

## PROJECT PLAN for years 2008 - 2009

Please note the instructions for filling in this project plan form in the Application guide or the internet:  
<http://global.finland/english/ngo/index.htm>

- new project  
 continuation of on-going project, MFA project code 64512301, project initiation year 2002  
 project is based on earlier forms of co-operation, years April 2002- March 2004 (2 years) and April 1, 2004 - March 31, 2007 (three years) and extended till Dec 31, 2007 due to saving in funds- project is on going)  
 the planning of project has been supported by MFA preparation trip allowance, year \_\_\_\_\_

### Organisation:

#### 1. Basic information on the Project

1.1 Name of organisation registered in Finland	Jyväskylän yliopiston ylioppilaskunta JYY
1.2 Name of Project in Finnish	
1.3 Name of Project in English	Sustained renewable energy-based, people-centred eco-village development project in 19 villages
1.4 Name of Project in other relevant language	
1.5 Location of Project (country, province, village/municipality)	The project is located in India, state of Rajasthan, Bharatpur District, in 20 villages in the blocks of Sear, Deeg, Roopwas and Bayana
1.6 Name of the local partner organisation	Women's Action for Development (WAFD) Other Local partner for providing socio-technical support in the project-INSEDA (Integrated Sustainable Energy & Ecological Development Association)
1.7 Contact details of local partner organisation	Women's Action for Development (WAFD) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Floor St. Soldier Tower, Vikaspuri New Delhi 110018 Email: <a href="mailto:wafd078@yahoo.co.in">wafd078@yahoo.co.in</a> , <a href="mailto:zareenwafd@w3c.com">zareenwafd@w3c.com</a> Phone: 91-11-2854 - 0344
1.8 Representatives of the co-operation Partner responsible for the Project and their contact information, if other than above	Zareen Myles, Executive Director (same as provided in 1.7.)
1.9 Internet home pages of the co-operation Partner and/or the Project (if any)	-
1.10 Planned initiation and termination dates (on a yearly level) of the Project	This is an ongoing project already supported by the ministry and JYY.

The Pilot Project was planned in 2001. The implementation of the pilot project took place April 2002 - March 2004. As stated in the Project Plan 2004 – 2006, already during the pilot project preparation, the partner NGOs agreed to divide the main Eco Village Development (EVD) programme into two phases of 3-year duration each (Ph-1 and Ph-2) and one phase of 2-year duration (pilot project). This was done to accomplish the short-term, mid-term and long-term goals, aiming at establishing Model Eco Villages (MEV). After these phases the Eco-Villages would be adequately prepared and ready to take over the management of this programme. During the pilot project 12 villages were selected to EVD programme and 48 barefoot volunteer workers (4 per each village) were also selected and trained.

The actual implementation, Phase 1, happened from April 2004 and will end in March 2008.

Year 2007 is an Interim period (with bare minimum activities), funded by unutilized funds from Phase-I. This year will be for further planning and implementation of the technical components. It is also essential for strengthening the people's ownership over the development processes and helping to ensure long-term sustainability.

This last phase, Phase-II will take place 2008-2009, beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008 and ending December 31<sup>st</sup> 2009.

Although during the earlier periods the project has been following the Indian financial year (April – March), now there will be a change in the implementation. From the beginning of the last phase, Ph-2, the actual implementation will star to follow the Finnish financial year, January – December.

**Please answer the following question and fill in the budget summary (1.13) only after answering all other questions on the form.**

1.11 Summary of the Project plan. Describe here briefly (max. 700 characters) the development problem that this project is addressing, its immediate objective and the practical means through which these objectives are to be reached:

The environmental conditions are deteriorating in the project area due to over exploitation of natural resources, excessive use of chemical fertilizers and changing climatic conditions. Together with gender inequality and low status, the women, with the children are the most vulnerable group to this deteriorating environment.

The project is addressing this main problem of impact of the environment on women and children, focusing also on improving the participation and inclusion of the women in all project activities, so that they develop confidence and have equal say in all interventions.

This is being done by building capacity of the group of 48 village volunteers (24 men and 24 women). This group is being trained as practical barefoot/grassroots trainers in all the issues, which are effecting their environment and the solutions they need to apply to address the problems.

**Central Concerns of the Project:** The deteriorating environmental conditions in the project area due to over exploitation of natural resources, excessive use of chemical fertilizers and changing climatic conditions, and it's impact on the lives of the people particularly the women and children is the central concern of the project.

**The Development Problem that the project is addressing:** The main development problem being addressed is the low status of the women as they with the children are the ones most vulnerable to the deteriorating environment.

**The Immediate Objective:** To build capacity of the group of volunteers both men and women from the project villages, to understand the cause of the problems and how to take simple action to overcome these problems. Emphasis is on giving the women equal knowledge and helping them take action. At the same time to prepare these volunteers to be able to transfer this knowledge to the other people in their villages, and to people outside their villages.

**The Practical Means** through which these objectives are to be reached: The project will achieve its objectives through training and creating awareness. Activities will be two pronged: technical components and capacity building / human development.

1.12 If this Project is the continuation of an earlier project, please describe here the main results of the earlier stages of the Project.

The main changes resulting from the earlier project phase of 3 years are:

- A group of 48 volunteers from project villages, both women and men, have understood and are aware of various issues connected with the environment. For example they now understand how burning wood and biomass to fuel traditional inefficient cooking stoves leads to the release of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere and how the smoke harms especially the health of women and girls as they are exposed to it while cooking. They also understand how the heaps of cattle manure left in the back yard and fields release Methane (19-21 times more potent Green House Gas, GHG compared to carbon dioxide) and goes to waste when instead it can be utilised efficiently as a source of biogas. They understand the importance of planting trees to protect the microenvironment, repairing damages of erosion and also impacting the general environment and climate change.
- These volunteers have elected a "Managing Committee" which takes an active part in project decisions and promotion
- 22 grameen bandhu biogas plants using bamboo reinforced concrete cement have been constructed and are in active use on daily basis

- 12 women have been trained in weaving of the bamboo baskets for the biogas plants, thus also earning some money
- 165 farmers have started organic wheat cultivation on small parts of their land to gradually expand. The average farmer has landholdings of 2 acres or less than an acre. They are encouraged to start organic farming on half an acre or one acre first so that they can see and understand how organic farming will affect their soil and produce.
- 25000 jatropha plants have been grown (Jatropha is a non-edible oil seed that produces oil, which can either be used to operate the diesel engine with some modifications to improve the performance or can be converted to bio-diesel through the process known as transesterification. The Jatropha can grow on wastelands and bunds of the agricultural field as bio-fence (as animals don't eat any part of this plant), thus it can be planted in such lands so that it doesn't compete with the food production.
- One youth group has been taught how to make briquettes for use as cooking fuel and they have made 200 briquettes using agriculture waste. One briquette lasts for about fifty minutes cooking when used in specially-designed simple "biomass briquettes stove", which can be fabricated locally.
- 10 mahila mandals "women's groups" have been organized which have taken up kitchen gardening and now they can provide their families with much more nutritious food supplemented with vegetables like carrots, peas, beans etc.
- 500 units of vermi-composts established

This listing points out that most of the technical components have been achieved quite well. Thus, in the last phase the main attention will be given to sustainability, participation, ownership and empowerment i.e. people-centred development.

The last phase will, however, contain also a certain level of technical components, some of them being, design improvements and new designs and field level R&D, experimentation and implementation of small scale oil extraction and bio-diesel production and other technological inputs based on the local needs, as well as participatory technical training based on the manual prepared by INSEDA for capacity building of NGOs for poverty reduction.

### 1.13 Budget Summary

year			
Self-financing of the Organisation			
Project support application			
Total costs			

### 1.14 Other funding of the Project (if any). If the Project receives other funding, please state here the amount and the source of the funding:

Amount	Source

## 2. Local Partner Organisation and nature of co-operation

### 2.1. Please describe the criteria used in choosing the co-operation Partner.

This development cooperation programme, EVD, began when Vesa Girs, an expert of environmental education from JYY visited WAFD and INSEDA office in Delhi as well as in Bharatpur. After this, the planning and formulation of the programme started in co-operation with JYY and WAFD. As the cooperation has been so fruitful over the years there has been no reason to terminate this partnership.

As advised by some individuals/groups in Finland to contact the Secretary General, INSEDA (as well as going through some of his biogas papers and publications) as the Indian biogas expert to learn more about biogas technology, Vesa Girs (as a part of his study tour in 2001) visited INSEDA office. During the discussion Vesa Girs also mentioned the possibility of approaching a Finnish Funding agency to secure funds for building biogas plants in the semi-urban villages of Delhi, so that students from the University of Jyväskylä could come to India and use it for collecting data and conduct other type of studies. The Secretary General, INSEDA strongly advised him not to built any biogas in Delhi, if the interest was in long-term co-operation through biogas study with the university, as a few plants built earlier in Delhi got defunct and had to be abandoned as a result of expanding urbanization of Delhi and very high cost of land. Therefore, if he was really interested in long-term partnership then he should contact some NGOs who were working in rural areas and implementing biogas as a part of their developmental programme. Since he didn't know any NGOs, the Secretary General organised a meeting with the Executive Director of WAFD. As a result of the joint meeting of Vesa Girs, Secretary General of INSEDA and the Executive Director of WAFD, it was decided that he should visit WAFD's project in Bharatpur, which he agreed. After his visit to the villages in Bharatpur, he got motivated to do an appropriate project of JYY with WAFD and INSEDA. Later on the Pilot project was developed jointly over the Internet, and submitted to a Finnish Donor who funded it in the first quarter of 2002, and thus the pilot project started in April 2002.

The relationship between the partner organisation Women's Action for Development and the beneficiaries bases on mutual trust and on a participatory approach. WAFD has been actively encouraging the villagers to participate in their own development over the past years.

### 2.2 Has the Organisation previously worked with this Partner? If so, please describe the nature of this co-operation and when it took place?

JYY, WAFD and INSEDA have been working together since year 2001. The cooperation was introduced to JYY by its member Vesa Girs who met with Zareen (WAFD) and Raymond (INSEDA) Myles in India. They jointly initiated the idea of having an environmental development cooperation project in Bharatpur.

Firstly there was a pilot project called 'The Education of Barefoot Environmental Promoters and Local Barefoot Technicians in countryside of Bharatpur in Rajasthan, India'. This took place in 2002 – 2003. During the pilot, the actual project plan for an Eco Village Development program was planned, villages selected and volunteers trained. The actual implementation started in 2004. The name of phase-I was 'Development and establishment of Indian Model Eco-Villages – MEVs'. This project was planned to last for three years, until 2006. When there were savings in the implementation, the project got one extra year, an intermediate year 2007 to reach all the goals of MEVs. There were various reasons for this extra money, such as currency fluctuations, staff changes, weather conditions and unexpectedly large savings from pilot phase as well as during Phase-I.

During the past years, since 2001 the cooperation between JYY and WAFD has been very smooth. The division of roles has been clear – WAFD has been responsible for the actual implementation

where as JYY's role has been more supportive and advisory.

### 2.3 Additional information on the co-operation Partner.

WAFD is a non-profit NGO, which was registered on September 7, 1978, under the Societies Registration Act of 1860, with the overall aim to work for the development of women and children. WAFD has been working directly in the field since 1978, gradually extending its programmes from Delhi to villages in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan and Tehri Gharwal District of Uttaranchal state (now renamed as Uttarakhand) respectively.

The vision, mission and philosophy of WAFD are based on the belief that sustainable development is possible only if women of the community are recognised as the primary stakeholders in their own development and growth. Therefore the environment must be created for their active participation and involvement in the development process. The role of WAFD becomes that of a facilitator and promoter of human-centred development. Thus becoming instrumental in enhancing the latent potential of the primary stakeholders – women – and appropriately equipping them for creative action through participatory implementation, management and maintenance, so that ultimately they can take over the projects and programmes.

WAFD implements actions under education. Over the years the NGO has had pre-school education, non-formal education and adult literacy projects. Non-formal education is meant for the girls who do not have a chance to go to school. Adult Literacy program is for women to teach them basic reading and writing as well as simple arithmetic. This reflects to their self confidence and self image.

Another form of activities is skill training that provides girls and women with an opportunity in training in different vocations with the aim to help the girls/women to earn some income with the acquired skill. Because of social customs the girls from the communities where WAFD is working will not be able to go out of the communities to earn an income, the vocations taught are in keeping with the demands of the area, and simple. Examples of trainings are among other things sewing, tailoring, toy making and weaving.

As women's development is in the core of WAFD's work, the NGO has also organised women's groups, Mahila Mandals, to help foster a sense of solidarity and mutual support among the women. Women are given general awareness on subjects ranging from gender issues, and women's status to health and hygiene. Counselling units can be also added under women's development projects. These institutes provide advice, and counsel and also offer moral support to women with problems.

WAFD has also organised immunisation camps for mother and child. These are part of the health and nutrition projects. In addition, motivation for small family norms has also been performed. Focus has been given for the health of the mother and child. Also simple health education has been given for women. Promotion of kitchen gardens has been an ongoing program especially for the rural areas. It aims at promoting good health through better nutrition.

WAFD has paid lots of attention on Community Organisation. Promotion and establishment of formal community-based organisations is taken up in all the program areas with a view to ultimately hand over the management and implementation of programs to these bodies. This is one of the most important activities for WAFD as through these legal bodies sustainability of programs is assured.

In addition to these components, WAFD also has a Thrift and Credit –program that aims to meet the small credit needs of women through promotion of “saving” groups for thrift and credit. These saving groups which meet regularly are able to fulfil the credit needs of the women, ranging from starting small business, home repairs, to emergency loans for sickness or even school fees. WAFD has also initiated a micro credit program where more that 2000 small and medium loans have been

successfully given to the women. The present outstanding in Delhi and Bharatpur being a total of Rs.4,500,000.

The micro credit program of WAFD in Weir Block of Bharatpur is a Grameen Replication program, with start up funds and on lending funds provided by Grameen Trust Bangladesh. These funds are for income generation activities and for the members made attached to the separate field office called "Branch Office" established for the program in Weir itself. These funds are a soft loan to WAFD?? and are also being repaid to the Grameen Trust according to an agreement. These cannot be used in any other area or project.

In Delhi the situation is the same, though in Delhi most of the funds are the women's own savings which are revolved on for lending. The Delhi micro-credit program started in 2000 with a small start up fund of Rs.500,000, which has been repaid. The funds here too are specifically for the Delhi members and cannot be diverted to other places.

WAFD needs the revolving fund in the EVD project to help provide small loans to the self-help groups being established in the 20 villages. The small credit is meant to help them establish EVD components for themselves or if needed to take up some income generation activity first and then take a second loan for renewable energy or organic farming component.

Although WAFD is the main cooperation partner, the role of INSEDA cannot be underestimated: These two NGO work in tight cooperation when implementing the project.

INSEDA, The Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association (INSEDA) is the national India organization formed by the grassroots NGOs who had been involved in the promotion of renewable energy programmes with special focus on the implementation of biogas development in rural areas of the country, since 1980. INSEDA is a membership organization, at present having about 50 Indian NGOs as its members. The member organizations had been operating as an informal network for more than 15 years before establishing INSEDA as a formal body. INSEDA was registered as a society on December 11, 1995, under the societies registration act XXI of 1860, Delhi. The INSEDA also has FCRA Number from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA), Government of India to receive foreign funds for implementing developmental projects/programmes in India. The area of operation of INSEDA is entire country.

INSEDA is a National Socio-Technical Development Association (NASTDAN) of NGOs established with the aim of facilitating process oriented, people centred, sustainable human development (SHD) in partnership with local NGDOs (non-government development organisations)/ VDOs (voluntary development organisations) through the promotion and implementation of environmentally benign renewable energy and ecological & natural resources development programmes, focusing on the poor, weaker, marginalised and other vulnerable & deprived sections as well as women-folks of the rural communities.

The main focus of INSEDA is the development and promotion of sustainable rural energy. INSEDA at present has over 50 member NGOs, spread throughout the country, operating in almost all the major states of India. All the members have deeper commitments to the promotion of low cost affordable renewal energy technologies (RETs) as well as environmentally friendly ecological development programmes. This common interest, shared vision and goal bind the member NGOs together. All the INSEDA members have fairly well developed infrastructure at the grassroots level to implement developmental projects/programmes.

INSEDA plays pro-active role and provides services and guidance to its members and other partner NGOs, using participatory process, for qualitative and quantitative growth of the target groups, treating them as the primary stakeholders. The role and services provided by INSEDA and operational strategy to realise its vision and goals are:

- To provide services and guidance to members and other partner NGOs and facilitating their involvement for promoting and implementing sustainable development projects/programmes, through active target group's participation and by facilitating establishment of micro level people's institutions (MLPIs).
- To facilitate as well as undertake capacity building programmes for the target groups/communities with a view to strengthen local skills, knowledge, initiatives and enterprises for participatory implementation of appropriate projects to re-generate and conserve micro-environment within their own micro-eco systems.
- To provide services and guidance to member NGOs and other partner NGOs, in technical, socio-technical aspects for the implementation of appropriate projects for sustainable human development.
- To provide services in information collection & dissemination; preparation of appropriate projects; and appraisal, monitoring & evaluation support services.
- To provide expertise to NGOs in the capacity building related to sustainable energy & food production, eco-development and natural resources development, utilisation, maintenance and management.
- To act as trainer of trainers in the field of renewable energy and ecological development for NGOs.
- To promote and transfer appropriate renewable energy technologies (RETs) for meeting domestic fuel needs and energy conservation as well as RE based power generation in a decentralised manner.
- To promote issue based, thematic and single technology based networking of grassroots NGOs. Also network with other national, regional & international groups/agencies involved in similar programmes.
  - To act as "APEX Body" as well as to take-up the responsibility for joint-implementation, over all coordination & management of the network and package projects/programmes promoted by INSEDA by involving its member NGOs. In such projects INSEDA plays the role of a Nodal Agency for channelling funds from donor/funding agencies, look after the capacity building of network project members and monitoring the project to realise the overall goal in an effective manner.
- To facilitate or directly conduct different types of studies (case, technical, socio-technical & scientific studies) related to renewable energy and Environmental issues/ aspects; as well as prepare different types of campaign, promotional & communication and training materials, teaching aids alone or jointly with member agencies.
  - To promote and directly implement and manage innovative and pathfinder projects related to renewable energy, ecological and natural resource development, for pilot study, demonstration and field evaluation before they could be taken up and replicated by NGOs and micro level people's institutions (MLPIs).
- To promote national and inter-regional as well as South-South (S-S) and South-North-South (S-N-S) cooperation and network among organisations that are working in the fields of energy, ecology and environment development.
- To undertake appropriate technology transfer in other developing countries; as well as, from other countries to India, using INFORE (International Network on Sustainable Energy), and other such networks and organisations as a medium/ channel.
- To act as Regional/International Coordinator as well as to host the Regional/Global Secretariat of the international/global networks/organisations for the effective promotion of renewable energy and environmental & ecological development activities/ programmes through member NGOs.

- To facilitate and assist in developing appropriate linkages for setting up of sustainable marketing channels for eco-friendly agricultural (both on farm & off farm) products, renewable energy gadgets and other environmentally sound products, which are produced and/or processed by its members and their target communities.
  - To promote, facilitate and assist its members and other NGOs to undertake sustainable energy based decentralised Power/Electricity Generation, especially in rural areas of the country.
  - To promote, facilitate and assist its members and other NGOs to undertake joint implementation of collaborative projects/programmes for establishing of community oriented, pilot demonstration- “Eco-village Development (EVD) models” based on sustainable energy.

Apart from the technical expertises providing in the technical, field level R&D and experimentation and trial and testing on newly developed RETs gadgets and equipments.

The impact of bamboo reinforced cement mortar (BRCM) Grameen Bandhu biogas plant developed by the Secretary General, INSEDA and implemented in the EVD project as well as training of rural women and mason in its fabrication (weaving of bamboo structures) and building of plant at the farmers site has already been created national, as it WAFD (in the technical partnership of INSEDA) applied for an award which was first short listed as the 50 finalist out of the 2,500 entries, and subsequently awarded by World Bank on May 29, 2007. This will enable the EVD concept and learning to be easily disseminated to other parts of India through the publicity network of the World Bank and the other partners who sponsored it. The wide dissemination of the results of this project for influencing decision and replication by others were also envisaged in the proposal.

Secretary General, INSEDA has been the Overall Coordinator and the Project Director of a 2-3 years on-going project on “Capacity Building of NGOs in RETs on Poverty Reduction in South Asia, in which NGOs from four South Asian countries (Bangladesh, Indian, Nepal and Sri Lanka) are involved. Under this project (amongst other activities) the following two manuals have been prepared.

- a). A practical training manual for capacity building on RETs for poverty reduction has already been prepared by INSEDA for the south Asian region and translated in to Hindi to use by NGOs.
- b). Conduct quarterly training workshop of REEVOCs on the Financial Manual for Micro-finance based implementation of affordable RETs to equip them with the skills to become barefoot trainers in the 20 eco-villages. A practical training Financial Manual for capacity building on RETs for poverty reduction has already been prepared by INSEDA for the South Asian region.

Though the above project was funded by a Danish Funding Agency, the benefit of this project has already gone to EVD project. Using these two manuals, a national participatory training workshop was sponsored, organised and conducted by INSEDA on May 24 and 25, 2007, which was participated by WAFD Executive Director and the EVD’s Project Officer. After that WAFD has already organised one Training Workshop for the REEVOCS on May 29, 2007, on one of the RETs, which has already created good impact.

Similar role will be played by the Secretary General, INSEDA as well as INSEDA in the new EVD proposal submitted to Finnish Government through JYY.

2.4 How will the co-operation Partner participate in the implementation of the Project (e.g. does it provide labour, economic resources, other assets)?
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The cooperation partner WAFD participates fully in the implementation of the project. First of all or in fact, they are in charge of it. WAFD has the local knowledge and therefore is the right organisation to

run the project. The main responsibility of the field level implementation is on WAFD. They will motivate the people to participate to this project and will ensure the comprehensive people-centred development. The cost efficiency is also in WAFD's list of responsibilities, together with sustainability of the whole EVD programme.

WAFD has the ownership of the project in many ways. The executive director gives her knowledge, time and care for the project with a very nominal salary. Her work can be seen as a labour resource as she does not get full compensation on her efforts from the project budget. Also the other workers of WAFD that are not working for the project are giving their time and efforts without getting salary from this particular project. So to say, WAFD provides labour for the projects use.

Also the staff of the project is provided with working place in the city of Bharatpur. That is an office owned by WAFD. There the staff is allowed to work and use the office material as they need. The office building is also used as a conference premises for the villagers education. This also cuts down the expenses of the project.

2.5 Are there other parties involved in the co-operation (e.g. Finnish, local or international organisations or officials)? If so, please describe their role and involvement in the Project.

Naturally JYY, and more in details the Subcommittee for Development Cooperation, is also involved in this cooperation. The Subcommittee is responsible for spreading the information of this cooperation on the campus. This body has to find ways to ensure the self-financing resources to reach its goals. In addition, JYY also regularly monitors the progress of the project. Auditing and accountancy together with reporting are the responsibilities of the student union as well. Using the funds of the entire project and reaching the set goals can be also mentioned as duties of JYY.

The Student Union of the University of Helsinki (HYY) is to collect self-financing resources, inform the students of the University of Helsinki about the EVD program and carry out the final evaluation of the project along with JYY.

### 3. Background and sustainability of the Project

#### 3.1 How was the Project idea initiated? Is it e.g. a part of a larger Program?

This project plan is drafted to be the last phase, Ph-2, of the Eco-Village Development programme. The EVD project idea was initiated when one of the students of JYY Vesa Girs, was visiting India 2001 and the WAFD programs in Bharatpur. Jointly WAFD, INSEDA, and Girs on behalf of the Students Union JYY came up with the “ecovillage development” concept.

During the 2-year pilot project 2002 – 2004 (Education of Barefoot Environmental Promoters and Barefoot Local Technicians in countryside of Bharatpur in Rajasthan, India) information and data was collected from the 12 villages. This information was used for the preparation of the Ph-1, three-year MEV project.

During the MEV project 2004 – 2006 and Intermediate year 2007, the eco-villages were established and villagers trained to understand the concept and work for it.

The last phase, Ph-2 has been planned with participatory methods. The main approach for the preparation of EVD programme has been the participatory process, through out the years. Active involvement of the participation of the 48 barefoot volunteers from the 12 villages in Bharatpur district has been essential since the beginning. WAFD has carried the main responsibility in planning the last phase but the formulation of the project has happened in co-operation jointly by WAFD, INSEDA and JYY.

The Joint program of WAFD –INSEDA-JYY was not the first program of WAFD in Bharatpur. It already had a base and field office there with staff who were implementing other programs for women and child development, and health awareness for mother and child.

#### 3.2 Describe briefly the environment in which the Project will be implemented.

##### **Environment**

The general awareness levels on the environment, pollution and sanitation are very low. Overall people still look at immediate benefits and not long-term benefit. Sanitation is a real problem as there are hardly any toilets in the villages. Open drains mean the household wastewater runs out on the roads leading to unhygienic conditions.

##### **Social and Cultural conditions**

Rajasthan is among the poorest states of India, and is still a feudal and cast-ridden society. The elite in the village society respond in different ways to development interventions. If their authority is somehow challenged they react and lobby against the project. At other times they would take extra interest and claim control over project interventions and resources, and thus filter down the benefits in accordance to their set calculations. Therefore despite focusing on the poor, marginalized and weaker sections of rural society, many interventions fail in focusing adequately those for whom they are meant.

Even today there are many social evils, such as child marriage, dowry, birth practices etc, and though there is focus on removing these issues, often they are practiced quietly.

The status of women is very low, and they do not have much power in decision-making. Purdha i.e.,

covering of the face by a veil especially in front of men, including their father-in-law, is practiced by the women, and they cannot speak out openly in front of the men. The birth of a daughter is still a cause for unhappiness. Even though the law gives women property rights, in reality there is very little land actually registered under women.

Education level among women above the age of 30 is very low. However because of the Government's efforts in ensuring a right to primary education to all children, at least most children in the age group 6 to 12 are in school. There is more focus on educating boys (than girls) as this is seen as means of getting a job.

Even though the Panchayati Raj (decentralized local self governance) has been established, the full benefits of this are still to be filtered down to all the community. There is corruption and those elected are more interested in self gain. Many of these people do not even know what are their duties and rights. The community itself is unaware of their own role and their rights. In spite the Right to Information Bill, many communities have still not been able to make adequate use of this.

### **Economic and Financial conditions**

As the land does not give good returns any more, an average farmer is able to take just one crop: the winter crop. If the monsoon is on time and good, they might be able to take a second crop of millets as well. This means that the economic situation of the average marginal and small farmer is not very stable. Annual income would be between 15,000 rupees (300 euros) from a 1-acre farm to 30,000 from a 2-acre farm. People depend on milk-producing animals for income as they can sell milk at 7 rupees (15 cents) per litre.

Most young men try to get jobs. Many men migrate for agricultural work to other states like Punjab during harvesting and sowing. Others also go to the cities to work either in the construction sites or garment factories as casual or daily wage labour.

This migration brings a different set of problems to the people, such as fear of HIV/AIDS, which is a real threat in Bharatpur district.

### **The 9 new villages**

WAFD has been working in the new 9 villages for the past 9 years. Here the main focus was on capacity building of the women's groups to take over the running of preschool education centres, and non-formal centres, which WAFD had established in each of these villages. WAFD had also trained one literate/semi literate woman from each village as an effective worker for these centres. In December 2006 these programs and all assets created for the village was given over to the women's groups to continue on their own. Since there was a highly motivated group of 10 workers/volunteers in each village, and after discussions with the women's groups, it was decided that these villages should be added to the EVD program

3.3 What is the general state of development in the field of the Project in the area? How does the local government function in this field and in these issues? How does the local government participate in the implementation of the Project - or limit it?
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Taking the problems that the project is trying to address e.g. energy the local administration and the State Government are talking about it now, but there is hardly any action. The officers in charge do not have any specific guidelines on how to go about it. The states concern is not translating into action. A good example would be biogas plants. It is agreed that it is the most appropriate means for using cow dung for renewable energy, both for cooking as well as lighting, and the bi-product is organic manure

from the slurry. Yet there is no incentive or subsidy for the poor farmer. One biogas plant costs Rs.15000 to construct, but the poor farmer cannot afford this. However if he is helped with a small subsidy then he will be motivated to it. The situation is the same with solar energy, the costs are very high for a poor person. Yet the paradox is that oil and gas, which are used much more by the better off and urban people, are highly subsidized.

The project therefore is also looking at educating and showing to the local government officers the methodologies and results of the work.

#### 3.4 How has the Project been planned?

The planning has been done in participation with the REEVOCs and the ordinary village people. Since the REEVOCs have been active participants in the planning process they have together with the staff of WAFD got the basic information from the villages.

A monthly meeting is organized regularly for the REEVOCs. The agendas for these meetings are planned jointly by the Managing Committee and WAFD staff. The focal point is to discuss the progress, problems and their solutions. At these meetings the REEVOCs also plan for the next month's program as to what they think and feel needs to be done or taken up. If any new information is to be given to the group, WAFD does that together with the members of the managing committee. Even when there is need to visit any office it is done together with the members of the managing committee and WAFD.

#### 3.5 Describe the most essential problems of the beneficiaries that the Project is meant to address.

1. Energy: We all need energy, however since we largely depend on fossil oil for our energy needs, and this being a slowly depleting source the cost is going up. The poor, whose need for energy is very basic, are still the hardest hit. Their basic need for energy is for light in the homes, safe and clean cooking energy. The energy needs for their small-scale machines and engines are very small but in the present scenario even this is becoming unaffordable for them. They suffer the most.

2. Degraded soil: The project villages have the major problem of environmental degradation due to indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, as well as over exploitation of the natural resources. This has caused the soil to lose its fertility. In many places salts have come to the surface of the soil making it uncultivable. When a few farmers in the project area had their soil tested they were told it would go barren very soon unless proper action was taken, such as organic manure.

3. Lack of water: Bharatpur faces shortage of water. The changing climate has meant that there are years without adequate rain, or sudden rain at wrong times as was the case in 2006 and 2007, when wheat and mustard were ready for harvest. Heavy rains meant great losses.

4. Women's drudgery: Women have to spend long hours collecting cow dung and then making these into cakes for fuel. They spend time in the hot sun for the preparation and storage of these dung cakes. They also have to spend a great deal of time in collecting the agriculture waste to be used as fuel.

Collecting water from distances, collecting fodder for the animals and cutting this for feeding, are all part of the woman's job. All of the above-mentioned are not only time consuming, but also backbreaking and tiring.

Since women use open fires using either dried cow dung cakes, or agriculture waste as fuel for cooking food, there is a lot of indoor pollution. This affects not only the health of the women but of the

children who are with them, especially the young girls who help their mothers in cooking. Cleaning of the blackened utensils from the open fires also takes hard work and adds to the drudgery.

The first three problems: energy, degraded soil and lack of water all contribute to women's drudgery making it worse whereas the developments and improvements brought about by this project will considerably lighten the women's burden.

3.6 What are the risks that can compromise the outcome of the Project? How is the Project organisation planning to minimize these risks?

Risks are five fold: 1. natural risks 2. lobbying by companies and groups interested in their own short term profits. 3. communities' own agenda of greed so they can be misguided by outsiders or vested interests 4. staff if they are not really committed to the project can really spoil it 5. rumours by vested interests

The project has already suffered from these however the strategy where by the REEVOCs themselves are equal partners in decision making and transparency at all levels will minimize the human effects. We are already seeing the effect where people are able to themselves take a stand when they know something is false. Climatic effects are out of our control.

The biggest risks are the natural causes such as drought conditions or too much rain, which can destroy the crops, leading to great hardship for the farmers.

The other risk as has happened, is the fertilizer companies which can misguide the poor farmers and give free or highly subsidized chemical fertilizer the first year. This way all the work of practicing organic farming is reversed and the soil conditions will again deteriorate. What is being taught to the people for improvement of the environment is also lost.

3.7 Will the Project create a new institution or procedure or is it going to support some existing structure?

Naturally the whole concept of Model Eco Villages is a new institution itself. Also the REEVOCs, Management Committee and Women's Groups are newly established institutions in the villages. But this all has been established already.

The idea is not to create any new institutions in this point of the project but strengthen the ones that are there already. This is done for the sustainability of the project.

The SHGs or self-help groups will be organised to help provide small credit to the members first for livelihood activities and then for taking up /establishing an EVD component such as bio gas plant or solar lights. To give an example: milk animals are the most sought after by the poor as these are a good source of income by selling the milk. Once they have a regular steady income they are in a position to start repaying in small instalments. Once they have the milk animals they can also take loan for construction of the bio gas plant, as the income from the milk is continuous. Many of our members from the micro credit groups have taken small loans of 10,000 to 15000 rupees to buy milk animals already. It will be the same for solar lights or buying organic seeds, or setting up vermi compost units etc

3.8 How and when will the responsibility of the Project be transferred to the local government, local organisation or to the beneficiaries?

The responsibility of the project management will be given gradually to the beneficiaries by the end of

the project period. This has been already started by forming a managing committee of the elected members of the REEVOCs (volunteer group). This committee is slowly learning to take on one responsibility at a time, of monitoring, selection of program activities, selection of new beneficiaries etc. So that leadership develops among all the volunteers, the management committee will be elected every 2 years so more people get a chance to take responsibility and decisions. With this in mind the staff strength too has been reduced and only an essential number is retained.

It is also planned that during this phase the project, villages will form a marketing co-operative for sale of the organic produce, as well as bio diesel in the long term. Part of the income from this will be able to support the activities for the future.

The revolving fund proposed in this phase is an important asset which the people will use as small credit, repayable in easy instalments through the Self Help Groups formed in the project. This will mean many more beneficiaries are able to make use of this fund, for implementing components of the Project, without depleting the funds as is the case in "grants". A small interest will be charged for the loan and this interest will help cover the operational costs

A self help group or SHG is usually a group of 10 -15 women from the village who join together to form a formal group with the basic aim to regularly save a small amount every month, and use this for on lending to each other for their needs. This money is then returned and others take it. Each group has to open a bank account in the name of the group, and the group designates two members to operate this account. These members can be changed by the group. The group also elects annually their office bearers. Minutes of the meetings are kept in a register, and financial records maintained by them as well.

WAFD role is to provide training, and bank linkages. The funds are handled by the group itself. The credit will be provided to the group in it's bank account for giving credit to the members who need it for setting up EVD components. The members will repay this money to their SHG according to their agreed to terms eg. monthly repayments over a year or 2 year period. The SHG will then return the money to WAFD to give to another group. Thus it gets revolved to many more groups and helps the members to avail credit for these important aspects.

The groups are already getting into the habit of taking small loans and repaying in small instalments regularly, therefore they know how to use the revolving fund.

## 4. Beneficiaries

### 4.1 Who are the direct beneficiaries of the Project? How many are they (approx.)?

The direct beneficiaries will be all the people of the 19 villages who are directly participating in the programs of EVD. These will be the 48 REEVOCs, the 168 farmers (this figure will increase by end of the project) who are taking up organic farming as a result of the Project work, the farmers growing “Jatropha” the biogas users and owners, the women who are part of the women’s groups etc. By the end of the project it is envisioned that at least 2000 men and women will have benefited directly from the project.

- At least 24 women and 24 men keep getting training as “barefoot environmental educators”
- At least 300 women will be organized into groups for self-help and credit/micro finance for renewable energy and other needs, which will meet once a month
- At least 300 farmers will be practicing organic farming
- 200 youth both boys and girls will have been made aware of the issues of environment specially importance of renewable energy
- 25 women will be trained in bamboo basket weaving for the bio gas plants
- 10 village masons will trained in construction of low cost toilets
- 25 youth will be trained in the construction of soak pits for sanitation and waste water disposal

### 4.2. Who are the indirect beneficiaries of the Project?

The indirect beneficiaries are the other village people from surrounding areas who learn from seeing and are getting exposed to the issues being addressed by the Project.

The indirect beneficiaries are also all the villagers living in the project villages who are not actively participating in project activities. Anyhow they will see the benefits of the project components and gradually possibly getting involved with environmental activities as they see the others experiencing the positive outcomes of the actions.

***If the project support applied for is less than 20.000 €, please answer the following question:***

### 4.3 How do the beneficiaries themselves participate in the Project?

The project has been planned and is being implemented in a participatory manner together with the beneficiaries’ direct involvement. In that sense it possible to say that the beneficiaries are playing a key role in this project.

Good example of the participating in the project is that when promoting organic farming this is done by the beneficiaries themselves. The farmers keep presentations in the villages to promote the idea of organic farming – not the staff members! They also have a monthly newsletter that is written by the villagers to the villagers. In these issues they raise up topics that concern their villages, like girl feitusus abortion, dowry, benefits of jatropha plant and importance of sanitation.

The beneficiaries have been formed into a “Managing Committee” and this committee takes all decisions jointly with the Project, as well as is active in monitoring and evaluation of the programs. Financially they contribute a small percentage wherever it is feasible. This governing body has been elected among the REEVOCs who are the oldest form of participating beneficiaries in this project.

The beneficiaries are slowly but surely learning how to be in charge in this project. The established institutions are beginning to run smoothly and people start to understand that they are doing all the

work for themselves, not for the EVD staff.

This matter is something that WAFD is really actively working on. The ultimate aim is that the beneficiaries take the ownership over the actions and that the people are eagerly working for themselves.

***If the project support applied for is 20.000 € or more, please answer the following question:***

4.4 Define the nature of participation in the Project by each group of beneficiaries.

- The “managing committee” plans the monthly meeting, the agenda and issues to be discussed. The minutes of the monthly meetings are written by them. The members monitor different activities and progress of the REEVOCs (volunteer group) and recommends as to whose stipend should be released. It visits the village with Project personnel for problem solving or motivation
- The Senior REEVOCs motivate and expand the activities in their village and surrounding villages.
- The REEVOCs jointly plan activities and programs
- The student volunteers, NGO staff who will be given training/exposure at project will be able to disseminate the ideas of the EVD to other areas, as well as learn to address these
- The other participants like the Government departments people, other NGOs and REEVOCs and local village elected members will be exposed to the learnings

## 5. Objective, plan of action, monitoring and information

### Objectives

#### 5.1 What is the long-term development objective of the Project?

The long term objective of the project is to bring about a measurable change in the attitude and behaviour of the group of villages, so that the quality of life of the people, the energy needs of the people are being met through use of renewable energy; the land is regaining its fertility: indoor pollution is reduced.

Definition: The improvement in the quality of life would be the reduction in the drudgery in the lives of the women and girls specially. At present due to open fireplaces there is a lot of indoor pollution, which causes respiratory tract infections for both the women and their young children who are near them while they cook. They become passive smokers through no fault of their own. Smoke also leads to eye infections again of mother and child who are near the fireplace. Once the objectives of the project are achieved there will be smoke free kitchens and health will improve.

Lack of adequate light at night affects children's studies, and also is a safety hazard to women, girls and children. Once there is enough light either from solar or from biogas there will be relief and improvement.

#### 5.2 What is the direct objective of the Project? (Limited by the area of implementation and the group of beneficiaries)

To create a group of "model eco villages" that can act as demonstration and learning units for other villages, NGO's and Government agencies. In more detail:

1. To create 19 model eco villages which can be used to show and teach other NGOs, Government departments and interested people, the learning from this.
2. To promote a net working among surrounding villages and grassroots NGOs working in similar conditions.
3. To prepare and equip these 19 villages to be linked to financial institution through WAFD for accessing small credit for implementing renewable energy technologies appropriate to their situation.

This will be done as under:

- a) By jointly organising and conducting 1 day participatory training workshops for grassroots level NGOs on the concept, planning, implementation and operational aspects of model eco-villages as one of the probable approach for promoting environmentally-sound, people-centred development programme for poverty reduction, using villages as the smallest viable, easily manageable and sustainable units.
- b) Promoting Network of NGOs on RETs and Eco-village, operating in the surrounding districts of Rajasthan state.
- c) The information and results will be placed on the Websites of both WAFD and INSEDA for wider

disseminations of the results and impacts.

d) The concept, planning, implementation, results and impacts will be presented in the form of papers in the workshops, conferences and seminars in which INSEDA and WAFD were invited to share their learning from the EVD project (Note: It is already being done and several NGOs and developmental practitioners are aware about this as well as form the part of the best practices/case studies for the manual prepared by INSEDA for INFORSE South Asian Region).

**If the project support applied for is 20.000 € or more, please answer the following question:**  
(those applying for a smaller amount of support may also answer if they wish)

**5.3. What are the results targeted by this Project?**

- 80% of Target village farmers are practicing organic farming
- 80% Making own organic manure
- 30% families using some form of solar energy wherever possible
- 30% families using biogas for cooking fuel and organic manure
- 50% families having low cost toilets in homes
- 300 women have been made aware on the importance of taking care of environment
- at least 8 student volunteers and 4 NGO staff from local area will have been trained in the EVD concept and how to establish other EVD programs in other areas
- 10 local masons will have been trained in constructing low cost toilets –100 toilets will have been constructed
- 10 local masons trained in construction of simple rain water from roof water harvesting structures –19 structures will have been constructed
- at least 50 Government People , 50 NGO and 100 village elected members apart from the direct beneficiaries will have been made aware of the issues of deteriorating environment and possible solutions from the EVD project

## Implementation

**5.4 Describe the activities by which the results and immediate objectives are to be accomplished. If possible, please also give a rough timetable (by year) of project implementation.**

Activities to be undertaken:

- Capacity building of the (volunteers) REEVOCs
  - Training of youth groups and women's groups in environmental issues and their solutions
  - Demonstration and training in organic farming and organic manure preparation
  - Formation of self help groups for accessing credit for establishing renewable energy units such as biogas plants, solar lights and solar cookers etc.
1. People's expanding and sharing the knowledge of EVD experiences through the annual EVD Fair cum workshop for other NGOs, government officials and other people will help to spread the learning. This will be carried out during November - December 2008
  2. Training of masons for water harvesting will ensure that people are able to harvest rainwater from their roofs through simple low cost structures. Time for implementation May – June before the monsoons.
  3. Celebration of International women's day March 28<sup>th</sup>. This is a very important activity to help

women gain self-confidence and strength through getting together on one stage and sharing experiences.

4. Monthly meetings of Mahila mandals (women's groups) and self help groups, will help to organize the women and build their capacity to organise themselves, discuss problems and take decisions. These meetings will also train them to manage their groups independently when the program is handed over to them. These will be carried out every month on a date and time fixed by the women themselves.
5. Strengthening of the youth clubs to be done regularly through meetings to create awareness on environment and how they can take action to protect it. Youth will also be motivated to take up sanitation and cleanliness drives in their own villages.
6. Training an exposure of EVD staff through participation in meetings and workshops related to EVD subjects will help better understanding and work. These will be whenever there is an opportunity.
7. Demonstration unit of organic multi cropping. This will be established to teach the REEVOCs and other village people how best to use their land, the different type of crops that can be grown in between to make the most of the small pieces of land. Will start in June 2008.
8. Training of staff of other NGO's and Student volunteers to help spread the EVD work, and provide a chance to actually involve in some of the activities. Time will have to be worked out.
9. Newsletter of the people will be taken out monthly. It helps people gain confidence and also to share their own experiences.
10. Experiments will be carried out to make small-scale bio diesel at the village level to demonstrated use of the mixture of bio-diesel with diesel to operate the diesel engine sets, for mechanical operation as well as for generating decentralised electricity/power for use in individual houses, group of houses or small community etc. This will be done in October November 2008

***If the project support applied for is less than 20.000 €, please answer the following question:***

5.5 What has been agreed with the Partner about the separation of responsibilities in the implementation of the Project?
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The roles and responsibilities in the implementation of the proposed project remain same as they have been since the initiation of the EVD programme.

WAFD has been the main responsible for promoting human-centered development in the selected villages in Bharatpur region. Their role on the field has been facilitating; the NGO has been guiding the people to help themselves. The participating process and methods have been the approach for the implementation. The beneficiaries have been encouraged to carry the responsibility of their own progress and the success of the implemented project.

A very good example of this is the role and work of Management Committee. They are the elected twelve member body that is responsible for the actual implementation. These representatives have been elected among the villagers and they all have a background in REEVOCs. As this Committee is basically leading the whole project the role of WAFD becomes more advocacy. These members are getting support from the NGO staff when they need it, but they are expected to plan the implementation and carry the responsibility themselves. Naturally WAFD is there to help out always when it is needed, but they are encouraging the volunteers and Committee to manage independently. So to say, the main responsibility of the field level implementation has been since 2002 and will be to the end of the programme 2009 of WAFD. The responsibility of this NGO is to provide strong social inputs at the community level to mobilise the local people for the participatory implementation of the proposed project. The aim of WAFD's actions has over the years been to ensure comprehensive people centred development as well as cost effectiveness and long-term sustainability of the entire

EVD programme. Practical organisation of all activities of the project has been and will be made by WAFD. As this has work out fruitfully and without any problems, the cooperation will continue in the same manner to the end of year 2009.

In addition to that, WAFD is responsible for auditing and accountancy of the project and for reaching of goals and using of funds in the project in India.

The role of JYY and other parties involved has been described in the section “2. Local Partner Organisation and nature of co-operation”, in the question “2.4 How will the co-operation Partner participate in the implementation of the Project (e.g. does it provide labour, economic resources, other assets)?”

***If the project support applied for is 20.000 € or more, please answer the following question:***

5.6 Describe the implementation and monitoring organisation of the Project and the responsibility of each party therein.

As described earlier joint implementation at field is done by WAFD jointly with the group of volunteers. All planning is done jointly and project staff with the volunteers carry out the program

WAFD administration staff keeps books of accounts, and monitor spending. WAFD is also responsible and accountable to Government of India, the Home Ministry and sends audited accounts and informs them of all foreign funds .

Monitoring and planning of programs is done on three levels

1. field level by the Program Officer and the REEVOCs Management Team
2. overall planning and monitoring of programs and activities at all levels, accounts etc is done regularly by Executive Director WAFD with the Accounts and Program staff
3. Technical guidance and monitoring of technical aspects is done by the Technical partners INSEDA
4. JYY annual monitoring

## **Monitoring**

5.7 How do the responsible persons of the Finnish organisation follow the implementation of the Project and the use of financial resources? How do they participate in its implementation?

JYY has an elected person as an India coordinator. The role of this person is to stay in track of the state of the actions and level of implementation. The work of the India Coordinator is done basically in voluntary basis. This person is in active connection with WAFD’s director general Zareen Myles. The communication happens through emails. Periodically WAFD sends progress reports for JYY to know what has happened during the last section implementation.

The whole subcommittee is aware of the level of implementation of the project. It is a tradition that the India Coordinator of JYY attends all the meetings of the subcommittee and informs about the latest news and changes in the field in India. In that way the Subcommittee president as well as all the active members are aware of the level of the implementation. The project has been in the minutes monthly and the members keep giving their opinions and ideas for the coordinator.

There are also other persons following the implementation of the process. The Secretary for Foreign Affairs of JYY actively reads the provided reports and updates his/her knowledge in this matter. Also

the board member of JYY that is responsible for international affairs and the president of the board follow the information provided by WAFD. This all is essential because the project is discussed a lot and in that way also the possible ideas are addressed to India by the coordinator.

Still the most important way of monitoring is the annual monitoring trips made by JYY to the project in India. Annually there have been representatives of JYY in Bharatpur to experience the implementation themselves. These trips are the best way of gaining knowledge in the progress. Normally there have been two members that are selected by the subcommittee. These representatives stay in the area for a couple of weeks and visit the Delhi office as well. They are responsible for writing a report for JYY to describe what has happened in the Bharatpur area during the last year. These persons are expected to have knowledge either in development or environment. In that way they can also give ideas at the site how to improve in implementation. When returning back to Jyväskylä, they give a presentation of their experiences that is open for all the members of JYY. In that way the average members can get information of the project as well and see the improvements in the annual level.

The monitors of JYY are expected to check the accounts while in India, if they have reasonable knowledge in it.

Both / all the monitors are actively involved with the project from the moment they are selected to be the representatives. They are expected to do so as they will have first hand experience from the field.

During the year 2007 a mid-term evaluation will be conducted by the present India Coordinator, Jaana Laitinen, as a master's thesis of Social and Public Policy (Master's Programme in Development and International Cooperation). This evaluation will be the first one conducted since the implementation of the EVD programme started 2002. With it the student will try to find out the sustainability factors of the programme, giving a special attention for ownership, participation and gender.

The participation in implementation is therefore more on an advocacy level. JYY strongly trusts in WAFD and acknowledges it as a specialist in this project. WAFD has the local knowledge and a long and impressive history in the field, so JYY is concentrating more in giving support and providing ideas.

5.8 How do the local co-operation Partners follow the implementation of the Project and the use of financial resources?

WAFD directly implements the project. At the field level there is a Project Officer who looks after the day-to-day requirements and monitoring needs of the project. With him are a senior technician and a woman social worker to strengthen the mahila mandals and SHGs. The WAFD accountant looks after the accounting needs.

The Executive Director of WAFD visits the project every month to guide, motivate, monitor and plan with the REEVOCs and the staff team. The Executive Director also participates in the monthly Meetings of the REEVOCs whenever possible and also visits the villages for on site monitoring and progress analysis.

For all financial monitoring the Accountant and Project Officer have a copy of the agreed to budget and the plans. Approval for funds request is sent to the ED who approves after studying the request and funds are then used. All proper financial systems are followed.

5.9 What kind of numerical or other data will be collected on the advancement of the Project?

The mid-term evaluation is the main work done for the advancement of the project. This is conducted

to find out what has been done well and what needs extra attention for the sustainability of the project. When evaluating there will be collection of qualitative data.

The qualitative data will be collected with participatory methods. The different manners to be used are: Participant Observation, Collective Brainstorming, Participatory Mapping, Focus Group Discussion and Transect Walks. In addition to this, the semi-structured interviews will be conducted.

Naturally WAFD will keep database for all the numerical data concerning the progress of the project. This has done already years.

The annual monitoring trips provide useful qualitative and quantitative data. This is very useful and can be even conducted in a more structured manner. This is something JYY has to invest time and energy in the future, already starting from the monitoring trip for the year 2007.

The implementation of the objectives can be monitored with the help of **quantitative indicators**. First of all what must be asked is, are there 19 model eco villages? Then to concentrate in the amounts of following matters: number of RE users (solar gadgets and biogas plants); smoke free kitchens; trained masons and roof rainwater harvesting components; WAFD's and INSEDA's webpage users; presentations held where the EVD concept has been displayed. Also the circulation of the RE-components must be evaluated (micro-credits are to establish for them). How often the village level newspaper is issued and is the demonstration unit of organic multi-cropping and bio-diesel experiments and demonstrations organized.

What also needs to be calculated is how many Mahila Mandal, Youth Club and SHG meetings were held? How often the EVD staff was trained and were the participatory training workshops for NGOs organized. In addition to all this, the numbers of land fertility and indoor pollution testing must be gathered, and in connection with this: the amounts of eye infections monitored.

In general, all the numbers of meetings and trainings held, the number of people trained, the number of micro-level people's institutions established must be regularly collected.

Not only quantitative data but also qualitative must be collected. Some of the **qualitative indicators**, which can be used, are following: if there are 19 model eco-villages, what is the state of them (needs a defined list of the matters that indicates the model eco village); how active is the cooperation with local stakeholders (such as other NGOs, Government departments, neighbouring villages etc.); styles of promoting the idea of Model Eco Villages; How are the micro-credits functioning and the influences on the lenders' lives; functioning of "RETs and Eco-village Network"; WADF's and INSEDA's web pages – existence, the quality of content.

Also in the interest are environmental attitudes and awareness of the population from the target area (questionnaires and interviews), awareness of RE-solutions and health influences (such as respiratory and eye-infections), general opinions of the beneficiaries.

Women's situation and own viewpoints must be evaluated alongside with men's opinions on them. What have been the experiences of women and how the project has affected their lives? This can be defined by measuring women's self-confidence, capacity to organise themselves, discuss problems and decisions making capacity.

As many of these matters mentioned will be measured and evaluated by the end of the year 2007 it will provide a great baseline study for this project. Naturally there is already some data available from the pilot project's time, so this information can be used as an ultimate base line study.

5.10 Where and how will the accounting and audit of the Project be arranged?

The accounting and audit of Project will be done in India at the Project Partner Office. This has to be done due to Government of India requirement, especially for foreign contribution.

WAFD sends the audited statements to Finland. After that JYY conducts auditing by its own personnel. An external auditor will conclude this all.

5.11 Will the organisation evaluate the Project during its implementation or afterwards? If the answer is yes, please describe how it will be carried out.

As mentioned earlier in 5.7. and 5.9. JYY is about to evaluate the project now during the year 2007. From the very beginning of the programme it has been planned that the implementation will have a proper impact assessment at the end. This is still the case.

### Information

5.12 Describe how the organisation will inform about the Project. Give details on the goals, target groups, information material and information channels.

The project has been informed to the members of the student union actively. All the new students get with their fee bill a newsletter about the project and instructions for a possibility to support the project when paying their student union fee. This is the first time, when the new students get the information about the project. In this newsletter there is information about development cooperation in general and the particular project. There is also a web page address to the project web page in the leaflet. These leaflets are distributed at the Student Union building through out the year. In that way we can reach the older students as well.

The project has own web page to provide information about the work done in India. The web page has basic information about the EVD programme, the monitoring trip reports, photos, links etc. The address is [www.jyy.fi/india](http://www.jyy.fi/india).

There has already for several years been a tradition to hold so called India Lunch at the Student Union's Cafeteria. This happens roughly once a semester. During that time, the subcommittee for Development Cooperation organizes power point presentation, information leaflets, Indian music, photos of the EVD programme etc to the cafeteria. The cafeteria gives a share of the students' lunch payment for the project. This event is therefore a combination of information sharing and fundraising.

As stated earlier, the monitors are obligated to have a presentation at the campus when they come back from India. These events are open for everyone. Usually these events are called India evenings. In that way it has been possible to combine other things like music and food to these evenings. Anyhow the emphasis of the evening is on the project.

Every now and then there is an article in the student unions Newspaper about the project. These writings have been very informative and contain lots of photos. Circulation of this Newspaper is 7000 issues, twice a month. <http://www.jyy.fi/jylkkari/arkisto/0615/paasivu.htm>

After the monitoring trip 2007 student union created a photo exhibition of the photos taken by two monitors. This was a great way of informing the students about the project. There are about 30 colourful, showy photos, developed in a big size and framed. These photos will be used for this same purpose later as well. This is a great way to reach such students also who are not initially interested in development cooperation.

There has been an attempt to create an India group to be responsible for this project. This is still under construction. The idea is that this group would be responsible exactly for this issue; informing the members of the project and the possibilities it offers for them.

What is worth of mentioning in here is that all these factors have been actively performed already during the past years. There are no extra costs in these forms of information and therefore no money from the project funding will be used for the information purposes.

**6. Free-form description of the Project and its operation** (optional: if the other questions in this form are not suitable or sufficient to describe the Project, please use this space to give additional information)

### **WAFD and World Bank's "India Development Marketplace 2007 Grassroots initiatives for Management and Protection of Natural Resources"**

The World Bank has an award called "India Development Marketplace 2007 Grassroots initiatives for Management and Protection of Natural Resources". This year there were 2500 entries in this competition. After experts' studies and evaluations and intense question answer by a Jury of eminent People in the field, 20 initiatives are given the award.

In May 29<sup>th</sup> 2007 WAFD won this award competition for the bamboo based bio gas plant designed by Raymond Myles, Secretary General of the Integrated Sustainable Energy and Ecological Development Association. He has designed this bamboo structure for the EVD project.

The main features of this plant are:

1. Women's empowerment and employment generation: earlier models did not have the participation. In this model 6 women get work for 8 days and earn 316 rupees each for weaving the baskets. This is done in their own homes/villages even in their own free time and baskets can be transported when needed. We have worked out that if there are even 25 plants to be constructed this group of 6 women can be assured of 200 days of work and earn from 9000 to 10,000 rupees.

2. Use of bamboo instead of bricks: this plant uses bamboo reinforced with cement and mortar. It uses a natural resource and prevents pollution. Bricks use up good land from the farms and baking them means polluting the atmosphere with smoke from the kilns.

3. Cost: this plant is cheaper by Rs. 3000 from the conventional plants which cost 18000 rupees at today's rates in Bharatpur. The bamboo plant costs 15000. In places where bamboo grows abundantly it would be even cheaper.

4. It has a working life of a minimum of 25 years

5. The other benefits to women's health, indoor pollution etc is the same.

The grant from this award will be used in the EVD project for the biogas plant training to more women in weaving, awareness on environmental issues to all the women's groups about 500 women, and same number of youth and men. EVD will also build 20 plants in the area.

### **Volunteer programme**

There is a new initiation to bring more students of Jyväskylä University to become involved with this cooperation. WAFD has created an idea of offering a possibility for the students to volunteer or do an

internship at the field, in the project villages. This would be done in the area of their own specialization and interest, like in education, environment, women empowerment, renewable energy, financing / micro-credits etc. With the experience of the past years WAFD feels it will be good to share and open this experience and learning of the project components with students who are interested. This will help students to understand the problems, the solutions being implemented and also learn the technologies e.g. the bio gas plants, smokeless chullas (improved cook stoves), organic farming, making organic compost etc.

Firstly WAFD gives weeklong training, orientation for the students to introduce them to India, particular area, religious, history, society, issues in these villages etc. This is done to make the volunteers aware of the local issues which the project and WAFD are addressing. Then the students will start to work in the selected EVD villages with the villagers. The idea is that the students would provide WAFD with a case study documents, reports, documentations, web page designs e.g. at the end. In that way everyone benefits – student gets a great learning/working experience, the project villages can get new, fresh ideas for the implementation and the NGO improves its documentation.

### **Final Words**

As NGO support aims at *“providing ordinary Finnish citizens with possibilities for direct and personal cooperation with people in developing countries”* this new form of WAFD and JYY cooperation is supporting this matter. Now even more students from Jyväskylä University can participate in the cooperation. Naturally the work done in Finland, like fundraising and information sharing, are always open for all the members of JYY, more than 12 000 Finnish students.

According to our understanding the proposed project and the whole programme of EVD correlates perfectly with Finnish Development Cooperation principles. As Finland aims at poverty reduction and gender equality this follows also the aims of the EVD programme. Environment and sustainable development are particularly emphasised in JYY's and WAFD's cooperation as well.

It is stated in the Ministry's guidelines *“The Finnish human rights policy focuses on the equality and rights of minorities, indigenous peoples and women and children, particularly girls”*. This works well along with our goals. WAFD is implementing the project in the area where poverty has deprived people's rights and marginalized them out of mainstream society. WAFD's field of specialization is work for women and girls who are a very vulnerable group in this particular area of India. In this proposal and the active implementation during the past years, WAFD has been integrating gender into all activities in the field. As an example, there has been the same amount of male and female volunteers as REEVOCs throughout the program. The same pattern continues in the Managing Committee. This has been very important for WAFD and JYY. According to the beneficiaries, both women and men, the women's position has changed during the past years to a more positive direction. For example, they are nowadays allowed to speak out in the meetings and participate in decision-making on village and family level. This is a direct result of the implemented projects. This will be properly evaluated during the year 2007, when the mid-term evaluation will be conducted.

## 7. The Budget and the financing plan of the Project

Budget	Year 08	Year 09	Year	Total
<b>1. Personnel costs (Appendix 1)</b>				
Salaries and related costs of Finnish personnel	0	0		
Travel and accommodation of Finnish personnel	0	0		
Salaries and related costs of local personnel				
Other personnel costs				
Value of Finnish voluntary work				
<b>Personnel costs, subtotal</b>				
<b>2. Activity costs (e.g. training) (Appendix 2)</b>				
Fees of hired experts				
Other costs				
<b>Activity costs, subtotal</b>				
<b>3. Materials, procurements and investments (Appendix 3)</b>				
Procurement of materials and appliances				
Construction				
Other procurements				
Value of donated goods				
<b>Materials, procurements and investments, subtotal</b>				
<b>4. Operation and maintenance (Appendix 4)</b>				
Operation costs				
Maintenance costs				
<b>Operation and maintenance, subtotal</b>				
<b>5. Monitoring, evaluation and information (Appendix 5)</b>				
Personnel costs and external services				
Travel and accommodation				
Other costs				
Information costs in Finland (max. 5 % of total project costs)				
<b>Monitoring, evaluation and information, subtotal</b>				
<b>Total implementation costs</b>				
<b>6. Administrative costs (Appendix 6)</b>				
Salaries and related costs of administrative personnel				
Office costs				
Statutory audit costs of the Finnish organisation				
Fund-raising costs (excluding information costs)				
Value of Finnish voluntary work in administration				
<b>Total administrative costs</b>				
<b>Total project costs</b>				

Administrative costs as a % of total costs (max. 10%)

Financing plan	Year	Year	Year	Total
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**1. Self-financing (Appendix 7)**

Cash contributions

Voluntary work and material donations

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**Total self-financing**

Self-financing as a % of total project costs

**2. Project support from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs**

Earlier allocation of project support

**New/additional application**

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**Total financing**

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## 8. Development objectives and cross-cutting themes of the Project

8.1. What is/are the development objective(s) of the Project? Mark one main objective and max. 3 other significant objectives:		
Main objective	Other objective	
		Abolishing extreme poverty and famine
		Extending elementary education to all
	X	Improvement of gender equality and the situation of women
		Diminishing infant mortality
		Improving the health of pregnant women
		Work against HIV/Aids
		Work against malaria and other significant illnesses
X		Sustainable development of the environment
		Access to clean water
		Improving living conditions in the slums
	X	Improving the working conditions of the private sector and increasing economic interaction
	X	Advancing democracy, human rights and good governance
		Advancing the state of peace and security
		Developing a just and regulated international trade and financial system
		Solving the debt problem of developing countries using national and international means
		Bringing the benefits of using new technology and especially information technology to developing countries in co-operation with the private sector
		None of the above. Other, explain.

**If the project support applied for is 20.000 € or more, please answer the following question:**

8.2 How does the Project plan take into account the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) or other equivalent national plans of the developing country concerned? If it has not been taken into account, please justify:

India does not have Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper at all. Therefore we have been using “*Rajasthan Human Development Report 2002*” by UNDP as basis for this answer. The State Human Development Report (SHDR) examines these issues from the perspective of livelihood and human capabilities, especially that of the poor. These issues are appraised against the yardstick of national and global targets.

India’s largest state Rajasthan, is aiming at ensuring rapid growth. But the state’s goal is to ensure growth that is pro-poor, pro-nature, pro-women and pro-jobs. Sustaining livelihoods is a priority for the government, as well as for poor households, social groups and communities. Sustainability of livelihood is at the forefront of the “people’s agenda” in Rajasthan. Already all these correlate with EVD’s objectives and goals. As the proposed project is aiming at sustainability in the eco-villages where the people-centred development is in the core of actions, it can be said that the project is strongly supporting Rajasthan’s efforts for poverty reduction and human development.

The major constraints in Rajasthan for the development are following: 1. More than 60 percent of the State's total area is desert. 2. Agriculture depends on rainfall and failure of the monsoon causes severe drought and scarcity conditions. 3. Growth of population continues to be high. 4. Rajasthan is deficient in water (surface and ground). 5. Literacy level, especially for girls, is among the lowest in the country. 6. Other social and economic infrastructure is also deficient.

These listed issues are also the base on WAFD's and INSEDA's work and taken into consideration in all the actions in implementation. This proposed project tries to improve the state of environment in all these listed constraints. In addition to that, in the former project (funded by Germans) that ended in December 2006 WAFD has been working with educational issues in the 9 of the proposed villages. Therefore it can be said that the NGO has a strong will to impact to the issues that are problems in the area.

Rajasthan has defined an approach and strategy to meet these constraints to achieve development. This plan reflects Indian national objectives. It gives emphasis for the living conditions of the people. This will be aimed with generation of larger employment opportunity; reduction in poverty and regional disparities; provision of Basic Minimum Services; people's participation; and development of infrastructure.

As Rajasthan and Indian plans are giving the stress for living conditions of the people and sustainable development, EVD programme aims for the same goals. It is trying to impact poverty, aiming at creating new livelihood opportunities, encouraging people to participation and taking ownership as well as responsibility in their own development.

On a concrete level the project is looking at poverty reduction in different ways:

1. By improving the environment and fertility of the soil it is aiming at the beneficiaries to be able to gradually produce more. Linking with markets through formation of marketing co-operative to help them get better price
2. Forming the women into self help groups to access small credit for income generation activities/ livelihood programs so that they can earn some income
3. Helping women access credit for adopting low cost renewable energy technologies such as solar energy, biogas etc to ensure regular, free and clean energy for women to reduce their drudgery. This way their time can be used for more productive activities
4. Ensuring women's participation in all project activities and decisions, in order to improve opportunities for their development.

8.3. Cross-cutting themes of development policy		
The development policy program of the Finnish government contains a number of cross-cutting themes which are to be taken into account in all development activities.		
<b>Instructions:</b> In the column "impact" please mark a sign as advised below according to the impact this Project is estimated to have. Justify with one sentence the most important positive and negative impacts of the Project.		
<b>Options:</b>		
	++	significant positive impact
	+	positive impact
	0	no impact

	-	negative impact
<b>Themes</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Justification/Additional information</b>
<b>Impact on the Environment</b>		
Access to clean water and sanitation	++	Project is aiming at increasing the amount of toilets in villages.
Environmental distress (soil, water, atmosphere, waste)	++	Environmental awareness training is a core activity.
Protection of biodiversity	++	Environmental awareness training is a core activity.
Sustainable use of natural resources (incl. Energy, consumption, erosion)	++	RET and awareness are main components of the project.
<b>Reducing gender inequality</b>		
Division of work between men and women	++	Women are given same possibilities in the project institutions as men (REEVOCs, Managing Committee)
Women's access to income and their right to possess	++	Micro-credits and SHGs.
Women's participation in decision making	++	Mahila Mandals, equal participation in project institutions and activities, SHGs, micro-credits
Sexual health and reproductive rights	+	Mahila Mandals, SHGs
Reducing violence	+	Women's position in the society will better through the implemented activities and it should have an impact on violence also.
Equal opportunities to education	+	General awareness in equity will improve and this will have an impact to the understanding the need of education
<b>Supporting the most vulnerable groups (the disabled, ethnic or religious minorities, aboriginals, children)</b>		
The most vulnerable groups as members of the community (the attitudes towards the most vulnerable)	++	Considering women as vulnerable group they are actively involved. The project is open for every single member of the society and they all are encouraged to participate.
Empowerment of the most vulnerable groups	++	Empowerment is emphasized in all the levels of implementation. Poorest people are actively involved (like landless women are provided with a possibility for income generation).
Equal rights of the most vulnerable groups	+	Marginalised groups are encouraged to participate to the activities.
<b>Good governance and enhancing democracy</b>		
Reducing corruption	++	EVD staff, Managing Committee, REEVOCs and other institutions are working for themselves and actively with executive director.
Strengthening the local skills on good governance	++	REEVOCs, Managing Committee and all the other micro-level people's institutions are there to help the people's capacity building in good governance.

Transparency of financial management and information (among implementors)	++	Managing Committee is working closely together with EVD staff.
Improving information exchange in the civil society	+	The villagers are responsible for their own information channel, Newsletter called " <i>Our Voice, Our Village</i> ".
Improving involvement in the civil society	++	The used approach is participatory.