

FOOD India

FOOD India is a 35-year-old non-profit organization based in India conducting research on social development and implementing welfare programs in the field of water and sanitation, employment generation, poverty alleviation, cost effective housing, education, health, energy conservation, ICTs, institutional and capacity building for women networks.

ABOUT US

Our mission is to foster sustainable development among the poor through social development programmes by advocating participatory approach in implementing programs.

FOOD is registered under the public charitable trust act and registered with the Home Ministry of India and is one of the approved organizations for receiving foreign contribution for its activities.

We are best known for our activities in the field of water and sanitation, ICTs, cost effective housing, rural development, small and micro enterprise development especially for women. The 35 years of experience in development work and networking with local, regional and international organizations is our knowledge bank. The mainstay of our existence and our steady growth over the past 35 years has been mainly due to innovative approach and transparency with our partners.

FOOD considers empowerment and networking of the poor as its major goal and objective. Empowerment can be one of the basics that can enable groups to improve their conditions through socio-economic development programs. FOOD proposes to reach the neglected segments of urban and rural population and target them as a priority by finding our way into even remote & rural areas to identify the poorest segments of communities who are normally excluded from development processes because of their isolation, lack of assets and vulnerability.

FOOD engages the poor in capacity-building activities as a major component in the program and lay the foundation for creating local groups and organizations that can then link with other groups having common interests through federations, coalitions, networks and advance their interests to overcome their poverty.

FOOD is recognized for its role in developing new initiatives, new programs and components of programs, new approaches and new mechanisms to address development problems and issues. FOOD has been in the forefront of many innovations that have provided ideas and models replicated or adapted in other settings and situations. With its generally flexible organizational structure and characteristics - organizational independence, participatory structures and willingness to spend time on dialogue and learning - its been able to experiment on new institutional mechanisms and on different approaches that add value to projects.

FOOD possesses extensive knowledge of local conditions. Sometimes the answer is not innovation, but rather a sober consideration of the normal needs of the community with serious attention to how these needs can be sustainably served. FOOD has long-term experience in processing baseline data and information on the local economy and infrastructure, the existence of self-help organizations and the major obstacles to development.

FOOD sets precondition of active participation by the community in the development process - participation by the community not only in the implementation of programs but also in their conception, design, monitoring and evaluation. Over the years, FOOD has developed highly effective participatory processes to increase the involvement of the poor in its own development processes and analyze to act upon their situations through their own eyes. Many of the participatory tools and methodologies have gone on to be adopted by other development agencies and, increasingly by the governments.

FOOD emphasizes on benefits that go beyond the scope of the project and the issue of sustainability as a key concern.

With these distinct features FOOD is a player in the fight against poverty and hunger, in quest of opportunities for collaborative action towards substantially reducing the vulnerability of the poor.

TARGET GROUPS

Rural, semi-urban and urban slum areas.

OUR TEAM

Our staff is well qualified with international exposure in implementing social development programs. Our staff has traveled worldwide on study tours and for training on project management, community organizing and implementation of social development programs. We have international exposure in preparation of project proposals as well as implementation and monitoring/evaluation programs.

FOOD has 40 technical and non-technical permanent staff in various disciplines and about 20 volunteers. 10 of our staff have been trained by JAICA on various social development activities.

While we directly work with the people below the poverty line, we possess high tech infrastructure and capability to meet the requirements to international standards for project management, reporting and evaluation. Our staff possess expertise in providing advisory support to partner organizations and departments in the implementation of projects, perception of operational manual and identifying eligible communities, preparation of training manuals for conducting orientation and training programs through education and communication, implementing programs on turnkey basis, monitoring and evaluation of the program. Our staff is adequately exposed to various programs implemented by DFID, World Bank, UNDP, as well as Governments and NGOs from developing countries.

INFRASTRUCTURE

We have our own office building in Chennai measuring 2000 sq ft. Our office is equipped with modern office equipment with state of the art technology in office automation and communication. Our office Local Area Network (LAN) has 12 computers fully loaded with appropriate hardware, peripherals and software. We have a dedicated Internet server with high-speed data access to the Internet that is online 24 hours. We have a well-equipped library of books in printed and electronic format exclusively on appropriate technology.

AWARDS

Stockholm Challenge Award 2002 - We have been declared as one of the finalists for the Stockholm Challenge Award 2002 for our “Inter-city marketing network” project.

Development Marketplace 2001 - FOOD was selected as one of the finalists out of 2500 participants in the Development Marketplace Awards 2001 for an innovative and sustainable decentralized safe drinking water program for the urban poor built, operated and maintained through community networking.

ERICA 1999 - We are one of the 20 finalists selected out of 1400 participants worldwide and the only NGO in the Asia Pacific region to be selected for the most prestigious ERICA 1999 awards.

GK-II Best Practice - Our community networking activity has been selected as one of the 15 best practices by Global Knowledge-II (GK-II) 2000.

Stockholm Challenge Award 2000 - We have been declared as one of the finalists for the Stockholm Challenge Award 2000 for our “Remote Area Networking” project.

Golden web Award - We have won the golden web award for the year 1999.

Felicitation from Loyola College - Loyola College, one of India’s premier educational institutions, felicitated FOOD at a state-level conference in recognition of the innovative and cost-effective student community networking solutions implemented by FOOD.

PROJECTS

Our strategies in networking with government, local, regional, national and international non-profit and research & development organizations in the region and worldwide has evinced interest among other players. Some of our projects are outlined below.

Integrated Sanitation Program - FOOD in partnership with Government of Tamilnadu and World Bank has launched an Integrated Sanitation Program (ISP) to benefit those living below the poverty line in the urban slums. The program provides a package of public sanitation services under one roof. The operationalization of this program relies on the community structure for operation and maintenance. We were involved in the project design and implementation of this program in all the municipalities and corporations of Tamil Nadu. FOOD has been involved in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of this project.

Implementation of Urban Basic Services For The Poor (UBSP) in collaboration with UNICEF – FOOD in partnership with UNICEF was instrumental in the implementation of UBSP program throughout Tamil Nadu. The strategies and operational procedures developed by FOOD are still being adopted by the implementing agencies in both Government and NGO sector.

Sanitation and upkeep of bus stands and vegetable markets at Tirunelveli, Trichy and Madurai - FOOD was entrusted the responsibility of sanitation and upkeep of three bus stands and two vegetable markets in Tirunelveli District by the Tamilnadu Government, creating employment for about 150 sanitary workers. This is a part of the Government's efforts to explore the possibilities of NGO participation in operation and maintenance of public infrastructure. Our scope of work included undertaking sanitation and upkeep of the bus stand, its surroundings, pay and use toilets and the free toilet on a daily basis. FOOD provided stainless steel dust bins at focal points and monitored the dust bins to ensure that the garbage is not dumped outside. Subsequent to this FOOD was also been entrusted the responsibility of sanitation and upkeep two bus stands and vegetable market in Trichy by the Tamil Nadu Government as well as the bus stand at Madurai. The Madurai bus stand being maintained by FOOD was awarded the ISO 9001:2000 Quality Management System certification by JAS-ANZ. With the objective of upgrading the scavenging profession

vacuum cleaners. FOOD has also have provided brooms that can be used in standing position and this improves the output by 30% at the same time reduces stress and strain to the spinal cord of the sweepers. This was well received by both the sanitary workers as well as the government officials.

Disintegrating Green Manure From Plastics And Other Non-Degradable Materials Piled Up In Municipality Compost Yard - FOOD has developed a cost-effective 20 tons output capacity mobile sieving machine that could retrieve 100% of the naturally composted green garbage from the digested dumps with minimum human intervention. This machine consists of conveyers for loading the green compost into the sieving machine on a continuous basis which automatically separates the inert and other non-degradable materials and lumps from the green compost and pushes it through a duct which can either be filled directly into bags or loaded into a lorry with the help of other conveyers. This green compost can be either applied directly or further enriched through other available methods or used for producing vermi-compost by involving self help groups (SHGs). This is not only be a value-added product but also an income generating activity for hundreds of SHGs as well as unemployed youth, and it can also be a small and medium enterprise for aspiring entrepreneurs.

Hand Operated Vacuum Flush System For Public Toilets To Save Water And Reduce Effluent Handling - FOOD proposed a project for implementing a hand operated vacuum pump system attached to the closet for sucking out excreta from public toilets. The vacuum pump system helps to minimize water usage associated with flushing the toilets. At present, due to scarcity of adequate water many public toilets are not maintained properly or even abandoned. Hence the poor living in urban slums resort to open air defecation. This idea was selected as finalist in the World Bank Development Marketplace Global Competition 2003 out of more than 2,700 submissions from over 133 countries.

E-commerce for rural artisans - FOOD implemented an E-Marketers project in partnership with CAPART (Government of India). The focus of this project is on Internet E-commerce as a means to improve the economic condition of the rural artisans by marketing their products online on the Internet. Towards this end the project has established an E-commerce site to promote sale of products made by rural artisans and co-operatives.

Inter-City Marketing Network Of Women Entrepreneurs through cell phone in partnership with infoDev - This project establishes a closed group

communication network for community based women organizations to promote inter-city direct sales of products made by artisans and skilled workers. This is accomplished by providing the community based organizations (CBOs) with communications links by way of cellular phones to enable them to network for marketing their products. We have organized the existing CBOs in such a way that products made by CBOs in one city will be sent to a CBO in another city for marketing in their area.

Consultancy services to UNDP/APDIP - FOOD is a consultant to UNDP in the field of ICTs. FOOD's ICT jump team has undertaken a needs assessment mission to Andhra Pradesh on behalf of UNDP/APDIP to evaluate and advise on the statewide establishment of village information kiosks.

Evaluation of IDRC projects – FOOD has undertaken project evaluation missions for IDRC to review projects in India, Mongolia and Malaysia.

Some of the other projects undertaken by FOOD in the past include - Low-cost individual toilets for households in Tindivanam and Nellikuppam, School toilets in Villupuram, Implementation of Blood Donor Database electronic network in Sri Lanka in partnership with IDRC and LIONS International, self employment program for educated unemployed youth, vocational training program for women, rural disabled employment and training program, sustainable agricultural development program, rural housing program, village renaissance program, solar kiosks, low-cost housing, vocational training & rehabilitation of handicapped, micro enterprise development program for women, shelter upgradation program for rural poor, construction of irrigation wells for the rural poor, women micro-lending and bio-intensive gardening.

FOOD is a member of Approtech Asia, an Asian alliance for NGOs networking with its headquarters in Philippines. FOOD is also a resource organization for Asian NGOs in the field of Appropriate Technology, electronic networking, housing and allied activities. FOOD is one of the participants in the Asian NGO consultative meeting on water and sanitation organized by the international secretariat for water by PROWESS - UNDP/WORLDBANK Water and Sanitation and Approtech Asia in Manila, Philippines.

CONTACT US

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