FROM THE BOARD MEMBERS DESK

Dear benevolent supporters and friends, greetings from SEEDS. We the board members of SEEDS feel much pleasure to meet you all: our beneficiaries and supporters through this media. Here is our annual report for 2015 – 2016. We hope the information on the projects implemented through this year fed through this page would give you a pleasure of reading that we anticipate. Women play a critical role in family and workspace. But their contributions are often undervalued and unrecognized. During the year, SEEDS facilitated projects related to women empowerment, agriculture, entrepreneurship, and livelihood enhancement. The agenda for action for the next five years is set with focus on Women Empowerment in all focal themes.

We earnestly request all donors and supporter to follow us on our work in the website: www.seedsgreen.org for more details and continued support.

With best wishes:

Mrs. N.NITHYASANGARY
President

Mrs. A.AMUTHA
Secretary
ORGANISATION BACKGROUND
Socio Economic and Educational Development Society (SEEDS) was promoted in 1994 by a team of young and women hailing from the bottom strata of rural society and having a clear insight into socio economic, education, health, human rights and cultural problems faced by the particularly Dalit women from downtrodden, underprivileged and marginalized segments of rural communities in Madurai, Namakkal and Trichirappalli Districts. SEEDS has registered under Tamilnadu Societies Registration Act, 27 of 1975, Registered under Foreign Contribution Regulation Act 1976 and is also registered under section 12 AA of Income Tax Act 1961. The following are mission of SEEDS:

Vision: Enhancing gender just society with self-sustained, economically independent, socially dignified and politically empowered women.

Mission: Empower women and children in all spheres of life through education, training and intervention programs along with networking of peoples’ movement for campaigning and lobbying.

OBJECTIVES
• To ensure the rights of rural marginalised farmers through promotion of organic agriculture on Vegetables and greens and establish the forum among the custodian farmers for the development of organic agriculture.
• To enhance the knowledge and skills on organic cultivation process through appropriate technologies and marketing strategies.
• To protect the abandoned women and adolescent rights and enhance their socio economic status and ensure the women and children gender equity through educational skills and knowledge.
• To ensure the rights of tribal and marginalised women and children and enhance the socio economic status through using the value addition techniques in agriculture products.
• To ensure the women’s health, water and sanitation and establish women resource centre for strengthening women’s voice.

PRESENT ACTIVITIES
• Family farming and climate change adaptation awareness program among small and marginal farmers of Thiruchirappalli and Namakkal Districts.
• Promotion of producer’s association for value addition in agriculture products among marginalized women farmer groups.
• Study on socio-economic condition and status of abandoned women & children and youths employment among marginalized communities in Trichirappalli and Namakkal Districts.
• Follow-up of sustainable health care and prevention program for adolescents & women in Thiruchirapalli regions.
• Networking programs with other like-minded NGOs and research institutions and government departments for entrepreneurships and vocational skill training programs for enhancing the rural youth employment.
• Networking and collaborations with government institutions and NGOs for the development of PwMDs and old aged persons through outreach programs.
• Promotion of organic agriculture by the way of vegetable cultivation and strengthening forum for women in agriculture.
• Promotion of Joint Liability Group (JLGs) among the youth and women farmers.
GUIDE STAR INDIA NORMS

Name & Address of Main Bankers:
Canara Bank, 310, Usilampatty Road, Thirumangalam, Madurai District. Tamilnadu, 625706.

Name & Address of the Auditor:
Mr. R. Amalajothi, KCS Associates, 10C, TB Road, Mahaboopalayam, Madurai – 625 010.

Legal status of the organization:
We are registered as a not-for-profit non-governmental organization under Tamilnadu Societies Registration Act 1975. Reg No.146/1994.
We are registered u/s 12AA of the Income Tax Act 1961 - PAN: AACAS0418F.

We are registered under section 6(1)(a)of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 1976 - FCRA Reg. No.075940438.

DISTRIBUTION OF FREE NOTE BOOKS AND EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS TO TRIBAL CHILDREN
SEEDS has taken initiatives for tribal children to eradicate school dropouts in Kolli hills. During the year SEEDS selected 100 tribal children from five schools in Kolli hills for supporting with school note books, educational materials, school bags and materials needed for hygiene among deserving tribal children, orphan and semi orphan children. Totally about 150 children benefited from these activities with the support of PALMA NAYA FOUNDATION – SPAIN. As a continuation of volunteer programme, this year we have taken an initiative for students to improve their speaking skills to the tribal children with the support of our International volunteer Mr. Alejandro from Spain. Our volunteer took classes regularly with the support of concerned school teachers, 100 Students benefited from these activities.

NURSERY RAISING PROGRAMME THROUGH 1% FTP
Sacred groves are parts of the forests and harbors diverse flora and fauna. They are protected by the local communities and usually have a significant religious connection with the protecting communities. Sacred groves are associated with temples, shrines or monasteries in the rural areas and are typically associated with the concept of a "Presiding Deity". Such grooves are found in many places in India and stand as an evidence of the traditional conservation of ecology. Hunting and logging are usually strictly prohibited within these patches of forests.

However due to modernization, increasing populations and pressure on lands, more number of sacred groves and their size reduced considerably, thus posing serious threats to the existing Bioversity, environment and nature. Kolli Hills of Eastern Ghats, Namakkal District is one of such places, losing not only the traditional values but reducing severely forest cover, thereby impacting biodiversity. At this juncture, SEEDS is taking up initiative of nursery of 10,000 saplings planted in kolli hills in schools and neighbourhood environment. We also supported local population in revitalizing traditional practices of conserving the biodiversity of trees and other plant species for the next generations.
PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL PROGRAM

We initiated a value addition programme for agriculture produces in Erumapatty block of Namakkal district. This programme is taken up for marginalized communities. As a part of the project, we adopted PRA techniques for selection of beneficiaries in 10 villages. PRI members and marginalized women were involved and finally selected 200 women from 10 villages. Based on the PRA approach, identified beneficiary for the project using following criteria;

- Beneficiaries from abandoned women, widow and deserted,
- Who are having more than two female children,
- Who are in the below poverty line in the government norms,
- Who are willing to participate and co-operate this project,
- Who are having the knowledge on value addition techniques

AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE CHANGE

With growing fragmentation and land alienation, shift in agricultural system, more usage of commercial plants and varieties with extravagant chemical and pesticide usage agriculture becomes weaken. In the year, 2015-2016, SEEDS feels the urge and need of revival of traditional agricultural practices those are organic and environmental friendly, grow native/gene varieties of seeds of minor and major millets, pulses and oil seeds to withstand climate change among farmers. SEEDS chosen to work in Namakkal district especially Erumaipatti and Sendhamangalam blocks as initial pockets for research and extension on Organic agriculture.

To make things happen, SEEDS is undertaking detailed study and analysis of farmer's perception, attitude, practice and access to resources on organic agriculture in random pockets of selected. Also SEEDS has conducted workshops/seminars and frequent meetings, village visits, interviews among the farming communities to study and sensitize issues around it. 100 farmers benefited from these workshops and seminars. The motto of the organization is to create “Parampariya Vithai Nilam”- The traditional seed lands that are organic rich and are cultivated, harvested, processed, stored and supplied with necessary mechanism of gene/native seed varieties through Parampariya Vithai Nilam Farmer’s Federation.

WOMEN’S FEDERATION AND CBO PROGRAMME

SEEDS organizes and runs federation of Women SHGs in Thirumangalam block of Madurai District, Erumapatty of Namakka District and Manapparai and Vaiyampatty block of Thiruchirapalli District, where more than 275 SHGs are promoted and are clubbed with bank linkage services for credits/loans/grants towards socio-economic upliftment. SEEDS runs these programs from its own members contributed revenues and subscriptions paid by federation members towards capacity building and training, enterprise promotional activity, literacy education, running of federation, organization of common events towards advocacy, lobbying and right promotions etc. The women in federation continue to show enthusiastic participation and joint-venture towards development under the guidance of SEEDS.

Our organization established CBO for the welfare of marginalized women and abandoned women for the development and empowerment of women. Every month representatives conducts federation meeting and discuss their issues and developments. Based on their resolution, if there is any problem arises among members, the federation solves issues with proper legal procedures. Federation members involved in project planning and project execution. Member groups of federation provide service charges to SEEDS for administration and project execution. This is leveraged as beneficiary contribution.

FAMILY FARMING PROGRAM

SEEDS will enhance family farming approach and adopt new technologies by using minor equipment for reduction of women drudgery. SEEDS will promote skills and knowledge on appropriate technology for cultivation practices and promotion of small scale joint liability groups in agriculture sector especially for women. SEEDS will ensure supplementary income from agriculture produces by using through value addition techniques. This year 15 women JLGs forms groups formed with 75 women formers.
OUTREACH PROGRAM FOR AGED WOMEN

The aged women were given life based awareness which are socio economic based in given society and their family itself. SEEDs have conducted outreach awareness programme for aged women for their welfare and acceptance of family as well as community and also to overcome hurdles. Such outreach programmes helped them to transfer traditional knowledge and associated cultural practices, health and agricultural knowledge to family members, particularly children and adolescent boys and girls. SEEDs conducted several medical camps for aged persons during this year.

About 175 aged persons benefited from these activities. SEEDs propose to establish a home for aged and have planned for microenterprises, livelihoods enhancements through traditional food preparation with value addition in agriculture products.

FORMATION OF CBOS

SEEDS established CBOs like Parampariya Vithai Nilam Vivasayeegal Forum and Collective for Abandoned women and Custodian women farmers Association in this financial year. SEEDS also planned for registering Formers producer organization in 2013 Company Act, in the next financial year. Parampariya Vithai Nilam Vivasayeegal forum concentrate on soil conservation through soil testing, promotion and conservation of SEED banks in minor and major millets and promotion of organic agriculture in vegetables and greens. And SEEDS established women collective for raising women’s voice for protecting women rights, Eradication of child marriage and para legal aid supports to affected women and ensuring women socio economic status among abandoned women and adolescent groups.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM

A 5 Days follow up training programe on Lantana Craft Furniture Making to Tribal Youths in Kolli Hills. It was conducted by our organization with the support of Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Rural Youth Development through Nehru Yuva Kendra (Namakkal District). Kolli Hills is a mountainous region located in central part of Tamil Nadu as part of the Eastern Ghats. The area has a natural beauty that contrasts with some serious ecological problems that impact all the parts of Kolli Hills, especially regarding waste management, biodiversity conservation and soil degradation. The impact of the programme is 10 youths emerged as entrepreneur in Lantana craft furniture making etc.

TRIBAL RIGHTS

With the support of NYK (Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangethan)Namakkal, created awareness on Tribal rights in particularly land rights as well as access to government schemes to their livelihoods and welfare activities. 40 tribal women got knowledge on rights. About 25 women benefited from local government such as community certificate, subsidy for agriculture scheme, subsidy from social welfare department in the scheme of gold for marriage etc.

NETWORK OF SEEDS WITH GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS AND NGOS

SEEDS, organization have promoted a close link with government departments like district Nehru Yuva Kendra Namakkal District, Block development office of Erumapatty and Kolli Hills blocks of Namakkal and other like minded Non-Governmental Organization. MSSRF has extended support for the tribal farmers through agroforestry development program at Kolli Hills in which the director of SEEDS served as a resource person for Women Empowerment, Health and Sanitation.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

SEEDS wholeheartedly thank all our donors, partners, staff team members, volunteers, local supporters, all Government Departmental officials, other Non Governmental Organization and generous support of volunteers (local and International) and other net work members.

http://guidestarindia.org/Summary.aspx?CCReg=5170
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**President**

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**Secretary**

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