

## Visit by SSNC Team November 12-17, 2014

### Brief Report



#### **SSNC Team Acquiring Project Updates**

Sara Nilsson and Ulrika Hjertstrand from Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) visited CUTS Consumer Action Research and Training (CART) in Jaipur to review the progress of projects supported by SSNC, mainly ProOrganic project and also Green Action Week (GAW) Campaign implemented by CUTS. The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the mutual cooperation and to analyse the ground realities of the implementation of projects.

The main objective of the visit was to assess the effectiveness of interventions, outcomes, achievements and the progress of the projects and the roadblocks faced.

For optimum utilisation of time, following schedule was prepared in consultation with the SSNC team.

### **The Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Programme</b>
Nov. 12, 2014	Arrival of the team in the evening and Introductory Meeting
Nov. 13, 2014	Annual Stakeholders' Consultation and Feedback Meeting at Hotel Jaipur Palace and Meeting with the Partners and the Project Team
Nov. 14, 2014	Visit to SKN Agriculture University, Jobner, Jaipur, and also visiting the 'Sambar Salt' lake in the afternoon
Nov. 15, 2014	Visit to <i>Lalsot</i> (Duasa) to see organic farming at District Partner's field and participation in a village-level awareness camp, under ProOrganic project at <i>Khuri Kalan</i>
Nov. 17, 2014	De-briefing session with the project team till the closing session

### **Proceedings**

#### ***November 12, 2014***

After the arrival of the SSNC team members, George Cheriyan, Director, CUTS, met them and accompanied them for the visit as per the schedule. Detailed discussions were held regarding the Annual Stakeholder's Consultation. Besides, demographic details, culture and people of Rajasthan and the capital city, Jaipur were important part of the discussion.

#### ***November 13, 2014***

Keeping in mind the visit schedule and the presence of SSNC team in Jaipur, the 'Annual Stakeholder's Consultation and Feedback Meeting', under the ProOrganic project was scheduled on November 13, 2014 at Jaipur. The objective of the meeting was to update about the project progress during the year and framing future strategies in consultation with all the stakeholders. The occasion was also utilised to release the findings emerged from the action research conducted under the project on ground realities of organic consumption and production. Both Sara and Ulrika attended the meeting and opening address was given by Sara.

The meeting was attended by total 83 participants including SSNC representatives Sara and Ulrika, Dr. Shital Prasad Sharma, Director, Agriculture, Govt. of Rajasthan; Dr. S. S. Rathore, Programme Coordinator, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Chomu; Dr Surendra Babu, Assistant General Manager, NABARD; Dr. B. D. Yadav, Professor Rajasthan

Agricultural Research Institute Durgapura, Consumers, District Partners, associated Civil Society Organisation (CSO) representatives, farmers and CUTS team.

In addition, a report of the event is being prepared and will be uploaded on the project webpage.



### Meeting with the District Partners

On November 13, 2014, after the Stakeholder's Consultation Meeting, another event was organised with the District-level partners of ProOrganic project for the interaction with the SSNC representatives, Sara and Ulrika.

Apart from CUTS team comprising George Cheriyan, Amarjeet Singh, Project Coordinator, Deepak Saxena, Sr. Programme Coordinator, Arjun Kant Jha, Project Officer, Dharmendra Chaturvedi Project Officer, and Amrat Singh, Assistant Director of CUTS, following district partners also attended the meeting:





Om Prakash Pareek, Chairman, *Hanuman Gram Vikas Samiti* – Dausa District; Mohan Dangi, Secretary, *Prayatna Samiti* Udaipur District; Madan Giri and Radheshyam from CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD), Chittorgarh and Pratapgarh.

Moreover, there was in-depth discussion by the SSNC team with the project partners on project implementation, its outcomes and issues for future endeavours.

*November 14, 2014*

### **Visit to SKN Agriculture University and Sambhar Salt Lake**

#### **SKN Agriculture University: An Overview**

Sri Karan Narendra Agriculture (SKN), University, Jobner (Jaipur), was established in September 2013 by the Government of Rajasthan, under Agriculture University, Jobner Act, 20 of 2013 and Name Amendment Act, 23 of 2013 with a view to impart teaching at the university or college level and conduct research and extension education programmes in the field of agriculture. The territorial jurisdiction and responsibility of this University extend to the districts of Jaipur, Sikar, Alwar, Dausa, Tonk, Ajmer, Bhartpur and Dholpur. For details please visit: <http://sknau.ac.in/>

The College of Agriculture at Jobner was established by Late Rawal Narendra Singhji in July 1947 and it was the first institute for agricultural education in Rajasthan. The college was named as SKN (Shri Karan Narendra) College of Agriculture in memory of the founder and his father.

For details please visit: <http://www.sknu.ac.in/en/constituents/colleges/skn-college-of-agriculture-jobner>

Sara and Ulrika of SSNC, George Cheriyan, Amarjeet Singh, and Deepak Saxena visited the SKN Agriculture University. G L Keshva, (Dean, College of Agriculture) welcomed the team and also invited other colleagues K Ram Krishna (Director Research) and Professor Shree Ram Sharma to join in the discussion.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the organic agriculture issues in Indian scenario and to analyse the research work done by the University on organic issues.

The local partner for CUTS' Green Action Week Campaign 2013 and ProOrganic project, Atma Ram also joined the discussions and facilitated the visit to the Sambhar lake.







### Visit to the Sambhar Salt Lake

The Sambhar Salt Lake is India's largest inland salt lake, located 96 km South-west of the city of Jaipur (North-west India). The Sambhar Salt Lake is India's largest inland salt lake, in the shape of a bowl. It produces 196,000 tonne of clean salt every year, which equates to around 9 percent of India's salt production. Sambhar has been designated as a Ramsar site (recognised wetland of international importance) because the wetland is a key destination for wintering tens of thousands of flamingos and other birds that migrate from Northern Asia.



**November 15, 2014**

**Visit to *Lalsot* to look over Organic Farming**

Sara and Ulrika along with George Cheriyan, Amarjeet Singh, and Dharmendra Chaturvedi visited the agriculture farm in village *Khatwa* in *Lalsot* block of Duasa district, which is around 90 km from Jaipur. Team had interaction with farmers present (around 30 female and male farmers) there on the issues related to organic farming, such as benefits, problem faced and what more need to be done to further promote organic farming.

After the interaction, the team observed the organic farming practices, such as vermi-composting, drip-irrigation, solar pump, ginger, fruit cultivation etc. in *Lalsot*.





### **Awareness Camp at Khuri Kalan Village (Dausa)**

As a part of the ongoing awareness campaign, under ProOrganic project, the awareness camp was organised on November 15, 2014 afternoon for the participation of the SSNC representatives and to enable them to watch the actual implementation of the campaign.

After visiting the organic farm in *Lalsot*, Sara and Ulrika accompanied by CUTS team participated in the camp. The camp was organised in the 'Village Chaupal'. There was a gathering of more than 150 participants including large number of women who were very enthusiastic to meet and interact with the SSNC team. R N Sharma, Programme Coordinator of KVK, Dausa and Horticultural Scientist from KVK, R A Sharma were among the key technical speakers in the camp.





***November 17, 2014***  
**De-Briefing Session**

On the last day of the visit, de-briefing meeting was organised at the CUTS conference hall for the final discussion on the issues persisting for further consultation and more elaboration and negotiate the way forward. The session was attended by Sara and Ulrika, CUTS team consisting of George Cheriyan, Amarjeet Singh, Deepak Saxena, Arjun Kant Jha, Dharmendra Chaturvedi, Amrat Singh and Varidhi Singh, Project Officer.



Apart from discussion on ProOrganic project, a presentation was made on GAW 2014 campaign by Varidhi Singh.

Lots of questions and queries were raised by the participants on different aspects of the implementation of GAW and ProOrganic project during the whole visit. Moreover, by means of the de-briefing session, CUTS team was able to answer most of them satisfactorily. This then led to discussion on the way forward and further strengthening the collaboration between SSNC and CUTS.

In the closing session, SSNC team thanked CUTS team for excellent arrangements for the visit and well organised schedule to meet all stakeholders and discuss the relevant issues regarding the project. The SSNC team also assured of providing continuous support for ProOrganic project in the next phase and also for GAW campaign for the year 2015.

SSNC team also discussed the financial management of funds received from SSNC with G C Jain, Associate Director (Finance & Administration), CUTS International.