

## NAROTTAM LALBHAI RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

### Annual Report 1999-2000

#### AGRICULTURE ;

##### Vermicompost :

Earth worms rearing is done under this activity in village called Paroya Chhapra. Beds are made in the farm where regularly cow-dung, food, water are provided to earthworms. In order to protect earthworms and their eggs beds have been covered by making a shed over them.

After a period of 3 months soil from the beds are shifted to the field where earthworms are required. Earthworms are germinated from the eggs in the soil and make the land fertile and porous. Compost manure is removed and supplied to needy farmers. Due to extensive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides in crops natural ingredients like earthworms have disappeared from the land. Now the need of earthworms has been realised by farmers and development agencies due to which vermiculture and vermiculture has been given importance in the fields.

#### HEALTH, NUTRITION, SANITATION :

##### Anganwadi Project:

Operation of 20 Anganwadis handed over by Government of Gujarat in Khedbrahma taluka of Sabarkantha district is taken care of. Care of children below 6 years of age, pregnant women and nursing mothers is taken care under this project alongwith pre primary education of children of 3-6 years of age.

Village Health Committee meetings are organised in villages; under this programme. A meeting on "Human Rights" was organised in collaboration with Legal Aid Centre, Khedbrahma, followed by a rally and handing over a memorandum to the District Collector.

Under Jeevan Raksha Yatra programme, medical check-up and talk for health awareness was organised through Anganwadi worker, PHC staff and specialist doctors in Anganwadi villages. Nutrition week was celebrated between 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 1999 during which Shri Arvindbhai Randalia from Ahmedabad was called and recipe demonstration programmes were done for women in villages.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 1999 recipe competition and healthy baby competition were arranged and prizes were distributed to first three winners of each competition. Anganwadi workers

and staff members supported pulse polio programme actively in the area. Sardar Patel Jeevan Jal Abhiyan – a campaign on water awareness was accompanied by villagers and important points on the problem of drinking water and water conservation, storage etc, were discussed with the participants.

Milk Producer's Cooperative and Service Cooperative-Rodhara were convinced to donate games worth Rs. 1000 for children.

### **LOW COST SANITARY LATRINES ;**

During the year, low cost latrines project was carried out in selected villages due to demand from people. Till October 1999 125 low cost latrines were constructed. NLRDF's name was proposed for becoming a nodal agency for the project, it was declared in late December 1999 and NLRDF became Nodal Agency for Sabarkantha and Gandhinagar districts

Since NLRDF was a nodal agency actual work was discontinued. A quick survey for enlisting voluntary agencies working in Sabarkantha and Gandhinagar Districts was carried out. A meeting of voluntary agencies in Sabarkantha and Gandhinagar districts was called at Khedbrahma and capable voluntary agencies were selected and given target for working on the project. During the year 715 latrines were constructed and reported by voluntary agencies.

Efforts were made to convince beneficiaries of Indira Awas Yojana to construct toilet in their blocks.

### **SCHOOL SANITATION PROGRAMME ;**

Primary and upper primary school in villages do not have any facility of sanitation (toilets)for students – boys and girls – as well teachers too have to go in open place. Education Department of Govt. of Gujarat worked out a programme of providing this facility in schools for girls.

Under this project, toilet blocks comprising of one latrine, two urinals and a small water storage tank were constructed in totally 11 schools of Khedbrahma taluka.

### **EDUCATION :**

#### **Balwadi :**

A balwadi is being taken care in village Kherivav provided by Social Welfare Department of Sabarkantha district. A balwadi instructor and an attendant are employed for this programme. They take care of pre primary education of 30 children; cleanliness of children and provide snacks to the children. This all is taken care within a very limited budget – In snacks gram, ground nuts, jaggery etc. nutritious edibles which are not very costly are provided..

**Swa-Shakti project:**

A project of women development and empowerment through savings and self employment from Gujarat State Women Economic Development Corporation, Gandhinagar was taken up after long exercise and thinking. Villages were selected for implementation of the project.

Project staff members were deputed for Master Trainers Training. Eight women from villages were selected and imparted through training; five of them were appointed from March 2000 and started working on forming groups in villages.

**Study on Eradication of Poverty under Gokul Gram Yojana :**

A in-depth study of people leaving below poverty line (BPL) was carried out in 30 villages of Khedbrahma and Idar taluka for eradication of poverty under Gokul Gram Yojana of Government of Gujarat.

**RURAL INDUSTRIES :**

**Bio gas Plants :**

Bio gas plants are constructed for the interested farmers who have sufficient cattle heads for viability of the plant. Village people are given required information, awareness about the benefits of bio gas plants. Beneficiaries are provided subsidy as per rules of Govt. of Gujarat.

During the year 20 bio gas plants were completed in villages of Khedbrahma and Idar talukas.

**Khadi and Polyvastra :**

Khadi-hand spun cotton yarn and polyvastra –polyester cotton yarn is hand spun on amber charkhas by women in 6 villages of Khedbrahma taluka. Weaving of cloth from this yarn on handlooms is done by weavers of Gadu village as well as weavers from villages of Limdi taluka in Surendranagar district.

In this activity during the year production of Khadi yarn was 1260 Kgs. In form of 37901 hanks and production of polyvastra yarn was 539 kgs. In form of 24640 hanks. Cloth production was 7482.62 sq.mtrs Khadi worth Rs.3,70,622.79 and Polyvastra 10436.36 sq.mtrs. worth Rs. 7,97,840 during the year. Employment was generated to 137 persons in polyvastra and to 119 in Khadi production worth Rs. 3,65,297.85 through this project.

Total sale of Khadi and Polyvastra at Ahmedabad and Khedbrahma bhandars was to the tune of Rs. 8,08,477 of Khadi and Rs. 6,28,470 of Polyvastra during the year.

**Shram Shakti Women's Industrial Cooperative :**

Women of Laxmipura have formed an Industrial Cooperative Society. In order to support this Cooperative Society, Women members of the Society are provided work of spinning Amber charkhas. The Society purchases sliver or tap (puni) from NLRDF; provides employment to members and sells yarn to NLRDF.

**Handloom Centre – Gadu :**

In this handloom centre production of Asans (sitting mats) and aasan patta as well as polyvastra cloth was done. Total woven polyvastra in this centre was 153 meters and the mats.

**Minor Forest Products Collection :**

Minor forest products are collected by tribals in operational villages and supplied to Forest Development Corporation Depot at the rates fixed by the Corporation. The products collected are honey, karanj seeds, chanothi, mahuva flowers, various other varieties of seeds, gum of babul, kher and other trees etc.

Powder from soap nuts is made and packed in packets of 500 gms each for selling.