




RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
 Sriperumbudhur
NEHRU YUVA KENDRA - NAMAKKAL
SOCIO ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
Jointly Organize
" SKILL TRAINING PROGRAMME ON CRAFT AND LANTANA WORKS TO TRIBAL YOUTH IN KOLLIHILLS "
 Place : Community Hall, Ariyur Puduvalavu Date : 24.11.2014 to 03.12.2014



Lantana Craft Training Program



SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY (SEEDS)

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SEEDS Newsletter

Lantana is a fast-growth bush original from South and Central America. Considered as one of the 100 more harmful invasive species in the world, it has colonized entire tropical and sub-tropical regions over the world, including India. Targeting to create a new source of income for part of the rural community in the Kolli Hills (Tamilnadu, India) and, at the same time, stop Lantana colonization, this project trained youths of tribal families in order for them to acquire the necessary skills to design and develop Lantana-made products. The program was organized alongside Nehru Yuva Kendra association of Namakkal and was kindly financed by the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development.

THE PROBLEM

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 Kolli Hills, especially regarding waste management, biodiversity conservation and soil degradation. In addition, farming practices do not report a big income to most of the families. This creates root socio - economic problems that make it very difficult for the tribal youths to access higher education or to be able to take the path of entrepreneurship.

Amongst the ecological problems, there is one particularly harmful for local biodiversity. It is caused by a highly invasive species native to the American continent called *Lantana camara*. This fast-growing bush can be seen in all the Kolli Hills along paths and roads and also in arable lands and forest areas that should be given a better use.

OUR GOALS

- ✓ Tribal youths training to empower them with the skills and resources to generate economic activity from unused natural res
- ✓ Lantana pest control promoting regular cuttings for its use in Lantana-made products.
- ✓ Increase the environmental and land resources used in the Kolli Hills.
- ✓ Introduce creativity as the key to establish economically sustainable ventures in a long term.

THE PROGRAM

The project aimed to give the opportunity to tribal youths in the Kolli Hills to create a new income source by training them with the necessary skills to craft furniture using Lantana as a feedstock.

Benefits from the project are both nature conservation through reduction of Lantana weed plants and poverty alleviation by promoting new business opportunities for the tribal community youths allowing them to make a profit from almost zero investment opportunities.

Furniture making from Lantana requires several processes. The training was scheduled in order to deliver all the necessary skills to manufacture quality products. The details are shown in table 1.

Day	Scheduled task	Coordinators
1	Inaugural Function	Mr. A.Ramachandran
2 & 3	Identification and Collection of plants	Mr. Raju & Mrs. Lakshmi
4	Boiling of the stems	
5 & 6	Sharpening and pruning of the lantana stems	
7, 8 & 9	Lantana furniture making	Mr. A.Ramachandran
10	Furniture making + Valedictory function	

CONCLUSION

The 10 days training of 25 youths concluded successfully. The future plan is to help the trainees create a small cooperative for lantana-made products. We heartfelt thanks to Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development and Nehru Yuva Kendra as without them, this project would have been impossible to carry out.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE TRAINING



அரியநாடு - புதுவையூர்
தலைநகரம்

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