FFID-CHETNA OCIP-FELISIMO

ANNUAL REPORT (APRIL 2020 – MARCH 2021)

PROJECT SUPPORTED BY Peace-By-Peace Foundation (PbPF, JAPAN)

A Collaborative Program Towards Supporting Smallholder Cotton Farmer Households from South Odisha and North Telangana'

Submitted to:

Peace-by-Peace Foundation

Submitted by:

Forum For Integrated Development (FFID)

Submitted on:

10th May 2021

1. PROJECT AT-A-GLANCE

Report Title	:	Peace-By-Peace Foundation (PbPF): 'A Collaborative Project for Supporting Smallholder Tribal Cotton Farming Households'
Report Type	:	Annual Report (01st April 2020 – 31st March 2021)
Submitted To	:	Peace by Peace Foundation, Japan
Submitted By	:	Forum For Integrated Development (FFID) – Grant Recipient
Beneficiary	:	13,232 Smallholder Cotton Farmers (pre-dominantly tribal) of Chetna Organic
Project Location	:	South Odisha & North Telangana
Type of Fund	:	Yearly Grant
Reason	:	(i) Transitional Support Towards Organic (ii) Education Support
Supported By	:	Peace by Peace Foundation, Japan
Reporting Date	:	10th May 2021
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2. CONTEXT

The project 'A Collaborative Project for Supporting Smallholder Tribal Cotton Farming Households 'was started in the year 2009 with the support of the Peace-by-Peace foundation, Japan in South Odisha and North Telangana by FFID-Chetna (India). The main objective of the project is to provide transitional support to the farmers to transform to Organic from Conventional farming. The project also focuses on supporting children of cotton farming households on

education through infrastructure development in schools to improve the quality of education.

The project interventions have started in 10 villages in the year 2009 and the activities were expanded to different villages after the evaluation and farmer interactions of the PBPF team.

Currently, the project is being implemented in 314 villages with a total reach out of 13232 small and marginal farming households by the end of March 2021. (See Annex-1 for project area details)

Some of the broad activities supported by PbPF for the year 2020 to 2021 are as follows.

(i) Transitional Support to Organic Cotton Farmers and
(ii) Education Support.

The impacts and the outcomes of the project are documented from the activities implemented during the year.

3. SEASONAL CONDITIONS AND CROP STATUS

The emergence of Covid-19 has created severe hardships for small farming households in both regions. With the onset of lockdown majority of the farmers have suffered financial losses due to unemployment. This situation has exerted too much pressure on the families for daily sustenance. Though the season has begun with good rains in both regions many farmers looked very disappointed as they didn't have input costs to initiate the season. Added to this the incessant rains in August and September have damaged the crop badly resulting in boll damage, flower dropping, and pest infestations such as leaf folder, mealybug. The farmers in Odisha also had to face quality issues to market their produce. Apart from this, the cotton harvest was also delayed due to severe climatic conditions making farmers wait for a longer time to encash the money.

Figure 1 Ploughing & Seed Sowing

4. STATUS OF ACTIVITIES UNDER PbP PROJECT

Chetna facilitated the transformation of 1000 farmers into organic farming during the year 2020 to 2021 by providing handholding support on organic practices. Out of the 1000 farmers, 500 farmers belong from 6 blocks of Adilabad and Asifabad districts in Telangana and 500 farmers are from 5 blocks of Kalahandi, Bolangir, and Rayagada districts. During the year 2020 to 2021, the total organic farmers have reached 13232 households from 314 villages, covering 11 blocks.

Interventions carried out by Chetna have helped the rainfed farmers to learn the organic methods to promote sustainable organic practices. The focus of the project for the year was on establishing demonstrations to generate manures, prepare botanicals to control pests, and also initiating a few livelihoods to meet the household needs. The remoteness of the villages has also invited assistance to improve the quality of education of the children of the farmers through the provision of para teachers etc.

4.1. Target Cotton Farming Households (Breakup)

Total households covered during the year 2020-2021 are as below.

State	District	Cluster	Target HHs
TELANGANA	Adilabad/Asifabad	Utnoor/Narnoor/Sirpur(U)/Kerameri/Jainoor/Asifabad	4,683
ODISHA	Kalahandi	Bhawanipatna	1,811
		Gollamunda	1,987
		Lanjigarh	1,765
	Bolangir	Kantabanji	1096
	Rayagada	Muniguda	1,890
TOTAL	**05**	**11**	**13232**

Table: 1.1

During the financial year 2012 to 2021, a total of 13232 smallholder cotton farming households from 314 villages spread across 11 blocks/mandals from 05 districts from 02 states/regions have been transformed into organic farming.

Apart from this, a total of 1000 farmers were enrolled into IC1, and farmers from IC1 have progressed into IC2 from the year 2021 to 2022.

Apart from the yearly project, an emergency project was also taken up with the support of PbPF to assist the small farming households facing severe challenges due to lock down with the emergence of Covid-19.

a) EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR MIGRANT FARMERS AFFECTED WITH COVID-19

Figure 2 Awareness Campaigns on Covid-19

Chetna was engaged in easing the hardships the migrant farmers were facing with the unprecedented situation that emerged due to Covid-19 in South Odisha and North Telangana from 25th March to 31st May 2020. Farmers who have migrated to the nearby cities to find employment after the harvest of cotton to make an additional income to support the needs of their families were stuck in places with various kinds of hardships. The lockdown announced by the Government of India has displaced many migrant families from employment creating chaos to find their destinations. Lakhs of migrant farmers who were stuck in different cities in India have struggled for transportation, food, etc.

Figure 3 Awareness Campaigns on Covid-19

The situation has made it quite evident that the migrant workers are particularly vulnerable in a situation like the COVID lockdown other than some vulnerabilities being present in normal times to most of the migrants involved in agriculture and construction labor.

OVERALL OUTREACH AND SUPPORT EXTENDED

Chetna has collected the data from the government departments and also from the migrants arriving at Bhawanipatna Railway Station by special trains arranged by the Government of India. The migrant's data was compiled and streamlined to identify the farmers from the project villages. Traditionally, a few smallholder-farming and landless families from rain-fed areas migrate to the cities for earning extra income after the completion of the harvest. The migration from the village's starts in January and ends in May. Most of the migrants come back to their villages around May to June to initiate Agri operations with the onset of monsoons. The emergence of Covid has posed unfamiliar challenges for the farming communities. To support the farming communities Chetna has taken up various activities to sensitize the farming households on the measures to be adopted to protect their families from the deadly virus.

Figure 4 Distribution of Masks and Awareness Campaigns

Chetna could reach out to 15000 families with the distribution of masks, awareness campaigns, etc., With the support of PbPF and Co-operatives. Chetna could also facilitate a direct cash transfer (DCF) program to meet the food and medicine expenditures of the migrants, who were facing severe eventualities with unemployment for more than a month. Most of the migrants had to struggle for a 1 square meal for the family as their savings have exhausted. With no hope, the migrants have left to their villages on foot covering 1000's of kilometers with families including children. Recognizing the hardships of the migrants the Government of India has arranged few trains exclusively for the migrants to reach their destinations. Chetna has provided INR.500/- to needy households to meet the food and medical expenditures after reaching the villages.

Figure 5 Awareness Campaigns on Covid-19

The table below shows the details of the migrant families under each block and the total support received by the families from Chetna. Timely support extended to these families has helped them to access food & important medicines for a week.

Block Name	Number Households Received Support	Amount Received by Each Household	Total Amount Distributed in Each Block
Bhawanipatna	88	500	44000
Golamunda	100	500	50000
Lanjighar	184	500	92000
TOTAL			186000

Table 1.2

The direct cash transfer has reached 372 households from 3 blocks. All these households could meet the expenditures of their families for up to 7 days. Timely support has helped the families to meet the food expenditure (98%) and medical expenditure (2%). The households have also received support from the government to further sustain for a few more days in these difficult times.

b) Supply of Non-GMO Cotton Seed

Figure 6 Non-GMO-Cotton Seed Distribution

Small and marginal farmers facing severe challenges in initiating the Agri season due to lack of finances to meet the input costs were supported with the provision of Non-GMO Seeds. The emergence of Covid-19 and unemployment for more than 2 months have forced the small farmers to meet the household expenditures from the little savings they have made from the earlier season. This situation has put many farmers in severe hardship, the distribution of 2000 Non-GMO Seed packets was an opportunity for the farming households to rehabilitate

Figure 7 Non-GMO-Cotton Seed Distribution

from the challenges they were facing. Losing an agri-season would increase dependency on the government as there are no alternative livelihoods in place in the communities to build resilience. Moreover, the integrity of organic farming was at stake if the farmers start sowing the GMO seeds provided by the government. Support pitched in by PbPF to access Non-GMO Seed was a timely help for the needy farmers to save the efforts of organic cultivation.

4.2. Key Components Supported under PbP

PbPF has supported broadly 2 components to implement in 314 villages during the year 2020 to 2021. The components supported are as under

A. *Transitional Support to Organic Cotton Farmers*
B. Education Support

4.2.A. Transitional Support to Organic Cotton Farmers

Farmers interested to transform into organic farming were identified and they were provided handholding support to build their capacities on implementing organic practices. During the year 1000 farmers were identified from 314 villages and they were engaged in the yearlong activities to enhance their confidence in organic farming. Handholding support and continuous monitoring of the farms by the technical teams have helped the farmers build their confidence. With the assistance provided to the 1000 new farmers and with the IC3 farmers being promoted to the next year the cumulative number of organic farmers has reached 13232.

4.2. A.1. Critical Support for Soil Fertility & Plant Protection

Measures to improve soil fertility is a prototypical need in the lands of small and marginal farmers to enhance productivity. In both areas, the farmers who depend on rains in poor soils for cultivation are facing too many challenges with the non-availability of non-GMO seeds, Incessant rains, and lack of knowledge on measures to improve soil fertility.

Figure 8 Earth Worms in Vermi Unit

Figure 9 Vermi Compost Units

During the year, Chetna facilitated in accessing 2000 non-GMO seed packets to the needy farmers, who were facing hardships to begin the Agri season for the year 2020 to 2021. The capacities of the farmers were also built with the training and exposures organized at the project level to benefit in-conversion farmers to transform into organic and also to help farmers to take up organic interventions in their farms. The farmers were also supported to establish various demonstration units to replicate the low-cost manure methods to improve soil fertility. During the year some of the packages of practices implemented to improve the livelihoods of the small and marginal farmers include promotion of cost-effective manure generation units such as Vermicompost, NADEP compost, Organic nutrients development, Bio-mass promotion, etc.

Figure 10 Bio-Mass Production for In-situ Mulching

To enhance the learnings of the farmers a Standard Organic Practices (SOP) were developed and cost-effective demonstrations were taken up to promote the soil fertility measures. During the year 30 units of Soil amendments, 06 units of Vermi-Compost, 10 units of NADEP Compost, 50 units of Organic Nutrients, and a Nursery of 30000 Bio-Mass plants along with Sun hemp production for in-situ mulching were taken up in both the regions. Farmers were also taught the preparation of bio-extracts such as Top Ten, chili Garlic Extraction, Custard Apple Leaf Extraction, Neem Seed Carnal Extraction, Neem Leaf Extraction and liquid manures such as Panchagavya, Fish Emulsion, Fruit Emulsion, Vermi-Tea, Amruth Khad, etc., to build the nutrition of the soil and

plants. The application of various manures has regenerated the soils and helped in enhancing productivity. During the year, each farmer could harvest up to 7 quintals of cotton per acre. As last year the price of cotton was good due to demand in the international market but the incessant rains have damaged the production to the large extent. Production of cotton and quality of cotton was comparatively good in the Telangana due to good climatic conditions.

Figure 11 NADEP Compost

4.2.A.2. Training & Exposure

Building capacities of the farmers are of paramount importance to Chetna to make learnings sustainable and transferable to larger farming communities. Training and exposure to the small and marginal farmers have motivated many farmers to realize the objectives. The training of trainers (ToT) model developed by Chetna has helped in reaching out to the maximum number of farmers in all the 314 villages in the project area. The training through the TOT model was organized for 100 staff and farmers in 3 phases for 6 days. All the topics in each training were covered in 2-days each. The 1st training was on Pre-season, 2nd training was on Mid-season and the 3rd training was on post-harvest training. The follow-up training was organized in 314 villages by the staff and the model farmers, who have undergone centralized training facilitated by Chetna. Apart

Figure 12 Trainings on Orgnaic Practices for Model Farmers

Figure 13 Exposure to Farmers Fields

from this Chetna has provided handholding support to all the farmers to promote timely intervention to protect the plants. Training in 3 phases has helped the farmers to carry out prophylactic treatments to control the pest in the initial stages. Demonstrations established at the farm level to produce manures/bio extracts etc. have helped the farmers to reduce the cost of cultivation. Many farmers have also learned through demonstrations and replicated the same in their farms. Most of the interventions developed for the year were based on the soil test conducted at the field level.

To gain practical experience Chetna has facilitated organizing exposure trips for 100 farmers associated with the PbP project. The participants include model farmers and the staff who have the capacities to motivate the farmers to adopt the learnings.

Figure 14 Botanical Preparations

Farmers have visited various demonstration sites at Pragathi Eco Centre, Ragapur, Madding Eco Centre, Madding, and CORCC (Chetna Organic Research & Conservation Centre) at Lanjigarh. The visits have helped the farmers to understand various methods of soil and moisture conservation methods, composting methods, Sustainable Agriculture Practices (SAP), and other allied activities.

4.2.A.3. Eco-Centers & Seed Conservation

Cost-effective, easy to adopt, and farmer-friendly demonstrations were taken up in 04 eco-centers (Pragathi, Bhawanipatna & Golamunda clusters & CORCC, Lanjigarh) to educate the small and marginal farmers. Some of the activities taken up in the eco centers include strengthening of soil and moisture conservation, seed

Figure 15 Demonstration of Multi Cropping Systems

banks, vegetable cultivation, horticulture promotion, rainwater harvesting, and a new model to increase water use efficiency was established to promote sub-surface drip system. During the year activities such as Mango orchards, development/mushroom cultivation/Animal husbandry development manure generation, etc. were taken up in the eco-centers.

Figure 16 Cotton Seed Extraction for Conservation

Under CORCC demonstration of water usage efficiency methods with a Sub-surface drip system were taken up. To protect the demonstrations and other crops fencing with barbed wire was taken up in 250 meters. Non-GMO long-staple research varieties on cotton were taken up in the center. Multi-location trials, herbarium hybrids, herbarium varieties, hirsutam hybrids and hirsutam varieties, cotton advanced generations were taken up. Exposures for model farmers, staff, and the farmer's groups were organized to understand various organic practices which are cost-effective and adaptable as per the local situation. The learnings of many farmers have improved after the visits, this is visible with the practices implemented in their farms. During the year a total of 354 Farmers have visited the eco-centers.

Figure 17 Meeting with Women's Groups on Seed Bank Management

Figure 18 Leafy Vegetable Cultivation Demonstrations

4.2. A.4. Farmer Level Eco Centre

Farmer-level eco-centers were established in 4 farms in 4 clusters in Telangana to help the farmers from surrounding villages visit the model farms to understand the practices carried out in the eco-centers. In all the eco-centers low-cost manure development units were established

to meet the soil nutrient of the farms. Demonstrations such as multi-location trials on cotton, Chetna package of practices on cotton with inter-crop, border crop, and mixed crop, trap crop, etc were carried out. Farmers from the villages and the surrounding villages visit these farms to learn the practices. The interaction held with the IC1 farmers by the model farmers has helped them to gain confidence and laid easy steps to convert into organic. Some of the other low-cost promotion units implemented in the eco centers are NADEP/Basket compost/liquid manures/animal husbandry/cotton trails /water efficiency usage, Vegetable cultivation/promotion of millets, etc.

Figure 19 Pulses Cultivation

4.2.A.5. CORCC Development

Figure 20 Installation of Sub-Surface Drip Irrigation

Part of strengthening CORCC, activities such as fencing of farms up to 250 meters to protect the demonstrations from animals, Sub-surface irrigation systems to enhance water use efficiency, animal husbandry development, promotion of Millets as an Inter-crop, multi-location seed trials in light soils, High-density planting systems were taken up. Seed multiplication of millets, red gram, green gram, black gram, sorghum, cotton varietals, vegetables such as tomato, brinjal, okra, chili, castor, cowpea were also taken up. All the seeds are conserved in the seed banks established in the eco centers to promote them further in the next year.

Figure 21 Vegetable Production with Sub-Surface Irrigation

4.2.A.6. Promotion of Diversified Cotton Farming Systems

a. Development & strengthening of seed banks

Seed banks located in the eco centers were strengthened with the facilitation of restructuring activities. Conservation and multiplication of the traditional seeds, which are on the verge of extinction were re-introduced. Seeds, which are suitable and sustainable in the soils were identified and promoted in the farmer's fields. Building awareness with village-level meetings and taking up of multiplication of local seeds in the farmer lands in the villages are motivating many farmers to re-look into the Agri-practices.

Some of the activities implemented during the year under seed multiplication and conservation are hereunder.

Sl #	Location of Seed Bank	Managed by	Activities taken up during the year
1	CORCC, Lanjigarh cluster	COFA	Apart from the multi-location cotton trial on Cotton Seed on hirsutam and harborium varieties, multiplication of millets, green gram, black gram, the red gram was taken up to conserve the local seeds. Soil and moisture conservation activities through the application, of manures, mulching, bunding, leveling, etc. were also taken up. Research on 30 MLT cultivars 2 replications, advanced generation F1to F8, seed multiplication on 08 Non-GMO Varieties was taken up. The total production of seed cotton for the year from the trials was 300 kgs of seed cotton from which 99 kg of seed was extracted and conserved for the multiplication.
			Millets were promoted as an inter-crop to enhance the food security of the farmers if cotton production fails. In each trial, 1 row of millet was introduced after 4 rows of

			cotton. The millet production for the year was 7.55 kgs.
			A new model of the irrigation system was introduced for the farmer's learnings to enhance the water use efficiency. This unit promotes sub-surface irrigation with the help of gravity.
			07 MT of Manure under NADEP compost, 4.5 MT under Vermi-compost, 02 MT under General Compost was generated during the year and was used in the farm and the rest was distributed to a farmer for Orchard Management.
			A total of 4000 litres of liquid manure / 2500 Botanical extracts were produced & used in the different crops grown in Eco Canter.
			Animal husbandry management activities such as disease management, milk production, fodder development, etc were demonstrated to the farmers.
			Installation of barbed wire was taken up to protect the eco-center from animals from the village and forest. To date, 250 meters of fencing have been installed.
2	Golamunda Cooperative	Basumatha Coop	Seed banks were strengthened by taking up repair works to the seed racks, storage systems, and flooring. Local seeds from the farmer's multiplication units were procured and conserved in the seed banks. Demonstrations on cotton trials, production of local seeds such as red gram, black gram,

			green gram, paddy, millets, and vegetables were taken up.
			A total of 15 kg of seed cotton, 33 kg of Tomato, 24 Kg of Chili, 61 Kg of Okra, and 17 Kg of Eggplant was produced and part of the produce was sold for consumption and the remaining was conserved for seed.
			10 tons of NADEP, 08 Tons of Vermicompost, and 5 tons of general compost were produced.
4	Madding Eco Centre Bawanipatna	Mathrubumi Coop	Non-GMO Cotton multi-location trials of hirsutam and herbarium varieties were taken up with 02 replications. For strengthening the soils EFYM application, Tank silt application, Liquid manure application, Vermicompost production, and application were taken up. The total Seed Cotton production during the year was 120kgs out of which the seeds extracted were 39.6 kg of seed.
			Millets as an inter-crop in cotton were demonstrated to enhance the learning of the farmers. A total of 25 kgs of millets were produced and conserved for promoting seed multiplication.
			Vegetables such as tomato 75 kg, chili 25 kg, okra 33 kg, leafy vegetables 10 kg, papaya production 100 kg were produced and marketed. From the orchard production 500 kg of mango, 25 kg of amla, 43 kg of citrus were produced and seeds of these

			were extracted and conserved in the seed banks.
			Seed multiplication and Conservation of Millets such as Ragi, Sorghum, Foxtail was taken up.
			20 MT of Vermi/04 MT of NADEP/05 MT of General compost was produced in the eco-center and was used on the farm.
			A total of 2500 liters of liquid manures & Bio extracts 1000 litres were produced and were used as nutrients for crop growth in the eco-center.
			After extracting the seed for conservation a few grains and vegetables were sold in the market to generate the income for maintaining the Coop administration.
3	Pragathi Eco-Centre, Ragapur, Sirpur (U)	Pragathi Coop	Cotton trials on 4 hirsutam varieties, 3 herbarium varieties, seed multiplication on the red gram, green gram, black gram, castor Jowhar, bio-mass were taken up. Seed banks were strengthened by taking up repairs for the racks, flooring, replacement of containers, etc. Soil conservation activities such as land leveling, bunding, mulching, EFYM, Organic Nutrients Applications were taken up.

b. Cotton with Millets as Inter-crop

Figure 22 Promotion of Millets as Inter-Crop in Cotton

Promotion of millets as an inter-crop in cotton was successful last year and the activity has been continued for the 2nd year in 200 acres. The activity has helped in ensuring food security and generating income in a short period as this is a short duration crop. As it is a short duration and small plant the cotton crop is exposed to sunlight, helping in controlling the pest and minimizing the flower drop. Millets as an inter-crop have also helped in diversification, income generation, and meeting the staple food of the tribals in the Kalahandi district. The total harvest per acre during the year was around 50-60 kgs. Apart from saving the crops for food, the surplus was sold in the markets generating an income of around INR.5500/- per family.

Figure 23 Cleaning and Drying of Millets for Storage

4.2.A.7. Promotion of Integrated Farming Systems in Organic Cotton

Integrating various farming systems is very important to build sustainable livelihoods for farming households. Chetna facilitates building the skills of small and marginal farming households to establish alternative livelihoods to ensure income generation in a lean period. Some of the livelihoods identified and build are related to farming and they all are traditional practices that have been neglected after the commercialization of agriculture. Some of the farming systems promoted during the year are as follows

Backyard Poultry

Figure 24 Backyard Poultry Promotion

Chetna facilitated the promotion of backyard poultry with 50 households. Each household was supported with 25 units of local birds which are highly nutritious and have good value in the markets. Women are provided with a proper orientation on the management of the unit and the marketing strategies to be taken up in the future. All the units have been managed successfully and the egg-laying and multiplication of the units have started in all the households. Most of the families are focusing more on the multiplication of the birds apart from consuming a few eggs to meet the nutrition requirement of the family. In midst of Covid-19, the egg price and the meat prices have skyrocketed as more and more people started consuming eggs and meat. Currently, the cost of each egg is at INR.6.00/- and Chicken is INR 550 per kg.

Backyard Kitchen Gardens

Kitchen gardens were promoted to enhance the consumption of vegetables among the communities and to generate income through the marketing of surplus vegetables. During the year A total of 50 households were selected based on the availability of space, water, and the interest of the households to showcase the model. All these families were provided with different kinds of seeds packed to initiate the kitchen gardens. Some of the vegetable grown during the year was Tomato, Chili, Okra, Eggplant, Cucumbers, Bottle guards, Ridge guards, etc. The families have raised the units successfully and made them available in the village for sale to access them within the village, instead of traveling to distant places to buy the vegetables.

Figure 25 Back Yard Kitchen Gardens

This has helped each family involved in raising the kitchen gardens to earn INR.450-550/- per month.

c. Goatary

Figure 26 Livelihood Promotion with Goatary

During the year 20 units of goatary were initiated to support the needy families with alternative livelihoods. Landless households from the villages were identified and all of them were provided with the orientation to successfully manage the Goatary unit. Apart from the support from PBP funds were mobilized from the cooperatives and 80 more units were provided to the households. The activity has been grounded successfully and the families can manage the units with care. Chetna's team is monitoring the activity closely and also organizing animal health camps to vaccinate the animals.

4.2.A.8. Incubation Support to the Farmers in Transition

Incubation support for transforming organic farming was provided for 1000 farmers for the year 2020 -2021. The identified farmers are involved in all the training to enhance their knowledge on organic packages to be followed for practicing organic farming. The technical team has provided them handholding support throughout the year with close monitoring of the farms and with timely advice to protect the crop from all the eventualities. All the farmers have followed the protocol of IC1 to be eligible for the IC2 from the next year. The internal inspection by the master farmers, who have been practicing organic for several years has been trained and entrusted to inspect to ensure that all the farmers follow the protocol. The external inspection was conducted by Control Union and reported that all the 1000 farmers progress to IC2.

Figure 27 External Inspection by CU

4.3.A.9. Soil Tests

Analysis of soil conducted with 50 samples collected from IC1 farmers show that there is a deficiency of Nitrogen, Zinc, Boron, and Sulphur. The measures to improve all these components in the soil will be taken up with various interventions from the next year. During the year interventions such as application of 4 tons of EFYM application, 600 litres of liquid nutrients application, 800 litres of botanical extraction application, inter-crop with legume-based pulses, border crops and trap crops.

Figure 28 Soil Collection for Soil Testing

4.2.B. Education Fund Support

a. *Scholarships*

Due to lockdown during the year 2020-2021, we couldn't extend support to needy students. In most cases, the Government has subsidized the education fee as the farmers have faced too many challenges to meet the financial needs due to unemployment for a longer duration. Few students studying in private institutions were able to meet their tuition fee as the total fee has been reduced.

b. School Level Competition

Due to Covid-19, we couldn't organize these activities as all the educational institutions were under lockdown.

c. Bridge Schools

The continuation of 02 number of bridge schools in Telangana State has helped the children to take the advantage of the resources due to the increase in school dropouts with the emergence of Covid-19.

The demand for the establishment of bridge schools has increased from most of the villages as the parents felt that it will help the children to be motivated to continue their education. During the year a total of 49 boys and 24 girls were enrolled in the bridge schools. All the children who have completed the school with all the Covid-19 measures are now prepared to join the regular school in the next year.

Figure 29 Bridge School in Progress

d. Providing MAAD/Para-teachers in regular school

Though the plans are distorted due to the lockdown of schools, the Para teacher's presence has helped the farming communities to overcome the covid-19 challenges with timely advice, reference of patients to the hospitals, appraising the government on the food requirements of the communities. All the 17 para teachers have also organized tuitions for the children to educate them on the syllabus for the year by that there is no gap in the knowledge as they are promoted into the next class.

Figure 30 Para Teachers Organizing Village Level Tuitions Due to Lock Down of Schools

e. Life skills development for children belonging to cotton farmer's families:

Cotton farmer's children interested in developing their skills on alternative livelihoods have been identified and they were provided with training on tailoring. During the year 60 girls have utilized the training services. In each batch, 15 girls were trained for 3 months. In total 2 batches of training were organized for the year 2020 to 2021. Certificates of completion of training were issued to the students after passing out the exams

Figure 31 Tailoring Coaching Centre

successfully. Out of these 17 students have started their enterprises at the village level and they are earning INR.2000 to 3000/- per month.

Annex-1

The following table provides the details of operational areas for the year 2019-2020:

State	Districts	Cluster	# Villages	# Farmers covered in 2019-20	# Villages having OFT farmers	# OFT certified farmers by Mar-20
Telangana (Erstwhile part of AP)	Adilabad/Asifabad	Utnoor	184	4955	178	4183
Odisha	Kalahandi	Bhawanipatna	21	1,997	21	1661
		Golamunda	19	1,993	19	1837
		Lanjigarh	19	1827	19	1690
	Bolangir	Kantabanji	20	1157	20	996
	Rayagada	Muniguda	51	3100	24	1865
TOTAL			**314**	**15029**	**281**	**12,232**