

ACTIVITIES REPORT APR 2019 - MAR 2020

Promote, strengthen and advance
non-profit initiatives.

The logo for fdj, consisting of the lowercase letters 'fdj' in a white, sans-serif font, centered within a dark purple circle. The background of the entire page features a large, stylized purple arrow pointing to the right, with a grid of thin purple lines overlaid on it. On the left side, there is a vertical strip of grayscale images showing various scenes, with red arrows pointing from these images towards the fdj logo. Below the fdj logo is a diamond-shaped collage of grayscale images, including buildings, a person, and various symbols, all enclosed in a blue border. At the bottom left, there are two overlapping purple shapes: a large light purple triangle and a smaller dark purple square.

Promote corporate,
donor and
government partnerships
with non-profits.



Dear Stakeholders,

Year 2019-2020 under reporting has been a year of special mention as FDI decidedly worked harder in terms of not only implementing some of the key initiatives, projects and programs but also in achieving the goal posts identified in advance through a collaborative process. The fact that projects handled by the organization were more deeply spread out and diverse on their objectives, thereby, deserving a special mention. Projects on health, education, girl child, child marriage, climate change, sustainability and sustainable development created a seamless progressive approach to cover a number of states making FDI's reach among communities far and wide with the overall ethos of engagement. If at all, I would say, that these varied projects implemented by the organization could in a humble way contribute to achieving, in part, the universal goals, would not be out of place.

Such an overall achievement would have not been possible without the support of partners organizations trusting FDI's overall approach in trying to fully benefit its communities and stakeholders. It is in this context that I would like to particularly acknowledge reputable organizations such as UNICEF, Rajasthan, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, PI Industries and Swedish Institute that financially supported FDI to be able to undertake a rather ambitious portfolio of programs, activities and initiatives, achieving a set of goals and outcomes successfully. The outcomes, achievements and outputs were also widely circulated through print and non-print mediums including organization's website.

I am also pleased to acknowledge the unflinching support that the Board of the FDI that it extended to advise on various programs and projects during the reporting period while helping the organization achieve its overall aims, objects and goal posts in a seamless manner, serving its intended communities and stakeholders across some key geographies and states in the country. I also take this opportunity in thanking colleagues, stakeholders, funders and all our partners for standing in solidarity with FDI and letting it undertake initiatives as referenced above in a fair, equitable and inclusive manner that matter so much more in today's day and context much more than ever.

Let me once again put on record the support of our partners, board members, colleagues in the FDI secretariat for constantly supporting implementation of the annual plan in such a way that projects and programs could in a way exceed expectations of our stakeholders, partners and communities who trusted organization's openness, transparency and governance.

I trust the report would find much traction with one and all and more importantly, with our funders, who decided to put their financial resources where the maximum need was felt. I would like to request you to feel free to send in your valuable inputs for the organization to be able to further build on the feedback for further improvements, going forward.

Pooran Chandra Pandey

Pooran Chandra Pandey



◀ FOREWORD ■■■

1. Providing improved access to safe drinking water to farmers in mandis of Jammu, Punjab & Haryana, Jharkhand:

Availability of safe drinking water remains a concern in rural belts of the country that leads to increased health burden for water-borne diseases. Farmers, especially during the peak harvest visit the mandis to sell their produce. Tube wells which cater to drinking water are dry due to depleting water levels. Farmers in that case resort to unsafe sources of water to quench their thirst and often fall sick of water contamination which adversely affects their livelihood in the peak season of harvest.

To address the challenge, FDI with the financial support from **PI Foundation Trust** launched a programme of providing safe drinking water to needy farmers and labourers in 38 mandis of **Jammu, Punjab & Haryana, Jharkhand** with the active support from mandi development committee.

We provided free safe drinking water to over 50, 000 farmers in different grain markets of Jammu, Punjab & Haryana, Jharkhand.



Grant Received during FY'20: INR 19,27,800/-
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 6,25,282/-

Under the project, **RO mineral water** was purchased and water stalls were set up within the mandis. We provided free safe drinking water to over 50,000 farmers in different grain mandis. The project has benefited the underprivileged farmers and labourers, and has safeguarded them against dehydration & diseases due to unsafe consumption of water.

*Grant Received during FY'20: INR 19,27,800/-
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 6,25,282/-*

2. Advocacy, awareness and training for farmers to promote safety measures during Agro-chemical application:

The great variety of agrochemicals used in Indian agriculture presents varying degrees of hazard. These products, if not handled properly, can be potentially dangerous and can cause rampant accidents to the user.

Therefore, looking at the readiness of unskilled youth and farmers in seeking training, FDI initiated a programme with the support from PI Foundation.

- The programme focussed on to increasing the awareness on strictly following the safety guidelines for usage of agro-chemicals by farmers and applicators.
- The training location was chosen to be Lucknow with the support from Dept. of Agriculture, Uttar Pradesh.



Our programme benefited over 1500 farmers.

Grant Received during FY'20: INR 2,36,000/-
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 1,79,443/-

- Ensuring usage of safety kit by the community and compliance with safety instructions on the label.

Around 1,500 farmers were benefitted and made aware on the effective and safe application of agro chemicals to pre-empt any casualties.

Grant Received during FY'20: INR 2,36,000/-
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 1,79,443/-

3. Setting up Solar System for Electricity back up in rural Schools lacking in infrastructure:

In India, rural schools often have classrooms that remain dark even during the day due to sporadic power cuts and poor ventilation. Without any power backup, especially when the small windows have to be closed to prevent the heat from coming in; the lack of light prevents children inside the dark classrooms from looking at their books or writing, which compels them to study outside the classrooms even in the day time. This has led to poor learning outcome amongst rural Children.

The District Information System for Education (DISE) 2018 data shows only 53% of total government schools, which form majority of schools in rural India have electricity connection. The unavailability of power back-up in the school thwarts children's abilities to develop new learning and I.T skills as computers are not operational due to paucity of electricity. To overcome this difficulty in rural schools there is a need to introduce the sustainable source of electricity that will provide children with access to requisite power supply in the school premises.

FDI is setting up solar power back-up in rural schools.



Grant Received during FY'20: INR 8,83,316/-
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 8,57,588/-

FDI is setting up solar power back-up in rural schools of U.P which will help effective learning practice amongst children ensuing qualitative improvement in learning skills and serve as model for other schools to replicate. This will also improve the quality of teaching and overall ambience in the classrooms. Electricity access will facilitate the introduction of ICTs into the classroom such as computers and digital blackboard. Electrified schools can enable principals to recruit and retain better qualified teachers, and have been correlated with improvements on both test scores and graduation rates.

Grant Received during FY'20: INR 8,83,316/-
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 8,57,588/-

4. E-CHARCHA: Advocacy on Child Marriage & Child Survival:

Early marriages are prevalent in the rural communities of the states of Rajasthan and Haryana. This informal union through institution of marriage before age of 18 is a common customary practice for both boys and girls, although girls are disproportionately more at risk. It also affects society as a whole since child marriages reinforce a cycle of poverty, perpetuating gender discrimination, illiteracy and malnutrition including high infant and maternal mortality rates. Although child marriages are declining with awareness and education, the rate of change is incidentally slow, calling out for more collaboration and partnerships within and across to effectively handle the issue.

FDI with support from UNICEF-Rajasthan created a digital platform through the website "E CHARCHA"



Grant Received during FY'20: INR.NIL
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 9,26,077/-

In the light of above, FDI with support from UNICEF-Rajasthan created a digital platform through the website "E CHARCHA" for generating awareness on issues of child marriage, child protection and nutrition. The effort was directed to create awareness and bring stakeholders to action. The project was aimed at effective outreach and sensitization for the masses with effective communication strategy, involvement of grassroots journalists, use of social media and developmental journalism.

Grant Received during FY'20: INR.NIL
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 9,26,077/-

5. Sustainable Agricultural Practices through promotion of Direct Seeding of Rice:

Rice is the most important staple food crop in India. However, despite its high production in the country, low and stagnant productivity remains a grave concern. Its high dependence on south-west monsoon or irrigation via harvesting of underground water reserves in poorly managed water intensive production system of transplanted rice has started posing serious challenges of reducing farm profitability and increasing pressure on natural resources.

Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR) on the other hand is economically, technically and environmentally better alternative to the conventional puddled transplanted rice. Increased availability of herbicides to manage weeds and thus increased input (water, nutrition, labour etc.) use efficiency, should make direct seeding of rice an attractive substitute to conventional methods in all rice producing countries, including India.

This has effectively been observed and demonstrated in various scientific research conducted worldwide. However, the real potential benefits of direct seeding benefits can only be harvested if it is adopted at a large scale through public-private-institutional partnerships.

Sustainable agriculture practices through Direct Seeding of Rice (DSR)



Grant Received during FY'20: INR 17,69,250/-
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 60,000/-

Thus, in the existing global scenario large scale adoption of DSR is one of the most promising scientifically proven and economically viable option for the adoption of principle of Sustainable Agriculture in rice production and FDI through its various initiatives has helped demonstrated and adopted the same at farmer's level. This year the project was undertaken in two blocks of Rayagada Distt of Orissa. Over 1,300 Farmers were trained through field days and on farm demonstration on various aspects of DSR and its economic benefits through large scale adoption.

Grant Received during FY'20: INR 17,69,250/-
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 60,000/-

6. Awareness and advocacy on better Health and Nutrition amongst the underprivileged communities:

Policies matter for inequalities and inequalities matter for policies. The human development lens is central to approaching inequality and asking why it matters, how it manifests itself and how best to tackle it. India's development initiatives such as Jan Dhan Yojana (for financial inclusion) and Ayushman Bharat (for universal health-care) are crucial in ensuring that the country meets the promise to leave no one behind and fulfils it's vision of development for all. The project was focused on the role of developmental media in the nutritional growth of children & their well-being. The activities included multifaceted approach such as Panel discussions on mainstream media, development of documentaries and ground reporting in media on the subject. Status of India's position wrt HDI was highlighted to the State Govt.



Awareness and advocacy on better Health

Grant Received during FY'20: INR 4,20,750/-
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 2,99,999/-

Various luminaries from academia, medical fraternity, economists and known media personalities were brought in to discussion on the subject along-with representatives from the Govt's health and family welfare deptt, Child welfare deptt and Niti Aayog.

*Grant Received during FY'20: INR 4,20,750/-
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 2,99,999/-*



7. Eco-Fika Seminar on Climate Change:

Delhi-NCR has become particularly vulnerable to climate change due to high concentration of people, infrastructures, housing and economic activities. Climate change increases the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, aggravates water management problems, reduces food security, increases health risks, damages critical infrastructure and interrupts the provision of basic services such as water and sanitation, energy and transport. Conscious steps need to be introduced by citizens, in their everyday lives, to reduce their carbon footprint.

With that objective, the Eco-Fika Event was held to commemorate and follow up on the World Environment Day (5th June). The event was inspired by the concept developed by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (Naturskyddsforeningen), which encourages participants to come together to think and talk about the effects on the environment from the way they choose to eat, drink and live.

The Eco-Fika Event was held to commemorate and follow up on the World Environment Day (5th June).



Grant Received during FY'20: INR 21115.58/-
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 21114 /-

The Event was held at the Nordic Centre, New Delhi and presentations and case studies were shared about:

- 1) Initiating community action to make Delhi-NCR more environmentally sensitive and sustainable. Emphasis was laid on wide-scale and urgent steps to avoid further human, social and economic losses
- 2) Substituting lifestyle toxins with organic options in food, clothing, personal care products etc
- 3) Exploring and implementing viable options for clean air, water and energy

The Event concluded with the participants sharing their learnings and experiences over organic coffee and snacks, taking up green challenges and pledging to live eco-friendly lifestyles.

Grant Received during FY'20: INR 21115.58/-
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 21114 /-



8. Conference on Future of sustainability-Circular Economy:

India high level panel on Circular Designing and Future of Sustainability:

Now is Next was implemented by Foundation for Development Initiative at India International Centre, New Delhi on 22nd November, 2019, with support from the Swedish Institute, Stockholm based public diplomacy entity under the ministry of foreign affairs of the Swedish Government via Sweden Alumni Network India to delve deeper into practical and functional aspects of circular economy, its designing, application and potential opportunities.



India high level panel on Circular Designing and Future of Sustainability:

Grant Received during FY'20: INR 1,44,855.96/-
Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 1,43,929/-

This high level panel brought senior experts and practising professionals from a range of sectoral fields, the outcome of the high level panel highlighted the ongoing debates and discussions around the theme of Circular Economy. Around 135 delegates representing thought leaders from UN agencies, Media, Diplomacy, Business Chamber and Government and International Development institutions participated in the conference.

Grant Received during FY'20: INR 1,44,855.96/-

Grant Utilized during FY'20: INR 1,43,929/-



Miscellaneous Initiatives:

FDI with its large network of volunteers keeps on organising various environmental and philanthropic initiatives as per the need of the hour.

During the year we have undertaken several of such initiatives including tree plantation, feeding the hungry etc.

These initiatives are undertaken with the help of individuals who subscribe to the cause and their voluntary contribution.



Nonbinding document - notice no. 12/2019-20

