmers as a part of documentation process. (ref. page no. 37).
EXECUTED PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In a small village, Durdih situated in the Lakhisarai district of Bihar, our KHETEE team is working to develop an ecological and profitable model of agricultural practice based on the concept of **agroforestry** which involves the growth of trees and shrubs amongst crops. It is an integrated approach using the interactive benefits from combining agricultural and forestry practices to create more diverse, productive, profitable, healthy and sustainable land-use systems. There are more than 450 families in Durdih village with a population of 2200 people. Almost all villagers are associated with agricultural practices on small or large scale, but very few see it as a profitable and reliable source of livelihood. So, apart from agriculture, they are involved in other source of income as well. Moreover, in the agricultural process they are dependent on heavy machines and chemical fertilizers for better output.
People in this area mainly grow wheat and rice besides vegetables. But most of agricultural produce is meant for household use only. Through our project we are trying to develop a sense of ecological and profitable agricultural practice among them by creating a model farm based on agroforestry without the need of any chemical fertilizers, heavy machines and tilling in the farm.

We actually started our work in Jan. 2017. But then we were basically trying to reach out to local community and farmers. After all it is going to be a joint venture which demands coordination and cooperation among each other. So, our team organized some meetings for farmers and community associated with some other important individuals and related organizations. Our team along with 6 farmers went to Sristi Village in Pondicherry for experiential learning and training in Oct. 2017. They also visited the farm of Vetri located nearby where they show the executed agroforestry model. The practical illustration before them helped us to work with the farmers further. After returning we did various activities in schools and community that helped us in building trust among them.
**Selection and preparation of the land**: Our project got started in April 2018 with the process of **land preparation** as first and foremost work to be accomplished. The field in Durdih where we are developing a model farm as a part of our project is a land of one acre. In this piece of land, we have implemented our agroforestry model in a plot of dimension 72 ft.*216 ft. The live fence has been implemented around the complete one acre land.

Initially, in this farm wheat was grown. After harvesting wheat, the straws were left in the field for bio-degradation. Further, we grew a nitrogen fixing plant, **Sesbania Bisponisa**, commonly known as Dhaincha in the entire field. We prepared the organic manure, **jiwamrita** made of cow dung, cow urine, **jaggery** and gram flour. The farmers who have been given the training in sristi village worked along with the team in the entire process. We prepared and added Jiwamrita continuously in the entire field on regular basis to increase its fertility. Cow dung of pure local breed provides best culture for the growth of crores of microbes necessary for natural soil fertility. Since, very few farmers have cows of pure local/indigenous breed; we can’t collect them randomly from any place. Luckily, one of the farmers went for experiential learning in Pondicherry, Shivnandan Pandit has cows with local breed.
So, we collect cow dung and cow urine from his place. In order to collect cow urine, we have made *cow urine collecting point*. Once adding all necessary materials in a drum full of water, the mixture is stirred on regular interval and left for 48 hours for fermentation before use.

We made **water channel** around the boundary of the field to check and prevent our field from the chemical mixed water supply from other farms and also to eject extra water from our own field. It was started on 15th July 2018. Boring was done in the field after that. It was not planned earlier. We have talked with some farmers for cooperation, but later after having some problem, we decided to bore in our own field for irrigation.
Irrigation facility: Submersible pump has been used for irrigation purpose in the farm. We are also able to help other farmers by supplying water for irrigation purpose. Boring was started on 18th July 18. Moreover, system of rain hose irrigation which is an affordable spray irrigation technology has been used in the entire field. In this method, water is irrigated to the roots of the plants by sprinkling either onto the soil surface or directly onto the rootzone, through a network of valves, pipes, tubing and emitters. Irrigation system was fitted later on 26th Oct. with the help of Vetri team and a local plumber in that period. Community Kids also volunteered in fitting of pipes in the field.
Electricity connection -
Temporary connection could be available till now because connection line pole was not present in near locality and the electricity department told us that we have to bear the cost if we are going to get pole in the farm now. They are already working on it. So, we have just purchased electric wire to get connection in the field.

Construction of the room:
A room has been constructed in the field with cement, mud and bricks. Cement has been used in very less amount. It has been constructed around the water pump to keep some stuffs and prepare agriculture related materials inside. Moreover the caretaker of the farm can also take rest inside. We also use the room for preparing and storing Jiwmrita, Bijamtrita, neemastra etc. The construction was started in August and was completed in September 2018.
Implementation of agroforestry model: - As we were using the field for the first time. So, initially we enriched soil fertility by incorporating some natural methods and processes along with human intervention. As already mentioned we left wheat straw in the field for biodegradation. We cultivated nitrogen fixing plant in the entire field. Then we continuously added Jiwamrita to the field on regular basis. After that, tilling was required in the field before preparing trench and beds and doing plantation. Project site is in the middle of other farm, tractor can’t enter here. So, we needed to get oxen, which we arranged from other nearby village. Because of the trend of artificial insemination to breed cows and use of tractors for tillage purpose, oxen are not available in our village. After that we prepared trench and beds in the field. We started making trench and beds in the field on 26th Oct. 18. Workers are called from other village to do this work.
For plantation we had to visit nurseries to get some plants and information related to it. We did some work in the month of April also. But mainly our work began in October after completion of all prerequisites like land preparation, construction of water channel and room and irrigation work. After that plants and seeds were collected by two ways:

1.) Visiting various nurseries and purchasing various saplings and seedlings.
2.) Getting some saplings and seedlings from the community.

**Woman Workers carrying saplings**

Before planting seeds we treated them with Bijamrita. On 26th Oct 18 during implementation of the project, Vetri team was also present for assisting us in fitting irrigation system. In the afternoon we all had food together. Food was offered by one of the trained farmers Shivanandan from community.

27 Oct 18. turmeric has been dipped in bijamrita by community women.
Till 15th Oct. most of the saplings and seedlings have been purchased from various nurseries in Hajipur and other places. Plantation was done in the last week of October. We planted papaya, mangoes, bananas, marigold, awla, maize, pigeon pea, turmeric, bottle gourd, black gram, chilly, drum stick, yam, potato, pomegranate, sapota, guava, custard apple, pear, etc. in the field. Pineapple palm, teak, Gliricidia, mulberry, castor are planted for live fencing. When these plants will grow these will surround the entire land and will protect the farm and the plants growing inside from foreign elements. Moreover, these plants are also crucial for income generation and enriching biodiversity by creating an ecological space for various birds and insects However, villagers said that until these plants grow, we should use wire fencing to protect our plants from any casualty as there was the chance of bull attack after rice harvesting. So, we did wire fencing as well, around the field.

It was the time of rice harvesting in the area. Due to which there was a danger of strong attack by insects in our field. To check and prevent this we fixed pheromone, yellow, blue sticky traps and used neemstra in the field as safety and preventive measures.
Neemastra is an organic pest controlling substance that is made by farmers using neem and aak leaves. Moreover, we treat the soil with organic manure, Jiadamrita once in a week. In the month of January, after two months of plantation, when plants have grown till some extent, we have used ash in the entire field to control pests and insects after removing weeds from the field. It improves the yields of variety of agricultural crops and physicochemical properties of soil. We got this from the rice mill located in a nearby village. Then we spreaded straw all over in the field to prevent further growth of grasses and weeds. In various regions, well informed farmers adopt this **mulching** process, i.e., placing a
protective covering, on the ground around plants, using various materials in their agricultural land. In our locality, rice and wheat are grown on large scale comparatively. So, we use the straw thus obtained for mulching of the crop plants and trees. Mulching is needed not only to suppress weed growth, but also to maintain soil moisture for better culture of essential microbes and to prevent freezing of root. Whatever we use in the farm whether for mulching or for controlling pests and insects, or increasing soil fertility, our motive is to get it from community or it has to be the waste produced in farm itself.
OTHER ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Organizing Tendril Meet 2017

Every year we organize Tendril meet with farmers. Even in 2017, in the pre-organization phase we have organized it along with farmers and concerned people in our village. As we know in botany, a tendril is a specialized stem, leaves or petiole with a threadlike shape that is used by climbing plants for support or attachment. In a similar way our purpose is to connect with more and more people who can support each other to work collaboratively towards our vision.

During and after the establishment of our organization KHETEE in 2018 we have continuously tried to reach out to farmers and individuals either by organizing meeting or by using forums initiated by others. In March 2018, we went to Kedia village to organize ‘Kudrati Kheti Ki Pathshala (School to Natural Farming )’ and talk there about the sustainable, profitable and ecological way of farming, i.e., natural farming. We further elaborated the idea of agroforestry in detail. We also ensured and facilitated the visits of concerned people from outside in our village and at our site to help and work with farmers and community children on the concept and practice of food and agriculture. We kept talking with farmers and community people on regular basis regarding our project particularly discussing its implementation part.
We also got benefited by the arrival of different volunteers and distinguished individuals in our village. Emma, an anthropology student from Denmark came to share her experience about climate change in rural Bihar on 26th March 2018. She also visited farm along with kids. We together conducted activity about food web with children in Durdih government school on 28th March which is at 100 metre distance from our project site. In October 2018, Naresh Reddy, the founder of Tharunam organization came to our village after we talked to him and initiated his food literacy program with community govt. school children. For three days he worked with children on food literacy program organizing various activities along with Neeraj. Later Naresh sent us his quarterly news later in which he mentioned his experience in Durdih village and with school children in detail.
On 12th May 2018, we did an activity with the children of govt. school Durdih on the occasion of mother’s day which was actually on 13th of May, next day. We distributed Diary and pen to children given to us by Battees. Battees is an initiative taken by a friend of mine to promote writing and creative skills. On talking her, She provided us these stuffs to distribute among children with the idea to promote some art and writing skills among them. We decided to motivate children to write a letter to his/her mother. Children who can’t write a letter or some sentences are asked to draw some pics on the theme ‘mother’. Children literally enjoyed the initiative as we can see in pictures. In the month of Oct. 18, we came to know about a government scheme initiated by Department of Environment, Forest and Climate change, Govt. OF Bihar. Under this scheme government was providing plants to people. These are not crop plants, but general plants like Teak, Mahogany and Shisham. We got them through the scheme and planted 130 such plants on other farms on 17 Oct., 2018. Now we understood the procedure and can get and give benefits of it, whenever such schemes are launched.
On 8\textsuperscript{th} nov. 18 Leonie Wishmeth from \textit{Zeit online} came from Germany to visit the farm. She stayed here for one week and worked with us. She volunteered in fencing and plantation.

We also participates in various community festivals and events organized occasionally as a part of our culture. In our village, every Friday people gather in a temple or a community hall for offering collective prayer to God and sing many devotional songs as well.
Recently, we all celebrated a festival Chhath Poojaa, popular in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Jharkhand state. This festival is dedicated to Sun and it has a great significance for people in these regions due to various socio-economic and cultural reasons. The rituals are also related to agricultural produce, environment and health.

**Hybrid Seed seller and Neeraj having discussion before villagers**

On 15th Nov. 18, a hybrid seed seller from pioneer company had come to distribute and talk with farmers to tempt them for high rice yielding hybrid seeds. He was giving those seeds to farmers free of cost as a part of his marketing strategy. He not only presented his ideas with some examples and prepared facts, but also took us in a local farmer field to show the productivity of his hybrid seeds. When our team members and other farmers asked him some questions regarding the effect of these hybrid seeds on our soil in long run, then he himself admitted that it's not good for our environment and soil. After that our team initiated a discussion on the topic with him and others farmers. We also came to the point that how these seeds are destroying our local seeds best suited to existing environment and soil.
On the same day, a person from another district in Bihar came to know about the work going on. He liked and showed his interest in the concept of ecological agroforestry and the vision of our project. He also shared his feedback and experience in visitors’ diary. Later he joined us for volunteering in the project.

Neeraj narrating about the project and the vision to a visitor on 15th Nov. 18

On 21st Nov. 2018, Greenpeace while visiting Bihar for his Jaivik Bihar Yatra (Bihar Living Soli Yatra) done for awareness in farmers and village community of Bihar state regarding the significance, necessity and procedure of organic farming.
Ishitiaque Ahmed, the greenpeace Campaigner Bihar, talked about his organic bihar yatra which merged with Khetee’s tendril meet 18 in Durdih. Khetee Team is organizing Tendril Meet per year to spread awareness regarding ecological agroforestry in community. The idea is to connect more and more people with our vision. In the event Neeraj also put forward his views on the need of mix farming or intercropping for farmers in India and how the soil is degrading continuously due to adopting so called scientific methods based on the use of chemicals and heavy machines.
Now, when our team have already taken the first hand experience of the project implementation in a field in Durdih, we are in the position to expand our project in other areas. So, we are talking to farmers in our own village and also visiting different sites in nearby location. On 8th Dec. 2018, we visited a farm in Maulanagar, Sheikhpura which is 30 km away from Durdih. Similarly, We visited a location in Shringi Rishi, a village of tribal community on 13th Dec. 2018. In coming months, we will be in the process of executing our project.

**farm visit in Maulanagar, Sheikhpura for further project expansion**

**Shringi Rishi, a village of tribal community**

We think it will be a great privilege to work in Shringi Rishi as we will be directly involved with tribal community in an environment with abundance of naturally available resources.
Recently our two volunteers Ramashish and Basant from the village went to participate in Patna half marathon on 16 Dec. 18. The organizer himself sponsored their participation. They represented Khetee organization there.

Organizations like International Land Coalition, Youth and Land Asia, Jai Jagat 2020, Ekta Parishad, Go Rurban have organized Youth and land National meet india 2018 in Itarsi, Madhya Pradesh. We were invited there to get benefited by the event and to put our views before them. Two team members and one volunteer from the village went there to participate and get exposure in the events organized between 21 to 23 Dec. 2018. The event was mainly organized for those youth and activists who are working or intend to work for land related issues.

Bablu, our active team member is leading Khetee team.
On 1\textsuperscript{st} Jan. 2019, on the occasion of New Year, we went to visit a hilly area popularly called Saat Pahadi(Seven mountain) in Jamui. We also went to the Birth place of 24\textsuperscript{th} Jain Tirthankar, Mahavir Bhagwan in Rajla situated nearby. The trip was planned along with community friends and volunteers for exposure to hilly areas, to know the vegetation grown there and to explore a historical place as well. We also talked to the manager of the trust which is taking care of the place. We talked with them regarding our agroforestry project and ecotourism. He showed his interest for further discussion. Most probably we will be organizing meeting together in coming months.
Now a days, a new intern has joined us who has worked in education sector earlier for some time. Apart from observing and assisting us in our work, he also use to visit the govt. school near the farm in Durdih to work with children. We wish we could open and run a community learning centre in near future.

In the month of January, farmers in Bihar used to celebrate, Push Bhatta in their farm after rice harvesting. We also celebrated the same on 6th of January 19. Push Bhatta is a celebration in which farmers used to cook food essentially including rice in their own farm and enjoy it along with friends, family and community members. The word Push is the Hindi name for the month of January and Bhatta is the distorted version of the word 'Bhat' which stands for rice in Hindi. The occasion is celebrated after rice harvesting. On 6th Jan, we also cooked food together and enjoyed in the farm after work.
GALLERY

Vetri Visit In March 2018, Durdih
Group Photo With School Children, Durdih

Emma With Community Kids, Lalbagh, Biharsharif
Neeraj Along With School Children, Lalbagh, Biharsarif

Attending Experiential Training In Sristi Village, Pondicherry 2018
Making Jiwamrita

Guest In Our Farm
Tea Agroforestry, Kishanganj Visit, Bihar

Kids Looking at saplings With Curiosity At Project Site
KHETEE Team Along With Volunteers.

Group Photo After plantation
Trench Makers Doing Lunch In Farm During Plantation

Trench And Beds Getting Ready
Tendril Meet 2018
10 Dec. 2018, Farm Pic North Facing Side

10 Dec. 2018, Farm Pic South Facing Side
Some Media Link :-

https://www.instagram.com/p/BmIxqqqBIfP/?utm_source=ig_share_sheet&igshid=dcddoz9u62f

https://www.instagram.com/p/BmIyjmGBcTW/?utm_source=ig_share_sheet&igshid=13r4ow3ednzxq

https://www.facebook.com/mojoreport/videos/637343826662525/


https://m.facebook.com/241383332555875/posts/2305024716191716/

https://m.facebook.com/1451167721666793/posts/1914250598691834/

https://youtu.be/osISAP9CN-E

Documentation

As we know project documentation is a vital part of project management. Documentation of the work should be done to make sure that project requirements are fulfilled and to establish traceability with regard to what has been done, who has done it, and when it has been done. We trying to document our work by making reports on regular basis. It is an essential tool to track and evaluate various activities and the project over all. Though we faced some problems in documentation initially. But we are trying to improve this part as well. In coming time, we will be taking records of not only the events and processes involved but also the phenomenal aspects like growth of various plants in the field. Apart from preparing reports, we are also documenting videos taking into account various events, processes and procedures and some interviews as well. See the pic. (A community volunteer, Basant climbing on palm tree with gopro camera on his head). Very soon we will be updating our website on regular basis.
CHALLENGES

• **While thinking of implementing agroforestry model in the village**: It is a completely new agricultural concept and practice for villagers and farmers in Durdih. The first response we got is that the idea will not be applicable in this area. Community people told us that we are ruining the piece of land by adopting such mixed farming on it and we are not going to make any profit out of it.

Moreover, we found that people in this area have become habitual to agricultural practices based on the heavy use of chemicals like fertilisers and pesticides; and the practice of tilling the farm with the help of tractors. They mainly grow rice and wheat in their field. They also have no or very less idea of the benefits of mixed farming. They think such practices may be used only in a small garden developed in a very small piece of land near the house, but not at a scale and at a place where we can make profit out of it. They are also unable to understand about the marketing of the various produces thus obtained by adopting mixed farming and agroforestry model. People in the village have cows and goats but they don't use their waste to get natural manure in order to use it for enriching soil fertility. Moreover, they also don't see agriculture altogether a profitable and reliable source of livelihood. So, apart from having a lack of knowledge regarding agroforestry, they have also a lack of will for adopting something beyond their regular traditional practices. Initially, many of them thought that we are ignorant of agricultural practices and techniques. However, now after going ahead with the project, some of them have changed their mindsets about us and the agroforestry model.

• **Selection of the land**: Selection of land was remarkably a great challenge for us. Initially, we chose a piece of land after convincing the owners by explaining and discussing our project and the whole idea with them. But when we were about to start our project work, one or other refused to cooperate. As a result after getting disappointed by the delay in implementation, we again went to other farmers and discussed our intentions and project with them. Finally, we could manage to have three pieces of lands located adjacent to each other, which we joined to work upon in a comparatively larger piece of land. After all we needed a field with appropriate size for the proper implementation of our project.

• **Arranging seeds and plants**: We visited many places and nurseries to get saplings and seedlings. Many of the saplings of flower plants that we purchased got damaged before plantation. Moreover, we don't find quality assurance when we purchase them in bulk. In some cases, transportation cost was also a challenge. Now, after the experience we have a better understanding of the quality and productivity of the seeds that we purchased from different places.

• **Unskilled Labor**: Most of the labor we found are unskilled particularly when working with the idea of agroforestry in the field. Even from team contribution side, sometimes we face remarkable challenge as each and every member is not able to understand the
responsibility of the task being assigned because they have not come across with such work earlier. For the agricultural work, we have to tackle with unskilled and untrained labor. Sometimes, we are unable to find them to work in the field on time as well. We are also unable to find some skilled volunteers to work with us for considerable time.

- **Miscellaneous:-**
  1. When we had returned after visiting Sristi village in Pondicherry for experiential learning along with community farmers, we got the assurance by them, of adopting and working together to implement the ecological agroforestry model. But at that time we didn't have enough resources to carry out with the project. We are also unaware of other early stage challenges that we came across, resulting in the considerable delay in the implementation of the project. In the meantime, most of those farmers lost the same spirit and motivation. Now, when we are in the way of developing a field based on our project, we are again seeking to regenerate their spirit and interest in it.
  2. In the village community, now and then villagers and farmers get involved and engaged with different kinds of rituals and traditional functions making it difficult for us to plan and organize any event, meeting and dialogue with them. We had cancelled our plans earlier, after postponing it for several days on such casual engagements that ended for few days to few weeks. Such community bonding and interpersonal relations are the peculiarities of rural culture that seeks and requires attention and engagement of every community member whatever happens in any family of the village. But at the same time, from the point of our work, it is a challenge for us to engage them with our dialogues and other engagements intended for their awareness and understanding.
  3. We also have to face local politics within our community. Many people in the community have unsupportive attitude and mindsets from the very first day of our project.
  4. The peculiar demographic composition of the village is such that it largely constitutes small poor farmers having small pieces of lands and farmers or other community people with large lands tilted by landless farmers. In both cases, the fact of the matter is that agriculture is not seen as profitable and reliable source of income. Due to this hierarchical constitution of the community particularly resulting from the deeply rooted caste system in our village, agriculture is being neglected by the generation. Largely those people are involved in agriculture who have no other choices. They are neither educated enough, nor have exposure or will to bring innovations in traditional agricultural practice. So, in such environment, working with a completely different concept of agriculture is a challenge for us.

**LEARNINGS**

Learning is very important in any work particularly when we do something for the first time and in the process, came across with so many challenge. We, as a team, while implementing the project learnt many things out of the venture after making numerous mistakes.
1. We have faced a great challenge in making community people and farmers understand the necessity and benefits of agroforestry such that they could also adopt it. Now, we have accepted their particular attitude and mindsets which exist due to various problems faced by them earlier while practicing agriculture. In order to change this, all we can do is to focus on our work and illustrate a successful example of sustainable and profitable agricultural model farm based on agroforestry. In our project, attaining ecological feasibility is an important goal to achieve. However, all people are not concerned with environmental degradation at first sight. They are generally concerned for income generation from whatever they do. Moreover, farmers in this area have less exposure to various techniques and ways of farming. They are also not capable of making considerable investments in their field. So, an agricultural model based on agroforestry with less investment and good possibility of income generation will surely draw their attention. All we need to make them understand this through dialogues and illustrations.

2. After we have spent a considerable time implementing our project, we understood that we do not have lack of resources whether materialistic or human ones. Just we need to utilise them in an efficient way. Going ahead with the implementation of the project, we came to know that it may be possible that we are not going to get skilled labor best suited for our work, but we can educate and train those community members, farmers, labourers and volunteers by involving and interacting with them in different modes and creating the opportunity and possibility for them and for us to work together in a more collaborative and cooperative way.

3. We have learnt that agriculture is a field of huge opportunity and possibility. Moreover, it encompasses a large no. of issues and subjects like land distribution issues, soil fertility issue, seed issues, marketing of agricultural produce and equipments, food politics, environment and awareness etc. We can’t expand and reach out to get involved in all those issues and subjects simultaneously. So, we need to keep ourselves focused to the project of developing an ecological and sustainable model farm based on agroforestry. However, as we understand the various above mentioned subjects and issues to be interlinked, we can use different forums to educate ourselves and others. We need to connect ourselves to different stakeholders.

4. In coming future, we will have to develop nurseries to get seeds and saplings of assured quality without the need to invest time and money in transportation. We can also benefit other farmers with these resources.

5. We can take benefits of various government schemes related to our work. Last year we planted 130 such trees obtained through government schemes in others’ farms. We can also educate and aware other farmers to do the same. It will also help us in building trust among them.

6. As we have mentioned that community people often get involved in various festivals and casual engagements such that it becomes difficult for us to plan and organize meaningful dialogues and events for them. We have found that all the festivals, in which we along with our community get engaged, are already so meaningfully designed by
our forefathers according to the agricultural produce obtained in various seasons and the food habits we have. Just the thing is we have forgot the ascribed meanings and values and stuck to traditional rituals and symbols. We can plan and combine our events accordingly to initiate some meaningful and relevant dialogues with our community people regarding various rituals, festivals and other community engagements popular in the folk tradition relating them with agricultural produce and food habits.

7. We also learnt a lot of things regarding finance and account management in the whole process of project implementation so far.

REFLECTION ON THE EXECUTED PROJECT AND PLAN FOR COMING MONTH

Reflection:- If we see our journey from the very beginning of thinking of this project to the process of its execution, we are happy and contentment till some extent. We are in the process of developing an ecological agroforestry model farm in the village, Durdih. During the process, we came across lots of challenges and learnt accordingly whether from trust building among community members to finance and accounts management or from visiting srishti village along with farmers for exposure to getting involved in the process to create an agroforestry based farm by our own. We enjoyed our journey and are motivated enough to go ahead with the project to complete rest of the work. Now, farmers are also more interested in our project. We are expanding our work and increasing community engagements as well.

Plan For Coming Month:- In coming months we have planned to get involved and accomplish following tasks :-

1. **Execution of similar model farm at another location**: In coming months, we are planning to execute a similar model at another site whether in our own village, Durdih or in some other village, located nearby. We have already visited some sites and talked to farmers and interested people like in Dec. 2018, we have visited two such places, within the range of 30 km from Durdih. Farmers in our own village are also showing interest in the project after observing the model farm being executed. We are thinking to replicate the model in our own village, as now it will be convenient for us to work with farmers in our village. Over the period, they have also understood some aspects of agroforestry and that of our project. We have most of the resources available, just we need to invest in getting saplings and seedlings from nursery and pipes from market. We will be executing it from the month of March or April onwards.

2. **Completing registration procedure**: We are in the process of getting our organization ‘KHETEE’ registered. We hope all procedural requirements including paperwork will get completed till march.

3. **Completing paperwork to get benefits from govt. Schemes**: As we have mentioned earlier that there are many schemes launched by the department of Environment, Forest and Climate change, Govt. of Bihar which we can take advantage of. We have
talked to 10-20 farmers in our community and trying to get their papers ready in order to get benefits from those govt. schemes which are aimed for afforestation and plantation in a piece of land. After completing the paperwork we will apply for it in the month of April.

4. **Working and engaging with our Stakeholders:** We have planned to increase our interactions with stakeholders through different modes. In near future we will develop some curriculum related to education with special focus on agriculture which we can use to educate children and young generations in schools and village. It will be also helpful for trust and rapport building among community people. Moreover we are planning to open and run a community led learning resource centre. It will provide a platform for discussion and education on various topics related to our work. We will also organize some meetings with the community members interested in our project on regular basis to update them about our work. We will design some activities in relation with the various community engagements and will use the events to spread awareness among them.

**CONCLUSION**

Initially, we have thought of implementing the agroforestry model in Durdih and 3-4 more villages. However, we came across a lot of challenges in implementing the model in Durdih only. The challenges were crucial for our learning. After the first hand experience, now we are in the position to expand our project. We have already talked to farmers and interested people in Durdih village and outside of it. People in our community are now showing more interest and are more convinced than the initial phase. We have also acquired some practical experience after going through the processes of project implementation. So, now we have developed some understanding of the work which will surely benefit us in upcoming adventure.
Thanking Farmers, Colleagues, Volunteers, Supporters and Collaborators who believed and supported us in our Project.

“Revolution will be planted”