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Foreword

2018-19 has been a learning year for GEAG where we made great strides in our thematic operations. Besides climate resilience in urban sector, increasing disaster events- exacerbated by climate change impacts, are a major concern due to development deficit, poor governance, resource constraints and deteriorating ecosystem services. Child-focused climate resilience was one of the unique initiatives that GEAG undertook this year. Nature-Based Solutions has been another key approach of GEAG in its research, advocacy and implementation of relevant activities in promoting disaster and climate change resilience and livelihoods of marginalized communities with our legacy of people-led actions. We have tried to undertake locally appropriate solutions with innovative approaches to address these challenges.

The interventions related to trans boundary river issues in Gandak and Kosi basins have been very helpful in mobilizing communities across the India- Nepal border to deal with climate and livelihood challenges.

The initiatives towards micro nutrient and Iron folic deficiencies has been another major area of our intervention in the states of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh- addressing children and adolescents.

The sustainability of open defecation free (ODF) intervention and solid liquid waste management has been taken on priority in pilot districts in Uttar Pradesh.

We take this opportunity to profusely thank our donors and support providers, networking and collaborating partners, Executive Board, GEAG Team, media and well-wishers for their continued support and encouragement.



Dr. Shiraz A. Wajih President

Abbreviations

ADDDO	Additional District Danahaust Dai Office
ADPRO	Additional District Panchayat Raj Officer
AFP	Acute Flaccid Paralysis
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
ASC	Agro Service Centre
ASHA	Accredited Social Health Activist
AWW	Anganwadi Worker
BCC	Behaviour Change Communication
BSDMA	Bihar State Disaster Management Authority
CBDRR	Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction
СВО	Community Based Organization
CDO	Chief Development Officer
CMC	Community Mobilisation Coordinator
CMPA	Combined Medical Practitioner's Association
СОР	Conference of Parties
DC	Divisional Coordinator
DPC	District Project Coordinatior
DPRO	District Panchayat Raj Officer
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EWS	Early Warning System
FFS	Farmer Field School
GEAG	Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group
GP	Gram Panchayat
HMIS	Health Management Information System
IAPPD	Integrated Approaches for Prevention and Management of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Scheme
IDCF	Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight
IEC	Information Education Communication
IGSSS	Indo Global Social Service Society
IHAT	India Health Action Trust
ISET	Institute for Social and Environmental Transition
LWR	Luthern World Relief
MP	Madhya Pradesh
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NHRDF	National Horticulture and Rural Development Foundation
NIMA	National Integrated Medical Association
NNM	National Nutrition Month
ODF	Open Defecation Free
ORS	Oral Rehydration Solution
PMSMA	Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan
PVO	Private Voluntary Organisation
RVP	Resilient Village Program
SBCC	Social Behaviour Change Communication
SC	Scheduled Caste
SIA	Supplementary Immunization Activity
SLWM	Solid and Liquid Waste Management
SMS	
	Short Message Service
	Scheduled Tribe
ST	Scheduled Tribe
ST TBCF	Scheduled Tribe Trans-Boundary Citizen Forum
ST TBCF TBR	Scheduled Tribe Trans-Boundary Citizen Forum Trans Boundary Resilience
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The Organisation

Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) is a voluntary organization working on issues largely related to environment, climate adaptation and sustainable development since 1975. Since its inception, GEAG has been actively engaged in implementing several developmental projects and initiatives aimed at reducing vulnerability and livelihood issues of small and marginal farmers, especially women, based on environmental and ecological principles and gender sensitive participatory approach. In addition to this. GEAG has accomplished several appraisals, studies, researches along with conducting several successful capacity building trainings, workshops and programmes for various stakeholders including women farmers, civil society groups, government officials and professionals etc. GEAG has been successfully contributing to this field for 42 years now.

GEAG has established its identity in India as a leading resource institution on sustainable agriculture, vulnerability assessment and strategy formulation, participatory approach/method and gender issues. Acknowledging its achievements, GEAG was awarded with the Lighthouse Activity Award by UNFCCC in 2013. GEAG also holds the Observer status to Green Climate Fund.

Acknowledging its achievements, efforts and expertise, United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) accorded GEAG Special Consultative Status in the year 2000 and it also received the Observer Status to the Green Climate Fund in 2015.

VISION

A society free of inequalities and discrimination that ensures equal rights to all, especially the marginalised sections comprising women, children and povertystricken farming communities through equitable distribution of services, resources and opportunities.

MISSION

To create enabling environment for deprived communities in order to improve the quality of life with special attention to women and children for inclusive and equitable development.







Our Cornerstones

- GEAG has been positively impacting the lives and livelihoods of several vulnerable communities, such as small-marginal and woman farmers and urban poor citizens and children, through intensive work on argiculture-based livelihoods, climate change resilience, disaster risk reduction and health, water and sanitation in all these years. GEAG has emerged as a renowned resource organisation working in several states in India, especially in the northern region.
- GEAG undertakes development initiatives through people- centred approach focusing on their participation, awareness and empowerment for sustainable development. GEAG highlights equitable development and environmental sustainability as the care of sustainable development and looks at development from a perspective of social justice and conservation. GEAG's work spans from support to policy making and research for sustainable development, to building the capacities of partners, to direct interventions on the ground as well as to create platforms for knowledge sharing at various levels.
- GEAG's initiatives focus on livelihood issues of small and marginal farmers, especially women farmers considering the persistent rural poverty, and incomplete agrarian transition in its project areas. Women, in particular face multiple constraints, from poor access to land and productive resources, to a disproportionately high care burden and lack of power

- in decision-making. Gender sensitive approaches are pursued and social equity is a cross cutting issue in all of GEAG's work. Its field level interventions have immensely strengthened the struggles of poor women and men against poverty as well a gender and caste based discrimination in its project areas. GEAG has tried to secure land rights for women farmers so they get due to entitlements and can secure livelihoods through sustainable agriculture.
- GEAG has been working on conservation, management and efficient utilisation of land, water and bioresources with a focus on enhancing livelihood security of rural populations. Community led collective action is encouraged in the governance of shared natural resources such as forests and water bodies. Working with panchayats and local institutions as partners, GEAG helps decentralize natural resources management and demonstrates strength of local communities to deploy local knowledge to costeffectively manage complex problems.
- GEAG collaborates with leading national and international research institutes to improve rigour in its engagement with village communities, while drawing scientists to the challenges and aspirations emerging from the ground. GEAG has expertise in research and documentation and has developed a repository of knowledge products based on grassroots evidence and policy analysis from its and its partners' work. These







include case studies, major programme reports, technical reports, policy briefs, discussion papers and multimedia.

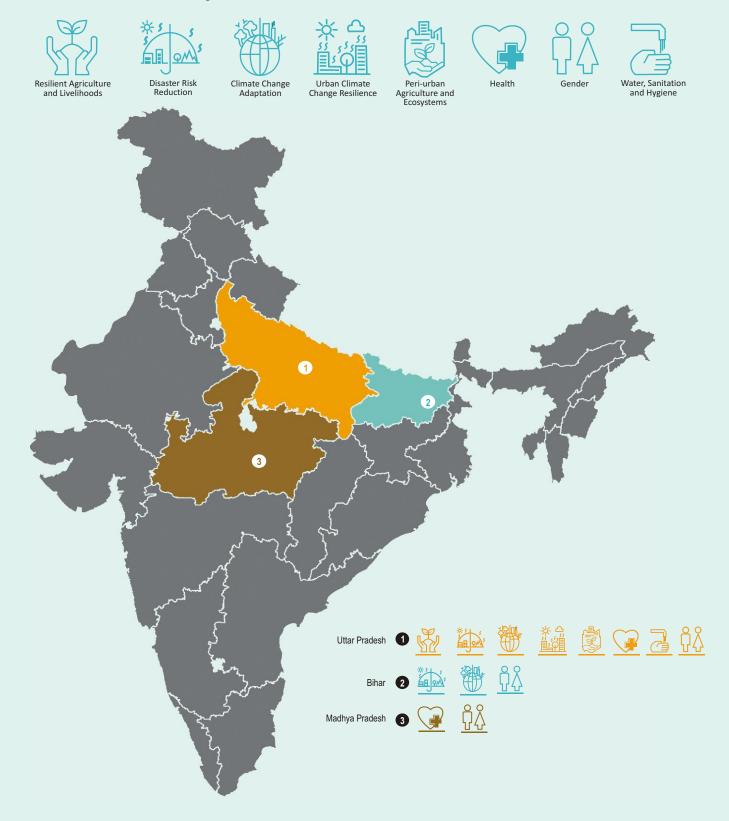
- Given the realities of climate change and its adverse impacts on the poor, vulnerable and marginalised sections of society, GEAG geared up its efforts towards climate change adapation helping communities to build resilience against its impacts, both in the rural and urban settings. GEAG has played a pioneering role in recent years in pushing the resilience agenda by furthering the concept of climate resilient cities, protecting peri-urban ecosystems for urban resilience, as well as on improved food security supported through sustainable climate resilient agriculture.
- GEAG has also acquired specialist knowledge, skills and management expertise on urban as well as rural disaster risk resilience to climate change, which has helped generate good work across various geographies. Last year, GEAG contributed to methodological aspects of urban resilience when it used the Child-Centred Urban Climate Resilience Framework, adopted from the internationally acclaimed Climate Resilience Framework developed by ISET international. This helped in developing ward level micro resilience plan in Patna for urban poor children.
- GEAG climate cell has a rich repository of spatial and non-spatial information and expertise in climatebased modeling that is used for evidence based context-specific planning, implementation, and monitoring of projects as well as for undertaking studies. GEAG works beyond the traditional remit of

NGOs and is one of few non-profits at the national level which has expertise in the production, communities and uptake of climate information. The organisation has scientific understanding of the climate system and forecasting capacities and is able to facilitate interactions between scientists, meteorologists, government departments, decision-makers and local communities.

- GEAG is well-positioned in its work at the local to national level and undertakes comparative assessments and studies at a country-wide level. GEAG believes in the power of community engagement and has been building strong local-level institutional arrangements. It has been working through community institutions by developing capacities of the people. It has also been engaging with the government largely to advocate best practices and support the government in adopting science-based people-led models of development. GEAG works with state and national government departments and agencies to influence the policy environment and implement programmes to influence wider replication, especially in building flexible and dynamic systems and institutions that identify and respond to the challenges that climate change poses to both rural and urban people.
- GEAG has been engaged in various types of advocacy initiatives like policy advocacy, evidence-based advocacy and so on. One of the important components of advocacy has been the rights-based advocacy by organising campaigns.

GEAG's Footprint

Over the years, GEAG has put in efforts to provide the required leadership skills and knowledge to target communities, community based organizations, local governments and departments in enabling them to meet the challenges of increasing disaster risk due to climate change.





Technical Assistance in Rolling-out `Resilient Village Programme' and Risk-Informed District Plan of **Aspirational Gaya District**

Bihar is the most rural and one of the poorest states in India. About 88.70 percent of the population resides in rural areas with 8874 Gram Panchayats and 44935 revenue villages. Being prone to various disasters, the Government of Bihar has accorded due priority to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). Under the project, GEAG has provided technical assistance to Government of Bihar for initiating action on risk-informed planning for children and vulnerable community in rural and urban areas through the implementation of resilient village programme and urban risk-resilience plan. In this process, a comprehensive document explaining step by step process and toolkits of implementation and training modules as envisaged in the DRR roadmap of Bihar was developed in close collaboration with the Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA) and UNICEF Bihar.

Apart from this, GEAG also assisted the District Administration in Gaya to conduct risk assessment of the district and identify the vulnerable blocks. This report has supported the district to design sectoral action plan for effective drought management and disaster preparedness for response and building resilience of at-risk populations.

The intervention was closely linked with GEAG's previous experiences and UNICEF partnerships on Community based Disaster Risk Reduction. The Resilient Village Programme, mentioned in the DRR Roadmap of Bihar, is the next level of CBDRR process. Although the DRR Roadmap has characterised the feature of 'resilient village' and mentioned specific actions for the key stakeholders but it requires step by step process to roll out the specific actions effectively on the ground. Previous learning of CBDRR in Bihar also indicated that there is a huge knowledge gap at sub-district and below to roll out DRR plans, develop toolkits and templates and training packages, and build capacity to key stakeholders who are key in the implementation of DRR Roadmap initiatives.

> With the support of UNICEF Bihar, GEAG is providing technical assistance to BSDMA in rolling out the Resilient Village Programme of the Bihar DRR Roadmap in Bihar and also in developing riskinformed development plans for the Aspirational District Gaya.

Activities

The technical support under the project focussed on three areas:

- Developing the rolling-out plan document for the Resilient Village Programme (RVP) which included the concept of RVP, handbook for developing Village Disaster Management Plan
- Developing a comprehensive action plan for urban risk resilience in one of the ward of the Patna Municipal Corporation and
- Supporting the district administration to develop risk informed district plans in one of the Aspirational Districts (Gaya) of Bihar with the support of UNICEF

Outcomes

The key takeaways of the project are:

- Guidelines, programme toolkit and Training Packages for 'Resilient Village Programme' developed
- Urban risk resilience action plan as a pilot in one of the wards of the Patna Municipal Corporation and training manual & course book developed
- 3. Developed a risk profile of Gaya district along with pockets of deprivation and sectoral vulnerability
- 10 Case studies developed on DRR Catalysts
- Rapid assessment of impact of flood preparedness in **CBDRR** intervention villages
- Relevant knowledge management products and reports developed





Water Governance and River Basin Management

Trans-boundary water conflict and its governance is one of the chronic riparian problems in the Indo-Nepal region of South Asia. Kosi sub-basin of the Ganges river has been in the spotlight for a variety of hydrological interventions on irrigation, flood control, up-stream hydropower development, livelihood programmes designed to generate incomes for riverine communities, navigational use, ecological restorations, and forest and wildlife conservation. This year, The Asia Foundation, a non-profit international development organization provided support to GEAG to conduct multi-layered stakeholders' dialogues to build support for sustainable water resources management in Kosi river basin.

Objectives

The overall aim of the dialogue process was to build appreciation and alignment among the stakeholders on sustainable water resources management in Kosi River Basin at local, sub-basin and basin and trans-boundary levels. The specific objectives were:

- i. To build on the findings of Political Economy Analysis done in the first phase of the project, set the values to guide the dialogue process to help identify and build cooperation among the stakeholders
- ii. To design and execute the dialogue process, keep track on changes in the thinking and actions that develop synergy for transformation, during and after each stage

- of dialogue and those after completion of the process over two years duration
- iii. To disseminate the learning from the dialogue process and the changes produced by them on the ground among wider audiences

Activities

As a part of this initiative, project planning meetings were conducted and literature review and data collection was done for the purpose of analysis. A series of community dialogues and stakeholder dialogues were held in the Kosi basin on the India side which focussed on two major issues that continue as sources of contestation among the people, their groups and the governments in the transboundary context. These issues were: a) Changing nature of flooding and inundation that threatens and undermines livelihoods of the people in India and b) Embankment construction in India which continues to disregard multiple uses, users and their needs on upstream and downstream. The dialogues also helped in building an understanding on the impacts of ecological

> This project undertook multi-layered and multi-stage dialogues to understand the conflicting issues that impede the Kosi basin's sustainable development.

degradation on the lives and livelihoods of the people living in the basin, especially women. Also, the stakeholder dialogues aimed to map the related institutions and departments responsible for the development of Kosi basin and the governance related issues.

Outcomes

The dialogue process helped in gaining an in-depth understanding of the community perceptions with a bottom up approach on the linkages between Ecology and Livelihood. Dialogues with people living in various parts of the Kosi basin (inside embankments, outside embankments, rehabilitated population and specifically women) resulted in understanding in what ways the disturbances in the river ecology and the construction of embankments have hard hit on the livelihoods of the people. Inside embankments the problem of flooding, inundation and siltation have adversely impacted agriculture-based livelihoods. Outside the embankments, the problem of acute seepage has led to a shift in cropping patterns from paddy-based farming to more of cash crops like Makhana, which again, is not affordable by majority

of the farmers to practice. This change has also impacted women and their livelihood in the region with hardly any options to earn livelihoods. Impacts of high male migration and food security is taking a toll on women's lives and their livelihoods. The dialogue process has been engaging stakeholders and bringing together communities living in various parts of the Kosi embankments who have conflicting perceptions on how the embankments have affected their lives and livelihoods. The dialogue facilitated a

discussion among these communities on the causes behind the conflicting issues and get people's perceptions on those causes so that over-arching common issues could be identified which would be considered for building an environment of consensus among the communities and stakeholders. This process of dialogue provided a platform for the communities to come together and share their problems, views and probable solutions around the Kosi issues. For the women members, it was a unique opportunity to voice their opinions and problems related to their livelihoods, health, sanitation and so on in the Kosi basin.





Building Livelihood Resilience in Small and Marginal Farmers to Combat Hunger in Mahoba

This programme supported by Indo Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) is premised on the concept of food sovereignty, which is the right of people to healthy and culturally-appropriate food produced using ecologicallysound and sustainable methods, and their right to define, access and control their own food and agriculture systems. It had the twin objectives to (a) Enhance the resilience capacity of the local community, and (b) For community based organizations, to adapt drought and hunger proofing measures.

Activities

Capacity building of model farmers on drought resilient agriculture practices

Trainings were organized for model farmers to orient and motivate them to resort to eco-friendly LEISA and bioinput oriented agriculture. The farmers were trained to prepare bio-compost, vermin-compost, green manure, bio-pesticides, crop rotation, and new techniques of irrigation, to make the agriculture climate resilient, less input oriented and more profitable. They were also encouraged to adopt the water conservation practices, soil moisture retention etc. in their farm field.

FFS meeting and sessions

Under this activity, FFS conveners organized farmers' sessions at their respective villages each month. During the session, the facilitator focused on the importance and role of these types of institutions at community level. They also discussed the farmer's problem in relation to climate change vis-a-vis livelihood issues.

Disseminating climate information

Climate information advisory has been providing a regular, tailored five-day forecast to farmers through village resource centres through mobile based SMS. This early warning system alerts the farmers to be prepared to deal with the climate change patterns in a better way. Farmers are using this information in their farm planning and other agricultural as well as household activities and have benefitted from the reduction in expenses on irrigation, pesticides etc., because of better informed decisions.

This programme is enhancing resilience of communities through drought resilient agricultural practices and using weather and agro advisories in farm planning.

Strengthening of CBOs unit in each of the village

The orientation of the farmers CBOs has been done from time to time in all 15 intervention villages to strengthen the community institutions. The members were oriented about the importance and role of CBOs at community level, importance of need based micro plan for villages. Resulting these orientation programs, quality of leadership has been developed and now the farmers are able to lead the community for their rights and entitlements.

They are now able to talk and present their views before the competent authorities and community too. The farmers are experiencing the self-respect, sense of ownership and try to mitigate the corruption done by Pradhan and other officials.

Outcomes

Understanding climate resilient agriculture among the farmers have developed and now they

- are coming forward to break the vicious cycle of the mono-cropping system and to adopt diversity in their agriculture system.
- The mindsets have been changed to develop new and innovative agricultural practices.
- Healthy convergence system has evolved between the felt needs of the communities and line departments
- The SMS-based weather advisory has capacitated the farmers by providing climate related information and the farmers have used this information and gained benefits in terms of reducing input cost in their fields and maximizing benefits.
- Awareness among the communities have developed on Govt. schemes and Programs.





Empowering Marginalised Communities through Innovations and Technologies in Flood Prone Areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

GEAG is entrusted by the Department of Science & Technology, Govt of India, as a Core Support Partner to explore the agricultural and livelihood related problems of excluded groups (especially Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and women groups) in rural areas of flood-affected zones of eastern Uttar Pradesh and western Bihar and promote and disseminate scientific and technology-based solutions for rural sustainability. The key objective of the programme is to evolve participatory technologies, conserve soil and enhance its productivity by facilitating small and marginal farmers of the above mentioned areas.

Key Activities

Below is a snapshot of the innovations and techniques being introduced:

Technological Innovations at Farm Level

- Promoting appropriate weather (short term) and agro advisories.
- **Promoting Seeds/Varieties**

- Promoting scientific processes of space (Multitier farming, Machan farming etc.) and time management (pre and postponement) on small land holdings
- Gradient based farming and cropping system
- Promoting new agriculture practices in water logged and flooded areas
- Introduced appropriate low External Input Sustainable Agriculture techniques

Technologies development at Ecosystem level

- Develop appropriate and cost effective drainage techniques through participatory GIS / community approach to drainage improvement
- Promote farm bunding to protect soil erosion and plant protection
- Evolve agroforestry in silted areas

The programme is focussing on evolving participatory technologies for small and marginal farmers in flood prone areas of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Promote alternative farming practices in water logged areas (integration of poultry and aqua-culture)

Development of Community Institutions and Business Models

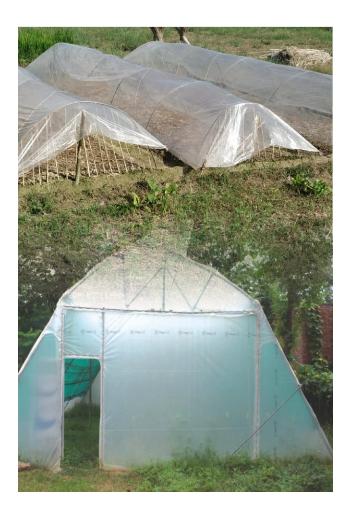
- Promote individual micro-enterprises for input production on bio-pesticides, bio-manure, resilient seeds, nurseries and green house
- Develop collective micro enterprises through self- help group as turmeric processing unit, millet processing unit
- Develop agriculture resource centre

Development of post-harvest technology

- Develop cost effective post-harvest technology model (energy efficient) for perishable vegetables at household and community level
- Training on post-harvest technologies
- Identify markets for semi processed and processed commodities plus value addition and market linkages

Impacts of Innovation and Technology

- By the resilient farming techniques, 25 per cent chemical input cost from market reduced and 10.8 acres of land protected from soil erosion through improved bunding and use of biomass for composting
- Growing vegetable seedlings through low tunnel poly house increased the germination rate, protected disease attack and reduced impact of water logging
- Nursery within poly house provided more than 95 percent survival of plants
- Gradient based farm planning has improved soil quality, checked top soil erosion and mitigated crop losses of 30 progressive farmers. The carbon nitrogen ratio (C: N) in the intervention farms restored
- More than 1500 farmers are using weather and agro- advisory in agricultural practices helping them saving from crop losses
- The extension and dissemination services through 23 self-managing community institutions like Agro Services Centre (ASC), Farmer Field School (FFS) and Self Help Group (SHGs) have played critical role in scaling up the technologies
- With space and time management approach, crop losses reduced by 30-33 per cent
- The time and space management also enhanced the gross income of farmers by 66 per cent



The multi-layered farming with appropriate crop combinations reduced various input cost (hoeing, weeding, irrigation etc.) by 30-35 per cent

All the above mentioned techniques of farming and innovations have immense scale-up potential across the region because both the districts have similar geographical typology, agro climatic and socio economic characteristics. The evolved techniques are not imposed from outside rather it is evolved as per the farmers' need, local situation, access to extension services and linkages with relevant government schemes/ programmes. Besides, the developed community led institutions like agro service centres, self- help-groups, farmer field schools, and local resource based business models are framed on the strategy of synergy of indigenous knowledge, techniques and science.

This strategy of work has facilitated farmer to farmer learning, provide space for farmers' research and innovations and promote direct linkages with markets by eliminating the middle-men from their business and build up social solidarity.



Congregational Transboundary Flood Resilience Project in Kosi and Narayani/ Gandak River Basins

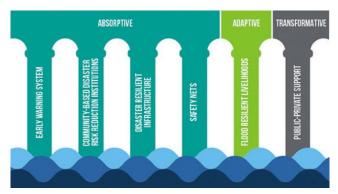
Communities in the Gandak/Narayani and Kosi river basins along the Nepal-India border is closely linked not only by cultural and socio-economic aspects, but also share vulnerability to meteorological stressors. According to the World Resources Institute Aqueduct Global Flood Analyzer, floods in the region are expected to affect 10.5 million people in India and 156,600 people in Nepal every year. Since Transboundary communities of both upstream and downstream are vulnerable to the impacts of the flooding, there is vital need to plan common strategies, adopt coordinated responses, and share lessons learned from both sides of the border.

Project intervention areas include 5 blocks in West Champaran, Bihar and one block Nichlaul in Maharajganj and one block Khadda in Kushinagar U.P.

Goals of the Project

The project caters to flood-affected households of transboundary communities in Gandak/Narayani and Kosi basins in India and Nepal to build their resilience and therefore be less vulnerable to monsoonal flooding.

The overarching project goal is that 100,000 flood-affected individuals of Koshi and Narayani river basins in India and



Six pillars of a Transboundary Flood Resilience Community and the Resilience Capacities they support

Source: LWR

Nepal are less vulnerable and more resilient to flood by the end of 2021.TBR Congregational project is basically designed based on six pillars of flood resilient community approach.

> The overarching project goal is that 100,000 floodaffected individuals of Kosi and Narayani river basins in India and Nepal are less vulnerable and more resilient to flood by the end of 2021



Key Activities

- 1. Institutionalize community based Early Warning System
- 2. Form, strengthen and link the Village Disaster Management Committee (VDMC)- (Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Institutions)
- 3. Insurance Promotion Activities (Safety Nets)
- 4. SHGs strengthening and linkages with Govt. Programmes (Safety Nets)
- 5. Resilient Community Infrastructures (Disaster Resilient Infrastructure)
- 6. Community adopted climate resilient smart agricultural practices (Flood Resilient Livelihoods)
- 7. Multi stakeholder consultation, Linkage and networking with government Programme (Public Private Support)

Outcomes

- 1. The forecast and advisories have been very helpful in taking precautionary measures during monsoon as well as adopting appropriate agricultural practices to save money, time and resources. At present 319 HHs under project area is getting benefitted through EWS
- 2. Trans-boundary Citizen Forum (TBCF) has been revitalized for DRR and EWS policy advocacy with local and national governments. Action plan for the same has also been drafted and shared with TBCF members and and with the local Member of Parliament, Valmiki Nagar

- 3. 388 communities member of 3 FRSV and other 4 villages have been linked with Fasal Sahayta Yojana and have established disaster risk transfer capacity (safety net)
- 4. Communities supported disaster-resilient community infrastructure in the restoration of drainage system and construction of raised shelter house at Rajwatiya village, Bagaha 1. At present, communities at Rajwatiya village have reduced their vulnerabilities by protecting their agriculture lands and crops from water logging
- 6. At present 267 farmers under project area have improved economic capitals through climate-smart flood-resilient livelihoods and safety-net options through adopting:
 - Hanging vegetable farming
 - Raised bed nursery
 - Multilayer farming
 - Portable vermicomposting.
 - Community boards for information dissemination
 - Low cost onion storage
- 7. 17 villages under project area have been linked with National Horticulture and Rural development Foundation (NHRDF), Deoria and Laxmi producer company, Deoria and its VDMC also linked with Govt. Department.





Strengthen National and Regional Immunization Systems to Achieve Polio Eradication

India stopped wild polio virus transmission in 2011 and the Southeast Asia Region was declared polio free in 2014. Since then, this country of 1.3 billion residents has successfully maintained high population immunity to stave off any potential importation of the wild polio virus and any outbreak of circulating vaccine-derived polio virus. Two high-quality national and four sub-national campaigns, a robust disease surveillance system and a solid routine immunization program all contributed to India's ability to keep polio outside of its borders.

Last year Catholic Relief Services and GEAG worked on strategies to make routine immunization program more acceptable among people who had been resisting it. The programme is operative in the Mau and Sitapur districts of Uttar Pradesh.

Objectives

- Build effective partnership between Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs), NGOs and international, national and regional organizations involved in polio eradication
- Strengthen national and regional immunization system

- Support NGO involvement in national and regional planning as well as in implementation of Supplementary Immunization Activity (SIA)
- Support PVO/NGO efforts to strengthen Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) case detection and reporting

Activities

The project tried to improve the coordination between frontline workers like ASHA, ANM, AWW and CMC for improving the vaccination coverage during routine immunization and supplemental polio immunization in their respective area. A meeting was held for this and was very effective for developing coordination between frontline functionaries for support in social mobilization for mother and child care. This provided support during immunization session, polio rounds. mothers meeting and house-to-house visit of target families.

> **GEAG** is providing technical support to Uttar Pradesh Government to strengthen initiatives in polio eradication in Uttar Pradesh.

- Village Health Sanitation & Nutrition Committee meetings are conducted every quarter to orient the members on immunization. It ensures responsibilities for polio and resistant families towards mobilization. This is a very useful activity to promote sanitation behaviors in community. Based on this activity, increased toilet construction and use was reported in the project area
- Influencers' meeting was held to engage them in motivating the communities to improve the coverage of SIA and RI vaccination. This platform also provides opportunity to engage influencers in improving the reporting of AFP cases from the CMC area
- The interpersonal communication sessions were held with caretakers (0-5 years old children & pregnant mothers) for childhood immunization on regular basis. They were motivated to adopt positive behavior for polio, routine immunization vaccination, early & exclusive breastfeeding, diarrhea prevention, management and hygiene. This activity helps to increase institutional delivery and immunization
- Group meetings were conducted with parents, community, adolescent children etc., once or twice a month to enable participants to adopt positive behavior on immunization, breastfeeding and diarrhea prevention, management and hygiene. This is very useful to create a positive environment for mothers and for child care

Outcome

- Increase in routine immunization coverage and booth coverage
- Quality of mothers' meetings improved over the
- Routine immunization became the government's priority and additional routine immunization camps were organized in the project area
- Reduction in families who were openly resistant and refused the vaccine through health camps, engaging National Integrated Medical Association (NIMA) and Combined Medical Practitioner's Association (CMPA) and mapping of such families
- Decrease in number of missed houses and missed children





Technical and Implementation Support to Vitamin-A, Zinc ORS and Adolescent Nutrition Program in Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh contributes approximately 24 percent of all under-5 deaths of the country. The state has very high rates of under-nutrition. Prevalence of diarrhoea in under-5 children in the state is 10.82 percent. While ongoing programs of Health and ICDS have made efforts to address the problem of malnourishment, the results have not been very encouraging so far. On the other hand, adolescents aged 10-19 years are at high risk of iron deficiency and anaemia due to poor dietary intake, increased requirement of iron and high rate of infections. For adolescents, requirement of iron is almost double than the children. Government of India has launched various programs on nutritional supplementation of under-5 children and adolescents. Biannual campaign namely Bal Swasthya Poshan Mah focuses on periodic supplementation of Vitamin A to under-5 children.

On the other hand National Iron plus Initiative, a flagship program, has provision of IFA supplementation to school going and out-of-school adolescent girls on weekly basis. Similarly, to counter diarrhoea, Government of India had launched a program namely 'Integrated Approaches for Prevention and Management of Pneumonia and Diarrhoea (IAPPD)' in 2014 to reduce the child mortality rate through integrated approach. These programs are target based approach through timely micronutrients supply, increase in coverage and quality service delivery to the beneficiaries.

Intervention Area

Program is being implemented in 253 blocks of 20 districts in 8 divisions of Uttar Pradesh. UP-Technical Support Unit (UPTSU-IHAT) has no presence in these districts, Nutrition International is assigned to work by Government of UP in these districts to provide technical and operational support to the involved departments in this areas and programs running by UPNHM.

Program and their Key Outcomes

Vitamin A Supplementation & Zinc/ORS

Due to non-availability of Vitamin A syrup there was no BSPM round organized in both June and December 2018

With the support of Nutrition International (NI), GEAG has been instrumental in streamlining WIFS program in 20 districts of Uttar Pradesh across all levels of implementation. Over a period of around three years, intervention has observed the increase in overall coverage, uninterrupted supply & distribution from districts to service delivery points, improved data management & reporting, strong coordination among departments and periodic monitoring & review at district/block levels.

while Diarrhoea program was supported in 20 districts and key outcomes are:

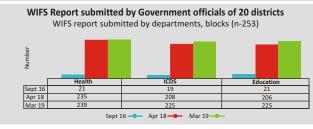
- Improved coverage of Prophylactic distribution of ORS during IDCF round.
- Improved procurement and timely distribution of Zinc and ORS for IDCF round
- Improved monitoring and quick corrective measures. Monitoring by district and block level government officials from health and ICDS
- Improved data recording and Reporting timely submission of report from the block and district.

Adolescent nutrition intervention (WIFS program)

- Increase in coverage from 2% (in September 2016) to 45% in March 2019.
 Coverage in schools increased from 4% to 71% and in out-of-school girls from1% to 31%
- Improved Procurement at district level and distribution mechanism from district to block and block to service delivery points.
- Improved data recording and reporting have been observed in the districts and blocks. Out of total 253 intervention blocks in 20 project districts, report of health, ICDS and Education department were coming from 239 blocks, 225 blocks and 225 blocks respectively as of March 2019. However, it was coming from 21, 19 and 21 blocks respectively in September 2016.

Observing the capacity building need to the officials and the service providers, various training/ orientation programs were also organized by GEAG to improve the implementation of the program which details are as under:

WIFS coverage of 20 districts WIFS coverage improvement in last 3 years in NI supported 20 intervention districts							
	School going girls (%)	Out of school girls (%)	Total				
Sept 16	4	1	2				
Apr 18	41	24	30				
Mar 19	71	31	45				



Training/orientation of departments

In this tenure of program for ensuring better implementation of the program and create awareness among stakeholders (officials of Health and ICDS department) trainings/ orientation on different topics were organized in project districts for these officials. The details of training are as below:

Types of Training	Level (National/ district/ Sub-district)	Dates/ period	No. of Expected participants	No. of attended participants	Designation of participants	Purpose of training
Reporting person training	District Level	27 April to 23 May 2018	392	402	CDPO, supervisors, BEO, ABRCs, ARO, BPM, BCPM Urban coordinator chief pharmacists	Improve the reporting of WIFS program from schools/ AWCs/blocks and district level
WIFS Mentors Orientation	State Level Orientation	6 Sept. 2018	50	49	WIFS mentors	Create awareness through mentors among teachers and students in Inter Colleges
State Level WIFS TOT	State Level	18, 19 & 21 Dec. 2018	180	210	ACMOs/ Nodal and RKSK coordinators, DEIC Managers & DCPMs	Orientation on WIFS program and through these trainers ensure training of teachers and AWWs
Pharmacist training	District Level	9-16 March 2019	546	507	Pharmacist of district level and block level	Orient pharmacist on correct estimation & proper distribution of MNs





Roll Out of Vitamin A, Adolescent & Maternal, Health Programme in Madhya Pradesh

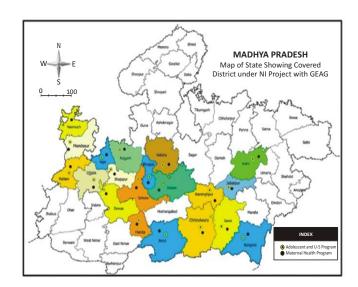
GEAG in partnership with Nutrition International is implementing adolescent and maternal nutrition program in 122 blocks of 20 districts from 4 divisions, namely Bhopal, Ujjain, Narmadapuram and Jabalpur. The initiative is being implemented in collaboration with the Department of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Education, Department of Women and Child Development, and Tribal Welfare to ensure effective and timely implementation of the program.

The aim of the project is:

- Significant reduction in mortality among 9 to 59 months old children;
- Increase the consumption of at least 52 IFA tablets by adolescents:
- Increase in consumption of calcium tablets in pregnant and lactating mothers and
- Ensuring consumption of at least 90+ IFA Tablets by pregnant women

Activities

- Integration of budget of DASTAK in district budget and its proper utilization
- Improved planning and monitoring
- Capacity building of district and sub-district officials



on monitoring and training on estimation and calculation of MN supply.

- On the job capcity building of FLWs on counseling of caregivers and use of IEC materials.
- Support in planning, coordination and review.

GEAG is supporting Government of Madhya Pradesh in effective implementation of adolescent and maternal nutritional programme in 20 districts.

- Develop capacity for government officials to calculate, demand, procure and distribute supplies
- Develop capacity of school teachers, district and block level officials on counseling and behaviour change communication
- Develop capacity of officials on monitoring and reporting
- Develop capacity of officials and FLWs on monitoring and reporting and supplies

Key Achievements of the Program

Vitamin A Supplementation (Dastak)

- Stock analysis and need assessment of vitamin A in all 20 districts
- Dastak monitoring (387 sessions)
- Training & other support
- Mid-term review in all 20 districts
- Focused DASTAK coverage and monitoring in 7 districts allotted by Govt. of MP
- Special focus on low coverage area and sharing of daily monitoring report with district officials for corrective action
- DASTAK DATA validation in 7 Districts
- DC Ujjain was felicitated by Health Department for his contribution in DASTAK in Shahjahapur District

Adolescent Nutrition Program (WIFS)

- Procurement distribution, consumption and reporting of IFA blue was focused
- Reporting format for ASHA Sahyogini developed by GEAG and implemented in 51 district of MP by the Govt.
- Katni District was recogonized by Govt. of India for their efforts under NNM
- DC of Jabalpur and Mandsore were facilitated by Divisional Commissioner and District Collector for their contribution in Katni and Ratlam district under NNM activity
- Regular reporting by 20 districts to the state through the online HMIS
- Organized Lalima Day celebration in all 20 districts, and oriented 2253 adolescent girls on health, cause of anaemia and iron rich dietary sources



- Activation of District Coordination Committee in all 20 districts and facilitated 48 meetings so far
- Regular reviews by Divisional level officers for WCD, Health have improved better coordination among the line departments

Maternal Nutrition Program (Iron & Calcium)

- Regular monitoring of Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matrituv Abhiyan
- Increased availability of IFA-Red (92 percent session sites) and Calcium (63 percent VHND session sites)
- Provided regular on job orientation to 5748 frontline workers in 20 districts on IFA- blue, red and Calcium supplementation program
- 14 district level workshops on 'World Breast Feeding Week' and orientation of medical and paramedical staff of private hospitals on early initiation of breast feeding done
- Matching and Batching of High-risk Pregnant women initiated
- Pilot Project on Maternal Nutrition implemented in 2 sites. Ujjain CHARAK District hospital and Civil hospital in Basoda Vidisha District. Ujjain district received best performing district under PMSMA.



Strengthening Capacities of Government Counterparts to Demonstrate ODF + Strategies and Interventions in Four WASH Focus Districts of Uttar Pradesh

GEAG is working in 51 blocks of four focus districts i.e. Chandauli, Jaunpur, Maharajganj and Varanasi of Uttar Pradesh through UNICEF-supported WASH Project aiming to strengthen the government bodies stressing on the improvements in WASH facilities in Institutions, Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) and Water Safety and Security Processes (WSSP) with time to time handholding support in other campaign like Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Plastic Mukt Bharat, Swachhta Hi Sewa, Swachh Bharat Diwas, Global Hand-washing Day, World Toilet Day etc with related social media campaigns of the districts.

From the year 2017, the organization has been working in the ODF endeavors of Chandauli, Jaunpur and Maharajganj. The extended support and expertise strengthened the government system right from the district to the Gram Panchayat level. The team members supported in district/block level capacity building of District Level Officials/Block Level Officials and also the implementing stakeholders like Gram-Sachiv, Pradhan, Swachhagrahis and Masons. The district and block level planning and implementation of extensive BCC/SBCC activities catalyzed the Swacch Bharat Mission-Gramin to turn it into a "People's Movement (JAN ANDOLAN)" from a Government program.

Core strategies adopted for achieving the target within stipulated time was to get the district administration involved in reviewing the existing plan and taking appropriate corrective measures, implementing activities based on SBCC calendar, increasing field level hand holding, recognizing Swachhagrahis involvement and activating them and speeding up Institutional WASH program under Kayakalp. All these efforts resulted significantly in the form of quality construction, periodic reviews, increase in IEC/BCC fund utilization and model school development. On the other hand, block level SBM teams were engaged intensively in mentoring local institutions; follow the ODF & SBCC plans, review of the progress and taking corrective measures. Need based activities to capacitate village level community institutions, supportive supervision to observe toilet construction/spot checking, quality checking, mobilizing local team to speed up the programs have been some of the important activities at block and village level. Program

GEAG is supporting four districts (Jaunpur, Chandauli, Varanasi and Maharajganj) of Uttar Pradesh to help in attaining the ODF and ODF + outcomes.

has contributed largely to develop strategies for ODF sustainability & creating demand of support from districts on ODF plus plans in the intervention districts. The outcomes of these districts had an impact over our partnership with UNICEF which resulted into getting the additional responsibility of Varanasi district along with other three districts. Currently, GEAG is supporting the four focus districts with an umbrella objective to support and strengthen the government system in ODF-S/ODF+ endeavours. Some points are as below:

- Advocacy with the State/District level officials of the focus districts.
- Planning, Implementation and Monitoring processes set-up at districts.
- Training and capacity building support to the district w.r.t the Operation Kayakalp, Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM), Water Safety and Security Processes and Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM).
- District support in Govt. of India/Govt. of Uttar Pradesh driven campaigns like Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Swachhta Hi Sewa, Afforestation Drive, Plastic Mukt Bharat and important day celebrations like Swachh Bharat Diwas, Global Handwashing Day, World Toilet Day etcetera.
- District support in documentation/drafting of Annual Action Plans, letters and orders.

Outputs

1. WASH In Schools (WinS)

- All the four focus districts have successfully advocated for WinS Roadmap and got it approved with consensus of district officials. This is working as guiding document for the effective planning, implementation and monitoring of Operation Vidyalaya Kayakalp.
- More than 1800 major stakeholders have been provided the training on Operation Vidyalaya Kayakalp in all the four focus districts.
- Total 52 Kayakalpit schools have been photodocumented.
- Total 14 case studies have been documented.
- The schools are being assessed on the ranking of 1-5 based on the govt. approved indicatorts in all the focus district. The details are as follows as of today:

S.No.	District	1 Star	2 Star	3 Star	4 Star	5 Star	Total
1.	Jaunpur	3	111	283	31	17	445
2.	Varanasi	128	158	781	112	6	1185
3.	Maharajgan	j 0	255	185	22	18	480
4.	Chandauli	17	95	153	20	13	298

2. Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM)

- With the support of GEAG, two focus districts Varanasi and Jaunpur have made and approved their SLWM roadmap.
- The team members of GEAG have been supportive in selection of Gram Panchayats. The community lead SLWM activities have been initiated in 86 GPs of four focus districts.
- Low cost models of NADEP, Vermi compost, HH/Neighbourhood Soak-pits have been demonstrated in 20 GPs in consultation with district/block level officers and participation of community.
- 1529 major stakeholders have been trained in all the four focused districts.
- Community led GIS based SLWM micro-planning is being done in 5 GPs of each focus district.

3. Water Safety and Security Processes (WSSP)

- Under WSSP component, GEAG is only focusing on Chandauli as per the project mandate-
- WSSP roadmap has been prepared and shared with the district officials.
- 3 certified Master Trainers of WSSP in the district. (Training of Trainers in Varanasi)
- 75 Resource persons (74 Male, 1 Female) have been trained on Water Safety and Security Process.
- 5 GPs Water Safety Planning with the community participation.

4. Social and Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC)

- CDO/DPRO/ADPRO/DPC got the orientation on SBCC and its planning under the Training of Trainers organized.
- Support in making the SBCC plan of the district.
- Organizing the special campaigns/events under the aegis of district/block administrations.
- Ratri-Chaupal, Goshthi, Morning-Evening follow-up etc. for ODF-S/ODF+.
- Enhancing the reach of Operation Kayakalp, Swachh Bharat Diwas, Swachhta Hi Sewa, Plastic Mukt Bharat, Global Hand washing Day, World Toilet Day etc. through Social media.



Publications, Outreach and Networks

GEAG publishes research studies/articles, reports and policy briefs to effectively disseminate its work, increase the impact of its work and advocate on the issues on which GEAG works. GEAG has been using social media to share its experiences.

GEAG on Social Media

In our journey to improve our reach to a wider audience and be visible across a larger spectrum, in the last year, we have added and built on this platform in this digital age of the internet to enhance, engage and communicate better and more effectively, our work, to the environment around us.

We have been able to connect to a larger audience, create a buzz on the events and workshops held, share information on our recent publications, as well as promote an awareness of the work we do.

Objective

To leverage social media to promote our content, share our knowledge, and consistently engage and converse with practitioners, policy makers and interested forums.

Activities

We are active in the following spaces and feature content on small-marginal-women farmers, peri-urban areas, environment, urban climate change resilience, disaster risk reduction and gender issues.

Outcome/Impact

- Real time tweeting of events and workshops
- Visibility of workshops and events improved
- More interaction between participants and shareholders through re-tweets and comments
- Reaching new audience
- Promoted our happenings on social media
- New online communication opportunities
- Blogs on social media shared by partners, stakeholders and others

Conferences and Seminars

National Workshop on Urban Climate Resilience: The Context of River Basins - Urban-Peri-urban-Ecosystems, Inclusive Governance and Partnerships

A National Workshop was organized by GEAG, National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) and Bihar State Disaster Management Authority (BSDMA) with the support of The Rockefeller Foundation on 27-28 November 2018 in Patna, Bihar. The workshop deliberated on inclusive resilience initiatives which can directly and indirectly support climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and its inter-linkages in the urban context. It further explored partnerships and potential areas to scale-up inclusive resilience initiatives in the river basin contexts.

During the course of the year, GEAG also participated in a number of national and international conferences on the broad theme of climate change and disasters. A brief overview of these conferences is provided below:

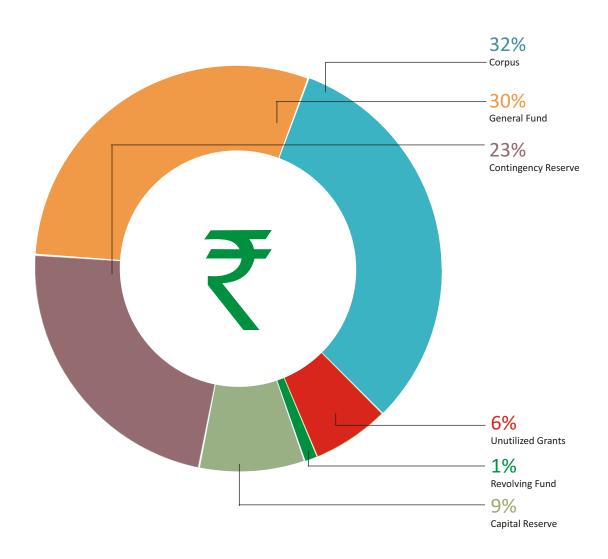
Conference of Parties (COP) 24, Katowice, Poland

GEAG participated in the COP 24 held at Katowice, Poland between 2nd to 14th December 2018 and organised a session on Peri Urban Ecosystems for Building Urban Climate and Disaster Resilience. The session speakers shared experiences on the challenges of development deficit and climate change impacts in fast growing secondary cities in South Asia. The session highlighted the role of peri-urban and urban ecosystems that are crucial for resilience and disaster risk reduction, which needs systemic capacities, land-use/landscape and urban-rural linkages.



GEAG's Balance Sheet: 2018-19

A major part of the GEAG's income which flows into the organization is in the form of funds and grants from Multilateral Organizations, Government Agencies and Grant making bodies.



GEAG Team Members

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Nandu Kumar Driver

Ajay Kumar Office Assistant

Accountant

Ajay Kumar Singh

Project Coordinator

Sanjay Kumar Singh

Angad Kumar Driver

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Block Mobilization Coordinator

Suyog Srivastava District Mobilization Coordinator

Sayed Shahroz Hasan

Ritesh Kumar Tripathi Mohd. Alam Ansari Block Mobilization Coordinator Block Mobilization Coordinator Block Mobilization Coordinator

Aftab Ahmad Block Mobilization Coordinator

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Project Office: Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh

Nivedita Mani

Bundel Singh

Coordinator- Networking and Liaison

Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG) is a voluntary organization working in the field of environment and sustainable development since 1975. Ever since its inception, GEAG has been actively engaged in implementing several development projects addressing livelihood issues of small and marginal farmers, particularly women, based on ecological principles and gender sensitive participatory approach. Besides this, GEAG has accomplished several appraisals, studies, researches at the micro and macro levels as well as successfully conducted a number of capacity building programmes for various stakeholders including women farmers, civil societies groups and government officials etc.

GEAG has established its identity in North India as a leading resource institution on sustainable agriculture, participatory approaches, methodologies and gender. Acknowledging its achievements, GEAG was awarded with the Lighthouse Activity Award by UNFCCC in 2013. GEAG also holds the Observer status to Green Climate Fund.



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