



ACWW Project #1007 India



Country Women's Council USA had such success in funding the Mongolian Greenhouse ACWW Project 0973 that the board believes it would be wise to continue with another project at this time and not wait until the annual meeting 2017. There is \$1,032.00 in the project fund to get us started. We have chosen Project 1007, *Promotion of Indigenous Rice and Vegetables Cultivation among Marginal Women Farmers and Prevent their Migration to Towns*. Below is an update of the project; please share this information at your meetings and in your newsletters.

All donations should be earmarked Project #1007

Send to: CWC Treasurer Jo Almond, 11753 N Shelby 700 W, New Palestine, IN 46163.

COUNTRY: India

SOCIETY: Success Trust

PROJECT NO: #1007

MONITORING REPORT SUMMARY

India – Success Trust - Promotion of indigenous rice and vegetables cultivation among marginal women farmers and prevent their migration to towns – No. 1007

ACWW Resource Person Elizabeth Swamy visited this project and reports that this organisation uses rented offices and has rooms for activities such as training in computers, agricultural practices and others. The Trust has received help from other agencies such as Water for Humanity, USA, to dig bore wells, and Share the Global Resources – Quakers USA, in the past.

Elizabeth found that the 40 women beneficiaries had been given motivational training regarding the project; they had then been given training in the preparation of natural manure and pesticides. They had started to prepare these, using earthworms, storage drums and other materials.

Indigenous varieties of rice seed and vegetable seeds had been distributed and the beneficiaries were preparing the fields to sow the seeds. It had been raining for a week at the time of Elizabeth's visit, so the conditions were appropriate for sowing, whereas for the past two years there had been no proper rains.

Elizabeth interviewed some of the women (self-help group leaders and members), and found that they appreciated the training they had been given and were looking forward to a successful harvest and an improved diet.

The trainers and monitors are experienced agriculturists who are interested in reviving traditional methods of farming, which are sustainable and use organic methods. Elizabeth discussed the project activities with them and was told that the indigenous varieties of rice are more nutritious than some new ones, and that the farming methods being taught should enable the Trust to establish a 'seed-bank' for different crops.

Elizabeth reports that other farmers in the area had expressed interest in taking up this type of organic farming, so the project appears to be having considerable impact in the area. She believes that a further monitoring visit to view the fields at harvest-time would be beneficial, and she recommends Success Trust for further funding.



Society: Success Trust - **Location:** India

Donations to date: \$ 2,262.09

Original Project Monies Needed: \$ 5,235.00

Difference: \$ 2,972.91



CWC ACWW Project # 1007 Progress Report



India - Indigenous rice and vegetables cultivation among marginal women farmers - #1007



Success Trust reports that it has carried out many of the training activities outlined in its application, for the benefit of 40 women farmers.

The beneficiaries were initially given a two-day 'internalization' training in order to raise their awareness of the importance of the project and to motivate them. They were then trained in soil and water conservation methods, and organic farming methods, including land preparation activities such as tree planting and mulching.

Seeds of different rice varieties, as well as the following vegetables have been distributed to the beneficiaries: aubergine (eggplant), chilli, lady's finger, cluster bean, gourd, tomato. Of the 40 women, 20 had sown their seeds as they had access to water from wells, while the remaining 20 were waiting for the seasonal rains to come, at which point they would sow their seeds.

They were also given containers to help them produce herbal pesticides and crop tonics; also earthworms to produce vermi-compost.

The women are now all producing compost, pesticides and crop tonics and using these to help grow their crops. They have also received 12 days of training at the farmer field school, one day per week, during which they have learned to deal with many of the day-to-day problems and challenges which are encountered during cultivation.

The Trust has held monthly reviews with its project staff and internal evaluation meetings with the beneficiaries, in order to track the progress of the project.

This project has been monitored by ACWW Resource Person, Elizabeth Swamy (seen below with two beneficiaries). She reports: 'Many farmers in the area have become interested in these indigenous, organic farming methods as a result of the project, and are ready to take up this type of food grain farming.'



Elizabeth Swamy
Project monitor, (center),
with two beneficiaries.