

Green Action Week (India) 2019

'Sharing Community'

Activity Completion Report



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1. Background

The Green Action Week (GAW) Fund India is a joint partnership established between the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC) and CUTS in 2017 and continuing in year 2019. The purpose of the grant is to fund short-term campaigning activities to raise consumer awareness of environmental issues. The GAW campaign takes place during the first week of October. GAW is a global campaign to promote sustainable consumption. In 2019, 50 civil society organisations (CSOs) from 30 countries participated in the campaign globally. The goal is to ensure everyone's right to a healthy environment and a better quality of life. With the theme 'Sharing Community', GAW seeks to highlight practical examples of more sustainable ways to access goods and services.

SDG 12 – 'Sustainable Consumption and Production' concerns material use, hazardous chemicals and waste, sustainable business practices, and consumer behaviour. With increasing use of natural resources, air, water, soil pollution, and ever-growing amount of waste, it is clear that our current way of consumption and production has to change fundamentally. To reach the goal, world leaders have agreed on targets, such as improved resource efficiency, reduced waste and better awareness of sustainable lifestyles.

One way to improving access to goods and services without increasing the stress on the planet is to share. By challenging the norm of consumerism, waste can be reduced and resource efficiency improved. Sharing is a concrete example of a more sustainable consumption culture which also enables development and entrepreneurship.

2. About the Campaign

CUTS International in partnership with the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation implemented GAW Campaign 2019 (India) on the theme 'Sharing Community'. The project was initiated in May 2019 and concluded in October 2019. The aim of the campaign is to promote strong and collaboration in communities while increasing access to goods and services without further stressing the planetary boundaries. By setting examples of cultures of sharing, one can learn from each other about sustainable development and lifestyles.

3. Theme

After recognising the potential by generating attention and interest on one issue simultaneously in different countries, there is a common theme for all organisations participating in GAW. In 2019, SSNC has decided the theme 'Sharing Community' to

promote the sustainable consumption as access to goods and services are unequal and planetary boundaries are being breached. It would be an attempt to challenge the norm of private ownership and consumerism through creation of strong, collaborating communities. To fulfill the purpose and relevance of the GAW Fund India for organisations, following criteria have been taken into account:

- The definition and framing of the problem is relevant and common to consumers at local level
- There are practical solutions that can be promoted amongst consumers and policymakers at the national and local level
- Projects shall promote the culture of community sharing and collaboration to create sustainable access to good and services.
- Projects must have an environmental focus

4. Aim and Objective

The aim of the GAW India is to make a valuable contribution towards advancing sustainable development and reducing poverty, by promoting worldwide awareness and advocacy activities, which encourage sustainable patterns of consumption. The purpose of the GAW Fund India is to strengthen the role that consumer and environmental organisations can play as a vibrant part of civil society to raise awareness of the environmental and other impacts of consumption and promote and contribute to sustainable patterns of consumption amongst consumers, policymakers and other key stakeholders. Other than this some major goals are as mentioned below:

- Raise consumer awareness on the environmental impacts of consumption and promote sustainable patterns of consumption
- Minimise the waste and reduce pressure on natural resources
- Empower people to create, trade, swop, access and share goods, services and resources among themselves
- Promote the cultures of sharing and collaboration
- Motivate the community to adopt new technique for conservation of resources for sustainable consumption
- Initiate and implement social and community development activities through natural and other available resources conservation among all sections of the society.

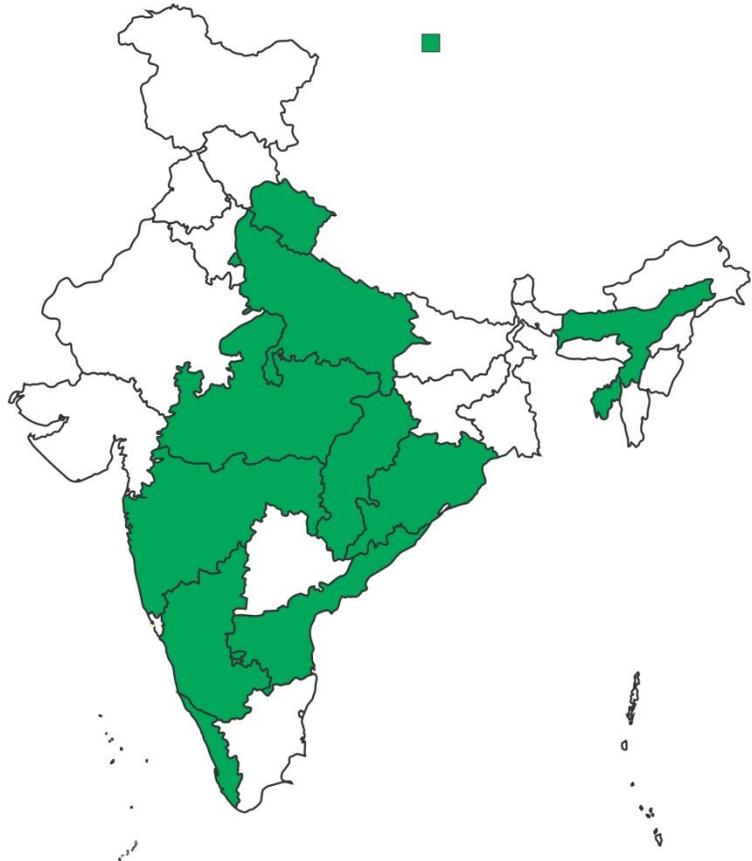
- Bring about a change in the society by changing the behaviour of people by involving them in this process of change

5. Process

Announcement was released and shared with wider groups of CSOs in states, including members of various networks, such as consumer councils, resource agencies of Ministry of Environment and CUTS network partners etc. to apply for GAW India Campaign. Total 40 organisations from different parts of the country applied, out of which 12 were finally shortlisted and awarded the grant in August 2019. A round of consultation held with all shortlisted CSOs about the theme and local issues. Based on discussion CSOs were asked to revise activities and budget. Formal MoU was signed between CUTS and partner organisations after submission of revised action plan by CSOs. Different activities were conducted by partners in September-October 2019.

6. Coverage of GAW India

For celebrating GAW (India) 2019, 12 states were selected besides Jaipur (Rajasthan) and 12 organisations are partnering which widens the profile of the campaign both at National and State level with enhanced responsibilities to achieve envisioned targets. 12 states covered under GAW (India) 2019, amounts 33 percent of the total area of the country. The selection of states keeps a 'North-South-East-west' approach and provides reasonably dynamic penetration to the campaign throughout the nation. The area of states covered (green) under GAW (India) can be shown in the map of India as following:



7. Activities

7.1 Rural Action for Social Service, Andhra Pradesh

Rural Action for Social Service (RUAFFS) is a registered NGO working for women, children, and deprived sections of the society. During GAW 2019 (India) the organisation conducted stakeholder consultation in which guidelines on sharing community and sustainable consumption were shared. Local folk *Kalajatha*, Group discussions were held focussing on generating awareness about sharing community and rallies on eradication of plastic and prevent environmental pollution were conducted. Public meetings were held, IEC material was disseminated, competition was organised and prizes were distributed. These activities were organised to generate awareness. The co-ordinators and volunteers conducted the programme successfully. Print and electronic media gave good coverage of activities and spread the message.



7.2 Anmol Foundation, Chhattisgarh

To create awareness among the common public rallies and signature campaign were organised by Anmol Foundation in Raipur. One demonstration camp on 'sharing Community' was arranged where all used old cloths, books, children bags, tiffin, carries, shoes, etc. were on display for public to initiate exchange of the same. Meetings were



conducted to discuss the strategy about implementation of programmes; awareness on sharing community was raised through school rallies and workshops; and slogans and pamphlets were distributed to the public.

One workshop was organised by involving all types of stockholders where the experience gained during the campaign of “sharing community” was shared. NGOs, CBOs, Media, public and the representatives of government were invited in the programme.

7.3 Environment & Social Research Organisation (ESRO), New Delhi

Campaign was aimed to create awareness among the community to follow 3R concept for optimum utilization of things and how we can involve conserving the natural resources and protecting the environment for over better future and Next generation. ESRO team have Established a Community Sharing Centre at Meet Nagar for collected old material from the interested community as –old books and clothes and distributing among needy in communities It focuses on creating the behaviour of sharing by using their unused resources or materials by bringing about a change in the society involving people in this process of change, work towards sustainable development for protection of the environment, make natural resources available for the general welfare of the society. Certain activities were conducted, such as awareness campaigns through rallies, folk play among community of project site, display of banners, and distribution of pamphlets, workshops on sharing community, quiz and drawing competition etc.



The impact was that large group of students and 250 community members participated in awareness campaign rallies/folk play/quiz and drawing competition. Some challenges were faced, such as outreach to community to create awareness about natural resource conservation and optimum utilisation of resources through community involvement was a difficult task for any organisation.

7.4 Centre for Development & Empowerment of Women (CDEW) Society, Karnataka

CDEW implemented campaign activities in Bangalore city of Karnataka. Objectives were to teach the stakeholders the art of sharing, to reduce the 'use and throw culture' and to conduct Camp to share house hold items. Some activities are Street play for Awareness, Symposium on Sharing, Signature Campaign, Exhibition, and Mutual Sharing. Symposium on Sharing was conducted on October 4, 2019 in the NANCY MEMORIAL HALL. The president and the two main speakers brought out the theme "Sharing Community" very well. They could really connect the theme with various aspects of day to day life, consumerism, effects of consumerism on individuals and environment by giving examples from the lives of great people. All the participants understood what it means to share and how the sharing helps each other. It built up a sense of togetherness to share and care for others, which will impact the people in future. CDEW is determined to incorporate Sharing-Caring concepts in all their undertakings and organize more awareness campaigns in collaboration with GOs & NGOs to influence Policy makers.



7.5 CECOEDECON, Madhya Pradesh

Objectives of the campaign are to strengthen culture of sharing communities. Activities carried out under the campaign are Awareness Generation, Mass Mobilization and Demonstration on sharing community at school and street. Three mass mobilization activities were carried out in three housing societies. Approximately 700 consumers are motivated to adopt sustainable consumption practices and promoted concept of sharing communities. Residents of three housing societies are motivated to adopt waste management practices and concept of sharing communities. Demonstration on sharing communities was organized in one housing society after awareness camp. This demonstration was a Platform to establish sharing community. Community members were motivated to bring their belongings at this platform which are not useful for them to share with other community members.

One stakeholder consultation was organized on October 4, 2019 at Indore. Representatives of different stakeholder groups like Municipal Corporation, govt. officials, researchers, policy makers and representatives of community groups participated in this stakeholder consultation. Signature campaign, street plays were the other activities which created awareness in common public.

The impact of the campaign is Greater understanding among consumers about sustainable consumption practices and Community members are motivated to adopt more sustainable ways to access goods and services without stressing the environment. There is need to establishing dialogue with representatives of municipal corporations for proper management of waste especially E-waste.



7.6 Consumer Guild, Uttar Pradesh

Under Green Action Week, Group Discussions, Signature Campaign, Posters, IEC Material distribution, Stakeholders Consultation were conducted. They successfully created awareness on sustainable development and demonstrated the methods of community sharing. The awareness generation activities are created among local consumers/ consumer activists, NGOs and others to join the sustainable development movement and further informed consumers and public on this important issue. U.P Pollution Control Board agrees to work with Consumer Guild continually to raise consumer awareness on the issue.

Consumer Guild identified the corporate office at Rajaji Puram location in Lucknow and run the campaign on theme: Share with Friends at Green Office. Officials shared things like Books, Newspapers, Shopping Bags etc., Less use of electricity, Less Printings, Waste free Lunch and no use of plastic were promoted in office premises , indoor plantation and use of only sustainable products in office premises promoted, reuse of waste material was also promoted .

Consumer Guild would like to work on “sharing capacity and knowledge” raise awareness and mobilize ,build capacity, implement projects, monitor and review policies on SDGs with support and collaboration of CUTS International.



7.7 Vaishvik Vikas Sanshtha, Maharashtra

Organisation has conducted several activities based on sharing community, such as organising speech & drawing competition for awareness, workshop on sharing community, book bank for sharing books, green club, sharing of notebook, advocacy with higher officials about sharing community and awareness campaign for sharing community.

Green Club established under campaign helps to increase awareness about e-waste. Earlier people were not that much agree to come forward for it because they think they get more money from scrap if they will sell it, though more awareness is required.



Students who participated in workshop started sharing books and also decided to start food sharing for needy people soon; under green club, people shared notebooks and educational materials after VVS appealed to people; they have distributed all these educational materials to students of tribal villages. Candidates who participated in drawing and speech competition expressed unique and varies ideas about sharing community; municipal council, Umarkhed agreed to do awareness about minimize consumption of

resources and waste management. Sharing Community is one of the most unique and fruitful concept.

7.8 Youth for Social Development (YSD), Odisha

A model Wall of Sharing has been initiated in prime location of the city in the old bus stand area. This has been done in collaboration with the Berhampur Municipal Corporation. There was active participation of CSOs, local NGOs and media to help replicate and sustain the campaign. This also created an opportunity for further discussion on ‘sharing community’ and sustainable consumption in Berhampur city. There was low level of awareness among citizens/consumers and civil society on concept, practice and benefits of ‘collaborative consumption’. Therefore, there is a need to design and implement a strategic campaign to increase the demand for ‘collaborative consumption’ policies and provisions among consumers. Training should also be provided to civil society and government officials on SDG Goal-12 as its implementation will help consumers and citizens to practice and advocate for financial provisions; and technical and skill support to the government in order to implement collaborative and sustainable consumption.

Current practices of ‘sharing community’ like wall of kindness, sharing ride, sharing books and food in Berhampur city have set examples of sharing goods and services to protect



environment. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material prepared under this initiative is self-explanatory and has disseminated to larger audience which has enhanced their understanding on benefits of 'sharing community'. Elected and public officials of Berhampur Municipal Corporation (BeMC) and Brahmapur Development Authority (BeDa) have been agreed and assured to create more opportunities for citizen for sharing goods and services through 'wall of kindness' and 'community fridge' for sustainable consumption.

Some of the impacts of these activities are that more than 2500 people become aware of harmful effects of waste and understand current practices on collaborative consumption and its benefits. Recommendations and plan for the provision and promotion of sharing community practice have been proposed to the local government in the multi-stakeholder dialogue.

7.9 Mankind Awareness Platform (MAP), Tripura

MAP has conducted several activities at Agartala city of Tripura state which is in North-east part of the country. Focused was on sharing community theme and activities such as organising signature campaign, drawing competition, state level seminar, IEC Program among College Students, postering of message in Agartala, opening of Centre for Sharing Articles, Campaign of Centre For Sharing and opening of permanent FREE BAZAR etc were conducted.



As impact of the campaign and sensitisation of various departments, Agriculture Department, Government of Tripura has agreed to support the organisation to carry forward such awareness programme. Agriculture Research Station is ready toward sustainable consumption. Local Government is also now aware and agree with us for taking precaution for future generation by arranging different programmes relating with nature and environment. Local Clubs of Tripura also impact and inspired to move forward to do work in this respect. Collectively the civil society will reduce the production as well as lesser commodity leading to less of harm to environment.

7.10 Abhivyakti Society, Uttarakhand

Abhivyakti organised numbers of contact programmes in different schools, meetings with members of SHGs, and community places, where the main issues pertaining to the main philosophy behind our current initiative, Community Sharing were discussed. Other relevant topics such as Afforestation, solid waste management, water conservation etc were also discussed. Sharing our compassion with Environment and ensuring that we not only take from it but also give back to it was done. Children are the future of the nation and women the most important part of the family, so sensitizing them initiated the process of sustainable makeover in our desired area of interest. A Community sharing camp was also organised, where we displayed items collected by the team, like clothes, books, shoes, utensils, bags, boxes, and electronic equipment etc. which were lying unused in the houses in working condition.



7.11 Rural Agency for Social and Technological Advancement (RASTA), Kerala

Under GAW, RASTA did several activities including camps for school children-with the theme "Sharing Community", Poster drawings and slogans developed, organised camps for collection reusable households items from community for onward delivery to deprived with collaboration with Local Groups, seminar on Sharing Community for promoting awareness activities, Stakeholder consultation Workshop for developing action plan for Sharing Community with Local Panchayat, transition to eco-friendly initiative and promoting alternatives - Cloth bags are the activities.

Impact of the campaign is that students have pledged to share their books. Women gathered to share local seeds for summer vegetable & kitchen garden. Women have pledged to gather & share used items of new born babies to expecting and future mothers.

People Started Household waste segregation requested Gram Panchayat system to have a collection point.



Targeted community said that there is need to continue the process from campaign to action, sustain the habit of sharing in the community, extend the reach to more areas and actors, ensure the participation of local governance for reducing one time carry bags and encourage the community to reduce the use one time carry bags with alternatives.

7.12 Consumers' Legal Protection Forum (CLPF), Assam

Basic approach towards community sharing is conducting awareness seminar in educational institutions (schools/colleges), Public Meetings in association with the NGO's, SHG's & Students' Union Association, Stakeholders' Consultation. They also showed demonstration model by the members of CLPF to the community members of Panikheti, a village in Kamrup District where used goods brought by them, were shared with each other. They made them aware that by sharing they can preserve the natural resources for our future generation and also reduce the environmental pressure on Earth. IEC materials were also distributed among the members of the community.

Students of schools and colleges started disseminating information on sharing community and sustainable consumption to their friends, relatives and family members after participating in the activities of GAW; Participants and members of Civil Society Organizations started planting tree saplings in and around their locality to increase the urban plantation of Guwahati city; Participants refrain from using plastics and polythene bags for carrying items. Instead, they started using bags made of used clothes.

In Assam, people from rural areas don't know much about sharing community and sustainable consumption, as they have limited knowledge about preservation and utilisation of natural resources. They had to convince head of the civil society organisations and educational institutions about usefulness of sharing community and sustainable consumption. Consumers' Legal Protection Forum, Assam participation in GAW India 2019 is going to have a way forward especially on sustainable consumption and environment issues because through our organization skills we were able to sensitize students, teachers, representatives from NGO's, Consumer Organizations, academicians, government department, who in coming days will share the idea of sharing community and sustainable consumption to their friends, relatives and family members and as a result, the idea of sharing community and sustainable consumption will be known to the people of Assam.



8. Partners Evaluation Meet, 2019

To share the learning among all GAW partners and evaluate activities conducted by partner organisation, a meeting was organised at Jaipur on December 6, 2019 under GAW India. Amar Deep Singh welcomed the participants and George Cheriyan delivered opening



remarks in the meeting. He also shared global perspective of GAW campaign as well as relevance in the Indian context. Each partner made presentation based on the activities, impact, challenges and way forward. Presentations were followed by the discussions and feedback among the participants. Each implementing partner received the feedback directly from participants and CUTS.

The meeting was beneficial in evaluating the effectiveness of each activity conducted by Partner in targeted areas. It was also helpful for organisations to learn from each other's and innovative approaches adopted for campaign. Participants and CUTS could understand the local context, while discussing the challenges faced by partner during the campaign. Meeting also provided opportunity to learn from experience of partner organisation and accordingly design better plan for future activities keeping those learning in mind.

9. Conclusion

There is huge gap in distribution of resources and consumption level of different societies in which many of them strive to join luxurious lifestyle and on other hand second group of people who lack access to even basic goods and services. The perspectives and capabilities of low, middle and high income contexts are essential to take into account when addressing consumption and production patterns. SDG 12 is assisting India to avoid getting locked in unsustainable lifestyles, and communities to use the resources effectively and efficiently.

GAW (India) 2019 mainly focuses on sharing within communities, rather than on the systems through which they are shared. In this way, the aim is to promote strong and collaborating communities while increasing access to goods and services without further stressing the planetary boundaries. And by setting good examples of cultures of sharing, one can learn from each other about sustainable development and lifestyles. One way of improving accessibility to goods and services without increasing the stress on the planet is to share. By challenging the norm of consumerism, one can reduce waste and improve resource efficiency. Sharing community is, in other words, a concrete example of a more sustainable consumption culture enables development. Throughout the campaign, there was good media coverage, and activities were conducted successfully in all the states.

Assam Forest Department concentrating on urban and roadside plantation, says PCCF

STAFF REPORTER
GUWAHATI, Oct 30: "Assam Forest Department (AFD) is now concentrating on urban and roadside plantation. If Delhi can increase its green coverage then why not Assam? The total forest coverage of Assam is now 35 per cent which is above the national average."

ment simultaneously," said Principal Chief Conservator of Forest (PCCF) and Head of Forest Force, Government of Assam, AM Singh in the Green Action Week - India state level stakeholder consultation at Guwahati on Wednesday. In his inaugural speech, the PCCF told that river waters come from forest areas and 50 organizations in 30 countries are part of this joint action. Consumers' Legal Protection Forum, Assam (CLPF) is observing Green Action Week Campaign 2019, in partnership with CUTS International, Jaipur and Swedish society for nature conservation. The theme of this year's campaign is 'Sustainable Development: Sharing Co

पर्यावरण के लिए सबको आगे आना होगा



लखनऊ। पर्यावरण को बचाना है तो सभी को मिलकर काम करना होगा। सामूहिक भागीदारी के बगैर पर्यावरण की रक्षा नहीं की जा सकती है। यह निष्कर्ष शुरुवार को

ग्रीन एक्शन वीक में आयोजित कार्यशाला में निकला। केंज्यूमर गिल्ड लखनऊ व कट्स इंटरनेशनल की ओर से आयोजित कार्यशाला में पर्यावरणविद् विजय पाल बघेल ने कहा कि वक्त आ गया है कि सामूहिक ण को संरक्षित रखने का संकल्प लें तथा ऐसी वस्तुओं ण करें, जिससे पर्यावरण को कम से कम नुकसान प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के मुख्य पर्यावरण अधिकारी डॉ. हा कि जन भागीदारी से ही प्रदूषण को कम किया जा 5 अभियेक श्रीवास्तव ने बताया कि संरक्षण के ई

Green Action Week observed

STAFF REPORTER

GUWAHATI, Oct 30: Head of Forest Force and Principle Chief Conservator of Forest AM Singh today said the Assam Forest

increase the percentage of dense forest. The percentage of open forest area of our State is 10 to 14. It should be our mission to change this open forest

in our hands, that through massive plantation we can successfully increase the water level of some rivers of our State," he added.

ग्रीन एक्शन वीक : सतत विकास-समुदायिक सहभागिता

गुवाहाटी, 30 अक्टूबर। असम वन विभाग अब शहरों और सड़क के किनारे वृक्षारोपण पर ध्यान केंद्रित करता है। अगर दिल्ली अपना ग्रीन कवरेज बढ़ा सकती है, तो असम क्यों नहीं कर सकती। असम में कुल 35 प्रतिशत वन कवरेज है जो राष्ट्रीय औसत से

गुवाहाटी में ग्रीन एक्शन वीक कार्यक्रम के तहत अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर के हिस्सेदारों को संबोधित करते हुए सिंह ने कहा कि विकास और पर्यावरण (वन) दोनों ही आवश्यक हैं। कार्यक्रम के उद्घाटन समारोह को संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि नदियों के जल स्तर को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक वैश्विक अभियान है, जिसके तहत 30 देशों में 50 संगठन इस संयुक्त कार्रवाई का हिस्सा हैं। केंज्यूमर गिल्ड प्रोटेक्शन फोरम, असम कट्स इंटरनेशनल, जयपुर और स्वदेशी सोसायटी के सहयोग से ग्रीन एक्शन वीक अभियान 2019 का आयोजन किया गया है। इस वर्ष के अभियान का विषय सतत विकास-सामुदायिक सहभागिता है। मौके पर फोरम के अध्यक्ष अजय हजारिका ने कहा कि हम



को सुलझाना एक बड़ी चुनौती है। वस्तुओं और सेवाओं की अधिकता असमान है और पर्यावरण की सीमाओं का उल्लंघन किया जा रहा है। जिला सत्र अदालत से सेवानिवृत्त जज खगेन दोहोतिया ने कार्यक्रम के प्रोमोटिंग शेरिंग कम्प्युनिटीज थ्रू लोकल प्रेक्टिस सेशन के दौरान युवाओं को पर्यावरण संरक्षण की दिशा में आगे आने की अपील की। उन्होंने कहा कि लोगों को पर्यावरण संरक्षण की पहल अपने घर से शुरू करनी चाहिए और इससे दिन चरित्र को आदत में बनाना चाहिए। इस कार्यक्रम में पर्यावरणविद् वन अधिकारी, विभिन्न

'पढ़े-लिखे लोग बन रहे विनाश का कारण'

पत्रिका PLUS रिपोर्टर
 रायपुर • लोगों में आपसी सहयोग की भावना खत्म हो रही है। एक वक्त था जब लोग आपस में मिलकर समस्या को हल खोज लिया करते थे। जन्म से लेकर मृत्यु तक के काम में सामूहिक भागीदारी हुआ करती थी।



शेअरिंग कम्प्युनिटी' विषयावर भाषण स्पर्धा
 वार्ताहर/ 90 सप्टेंबर
 मुख्या : कट्स इंटरनेशनल, जयपुर आणि वैश्विक विकास संस्था, मुद्राया यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने ग्रीन एक्शन वीक - 2019 अंतर्गत

आवश्यकता होती है, जिसके कारण हम अपनी जरूरतों के लिए प्रकृति का दोहन करते हैं। वहीं प्रोजेक्ट कोर्डिनेटर फोटिक कांडिनेटर फोटिक सेकिया और असम सरकार के वन एवं पर्यावरण विभाग के जनसंपर्क अधिकारी शैलेंद्र पांडे ने कहा कि संकट के सामाजिक और पर्यावरणीय दोनों कारणों को सुलझाना एक बड़ी चुनौती है। वस्तुओं और सेवाओं की अधिकता असमान है और पर्यावरण की सीमाओं का उल्लंघन किया जा रहा है। जिला सत्र अदालत से सेवानिवृत्त जज खगेन दोहोतिया ने कार्यक्रम के प्रोमोटिंग शेरिंग कम्प्युनिटीज थ्रू लोकल प्रेक्टिस सेशन के दौरान युवाओं को पर्यावरण संरक्षण की दिशा में आगे आने की अपील की। उन्होंने कहा कि लोगों को पर्यावरण संरक्षण की पहल अपने घर से शुरू करनी चाहिए और इससे दिनचर्या की आदत में बनाना चाहिए। इस कार्यक्रम में पर्यावरणविद् वन अधिकारी, विभिन्न प्रोजेक्ट

घटते वनांचल को देखते हुए असम वन विभाग वृक्षारोपण पर दे रहा ध्यान

गुवाहाटी, 30 अक्टूबर (ख.सं.)। असम वन विभाग अब शहरों और सड़क के किनारे वृक्षारोपण पर ध्यान केंद्रित कर रहा है। अगर दिल्ली अपना ग्रीन कवरेज बढ़ा सकती है, तो असम क्यों नहीं कर सकती। असम में कुल 35 प्रतिशत इलाके वनांचल के अंतर्गत आते हैं। लेकिन घने जंगलों के मामलों में देश के मुकाबले असम में केवल 9 प्रतिशत ही हैं। हम सबके लिए यह एक चुनौती है कि कैसे घने जंगलों के प्रतिशत को बढ़ाया जाए। असम के खुले वन क्षेत्र 10 से 14 प्रतिशत हैं। हमें इन खुले वन क्षेत्रों को घने जंगलों में बदलने के लिए मिशन मूड पर काम करना होगा। यह कहना है असम वन विभाग के प्रधान मुख्य वन संरक्षक एके सिंह का। गुवाहाटी में ग्रीन एक्शन वीक कार्यक्रम के तहत अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर के हिस्सेदारों को संबोधित करते हुए सिंह ने कहा कि विकास और पर्यावरण (वन) दोनों ही आवश्यक हैं। कार्यक्रम

के उद्घाटन समारोह को संबोधित करते हुए उन्होंने कहा कि नदियों का पानी वन क्षेत्र से आता है। यदि वनांचलों की कटाई दिनों-दिन होती रही, तो एक दिन ब्रह्मपुत्र और बराक जैसी नदियां सूख जाएगी। हमारे पास बड़े पैमाने पर वृक्षारोपण करने का एक अच्छा अवसर है, ताकि हम नदियों के जल स्तर को सफलतापूर्वक बढ़ा सकें। ग्रीन एक्शन वीक सतत विकास को बढ़ावा देने के लिए एक वैश्विक अभियान है, जिसके तहत 30 देशों में 50 संगठन इस संयुक्त कार्रवाई का हिस्सा हैं। केंज्यूमर गिल्ड प्रोटेक्शन फोरम, असम कट्स इंटरनेशनल, जयपुर और स्वदेशी सोसायटी के सहयोग से ग्रीन एक्शन वीक अभियान 2019 का आयोजन किया गया है। इस वर्ष के अभियान का विषय सतत विकास-सामुदायिक सहभागिता है। मौके पर फोरम के सचिव अध्यक्ष अजय हजारिका ने कहा कि हम



कोर्डिनेटर फोटिक सेकिया और असम सरकार के वन एवं पर्यावरण विभाग के जनसंपर्क अधिकारी शैलेंद्र पांडे ने कहा कि संकट के सामाजिक और पर्यावरणीय दोनों कारणों को सुलझाना एक बड़ी चुनौती है। वस्तुओं और सेवाओं की अधिकता असमान है और पर्यावरण की सीमाओं का उल्लंघन किया जा रहा है। जिला सत्र अदालत से सेवानिवृत्त जज खगेन दोहोतिया ने कार्यक्रम के प्रोमोटिंग शेरिंग कम्प्युनिटीज थ्रू लोकल प्रेक्टिस सेशन के दौरान युवाओं को पर्यावरण संरक्षण की दिशा में आगे आने की अपील की। उन्होंने कहा कि लोगों को पर्यावरण संरक्षण की पहल अपने घर से शुरू करनी चाहिए और इससे दिनचर्या की आदत में बनाना चाहिए। इस कार्यक्रम में पर्यावरणविद् वन अधिकारी, विभिन्न शैक्षणिक संस्थाओं से तर्करा 60 विद्यार्थी उपस्थित थे।