

Office Bearers : 2007-08

Patron	Prof. R. Sahai 4A, Park Road, Gorakhpur
President	Dr. Shiraz A. Wajih Reader in Botany MGPG College, Gorakhpur
Vice President	Dr. S.P. Tripathi Reader in Zoology MGPG College, Gorakhpur
Secretary	Mr. J.K. Srivastava Bank Officer 48, Miyan Bazar, Gorakhpur
Joint Secretary	Dr. Suman Sinha Fisheries Department Gorakhpur
Academic Secretary	Dr. D.V. Tiwari Project Officer Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur
Treasurer	Mr. Aejaaz Rizvi Advocate, Gorakhpur
Counsellors	Dr. B.C. Srivastava Reader in Botany SPPG College, Shohratgarh
	Dr. Surheeta Kareem Star Hospital, Gorakhpur
	Dr. S.P. Singh Bank Officer, Gorakhpur
Nominated Members	Ms. Runa Banerjee Gen.Secretary, SEWA, Lucknow
	Dr. Malvika Srivastava Dept. of Botany Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur
	Dr. S.K. Prabhu ji Dept. of Botany UNPG College, Padrauna

2007-08 Credentials

(A Compendium of Annual Achievements of GEAG)



Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group
Post Box # 60, Gorakhpur-273 001

Stepping Forward...

The life of any organization is full of experimenting and learning and so is with Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG). Whereas such learnings contribute to the body of knowledge existing in the organization, it also shows the ways where one can be more effective and meaningful. This also provides the opportunities of solving problems. Whereas this learning is pooled through different areas, GEAG has experienced that the major learnings come from communities with whom we work and interact. We are thankful to the people with whom we learn and grow.

The annual report provides a glimpse of the activities we performed during the year 2007-08. Working both at a micro level with the communities and also in a macro scenario for larger advocacy and policy influencing efforts, GEAG team felt the need of addressing newer challenges like climate change, adaptation, disaster risk reduction and other such issues.

The monitoring and evaluation missions, visit of experts, trainings etc. helped us to review our work from time to time and reposition ourselves, if needed. We are thankful to experts and resource persons who helped GEAG in such efforts.

We are thankful to Govt. of India and Govt. of Uttar Pradesh for their support and being responsive. We are thankful to media and the civil society for being the co-travellers on various issues of mutual interest. We have worked with the NGOs and related resource organizations to develop a collective voice in favour of marginalized communities and thank all those institutions who have supported such causes.

Personally, I thank the members of Executive Board and the team of GEAG for their efforts- with a sense of commitment and devotion.

Dr. Shiraz A. Wajih
President, GEAG

Acknowledgment

We sincerely thank Netherland Organization for International Development Cooperation (Novib) for their support and cooperation in all our initiatives. We would also like to extend our gratitude to :

- ◆ Oxfam, Lucknow.
- ◆ Institute of Social Environmental Transition, Colorado, USA.
- ◆ Nepal Water Conservation Foundation, Nepal.
- ◆ Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.
- ◆ Department for International Fund for Development, U.K
- ◆ Centre for Ecology and Hydrology ,U.K.
- ◆ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), USA.
- ◆ United Nations Development Programme, New Delhi.
- ◆ Agriculture, Man Ecology Foundation ,Bangalore.
- ◆ International Development and Research Centre (IDRC), Canada.
- ◆ Department of Agriculture, Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Last but not the least , We would also like to thank all our partner organizations, friends and well wishers who were a constant source of help and inspiration from time to time.

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GEAG- An Overview

Abbreviations

APN	: Asia Pacific Network for global change research
ASC	: Agro Service Centre
ATMA	: Agriculture Technology Management Agency
BIOFARM	: Bio Integration of Farming Activities and Resource Management
CIPMC	: Centre for Integrated Pest Management
CSOs	: Civil Society Organizations
DFID	: Department for International Fund for Development
ECOSOC	: Economic and Social Council (United Nations)
FAO	: Food and Agricultural Organization
FFS	: Farmer Field School
GEC	: Global Environment Change
GECAFS	: Global Environment Change and Food System
IGP	: Income Generation Activities
IAG	: Inter Agency Group
IDRC	: International Development Resource Centre
IIVR	: Indian Institute of Vegetable Research
IPM	: Integrated Pest Management
ITK	: Indigenous Traditional Knowledge
KIC	: Knowledge Information Centre
KVK	: Krishi Vigyan Kendra
LEISA	: Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture Activities.
LSKM	: Laghu Seemant Krishak Morcha
MIDS	: Madras International Development Society
NCCL	: National Campaign Committee on Land
NHRDF	: National Horticulture and Research Development Foundation
NOAA	: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NSC	: National Seed Corporation
NWCF	: Nepal Water Conservation Foundation
PACS	: Poorest Areas Civil Society
PRI	: Panchayati Raj Institutions
SAARC	: South Asian Association of Regional Countries
SAN-UP	: Sustainable Agriculture Network -Uttar Pradesh
UNDP	: United Nations Development Programme
UP-DASP	: Uttar Pradesh Diversified Agriculture Support Programme
UPVAN	: Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Action Group
WTO	: World Trade Organization

Influenced and acquired positive learning from various environmental movements in India and international concerns after Stockholm conference held in 1972, a small group of enthusiastic research scholars of botany department, University of Gorakhpur gave rise to a voluntary organization in 1975, now popularly known as Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group.

Initiated as a voluntary group of active youngsters, GEAG during 1970's organized various programs on environmental awareness and educational activities.

As a result, GEAG positioned itself as an agency to address the issue of sustainable livelihood through environmental and natural resource management by concentrating its efforts towards empowering marginalized section of the society. Apart from that GEAG has also been instrumental in highlighting various social and Gender related problems as a cross cutting agenda of its various interventions.

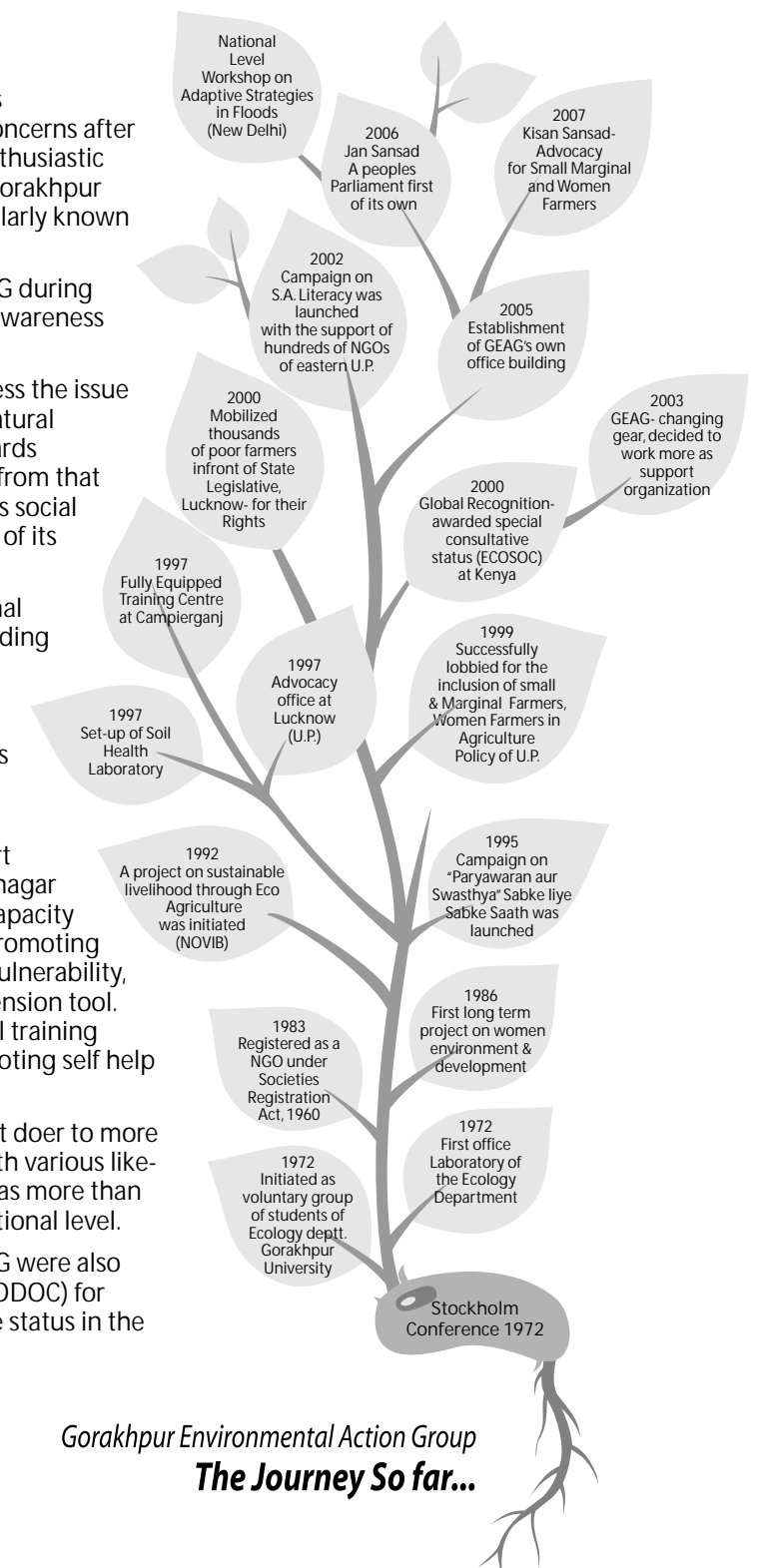
During the process, GEAG has adopted multi-dimensional strategic approach of creating knowledge, capacity building of stakeholders, policy-advocacy and interventions at various levels to reach out locally as well as nationally. The idea was to ensure participation of grass root level beneficiaries, recognizing their core values and practices into their program-planning, implementation and monitoring.

Thus, in the year 1988, GEAG through an outside support formally initiated its work in village Avadhpur of Sardarnagar Block of district Gorakhpur, the objective was to build capacity of poor people by sharing our learnt experiences and promoting their locally recognized practices so as to reduce their vulnerability, environmental pollution utilizing community as an extension tool. The common methodologies adopted were village level training programs, exposures, field based demonstrations, promoting self help groups, awareness programs, etc.

With the course of time, GEAG has shifted itself from just doer to more as a support organization. In the process, it tied itself with various like-minded formal and non-formal agencies. So far, GEAG has more than 200 partner NGO's starting from district level to International level.

Besides, the efforts, expertise and achievements of GEAG were also acknowledged by the Economic and Social Council (ECODOC) for which GEAG has been accorded the special consultative status in the year 2000.

Today, GEAG, besides establishing itself as a recognized resource centre on Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA), Participatory Development, Gender and Environment also developed itself as a sound resource organization on climate change and adaptation with special focus on floods in eastern belt of Uttar Pradesh.



Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group
The Journey So far...

Objective

To catalyze the developmental process of the region by strengthening and encouraging initiatives of marginalized section so as to address environmental concern, in particular gender specific aspects.

GEAG'S Approach

Problem Solving
Participatory Learning
Demonstration Models
Institution Building
Alternate Agriculture Information & Extension Systems
Flood Specific Initiatives
Learning linkage
Gender as a cross cutting agenda



Operational Area

Initiated in 1988, through a community based intervention in few villages of Sardar Nagar Block of Gorakhpur. GEAG has now gained tremendous acceptability as a resource organization and grew thick and fast in establishing itself at region and nation levels.

The organization has also established its identity amongst marginalized farming community and NGO fraternity through its persistent advocacy efforts, conservational ideology, gender sensitive and participatory approach. Besides, GEAG has also been effective to organize the marginalized agrarian as well as under-privileged community. Presently, GEAG is playing an instrumental role in influencing its state level SAN-UP partners towards the issues of small and marginal and women farmers in context with the climate change adaptability.

Programmes and Projects

(I) Poverty Reduction through Enhancing Livelihood Options based on Strategies of Sustainable Agriculture, Institution Building, Advocacy and Networking

Supported by Oxfam Novib, Netherland, the goal of the program is to reduce vulnerability among the target groups by increasing sustainable livelihood options for small and marginal farmers through a people centric approach by ensuring their participation in their program planning, implementation and sustainable natural resource management.

The objective of the programme is to work towards eco-friendly, gender just participatory development in agriculture and natural resource management.

The program was promoted keeping in mind the socio-economic situations and issues related to small marginal farmers and landless community by adopting the following strategies :

- ◆ Increase in income of small, marginal and women farmers.
- ◆ Increasing farm based availability of food
- ◆ Increasing on- farm production of agriculture inputs.
- ◆ Realizing Gender equity addressing practical and strategic gender needs.
- ◆ Ensuring availability of inputs and services required under sustainable agriculture development.
- ◆ Alternate agriculture information dissemination system.
- ◆ Institutions building to access and take control of the resources and protecting their rights to promote eco-friendly agro based livelihood system at the same time encouraging linkages and strengthening relationship with the relevant organizations/ groups towards long term sustainability of the institutions
- ◆ Reaching out to larger section of the society through capacitating partner NGO's and Individuals as extension agents working for the similar cause.
- ◆ Facilitating people oriented advocacy process among Government and other organizations to favour the cause of small, marginal and women farmers.

Major Highlights of the programme

- ◆ More than one lac of population have reported reduced their poverty through adoption of LEISA practices.
- ◆ Helped GEAG to develop and recognize as the only resource organization in North India on Participatory Approach and Sustainable Agriculture.
- ◆ Provided a platform and successfully advocated for the identity, rights and entitlement of the small-marginal and women farmers and landless.
- ◆ Helped poor women become active players in decision making process at various levels. Besides, the programme effectively campaigned for the identity of women as farmer.
- ◆ Helped GEAG to be recognized as a strong resource organization on climate change and adaptation with special focus on floods.
- ◆ Successfully established self governed community level institutions which can be easily replicable in other areas.
- ◆ Learning from the GEAG, the Government and other NGOs have also taken up the sustainable agriculture practices into their own programmes. Also it also helped GEAG to be recognized as the member of District level and state level agriculture advisory committee.
- ◆ The programme also enables GEAG to develop a Strong Network of more than 210 NGOs. (SAN-UP Network has been developed).
- ◆ Developed capacities of small marginal ,landless and women farmers.

(II) Sustainable and Equitous Livelihood System for Rural Poor with a focus on small, marginal and women farmers (PACS)

Supported by DFID-PACS, the project successfully completed its second year of development phase in five districts of Uttar Pradesh, viz, Mahrajganj, Barabanki, Siddharthnagar, Sitapur and Jalaun representing different agro climate situations.

The objectives of the project are as follows :

- Promotion of Eco friendly and Gender just agriculture focusing small and marginal farmers.
- To address gender specific dimensions and causes of poverty with specific focus on agro based livelihoods and expanding access to and control over natural and common resources.
- To unionize farmers and the landless and create a network of NGOs for advocacy of the interest of small land holding farmers.

Project Coverage

State	Project Coverage		No. of GPs	No. of Villages	Population Coverage	Collaborating NGOs
	District	Block				
Uttar Pradesh	Maharajganj	Ghughil	15	19	26,909	Jan Kalayan sansthan
	Barabanki	Fatehpur	15	35	35,378	Pratinidhi Samiti
	Siddharthnagar	Jogia	15	28	28,213	Gramin Mahila Rozgar Prashikshan Kendra
	Sitapur	Behta	15	19	28,450	Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group
	Jalaun	Nadigarh	15	33	25,010	Samarpan Jan Kalyan Sansthan
Total	5	5	75	134	1,43,960	4+1

Peer Learning Workshop

One of the planned activities of GEAG under the DFID-PACS programme, It is a platform where CSOs partners share their experiences for mutual learning and understanding development. This year, a workshop was conducted to sensitize the CSO partners towards advocacy for issues related to small, marginal and women farmers in particular.



Major Highlights

- 168 Self Help Farmers Interest groups formed and functioning.
- More than 2400 farmers have adopted atleast three LEISA activities
- Self Supportive and sustained Institutions.
- More than 900 Farmers benefited directly through Farmer Field Schools.
- A total of 150 Master Trainers working independently catering services to more than 5000 farmers leading to the adoption of low input sustainable agriculture livelihood practices.
- Establishment of a strong union of 7650 farmers as members.
- Development of capacities and skills of NGOs as well as communities.
- State Level Network of more than 200 NGOs (commonly known as SAN-UP) has been established and functioning smoothly.

(III) Livelihood Resilience through Agriculture Interventions in Flood Affected Areas

Supported by Oxfam Novib, the project was implemented in selected villages of district Gorakhpur, Deoria, Siddharth Nagar, Ghazipur and Bahraich with the collaboration of partner NGOs working in the region. The project is based on the following beliefs:

- 1 Since ages local communities have been developing ,testing and adopting their own practices and systems for dealing with the flood situations.
- 2 Also, facilitated by NGOs and institutions, a number of technologies and practices have been developed by local farmers in the past few years for coping with the flood situations. These practices are based on their traditional know how skills and wisdom.
- 3 These local level technologies and practices for agricultural sustainability were confined to a specific area and hence not been able to reach the larger farming communities and organizations to be utilized.
- 4 Therefore it was realized that such information should be identified, documented and shared for larger benefits, leading towards:
 - ◆ Sustainable Livelihood.
 - ◆ Enhancing capacities of NGOs.
 - ◆ Advocacy and actions to mobilize government and research institutions for agriculture sustainability in flood affected regions.

The objective of the above said program is to reduce vulnerability in flood situations by enhancing the flood related adaptation and livelihood resilience through :

- ◆ Identification, documentation and packaging of practical interventions that integrate disaster relief, rehabilitation and mitigation.
- ◆ Sharing such information with other communities, NGOs and government towards learning, adoption and advocacy.

Number of Collaborating NGOs	River basins	Number of Intervened villages
20 NGO Partners	Rapti, Rohini Ganga and Gandak	205

Major Highlights

- ◆ National level sharing workshop held in December, 2007 with regional, national and international partners at New Delhi.
- ◆ Writing workshops of partner NGOs.
- ◆ Covered more than 10,000 population (60% of which are women) in about 200 villages of 07 districts.
- ◆ Compiled and published a manual of 100 practices in hindi and 43 practices in English.
- ◆ Developed video documentation of 52 case studies.
- ◆ Conducted village level meetings and video shows covering more than 800 farmers of 14 villages.



(IV) Bio Integration of Farming Activities and Resource Management for improving livelihood quality and food security of resource poor farmers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh (BIOFARM)

Being conducted across 16 states in India, The BIOFARM Project is an all India coordinated programme catalysed and supported by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, that has been launched to evolve resource integrated farm designs appropriate for various agro-ecological regions of the country through on farm participatory action research.

Objectives of the Project

- To assess system structures and processes in bio intensive resource integrated innovative small-marginal farmers.
- To develop bio-intensive model farms and farm clusters through participatory research based on agro ecosystem principles.
- To ensure nutritional and livelihood security of model resource poor small and medium farm households.
- To explore possibilities of forward linkages and value addition at individual / collective level.

Area of Intervention

Block	Villages	Hamlets
Campierganj, Gorakhpur	Ram Chaura	Bhaiya Purwa, Barai Purwa, Alenabad
	Janakpur	Kushahawa
	Kataiya	Chhoti Kataiya

Major Strategies adopted under the project were

- Participatory farm planning
- Integration of farm sub-systems
- Formation and development of CBOs
- Addition and integration of farm elements viz livestock, poultry, fishery, vegetables etc.
- Crop rotation and Mixed cropping
- Integration of leguminous crops
- Composting : Vermi-compost, NADEP, CPP, Vermi-wash etc.
- Green manuring
- Enhanced diversity, complexity and resource flows.
- Capacity building of farmers
- Linkages with various institution



Major highlights of the BIOFARM Project

1. Increase in profit. All the 15 farmers have reported an average overall increase of 49% from their farms.
2. An increase in diversity - both crop / livestock and varietal has been observed
3. An increase in the overall family nutritional intake has been reported. More than 85 % of the linked farmers have increased their calorie intake.
4. Reduction in market dependency and input cost as a result of appropriate management of soil nutrient, energy and resources.
5. In soil, significant increase in the organic content, water holding capacity and availability of phosphorous and potassium.
6. Enterprise enhancement as well as increased labour productivity.
7. Increased stability against climatic vagaries.
8. Linkages with other institutions like bank, KVK, block etc.
9. An increase in the knowledge and capacities of farmers.

(V) Immediate Relief Response (Flood-2007)

Supported by Novib, Netherland, it was a short term relief projects came into operation as a result of seasonal flood occurred in the eastern Uttar Pradesh. The objective was to reduce the hue and cry among the community by strategic flood related response in the districts covered.

The following were the affected areas-

S.No.	District	Blocks	Villages	No. of House-holds assisted	Organizations involved
1	Gorakhpur & Maharajganj	Campierganj & Paniyara	13	2794	Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group
2	Shohratgarh	Jogia	05	351	Shohratgarh Environmental Society.
3	KushiNagar	Sewarahi	03	937	Satyagrah Sewa Samiti
4	Deoria	Barhaj	05	250	Yuwa chetna Kendra
5	Maharajganj	Ghugli	06	696	Jan Kalyan Sansthan

The above said relief program adopted the following strategies:-

1. Immediate Relief
 - Food Aid (rice, wheat flour, pulses, iodized salt)
 - Distribution of fodder for animals.
 - Temporary shelter (Plastic sheets, Bamboo, Ropes, etc.)
 - Light arrangement (Torch, Battery, candles etc.)
2. Post Flood Interventions
 - Food for work initiatives (under which repair and reconstruction of damaged roads, drainage were conducted through youth and women of the affected villages).
 - Agriculture input support (Free distribution of vegetable seeds).
 - Organizing Medical and Veterinary Health Camps (distribution of medicines).



The remarkable aspect of the whole relief process was the active participation of the community in the process of need assessment and program implementation. Last but not the least our sincere thanks to - Local level SHGs / CBOs ,Vyapar Mandals , Dawa Vikreta Sangh , Military and different Social Organizations/ Hospitals to support the relief program.

(VI) Tara Akshar Programme

Well matched to its name, the project Tara akshar is an initiative by the GEAG in collaboration with Tara Haat Ltd, to help illiterate clients visualize their dreams and facilitate them to achieve it through Tara Akshar program as one of the means. Supported by DFID-PACS, the project is being implemented in Sitapur, Siddharth Nagar and Barabanki districts of Uttar Pradesh. Its main features are as follows:

- It teaches illiterate people how to read and write.
- Applicable for both kids and adults as well as rural and urban set-up.
- Instructor does not have to be a trained teacher but is required to attend a training course run by Tara haat Ltd.
- Not an online self taught class but run in a small room.



The program has been influential in reduction of drop out rates. Susequently an increase in the average pass rates has been recorded from 70 % to 90 %. About 5000 studends are successfully accessing the program in Uttar Pradesh, Madhaya Pradesh, Bihar and Jharkhand.

(VII) Support to State Extension Programme for Extension Reforms (ATMA- Project)

Impressed with the platform created by GEAG on sustainable agriculture through out the state and after observing the positive outputs delivered by the organization during the year 2006-07, the Agriculture Extension Department of Gorakhpur again collaborated with GEAG for 07 blocks of the district namely Sardar Nagar, Campierganj, Khorabar, Chargawan, Barhalganj, Gola and Piprauli respectively to carry out their mission of Ensuring food security of the poor farmers through sustainable agriculture.

The activities conducted under the programme are as follows :-

Training of Farmer Interest Groups	Trainings	Kisan Mela	Field Days	Sharing on Rabi Crop through FFS
04 (02-Chargawan 02- Campierganj)	28	04	07 (on different activities)	10



(VIII) Global Environment Change and Food Systems

The project Global Environment change and food systems is a comprehensive and interdisciplinary research program based on understanding the interactions between food systems and the Global Environment change (GEC). The basic objectives of this pioneer project are as follows:

- To promote Asia Pacific Network (APN) region cooperation to address GEC and food security issues through integrated collaborative research closely linked to ESSP-GECAFS.
- To assess how GEC induced changes in water availability and access will affect food systems in five case studies districts across the Indo-Gangetic plains.
- To develop policy relevant decision support systems to raise awareness on GEC / Food Security issues and to help analyze socio-economic and environmental consequences of given adoption options.

Being implemented in the four SAARC countries viz- India, Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh, the basic concept behind the GECAFS programme is to understand how and why food systems are vulnerable to global environmental change so as to be used to support the development interventions to enhance the adaptive capacity of food systems in the face of current and future changes.

Following are the highlights of the reporting year :

- Documentation of case study on food security system, vulnerability and global environment change were conducted with the support of primary (Survey and PRA) and secondary data, interviews from agricultural scientists, Government functionaries, committees etc. The said case study has been appreciated at various platforms.
- A three day workshop was held at Kathmandu, Nepal, on post conducted activities and future planning. As a result, action plan were prepared which includes -
 - Publication of case studies on food systems of the area in EPW magazine.
 - Compilation of a report on decision support system.

The above said documents can be used as a strong advocacy document to influence policy makers to design appropriate policies as according to the specific region.

(IX) Adaptation and Livelihood Resilience

Supported by International Development Resource Centre (IDRC) and coordinated by ISET-International, the intervention is an action research project is presently being conducted in south-asian regions of India and Nepal in Indo-Gangetic plains. In India, the project is being conducted in the following areas:

- Tsunami affected-Coastal areas of Tamil Nadu by MIDS, Chennai.
- Flood affected coastal areas of Gujrat by Utthan.
- Flood affected eastern belt of Uttar Pradesh by Gorakhpur Environmental action Group (GEAG), Gorakhpur.

In Nepal, the project is being conducted by Nepal Water Conservation Foundation (NWCF) based at Kathmandu. The basic objective is to develop adaptive capacities against various area specific disasters as according to the climatic variability, in U.P. the project is being implemented in Laxmipur, Manoharchak and Lala barhara (Paniyara Block) and Sonatikar (Campierganj-Block) of district Gorakhpur.

Under the said program basic features of the areas (like - geographical pattern, physical features, vulnerability pattern and need identification) were taken through a baseline survey.

It was followed by the region wise preparation of action plan which consist of the following components:

- Livelihood enhancement through technical assistance and capacity building approach.
- Social capital strengthening.
- Reduction in vulnerability through generation of appropriate sustainable livelihoods as per the need of the region.
- Develop an information and communication system of early warning for the target communities/villages.
- Advocacy for the small, marginal and women farmers of the flood prone areas.
- Mitigating the loss during disasters by developing traditional adaptive capacities among the communities.



(XI) Economic Justice Campaign

The Economic Justice Campaign, rather a new version of Make Trade Fair came into existence in consonance with the economic justice framework of Oxfam International to achieve the objective of sustainable rural livelihood addressing the issues of the poor and the marginalized by working not just on trade but also on agriculture and climate.



The economic justice campaign in Uttar Pradesh

All across the globe, the campaign is being run by various organizations at national and international levels. As a matter of fact, 80% of the rural population in India is involved in agriculture which is the only source of their livelihood. The last 10 years, due to the fast paced economy, Globalization and increasing competition among the companies and the nations, lead to the negligence of both small-marginal farmers and the sustainability of agriculture.

In Uttar Pradesh, more than 75 % of the population is involved in Agriculture. Any change in policies/ practices related to agriculture does affect their livelihood.

More over, despite 60-70% of the contribution in agriculture from women, they were found to have a little say in access to and control over agricultural resources. There are lesser women who have land in their names.

Thus to safeguard the basic rights of small, marginal and women farmers and to encourage sustainable livelihoods, sustainable agriculture network (SAN-UP) of Uttar Pradesh (GEAG) Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group and Laghu Seemant Krishak Morcha (LSKM) join hands for environment building and sensitization towards policy influencing and awareness.

Major Concerns

- State and National level agricultural policy
- Industrialization (special economic zone, contract farming)
- Sustainable / Organic Farming.
- Crop Insurance and disaster relief.
- National Rural Employment Guaranteed Act.
- Land Rights.
- Recognition of women as farmer and their rights
- Capacity building based on climate change

Strategies Adopted

- Sensitizing policy makers, private bodies and voluntary organization at state level.
- Analysis/ Research/ study of agricultural and related policies.
- Designing Issue based documentation for awareness and dissemination
- Formation of Regional Steering Committee.
- Continuous dialogue with media at state level to sensitize them towards on relevant issues.
- Organizing Sustainable Agrigulture Literacy Yatras throughout the state.

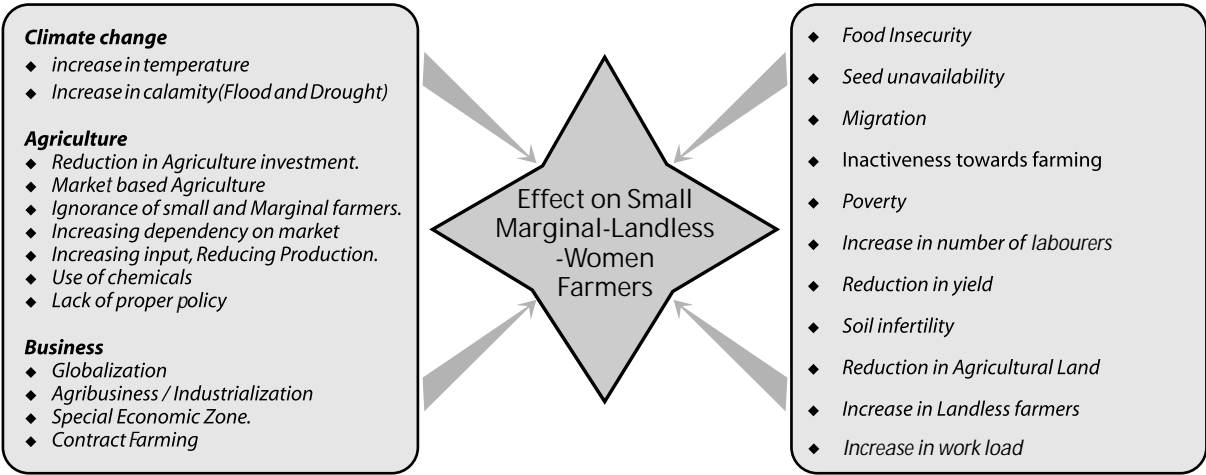


Approaches and Strategies

(I) Advocating for the Rights and Interests of Small-Marginal, Landless and Women Farmers

Even after five decades of independence, the small and marginal farmers of Uttar Pradesh constituting about 90 percent of farming community, have been ignored and are facing serious problems of food security and livelihoods. Lack of identity- especially the recognition of women as farmers, poor land management and planning policies are other major issues. Despite a plethora of legislative measures and policies nothing much has happened for the small and marginal farmers as land reforms failed to achieve minimal of the goals. Moreover, lack of an accountable, transparent, people centric development system and official laxity added fuel to the fire, leading to the suicidal deaths due to burden of loans and insecurities among the farmers.

These hapless agrarian communities are not only voiceless but also a faceless lot! Their contribution to the development of the agriculture has always been ignored. Generally, their problems are often overshadowed by the issues of the rich and big farmers. The growing concerns and emerging awareness efforts as a result of GEAG's and LS KM's initiatives have helped these marginalized farmers getting the due recognition and attention. Moreover to elaborate the paradigm shift affecting the livelihood of small and marginal farmers, various indicators have been reflected in the table below, any change in these key priorities affect the small and marginal farmers.



Further, to support the process, a state level workshop on Status of Agricultural Extension services in Uttar Pradesh in context with rights of small ,marginal and women farmers was conducted.



(II) Asserting Rights, Demanding Justice : Campaigning for Women Farmers

In Uttar Pradesh, about 72% population is involved in agricultural activities. The total male population of the state is 8.75 crore. With a total population of 7.86 crore women constitute 48.5% of the total population of the state. Women in agriculture are still considered a neglected workforce. Although, they are responsible for more than 80% agricultural activities, their share in the agricultural productivity has been only 12.9%.

Despite their hard work and key role in the entire agriculture activities, women's contribution has not yet gained due recognition and the respect they deserve. They are still considered to be a person limited to domestic work and social responsibilities. The problems of women farmers can be summarized in the following points:



- Lack of identity as farmers- Women have no identity as a farmer and hence all the policies and programmes move around a gender biased presumption that necessarily links all off and on farm activities with masculinity. That's why gender mainstreaming is conspicuously non-existent in Government sponsored agriculture extension programs.
- Legally women have no share in agriculture land so they don't inherit ancestral agriculture land
- Migration of male outside has worsened the situation at home. It has increased work loads on women who are left behind to take care of children and domestic works.
- Discrimination lies in equal wages for male and female farmers. Equity in wages is still a distant dream as women are relatively less paid for their work.
- Agriculture extension system has failed in addressing the problems of agrarian society in the state. More significantly, it has no policy or programme in reaching out to a large number of women peasants in UP.

Similar issues related to the rights and interests of women farmers have been discussed from time to time amongst the NGO fraternity. The need for immediate interventions and related priorities has emerged in such interactions, based on field realities. Based on these experiences, GEAG conceived and developed an idea for running a campaign "AAROH" to fight for the rights and interests of small and marginal women farmers. The campaign is being supported by Oxfam India, Lucknow. The campaign is operational in 50 districts of Uttar Pradesh which is being coordinated by five nodal NGOs in different geographic regions. These are:

Sr. no	Region	Name of Nodal Organization
1	Central region	People Action for National Integration (PANI), Faizabad.
2	Western region	Disha Samajik Sangathan, Saharanpur.
3	Ruhelkhand region	Vinoba Sewa Ashram, Shahjahanpur.
4	Vindhya-kaimur region	Samarpan Jan Kalyan Sansthan, Jalaun.
5	Eastern region	Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG), Gorakhpur.

- In the year 2007-2008, under the Aaroh Campaign for women, following programs were conducted to make them aware and sensitize people about the movement and women's right in particular. The said training program and workshop have been successful in achieving the goals.
- Effectively sensitized media towards their linkage with Aaroh .
 - Coverage of issues related to women farmers. A total of 46 news papers all across Uttar Pradesh covered the pivotal concerns related to women farmers.
 - Effectively sensitized NGOs and their personnel to raise women related issues in their field areas.
 - Also sensitized indirectly to the general mass through media coverage.
 - Development of field level skilled trainer of trainers (TOTs)

Besides, in all the five regions meetings were also conducted with government officials, media, panchayat representatives, advocates, bank officials, SHGs, etc, equally supported by issues based rallies which helped to scale up the major concerns of women as farmer both vertically and horizontally and proved crucial to build environment for their advocacy at various levels.

(III) Strengthening Alternate Extension Systems for Capacity Development of Small-Marginal Farmers viz a viz Agricultural Sustainability

Agriculture scenario all over the world is undergoing a rapid change. Proper and timely access to information plays a vital role in coping with the rapid pace of changes. Increased information flow has a positive effect on the agriculture sector. Agriculture is one of the prospective areas which constantly requires the updated information for the social and economic development of the Indian agrarian community. Farmers need information from different sources and often need help to integrate them.

Advice and assistance for farmers to help them improve their methods of production and marketing is conventionally called Agricultural Extension. However, agricultural extension should not be seen only in the context of increasing agricultural output. Extension is a part of overall effort to achieve a balanced social and economic development of rural areas. The basic objective of the agricultural extension system is dissemination of useful and practical information relating to agriculture activities mostly focused on improved seeds, fertilizers, farm implements, pesticides, poultry, livestock, etc.

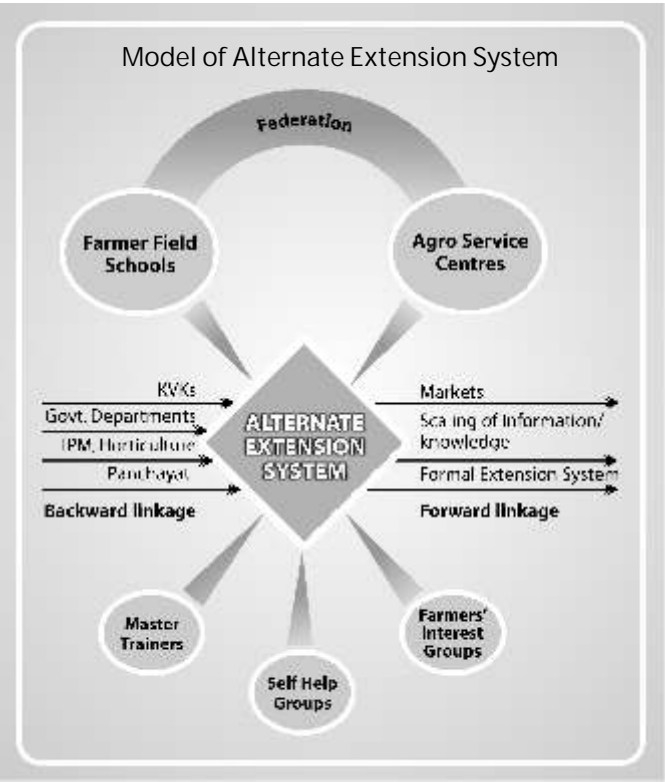
Expert advice to farmers on cropping practices, innovation technology dissemination, crop protection from pests and diseases, market trends and prices of various crops in the markets and also dissemination of information about occupational health facilities, risk covers and provisions of crop and personal insurance. As a result of the increased needs and priorities of small-marginal , landless and women farmers (who constitute more than 90 % of the farming community), the majority of farmers got neglected in such extension support mechanisms. Moreover, as per the FAO figures, women who contribute 8% towards food production receives only 2-10% of the total extension support.

In response to the felt needs of knowledge and information of small, marginal and women farmers, GEAG initiated a knowledge support system at the village level with an approach of Alternate Extension System. Each of this extension mechanism is operative for a cluster of 5-6 villages. People from other nearby villages also draw benefits out of this mechanism. It works with the following strategies:

- The system is small, marginal, landless, woman farmers friendly.
- Promotion of low external input sustainable agriculture.
- A platform for sharing agriculture related experiences among farmers.
- The system bears a problem solving approach. It starts from a practical approach and then develops into a theoretical or basic understanding.
- The system has linkages with other relevant departments and resource institutions.

The role of various institutions involved vis-a-vis progress made during the year is being summarized in the following paragraphs :

These alternate extension systems are not working merely in the 40 operational villages of Gorakhpur but has now been extended to 10 blocks in Gorakhpur district and the three agro-climatic zones which stands as a successful model today.



(a) Self Help Group

SHGs are organized groups for various activities and they are also actively linked with alternate extension system- as the direct beneficiaries. It is easier to spread the information and knowledge amongst these groups and the members are able to internally discuss the acquired skills. These groups mobilize others also in the village as `agents of change' and advocate for sustainability of agriculture as well as rights of small-marginal and women farmers.

(b) Farmers Field Schools

Farmer field school is a village based institution, a farmer friendly learning point where issues, problems and information related to agriculture can be shared to a larger group to form a common understanding. A vehicle to help small and marginal farmer to reduce input cost and effectively increase productivity by adopting new techniques. Thus effectively reduce poverty and depression. GEAG adopted the concept of FFS through learning from the F.A.O and UP-DASP model.

Details of Farmer Field School

DFID-PACS Porgamme	Sardar Nagar	Campierganj	Purvanchal Sthayee Krishi Manch (network of 10-blocks)	Three Agri- Zones	DST- Biofarm Project
15	06	06	12	11	01

The various problem shared in the FFS during 2007-08 are as following :

Block/Areas	No. of FFS	No. of Problems raised	No. of Problems shared	No. of Participants	
				Male	Female
Campierganj	6	587	587	565	1111
Sardarnagar	6	884	884	474	1258
10 Blocks	12	1347	1311	2740	1597
3 Agri Zones	11	1902	1641	2749	1728
Total	35	4702	4423	6528	5694

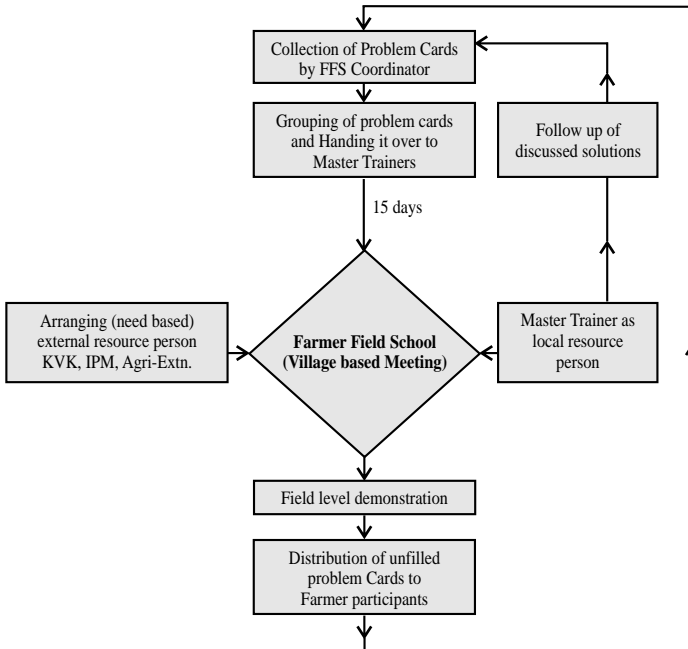
The FFS offers farmers the opportunity to learn by sharing, by being involved in experimentation, discussion and decision making. This strengthens the role of farmers in the researcher- extensions-farmer chain viz a viz develop the sense of ownership of rural communities in technological packages and evolving new knowledge and skills.

The process of the Farmer Field school can be understood from the following diagram :

As explained above, these FFSs are generally coordinated by farmers themselves through mutual sharing exploring solutions, field testing and experimentations etc. Demo farmers and Master trainers regularly help these FFSs. However, quite often the help of outside experts are also sought who provide technical know-how to the farmers. The linked organisations are:

- Krishi Vigyan Kendra (an extension outfit of Agriculture University)
- Central Integrated Pest Management, Govt. of India
- Veterinary doctors/Hospitals
- National Seed Corporation
- Govt. Horticulture department
- Soil Conservation Department, Govt. of U.P.
- Seed corporation, etc.

Process of Farmer Field School



(c) Agro Service Centre

Problems like ever-increasing input cost in agriculture and reducing net gains, excessive use of chemical inputs and non-sustainable methods of farming are the pressing issues for small and marginal farmers. The eco-friendly inputs and solutions of problems-based on local experiences which can ensure agricultural sustainability in small land holding-are not available at conventional extension centers. The small marginal women farmers are also largely neglected in such conventional extension mechanism.

To address these problems of small marginal and women farmers, Agro Service Centers were established for timely availability of quality products consisting of appropriate agricultural Inputs and needed equipments / tools at a relatively cheaper rates / costs.

These ASCs are :

- Friendly to small-marginal and women farmers.
- Established at the village level
- Low cost and eco-friendly agricultural inputs are easily and readily available
- A centre where small agricultural-implements are available on hire.
- Centre for dissemination of knowledge and information.
- Managed and controlled by farmers
- Financially self-sustainable
- Cater the nearby villages also.

DFID-PACS program	Sardar Nagar	Campierganj	Purvanchal Sthayee Krishi Manch (network of 10-blocks)	Three Agri Zones	DST-BioFarm project
15	07	07	10	11	01

The Agro Service Centre coordinator, with the cooperation of other farmers carries out seasonal need assessment of various materials and inputs.

Details of Services of ASCs during 2007-08:

Details of Agri. Inputs	Utilization of Agri Inputs in Operational areas	
	40 Villages	10 Blocks
Neem cake Oil	15.5 Quintals	36 Quintals
Wheat Seed	89.16 Quintals	156 Quintals
Paddy Seed	121.22 Quintals	26 Quintals
Oil seed		82 Kg
Vegetable seed	307 Kg	130 Kg
Trychoderma	30 kg	85 Kg
Onion and Garlic Seeds	-	120 Kg
Phosphate solublising and Azotobactor Culture	N.A	27.5 kg (110 packs)

Similarly, agricultural implements and equipments were also made available to farmers from the Agro Service Centers on a relatively cheaper rental rates which can support the poor farmers. The rental rates has been decided by the federation through a public consensus.

Equipments	Users in Operational Areas (No. of farmers)	
	40 Villages	10 Blocks
Irrigation Pipe	2411	541
Spray Machine	25	341
Pump set	93	203
Sprinkler	N.A	156
Land measurement tool	12	N.A

(d) Support Agents for Alternate extension Mechanism

Master Trainers

They are the trained village level personnel functioning as local level resource persons to provide direct technical support to farmers on various agricultural practices (Seed,Bio-pesticides, Composting / Others) to help interested farmers learn and adopt techniques, besides awaring community on sustainable agriculture. Prior to the FFS each Master trainer study the collected problem cards related to his/her subject matter (seed / bio-pesticide / composting /other) containing various farm based problems and prepare accordingly for the session at FFS. After the FFS the master trainer do the follow-up of the inputs told to the farmers at FFS.

A person becomes a master trainers after receiving intensive training in facilitation techniques and communication skills. They are selected by SHGs / Federations according to their background, expertise, keenness to learn and the specific needs of the area. More over, to enhance the skills of Master trainers, GEAG from time to time in collaboration with other agencies arrange capacity building programs and exposures at different levels which in-turn resulted in the following :

Most of the master trainers are being utilized under government's agriculture programs (ATMA) / other organizations.

Three of the GEAG trained master trainers of Gorakhpur are appointed as Kisan Mitra (block level government agricultural functionaries)

More and more local farmers are now accepting master trainers as their resource person on sustainable and low input agriculture, specially the women master trainer.

Helped in strengthening relationship of the FFS to various government agencies.

Presence of Master Trainers in the village ensures their all time availability and continuous interaction with the community , leading towards increased adoption of sustainable agriculture practices.

Overall picture of Master Trainers in 2007-08.

DFID-PACS program	Sardar Nagar	Campierganj	Purvanchal Sthayee Krishi Manch (network of 10-blocks)
150	08	12	30

Demonstrative Farmers

Model farmers being functional as live demos reflecting various locally and economically viable and practical techniques supporting the soil typology and physical environment.They act as a platform/ resource person and disseminates the techniques and practices through field days and farmer field school.

DFID-PACS program	Sardar Nagar	Campierganj	Purvanchal Sthayee Krishi Manch (network of 10-blocks)	Three Agri Zones	DST- Biofarm project
150	20	20	10	45	15

The demonstrative farmers have played a pivotal role in :

Accelerating the agriculture extension education system of their related farmer field schools.

Establishing a pre-set platform as live experimental sites to take up future initiatives in the form of methodologies and techniques.

Farmer Interest Groups

As the name suggest very much based on the pattern of SHGs. The basic difference is of the fact that all the members of the Farmer's interest group are involved into a common income generation activity based on agriculture and allied activities. For example- vegetable production , seed production , fishery, poultry, dairy, etc.

(IV) Federating the Process of Development Governance by the People

A village based community level institution, an apex body to federate, control and coordinate all the other institutions of the community viz, Self Help Groups, Farmer Field School, Agro Service Centre, Master Trainers and village level Morcha unit. Federations comprise of members of Institutions (elected SHG, FFS, ASC, MTs,) active members of the village, teachers, members of the PRI, etc.

The basic concept behind forming federations as community based institutions were :-

To supervise and govern the functioning of established village level institutions.

To enable the federations gradually to take over the responsibility of continuing and sustaining the interventions and processes initiated by GEAG.

It aims to enhance the leadership qualities of the community so as to make them self-sustainable.

Carrying forward its objectives of strengthening federations, GEAG in the year 2007-08 facilitated to make all the twelve Federations of Sardar nagar and Campierganj blocks self sustainable. During this year, the major thrust was facilitating the process of decision making among the federations by strengthening its committees and making them an action oriented result producing body. As a result, different committees of the federations found to be carrying out their responsibility more efficiently. They are not only monitoring the village level institutions but also guiding and supporting them whenever needed. Federations are independent bodies who takes decision regarding location of ASC and FFS, selection and utilization of master trainers, identifying and inviting outside resource persons, mobilizing resources and financial management.

Total No. of Federations	Total No. of male members	Total No. of Female members
12	30	122

Keeping in mind their sustainability each of the federations have created their own source of income. It can be income generated through common Income generation activities based on the loan given by GEAG to initiate some activity and become financially self sustained. These IGPs can be goatry, jaggery making, seed production, etc. Apart from that income generated through Agro Service Centre, donations and exposure fee also helps a lot to strengthen the federations financially.

Various Committees of federation Roles and Linkages...

Major Achievements of the federations in the year 2007-08 :

Removal of illegal possession on pond of gram sabha through pressure development on Sub-Divisional Magistrate.

Conducting need assessment on their own and successfully work towards issuance of BPL cards, employment cards and employment availability.

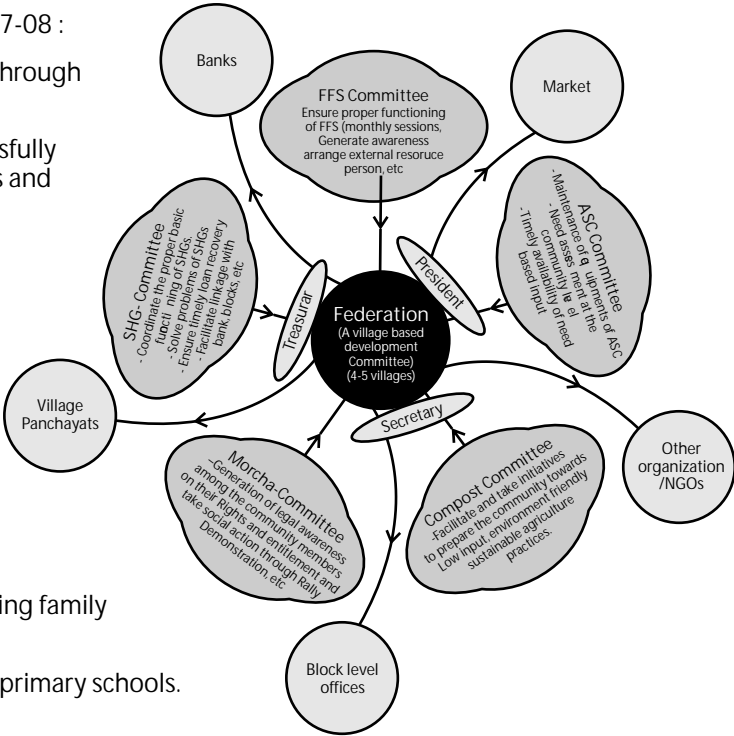
Sanitation Campaign in whole village. Besides, played active part in the construction of roads, allotments of houses and toilets under government schemes.

Vacation of trespasses from the land of poor woman through creating pressure on police officials.

Mass level movement against distillery creating pollution. Also successfully compensated towards crop damages caused by the effluent of saraiya distillery at sardar nagar.

Saved two marriages from separation through contacting family court.

Ensured quality and proper supply of Mid-Day Meal in primary schools.



(v) Scaling-up of Farm system Model and Alternate Agriculture Extension System in Uttar Pradesh

(a) Engineering Purvanchal Sthayee Krishee Manch (Success Story of 10 -New Blocks)

In order to scale-up its micro and macro learning of its older two blocks (Sardar Nagar and Campierganj) of district Gorakhpr, GEAG has initiated and promoting its interventions from the past three years in ten new blocks of Gorakhpur, through a network of NGOs known as Purvanchal Sthayee Krishi Manch (PSKM) as well as in three Agri Zones of U.P namely Bundelkhand, Ruhel Khand and Vindhya Regions. The objectives of the intervention are as follows :



- To promote Eco-friendly, low input Sustainable Agriculture techniques in Gorakhpur district as well as in three agricultural zones of U.P.
- To uplift the small-marginal farmers and women farmers.
- To reduce poverty and ensure food availability (at least two meals a day)
- To establish a platform at the district and zonal level where issues of small and marginal farmers can be addressed upon strategically.

The major institutions being functional are Farmer Field Schools, Agro Service Centres and Master trainers. Compared to the older blocks, the model farmers of new areas have just started developing their experimental sites to assist the learning related to Farmer Field Schools.

FFSs during 2007-08

S.N.	Names of the Block	No of FFS	Nos. of problems raised	No. of problems solved	No of Participants	
					Female	Male
1	Brahmpura	1	127	124	150	210
2	Barhalganj	1	218	214	131	326
3	Jangle Kauriya	1	85	81	111	219
4	Bhathat	2	250	248	201	463
5	Pipraich	1	84	82	85	252
6	Uruwa	1	69	66	133	275
7	Pali	1	178	175	70	309
8	Piprauli	1	122	118	76	372
9	Chergawan	2	84	75	484	54
10	Khorabar	1	130	128	156	260
Total		12	1347	1311	1597	2740

Because of the success of existing farmer field schools, other farmers are raising demands to open FFS in their areas, as a result two new farmer field schools (Bhathat and Chargawan) have been established and are functioning smoothly.

Agro Service Centers during 2007-08

Name of the Blocks	No. of ASCs	Distribution of Inputs			Equipments	Users (No. of Farmers)
		Seed	Bio fertilizers	Neem oil cake		
Khorabar, Pali, Bhathat, Chargawan, Brahmpur, Piprauli, Badhalganj, Pipraich, Kaudia, Uruwa	10	203.33 quintals	*148 kg	36 quintals	Spray Machine	341
					Irrigation Pipe	541
					Sprinkler System	156

Major Learning and Success of Intervention

The experiences and learning gained in past three years of project duration have developed capacities of partner organizations in the areas of promoting low input sustainable agriculture, community based participatory approach and other viable activities.

The adoption of sustainable and low input farming practices and agricultural based income generation activities have improved livelihood of poor small and marginal farmers.

Strong linkage and recognition of the village level institutions among the farmers, government departments and other organizations. Resultantly, seven out of 10 blocks are now linked under Government's Agriculture Extension Programme (ATMA).

The right based approach have also united and brought these poor, small and marginal farmers under a common umbrella of small and marginal farmer's union. Consequently, they have raised several issues and become successful.

Increased capacities and skills of the master trainers. As a result, three of the Master trainers of 10-New Block are appointed as Kisan Mitra, a government functionary of their block. Moreover other master trainers are also utilized on a regular basis among different organizations.

(b) Promoting Sustainable Agriculture Programme in Agro-Climatic Zones of U.P.

Similar to the pattern of the Purvanchal Sthayee Krishi Manch, the agriculture extension programme in three agro climatic zones was initiated for ensuring the sustainable livelihoods of small and marginal farmers through promoting low input eco-friendly farming practices. Also, considering the success and viability of farm system model and alternate agriculture system of our old learning sites- Sardar Nagar and Campierganj, GEAG had taken initiatives to replicate the model in collaboration with three nodal NGOs and their fifteen partner NGOs.

Objectives of the Intervention

- Adoption of sustainable agriculture and low input farming practices at farmer level through disseminating and promoting these practices.
- Reduction of agricultural cost by promoting recycling processes, bio-inputs, etc.
- Promoting efforts for maintaining soil fertility
- Reduction of poverty through increasing income and reducing agriculture cost.
- To unionize small and marginal farmers and to provide them information about government policies and schemes, to allow them get the benefits under these policies and schemes.

Target Area

In three agri-climatic zones, Farm System and Alternate Agriculture Extension System had been developed:

Sr no	Region	Nodal NGOs	Interventions
1	Ruhelkhand (Central U.P.)	Vinoba Sewa Ashram, Shahjahanpur (U.P)	Farmer Field schools, Agro Service Centres, Model Farmers, Low input farming techniques and Sustainable agriculture practices, LSKM.
2.	Bundelkhand Region (Dry land areas of south U.P)	Gramonnati Sansthan, Mahoba (U.P)	
3	Vindhya Region (South west U.P)	Gram Swarajya Samiti, Sonebhadra (U.P)	

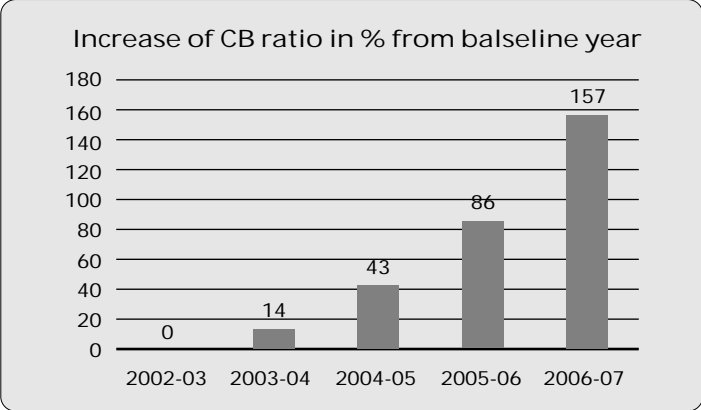
These three agri-climatic zones have their unique characteristics and situations different from GEAG's operational areas. The Vindhya region is known for tribal communities, drought, forest, industries and farmer's suicides. The Bundelkhand region is known for drought, farmer's suicides and Anna Pratha System while Ruhelkhand region is famous for its chemical pollution.

Major Learning and Achievements

- Development of capacities of the Nodal as well as their Partner NGOs on low input sustainable agriculture practices and participatory development.
- Promotion of eco-friendly low input techniques and sustainable agriculture and its extension through regional line departments and other NGOs working in the area.
- Formation of a strong network of like minded NGOs and individuals working in the regions - as actors and advocates of sustainable agriculture practices.
- Development of increased level of awareness and consciousness towards farmer's issues and rights, government policies, practices, etc.
- Change in the cropping pattern, increase in the crop intensity as well as system integration.
- Relatively decreased cases of hunger and poverty specially among the tribals due to increase in income and reduction in input cost.

(vi) Promoting Participatory And Sustainable Farm System Models

One of the GEAG's long term field interventions have brought a remarkable impact. From the last several 06 years the organization has been intensively involved in working with demonstrative farmers in 40 villages of Gorakhpur and has been disseminating the sustainable agricultural practices through farm system models. These 40 villages are learning and experimentation sites of intervention being now promoted/replicated. The development of demo farmers has been innovative efforts in itself for experimenting interventions and reflecting the changes in farming systems under sustainable agriculture approach towards, realization of GEAG's belief behind their developemnt. The promotion of sustainable agriculture and LEISA techniques were approached through participatory farm planning, strengthening recycling processes and increasing bio-diversity at the farm level. This was further enhanced with experiential learning methodology, participatory technology development wherein the farmers themselves were experimenting with their indigenous traditional knowledge and local solutions. Besides, at the farmer level, GEAG continued to adopt problem solving participatory experimentations and farm system analysis approach. Now these farmers have become mature and demonstrating holistic approach of sustainable agriculture. They act as live experimental sites for exposures, trainings and demonstrations.



In the year 2007-08, the focus was more on the research based documentation process which has been given its perfect shape to be served as a strong advocacy tool to justify that how a farmer adopting eco-friendly traditional low input techniques can improve their livelihood decently at the same time learning from it.

During the year, demo farmers were regularly interacted and mutual learning and sharing processes with different resource agencies and district level working groups were facilitated. As per the compiled research reports of the Model farmers-

- The farmers have reduced their agricultural inputs and market dependency by utilizing their own local resources adopting sustainable agricultural practices.
- Increase in food sufficiency level through out the year.
- Decrease in overall input cost while maintaining production level.
- Considerable decrease in the utilization of chemical inputs. Farmers are now using cheaper, local and ecologically sound non-chemical / organic options, produced at their level.
- Reduced dependency of farmers on the market forces by maintaining balance between their farm sub systems-farm, livestock and household.

GEAG had also undertaken the development of demonstrative farming models in three agro-ecological zones of U.P. to evolve area-specific strategies and options using locally available resources, knowledge and skill and this work continued in its full swing in the reporting year.

Livelihood Model

Working in diverse challenging situations, has enable GEAG to address the issues of poor and hapless community through promoting intervntions based on experimentation. Following below details model are result of GEAG:s innovations.

(a) Landless Model

Landless farmers have been one of the major target groups for GEAG's interventions. Landless farmers are often plagued by poverty as they have no land or poor property. They often lead their lives under depression as they do not have any sustainable sources of income.

GEAG has been always striving to make their livelihoods secure through different ways and means. GEAG has made successful efforts to link this highly, unprivileged section of the community with various programmes and activities help them to sustain their livelihoods. In this context, certain models have been developed under which the landless farmers are linked with various income generating activities, such as, buffalo rearing, goatry, duckery, poultry, vegetable production, marketing on leased land, shared cropping, working as labours, vermi-composting, petty shops, etc.

At present, there are 10 landless models operating in different villages of Campierganj and Sardarnagar. Aftern having successful results of initially developed 5 landless models, on the demand of community 5 additional models have been developed. These models are functioning effectively and are helping others to learn from them. Besides their monetary benefit, the model farmers also admitted that by undertaking such activities, their food as well as nutritional security is

also ensured. As a result of the success of their interventions, these models are being replicated by other farmers of the villages.

(b) Flood Resilience Model

Natural disasters always examine people's efficiency of living and survival and always force them to derive a strategy of their own suitable to cope up the situations. After Bangladesh, India is the second major sufferers of the flood related disasters. Eastern Uttar Pradesh is highly prone to floods causing damages to crops, property and loss of human and animal lives. As a matter of fact, one disaster cycle makes the poor more vulnerable to the next and converts a disaster into a disaster process. Since the economy of Uttar Pradesh is primarily based on agricultural produces, floods directly affect the agriculture and causes destruction of rural life. Rural communities particularly those engaged in farming activities suffer more with these situations.

The flood model is an excellent intervention to help farmers learn to mitigate their loss through interventions applying during pre flood, under flood and post flood situations. These interventions are based on sustainable agriculture, low input farming and other techniques like time and space management technique etc. Analysis says remarkable achievement in terms of mitigation of losses through interventions. So far, five flood models have been developed in different villages that are prone to flood disaster and their details of interventions are stated as under-

S.No	Block	Village	Name of Model Farmer	Interventions adopted
01	Campierganj	Thakurnagar	Shambhu Nath Sahani	Paddy cultivation, banana cultivation, duckery, vegetable production adopting Machan technique
02	Campierganj	Gerui Khurd	Sitaram Choudhry	Early variety of paddy,maize, groundnut cultivation, banana cultivation.
03	Khorabar	Jhagaha	Shiv Vachan Yadav	Vegetable cultivation, fruit trees plantation, paddy and green manure cultivation adopting mixed cropping technique.
04	Brahmpur	Tendua Khurd	Ram Bhuwan	Goatry, poultry, early and under water variety of paddy, fishry, duckkery , sugar cane cultivation, tree plantation and vegetable growing.
05	Campierganj	Thakur Nagar	Ghanshyam Gupta	Early variety of paddy, fruits, maize, vegetable growing and groundnut cultivations.



(vii) Laghu Seemant Krishak Morcha- Struggling for the Rights and Interest of Small, Marginal, Landless and Women Farmers

Registered under the Trade Union Act, 1962, Laghu Seemant Krishak Morcha (LSKM) is a credible organization representing the collective individuality of thousands of small ,marginal and women farmers. It raises various issues pertaining to small and marginal farmers as well as rural poor. A vehicle to upgrade the standards of poor farmers by fighting for their rights and entitlements.

Since ages, agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. The small and marginal farmers constitute a major group contributing agriculture but in reply their own livelihood and food security is at stake. Moreover, the fast paced economy, private players and unfriendly policies add fuel to the fire. As a result of their own experiences, the small and marginal farmers of Uttar Pradesh united to give rise to Laghu seemant Krishak Morcha (LSKM) in order to safeguard and protest their rights. Presently, LSKM is functional in 168 blocks of 50 districts under 07 zone of Uttar Pradesh. Moreover, to facilitate the smooth functioning of LSKM, GEAG along with other collaborating NGOs help Morcha from outside through research, documentation, networking, resource mobilization and support activities. GEAG also helps Morcha in developing its capacities on leadership, negotiating skills, policy influence mechanism etc. In the process special care has been taken to mobilize members become proactive citizens not only for demanding for their rights but also finding solutions to their own problems.

Morcha is now recognized in U.P. as an organization struggling for the cause of rights and interest of small-marginal-landless-women farmers. In the past one year, the membership of Morcha touched a remarkable height of more than one lac farmers.

Realizing the large number of members being added day by day and to design a system of keeping an eye even at the village level dynamics morcha takes initiatives to form and strengthen its village, block, district and state level committees. As a result, the different committees of LSKM has taken initiatives to solve various problems on their own.

(a) Morcha - At Village and Block Level

They have successfully solved various problems related to

1. Issue of job cards to all the entitled applicants followed by their involvements into jobs.
2. Widow pension, old age pension and pension for physically challenged.
3. Bank related problems. (Kisan credit cards, loans, etc)
4. Education, Problems of road, drainage, public distribution system, Mid day meals, community health related issues, etc.
5. Land Reform issues, Land Consolidation etc.
6. Women Violence/Domestic Violence

Besides, they also raised voice against the harmful and environmentally hazardous effects caused by the following towards the community :-

- ◆ Asian Fertilizers, an industry at sardar nagar.
- ◆ Saraiya Distillery at Sardar Nagar.
- ◆ Pollution of Aami river through factories.
- ◆ Raising voice against the public officials towards the lack of sincerity in flood relief activities.

(b) Morcha- At District level

- ◆ District level rally of morcha members of Gorakhpur were conducted demanding for a separate land for poor farmers residing on the Vantagia (forest land) since ages. As a result of this, as well as other initiatives, a separate land has been allotted for the people of Vantangia.
- ◆ Celebration of events and days to aware and sensitize the general mass and policy players towards the rights and entitlement of the poor and marginal farmers.



(c) Morcha At State level

Kisan Hit Adhikar Yatra :

A march for the rights of the landless, small, marginal and women farmers covered most of the parts of Uttar Pradesh. The objective was to influence the policy makers and common people regarding the issues of small and marginal farmers. A total of 05 Yatras were conducted covering more than 3000 participants.

Sate level Workshop : Organized three state level workshops of the zonal level Morcha representatives from various districts. Common agenda was-

- Zone wise identification of issues (SEZ, land acquisition, effect of MNCs on agriculture, crop insurance etc.)
- Formation of zone wise strategy to combat the identified issues.

Kisan Sansad (Farmers's Parliament)

Held at Gandhi Bhawan, Lucknow during December 22-23, 2007 under the aegis of SAN-UP, Laghu Seemant Krishak Morcha and Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group. The Objective of the Kisan Sansad was to build conducive environment through dialogues and mutual sharing with farmers to aware and sensitize the government representatives, ministers and general people on the rights and concerns of small, marginal and women farmers. The issues dealt under the program were-

- Rights of women farmers.
- Agricultural policy of Uttar Pradesh.
- Crop Insurance and Disaster Relief.



Approximately 1500 farmers and 150 NGO representatives participated in the program. Hon'ble state minister of Agriculture, Shri Choudhry Laxmi Narayan was the chief guest. The program was concluded with a Mashal rally by women farmers in the evening to sensitize others regarding the rights and issues of women farmers.



Major Achievement in year 2008:

- ? Withdrawal of Agriculture Policy (Contract farming)
- ? Govt. 's serious efforts on raised issues on Crop Insurance scheme
- ? Subsidy to small and marginal farmer on bio-manure / fertilizers
- ? Adequate efforts in implementation of NREGA in Sonebhadra district
- ? Special Care of small and marginal farmers in Govt Schemes (like Food Security mission, Kian Mitra etc.)
- ? Morcha's members in Govt Machineries (like ATMA etc.)
- ? One lakh Membership
- ? Regular highlights in Media.

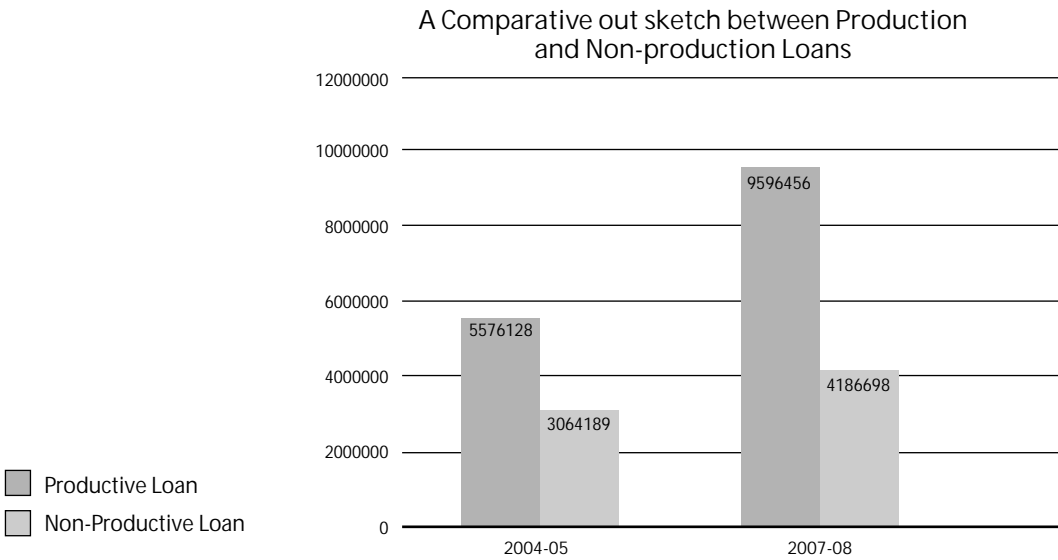
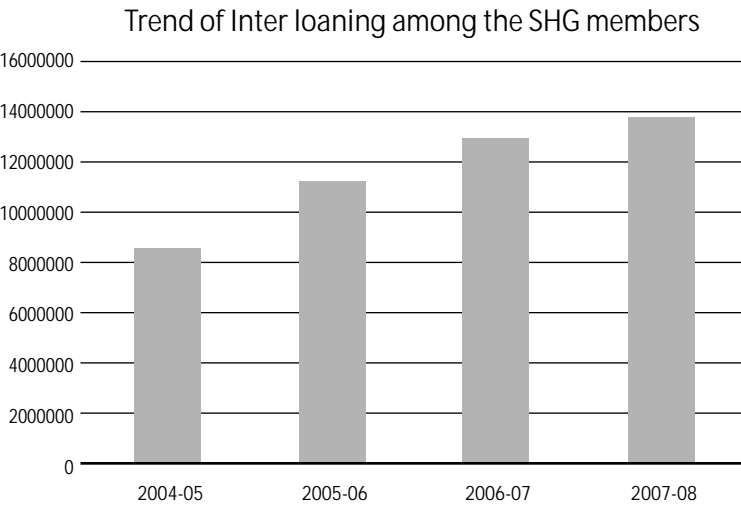
(viii) Upgrading Rural Women through Economic Empowerment

Empowerment is a well said term which reflects the authority of an individual or group to take decision regarding the access to and control over the available resources. It is the process where an individual particularly woman can take control and ownership of their lives through expansion of their choices. Thus, it is nothing but acquiring ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability has previously been denied.

GEAG's mission has always been to work for the upliftment of rural women and it strives to make them empowered in social and economic fields. To ensure that, few interventions have been taken up by GEAG as a leap forward to change the existing scenario of the rural women within the family as well as outside.

1. Strengthening the credit linkages

Credit linkages through Self Help group is one of the acclaimed strategy to mobilize women from socially and economically neglected regions of the society. They are self run community level functionaries based on mutual trust and cooperation. A crucial medium to uplift the downtrodden and under privileged sections of society particularly women. Drawing inspiration from others, GEAG also took initiatives to form and strengthen SHGs years back. Today, all 284 SHGs are functioning on its own and have played a crucial role in reducing poverty of the target group member. A feather to GEAG's cap.



2. Linking with Income Generation Programs

One of the common believes of the development sector is that if you empower a group or community economically you are empowering them socially too. Keeping this basic idea in mind and to provide the rural women a system which not only ensures the fulfillment of their basic needs but also encourage women as partners to their family issues, thus allowing them to lead a peaceful dignified life. As a result, GEAG took initiatives to make rural women self reliant through the following interventions :

Seed Production : It has been strongly believed by GEAG that seeds play a crucial role in agricultural productivity and access to seeds or household seed security is strongly related to poverty. The cost of seeds is a major input in small farming. Also, the timely availability of quality seeds to small farmers is a major problem. The delay in sowing of sub-standard quality of seeds is another problem. Moreover, on the other hand the industries are mainly interested in the hybrid crops and hybrid varieties which has become more and more a common norm in the market and hence force the farmers to buy fresh seeds from the market.

Thus, the seed self reliance is the only solution if input cost is to be reduced. The seed production process is being carried out by federations for ensuring timely availability of legitimate seeds to the farmers every year. The foundation and certified seeds are procured in bulk from agricultural universities and KVKs.



Animal Husbandry : Large number of women farmers are engaged in the animal husbandry practices generating a reasonable amount of income for their families. Besides, it also supports their farm based interventions through their by-products in the form of dung, cow urine, etc. Thus, it is supporting their families and the environment as well. Realising the need for promoting sustainable livelihood, GEAG took initiative to support the land less women farmers of sardar nagar and Campierganj through animal husbandry practices, through encouraging poor landless to reduce their vulnerability.

Bird Rearing : Bird rearing constituting mainly poultry and duckry is another common income generation activity being practiced by the farmers. Duck keeping is being practiced in the flood prone areas as ducks have special adaptivity against flood situations. A total of 62 farmers are presently involved in duck keeping. Poultry

is another useful practice helping poor farmers to earn quick money in relatively lesser investment. Moreover, it also helps in adding to the food security of the households.

Bee Keeping and Honey Production : One of the major income generating activity being carried out in campierganj block of district Gorakhpur. A total of 27 farmers of villages Shivilahiya, Ramchaura, Dharampur, Basantpur, Janakpur and Loharpurwa are involved in this activity producing a total of 3.87 quintals of honey this year. It is not only an ideal, absorbing and profitable activity benefiting the user but also affecting the community as whole. More over though cross pollination, it increases the quantitative and quantitative yield in cross pollinated crops but also serve fruitful for self pollinated crops thus helping farmers to increase productivity. Altogether 27 boxes are in practice. Because of the economic viable nature of the IGP large number of farmers have shown their willingness to start this activity.



3. Promotion of Non-Chemical Food Products

Production of Bari , Jaggery and Edible oils : Being done by SHG members of Sardar Nagar and Campierganj blocks of district Gorakhpur. The food items are disposed by Surabhi-Jaivik Khad shop managed by small and marginal farmers. During the year 2007-08, a total of 90 Kg of Bari, 231 kg of Chana besan, 53 Quintals of rice were sold out in the market. Seeing the profitability of the IGP, today more women are willing to join it.



Similarly jaggery making is another income generating activity proving fruitful for the poor farmers as jaggery has good rates in the market and is being consumed all over the years. The total production of jaggery this year was 15 Quintals. Similarly oil seed production like mustard, sunflower, seasmum (till) are other activities commonly practiced by the farmers. Besides, 232 farmers are managing their own petty shops in various pockets of old and new intervened blocks.

Vegetables Production : Vegetable production is also one of the common activity being practiced both by men and women farmers. Women not only owe the decision of what they grow but also enjoy to sell their products in the market on their own. Apart from the local haat, they also dispose off some of their products like rice, potato, onion and garlic to “Surabhi”, a district level outlet to support the poor farmers.

Surabhi An Initiative to establish linkage- producers and consumers : Surabhi is a small outlet in the vicinity of Gorakhpur city being functional from the last one year. The basic objective behind opening Surabhi is to generate awareness towards sustainable agriculture and create an alternative market at the Gorakhpur city level for the small and marginal farmers. Surabhi is supported by one of GEAG's board members who provided us space to promote this noble cause. The small outlet is managed by small and marginal farmers of the sardar nagar and campierganj. During the year following consumable and non-consumable products were sold out through Surabhi.

Edible Products: Rice, onion,potato,jaggery,honey,edible oil(sarson, til),bari,pickles, garlic,etc.

Non-Edible products : Vermi compost, Nadep compost,Cow pat pit and Green Manure, Seeds.

Important thing to notice is that these products are non-chemical and non toxic and help individuals and families towards the betterment of their health. Today, more than 300 customers are regular members of Surabhi. Thanks to Surabhi towards the promotion of a chemical free and pure environment.



Sustainable Agriculture Literacy

Sustainable Agriculture Literacy : The Need of the Hour

After Independence, driven by an increased utilization of chemicals and high yielding varieties, the green revolution period as per the government, saw an increased production of food grains alas, failed to sufficiently feed the larger section of the country, the poor. During the last 50 years, due to high cost of agriculture inputs in terms of hybrid seeds, chemicals and lesser profits well supplemented by inappropriate government policies, the sustainability of agriculture as well as food growers particularly the shared croppers, small-marginal and women farmers is at stake.

Surprisingly and shockingly, the sustainability of agriculture and livelihood of farmers have never been the agenda of discussion among government policy makers and pro-green revolutionists. Also, inadequate focus on integrated nutrient management added fuel to the fire.

The trend of agriculture growth in past six decades also rang an alarming bell. The contribution of agriculture in GDP has reduced to 25% from 57% , on the other hand annual budget has shrunked to 1.8% of the total allocation because the government perceives agriculture as a non-profitable business. In case of Uttar Pradesh, 91% of population of the small and marginal farmers is linked to agriculture as its main source of income. Despite the contribution of women farmers do 60-70% of the total agricultural activities, they are yet to be formally recognized as contributor in the agriculture systems. Demystifying the concept of sustainable agriculture into an easily understandable concepts, GEAG initiated a programme on Sustainable Agriculture Literacy under which a training kit has been developed articulating its concept and practices in connection with the farmer's day-to-day learnings.

Strengthening the Sustainable Agriculture Literacy Programme of the last year, during the year 207-08, the focus was more on the following :

- Capacity Building
- Mass Campaigning
- Adoption : follow-up
- Teachers, Students, PRIs, Govt. extension workers added in coverage.
- Scaling-up the coverage

In the five agriculture regions of the Uttar Pradesh, under the Sustainable Agriculture Literacy programme, large number of trainings and orientations were organized at different levels to aware and influence the farmers, students and village and block level government functionaries towards the urgency of the issues.

S.No	Type of Programme	Total Number of programs	Total participants
1	Orientation programs for teachers and students (upto 8 th standard)	581	29036
2	Orientation programme for PRI representatives and village Pradhans.	10	380
3	Orientation programme for Kisan Sahayak and agriculture officials.	06	162
4	05 days Training of Trainers (TOT)	01	24

Follow-up

Apart from this, after completion of trainings, a follow-up was also done by Resource persons and Master trainers to observe the changes and adoptions of Sustainable Agriculture practices and it was surprising to found school children have started making bio-pesticides and bio compost for their kitchen garden. It has been estimated that approx 40,000 population has adopted one or more of Sustainable Agriculture practices.



Materials for S.A. Literacy



Resource Centre

Within the limited resources, GEAG has been catering to the demands and needs of people and institutions in terms of providing information, skills technical knowledge through its publications, trainings and orientations. To support this, GEAG owns a fully computerized resource center. The Resource Center is enriched with around 4000 books, research papers, manuals, journals, magazines, etc. Besides, it has a huge collection of about 270 video films on different issues related to agriculture, environment, gender, participatory development, climate change and adaptation, health, etc. The resource center has been made open for researchers and users and there is good number of NGO workers, academicians, media persons and researchers donors who are visiting and using it.



1. GEAG also has a rich collection of Indigenous Technical knowledge (ITKs) which are non-chemical and tested methods of soil fertility management, integrated cropping, crop and animal diseases, its control / prevention, etc. The purpose of developing these visuals is to facilitate effective sharing with illiterate farmers. These ITK CDs have been developed to provide visual-aid for farmers learning. Besides, video documentation of case studies of flood models have also been done as a training tool for flood related adaptive capacities.

Website and E-group

GEAG's own website www.geagindia.org was updated with latest information regarding its programs and ongoing activities, publication, documentation, etc. The website was accessed by more than 5000 visitors during the reporting year.

An e-group by the name of Agri-Concern continued to be an effective platform for sharing of information, news, articles, etc., related to sustainable agriculture and rights of small-farmers. The group has been increasingly gaining popularity as the members keep on interacting continuously on various agricultural related issues. During the reporting year, 82 persons contributed write-ups and opinions. With the increasing acceptability of the Agriconcern, the membership has now reached upto 623. The major issues which were covered in agri-concern are :

- Bundelkhand (UP) Drought
- UP flood 2007
- Global Warming, Climate change and livelihood
- Bali climate change meet
- Farmers Loan Waiver
- Uttar Pradesh Budget Analysis
- Women Farmers and Land Rights
- Special Economic Zone

- Land Reforms efforts and central govt. efforts
- Corporate Farming and Small/Marginal Farmers
- Menthol farming and its constraints
- U.P. Govt. roll back new Agriculture Policy
- Farmers Compensation Issues
- Food Security and Trade Policy
- Farmer's Suicidal Cases and protests
- Schemes and programmes for farmers

Publications

In the reporting year, under publication activities, several publications on various issues were developed and circulated to readers. The details of publications are as under:

Vasundhara

Vasundhara is not just a magazine bearing technically justified articles but a strong source of networking and sharing ideas and experiences among agriculture scientists, experts and farmers not just at the state level but also at national level. It gives great feeling for this quarterly magazine on ecological agriculture having entered into its 17th year of existence. It has proved to be an effective medium for spreading the message of low external input sustainable agriculture in the Hindi speaking belt of India. The contents of Vasundhara have been enriched with articles from agriculture scientists, experts, etc. There are a total of 1050 members of Vasundhara.

June 2007 Farming of medicinal and aromatic plants.
 September 2007 farming of oil seeds plants.
 December 2007 Experiences and Innovations of farmers.
 March 2008 Post harvest techniques.

This year, there has been a great achievement in terms of contribution of articles by external contributors of different part of country. This shows more active involvement of readers. More than 85% contributors of Vasundhara were from outside which itself reflects an increased outreach of Vasundhara. Today, GEAG is receiving requests of individuals, organizations, government departments, scientists, etc on regular basis.

Booklets on Ecological Agriculture

Publication has been acknowledged as an important tool for awareness generation and sensitization towards environment building and social change. There is an increased recognition and reach of GEAG's publication across the hindi speaking states of U.P. Bihar, MP, Maharashtra, Delhi, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Rajsthan and Uttranchal. The circulation of publication in the year 2007-2008 were :



Booklets

Booklets were published on issues related to Animal Husbandry, Vegetable Seed Production , Farmer Field School, Agro Service centre, S.A Literacy-Aao Dharti ko Bachaen (come, save the earth), Bio- Pesticides , Ankur (reprint) etc.

Folders : Folders on Self Help Group, Kisan Sansad, Adhikar Yatra (PACS) and Agricultural techniques (Vermi Compost, Nadep ,Cow pat pit and Green Manure) .

Posters : Posters Named Duniya gol Hai, Ab Kahna Mat, and rights of women farmer and Hum Ek Hain. 1000 copies of each were published.

Hand bills : Hand bills on Trichoderma and Kisan Hit Adhikar Yatra were published.

Prayas : Bimonthly newsletter provides field experiences and real motivational stories on sustainable agriculture.

Calender : Krishi Panchaang was published. (Well recognized by Government, CSO, Media etc.)

Trainings

Training has always been a core component of any development plan, we cannot achieve our goals unless we are well capacitated to do so. To support the idea of human development and enhance the capacities of the community, GEAG offers a number of project related training programmes for their staff as well as NGOs, government functionaries, financial institutions, etc. Depending on the need, there can be a local as well as outside resource person. Referring to the GEAG, highly competent and experienced resource person having excellent inter-personal skills both in hindi and english adds to the strength of GEAG as a support organization. Different participatory training methods such as case analysis, role plays, lectures ,group discussions, visual games, quiz ,etc have been utilized to make training more effective. Following are the specific area of strength of GEAG :

- Participatory Methodology.
- Gender and Development.
- Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
- Disaster related Adaptive Capacities (with special focus on floods)
- Institution Building
- Micro-planning
- Trafficking and HIV / AIDS
- Training skills and interpersonal communication
- Mother and Child Health

Exposures

A large number of NGOs, Government departments, PRI members etc, are becoming interested to visit and learn the successful adoption of LEISA practices among small and marginal farmers of the GEAG's operational areas. During the year 2007-08, large number of formal and non-formal organizations have visited GEAG to understand how LEISA practices are helping farmers to reduce their poverty at the same time contributing the environment protection. In the process the participants also learned the functioning of various village level institutions like federations, FFS, SHGs, etc.

S.No	Organization	Total No. of Male participants	Total No Female participants
1	Parmarth samaj Sevi Sansthan, Orai	08	06
2	GMRPK, Shohratgarh	15	15
3	Parmarth Samaj Sewi sansthan, Orai	27	08
4	Samarpan Jan Kalyan sansthan, Jalaoun	13	05
5	Vikalp Sewa Sansthan, Maharajganj	22	13
6	Gramin mahila Rozgar Prashikshan Kendra	18	12
7	Purvanchal gramian Sewa Samiti (PGSS), Gorakhpur	02	08

Soil Health Laboratory

A healthy mother gives rise to a healthy child. To ensure this basic phenomena in the context of sustainable agriculture, the mother soil has to be taken care of. It is the first and foremost ecosystem which needs to be dealt carefully. Thus, realizing the importance of maintaining good soil health, a soil health laboratory was established for soil testing and mass production of bio-inputs such as blue green algae, trichoderma , etc. All the soil samples are collected and tested in the lab. Through the soil test report organic solutions are recommended.

A brief reflection of the performance of Laboratory and poly house :

Sr. No.	Activity	Quantity/numbers
1	Testing of soil samples	300 samples
2	Production of Trichoderma	120 kg
3	Production of Blue Green Algae	120 kg
4	Poly house users	500 users

Poly house

In poly-house, several new nurseries (mainly vegetable) had been promoted in reporting year on the demand of farmers as vegetable production is emerging as major occupation. The developed nurseries include timber, fruit and vegetables (like papaya, sagaun, brinjal, chilly, cauliflower, tomato, bottle guard and bitter-guard. The techniques, such as locally available organic manure (Vermicompost, Nadep, compost, CPP, Neem oil cake, Vermi wash etc.) bio agents (Urine tobacco and garlic, Neem leaves, Trichoderma etc.) and IPM methodologies were applied. And visiting farmers always become impressed for adoption of these practices.

Experimentation Site

GEAG owns a small piece of land (1.25 acre) at Campierganj training centre which is utilized for field testing of different varieties of crops and vegetables and also to testify various techniques of cultivation. Demonstrations are also carried out on LEISA techniques as per the problems prioritized by farmers. This year in the kharif season, after green manuring of field, several new varieties of paddy crop (like golden mansuri, sambha mansuri, sona) and flood resistant varieties (like vaidehi and sudha) were introduced. Surprisingly, despite heavy rain and hailstorm their production has been found to be satisfactory. Looking at success, the farmers of the surrounding areas as well of distant areas, were impressed and demand of seed had come at their level.



Collaborative Synergies

Based on its outstanding work in the field of Sustainable Agriculture, GEAG during the process of its development developed linkages and collaborations with various agencies and individuals. It can be reflected as follows :-

At the district level

Based on the good work done by GEAG, the Deputy Director Agriculture (extension) under the ATMA program has shown keen interest and confirmed to work with GEAG even for the next session. Besides in the reporting year, several trainings, workshops and seminars were arranged by various government agriculture departments like Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Centre for Integrated Pest management, NHRDF, Horticulture Department, Veterinary department, etc in which both GEAG staff and master trainers were invited to contribute to the program.

Besides, we feel privileged when our Krishi Panchang (yearly calendar on agriculture) has been acclaimed by both national (Doordarshan) and local government agricultural officials as one of the better gifts of new year.

At the State level

GEAG has been instrumental to influence policy makers through Jan Sansad, a collaborative action of the SAN-UP partners, GEAG and Laghu Seemant Krishak Morcha. Jan Sansad is a successful joint effort towards influencing policy makers and private players for the rights and entitlement of small, marginal and women farmers. GEAG is also a core committee member of the Uttar Pradesh Voluntary Action Group (UPVAN) to look after the issues based on developmental initiatives taken by government functionaries under the 08 - Millennium Development Goals.

Besides, GEAG is also playing a pivotal role as a core committee member of Inter Agency Group (Uttar Pradesh), meant for emergency responses. This year in response to the floods and droughts in different regions, the group has organized advocacy workshops, assessment exercises and conducted several dialogues with state level government functionaries at the state level.



At the National Level

GEAG being one of the core team member of National Campaign Committee on Land (NCCL), initiated by EKTA Parishad organized a state level rally titled Sandesh Yatra in support to the basic ideology of the Ekta Parishad in context of Rights of the small and marginal farmers.

Moreover, in response to developing adaptive strategies in floods, GEAG and Winrock International India, jointly organized a workshop in New Delhi. The objective of the workshop was to explore and develop a common understanding on various flood mitigation practices, exploring links and synergies between policy environment, practices and adaptation.

Globally

GEAG is a part of South Asian collaborative action research on climate change related Adaptation in collaboration with ISET/DFID/IDRC/GECAFS/APN. GEAG in the year 2000, was

accorded a Special Consultative Status by United Nation's Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Besides, GEAG has also been recognized recently as a North India Hub for InterSard, South Asia A network to facilitate information sharing on issues of concern.



Mass Awareness Campaign

The success of any community development program depends mostly on the amount of awareness generation and sensitization created by the implementing team. It has its own role in environment building towards ensuring people's participation and advocacy towards sustainable livelihood. To ensure so, GEAG has taken following initiatives :-

SAVERA Group Literally meaning the dawn, a thrust provider, to mobilize community and establish platform for the working team. Technically a self help group belonging to Sardar Nagar block of District Gorakhpur, is a street play team and working independently for different organizations.

They were initially nurtured by GEAG for the purpose of generating awareness on sustainable agriculture and other social issues. In the year 2007-08, Savera group conducted 24 street plays on low input farming, sustainable agriculture practices, women empowerment, land rights and HIV-AIDS covering more than 3000 people.



- ♦ Agricultural Fairs - Apart from Savera, 04 agricultural fairs were organized in collaboration with Deputy Director Agriculture- Extension (ATMA) to promote low input sustainable agriculture practices covering approximately 2500 farmers.
- ♦ ITK-CD Shows : ITK-CD shows prove to be very handy in disseminating information to farmers at grass root. It is one of the tool which proves crucial in not only mobilizing people towards adoption of low input traditional farming practices but also very useful for their first hand learning by seeing.
- ♦ Wall paintings : Wall painting were also done as a long term method to mobilize people. The common issues were stopping migration, federations and its role, rights of women farmers, low input sustainable agriculture practices, etc.
- ♦ Organizing Rallies : Large number of rallies were organized under Aaroh and with the collaboration of Laghu Seemant Krishak Morcha. The common issues dealt were rights of women farmers, land rights, voice against multinationals, etc. Besides special programs in the forms of film, lectures etc were also organized on global warming and climate change issues.



Words that encouraged us...

We will use the details of GEAG's report in our programmes.

Bharat Bhushan
PANI, Ambedkarnagar, U.P.

The efforts of GEAG and partners in facilitating the recognition of women as a farmer is highly appreciated.

Amit Ghosh
Distt Magistrate, Shahjehanpur

The documentation on adaptive strategies of marginalized communities for coping climate change effects is a good learning.

Minar Pimple
Dy Director, MDGC Campaign
UN, Bangkok

Today I know that there are thousands of people who will support in my struggle to assert my rights as a farmer.

Sonmati
Farmer, Sardarnagar, Gorakhpur

GEAG's work is in 'Excellent' category in the All India Coordinated Project 'Biofarm'

Dept of Science and Technology
Govt. of India, New Delhi

The work you all are doing for the rights and problems of small farmers is exemplary. I will be willing to associate myself.

B.D. Sharma
Convener
Bharat Jan Andolan

The alternate extension system evolved by GEAG is very much appreciated. It will be good to link it with the system in the state of U.P.

Dr. Mukesh Gautam
Addl. Director- Extension
Govt. of U.P.

Project Advisory Board

To provide issue based technical support and guidance, GEAG has sought the help of eminent experts in various fields concerning ecological agriculture and sustainable development by constituting an Advisory Board comprising of the following persons:

Ms. Geeta Menon
Gender Consultant
Ms. Jill Carr Harris
Former Director, South-South Solidarity
New Delhi.
Dr. A. V. Daniel
Former Coordinator, IFOAM-Asia
Dr. Tarak Kate
Director, Dharamitra and an expert on
Rural Technology & Sustainable Agriculture
Wardha
Mr. Raju Titus
Natural Farming practitioner,
Hoshangabad
Mr. Biju Negi
Freelance journalist & documentalist
Dehradun

A separate Advisory Board has been constituted to provide technical and qualitative support to our quarterly newsletter Vasundhara. It consists of following persons:

Dr. Ajay Kumar
Sr. Agronomist,
Rajendra Agriculture University
Patna
Mr. Biju Negi,
Journalist & photo documentalist
Dehradun
Dr. K. K. Bhattacharya,
Agronomist and ecological agriculture expert
Mr. Kisan Mehta
Environmentalist
Mr. S. S. Chitwadgi
Retd. IFS & Forestry Consultant
Ms. Srilata Swaminathan
Activist and State Secretary
Rajasthan Kisan Sangathan
Dr. (Mrs.) Santosh Satya,
Centre for Rural Development and Technology,
IIT, Delhi

GEAG's Strength - The Team

Sustainable Livelihoods Programme

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Mr. Vijay Kumar Pandey	Coordinator (Agri Zone/Morcha)
2.	Dr. Seema Tripathi	Coordinator (Publication, SA Literacy)
3.	Mr. Amit Sharma	Coordinator (Advocacy/Liason, Networking)
4.	Mr. Gyaneshwar Singh	Coordinator (MIS & Administration)
5.	Dr. Alka Singh	Coordinator (Documentation)
6.	Ms. Ekta Bartariya	Coordinator (Training, Awareness)
7.	Mr. Shoeb Alam Khan	Coordinator (Institutions, 10 blocks, Liaison with Distt. Admin)
8.	Dr. Laxmi Sharma	Coordinator (Public relations, Vasundhara, Advocacy)
9.	Mr. Rais Ahmed	Lab Incharge
10.	Mr. Ravindra Tripathi	Project Officer
11.	Dr. Mamta Pandey	Project Officer
12.	Mr. Ram Niwas Singh	Project Officer
13.	Mr. Naveen Singh	Project Officer
14.	Mr. K.K. Yadav	Project Officer
15.	Ms. Karuna Srivastava	Supervisor
16.	Ms. Poonam Mishra	Supervisor
17.	Mr. Abhinesh Singh	Supervisor
18.	Ms. Pradeep Nayak	Supervisor
19.	Mr. Ram Surat	Supervisor
20.	Mr. Satyendra Tripathi	Supervisor
21.	Mr. Vinay Kumar	Supervisor

PACS

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Dr. R.K. Vishnoi	Project Manager
2.	Mr. K.K. Singh	Coordinator (Advocacy & Network)
3.	Mr. R.K. Singh	Project Officer
4.	Mr. Jitendra Dwivedi	Coordinator (MIS and Documentation)
5.	Ms. Nikhat Sultana	Computer Assistant
6.	Mr. Ramakant	Accountant
7.	Ms. Afshan Juned	Supervisor

Biofarm

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Dr. Anita Singh	Project Coordinator
2.	Mr. Raghvendra Singh	Farm Supervisor & Trainer
3.	Mr. Abhilash Srivastava	Community Coordinator

CBA

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Ms. Anju Pandey	Project Assistant

Flood Documentation

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Ms. Archana Gaur	Astt. Coordinator

Women Farmer Campaign

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Ms. Neelam Prabhat	State Coordinator
2.	Mr. Kamlakar Shukla	Regional Coordinator
3.	Mr. Shashank Srivastava	MIS and Accounts

Management & Administration

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Mr. A.P. Srivastava	Manager
2.	Mr. R.C. Srivastava	Account Officer
3.	Mr. Raj Kanti Gupta	Office Incharge
4.	Mr. Khalid Jamal	Office Assistant
5.	Ms. Shalini	Office Assistant
6.	Mr. R.R. Yadav	Accounts
7.	Ms. Ferrald Helda	Training Centre Incharge

Support Staff

S.No.	Name	Designation
1.	Mr. Rajendra Singh	Driver
2.	Mr. Nandu	Driver
3.	Mr. Nazruddin Ali	Office Volunteer
4.	Mr. Lalman	Office Volunteer