

Innovative Practice 2017 on employment, work, and vocational education and training: 2010

TITLE

Inclusive organic agriculture farming for all, with approximately half being persons with disabilities

India: CBM –

PROJECT SUMMARY

Based in India, CBM is an international disability and development organization that supports projects to train and create employment for persons with disabilities in the field of agriculture. CBM's "Inclusive Organic Agriculture Value Chain" brings together over 11,000 farmers, both with and without disabilities, and provides them with training and jobs in organic farming.

FACTS & FIGURES

- 11,158 farmers participate in the project, 4,098 of whom are people with disabilities
- CBM's livelihood project works in 1,110 villages, spanning six states
- Total land coverage is 2,315 hectares

PROBLEMS TARGETED

India's largest source of livelihood is agriculture, and people with disabilities often have a hard time joining this work force due to a lack of adequate training and support.

SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

CBM cooperates with local partners across six states of India to train farmers, including people with disabilities, in organic farming and in supporting them by providing community loans for the procurement of equipment and machines, beekeeping boxes, and livestock. Farmers are trained in a variety of organic practices, such as vermicomposting, creating poly-houses, processing species, and harvesting honey. The produce is certified organic and the farmers are connected to producer groups to facilitate production, harvest, and sales. Farmers with and without disabilities work together and in inclusive self-help groups (SHGs), where they contribute part of their monthly income to a general pool so as to create a fund from which members can borrow as needed, such as for supporting their healthcare, education, and housing.

OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

In the four years from 2012 to 2016, the project has incurred a cost of approximately US\$1.24 million. During this period, CBM has established partnerships with seven organizations, and has spread the project from two to six states in India. Within the next three years, CBM and its partners expect to become a self-sustaining agricultural value chain.

QUOTE

“I was the first woman with a disability to join the farmers’ group in my village, and at that point I started working towards becoming independent and taking on the role of the ‘man’ of the house!”

— Ms. Maya Devi, organic farmer

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