

Project SEED

Empowering Dalit women to break the cycle of poverty



Empowering Dalit women farmers to cultivate particularly nutritious almost-extinct varieties of millet using drip irrigation, organic fertilisers & pesticides - while promoting organic seed use within the wider community - increases income & quality of life while reducing poverty.

Project Description

This project enables Dalit women living Below the Poverty Line (£1.50 a day) to generate an income and be free from discrimination & domestic violence. With the use of drip-irrigation, organic fertilisers & pesticides, women cultivate & sell millet as well as vegetable seedlings. A Seed Wealth Centre collects & exchanges organic seeds for use in the wider community. A Watch Dog Committee addresses issues of domestic violence. Children attend After-School Learning. ***This project is replicable in multiple clusters of villagers across Tamil Nadu.***

Quick Project Facts

Delivering partner: Women's Organisation for Rural Development (WORD) (www.mywordindia.org)

Location: N-W Tamil Nadu, India

Funding partner: innocent foundation

Target group: 50 women farmers to cultivate Millet & 50 women to produce fertilisers, pesticides & collect/exchange organic seeds; 500 farmers as members of the Seed Wealth Centre; 150 school children in After-School Learning; and 500+ villagers aware of their legal rights & entitlements.

Total beneficiaries: 1,250

For more info call **0208 973 3773** or email melissa@jeevika.org.uk. More about all of our projects can be found at www.jeevika.org.uk

Poverty & Agriculture in India

India is home to 1/4 of the world's undernourished population, over 1/3 of the world's under-nourished children & nearly 1/3 of the world's food-insecure people.

Over 210 million people live below the poverty line in rural India alone.

There are an estimated 77 million women working in India's agricultural sector.

India's government rural employment scheme (MGNREGA) grants women £1 per day for 100 days' work but men enjoy 70% of its work quota.

£40 can pay for 1 month's English tutoring for Dalit boys & girls in the After-School Learning programme.

£100 can pay for a workshop on millet cultivation & on cooking nutritional & tasty foods with millet for 75 women.