

# LOUD & CLEAR

## VOICES OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE RIGHTS

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### From the Local to Global Desk

Youth members across the States in India, with the facilitation support of terre des hommes Germany partner organizations, have been working towards a clean and healthy environment for almost a decade. The efforts included conservation of natural resources, clean air and water, promoting organic farming & food security and other environmental rights actions.

The “From LOCAL to GLOBAL: Strengthening, networking and capacity building of youth-led activities for the right to a clean and healthy environment” project supported by BMZ Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany) was initiated to further strengthen the efforts of these young environmental leaders. The project helps young people to streamline their actions under 3 major strategies' viz., Knowledge, Action and Influencing Policies.

### Knowledge

Youth members are provided capacity-building training and knowledge input on environment and climate rights to help them build better perspectives on the highly technical subjects of ecology and climate science & justice.

### Action

The environmental rights actions are intensified and aligned in relevance to the regional issues and the nature-based solution enterprises planned.

### Influencing

Memorandums have been submitted to the local officials and youth representations ensured in Global Campaigns like Global Action Month, Voice for Green Earth and UNCRC General Comment 26 campaigns.



# Highlights 2022-2023

**October, 2022**

Personnel Induction Programme



**December, 2022**

Annual Campaign on "Supporting UNCRC General Comment No. 26 - Save Our Planet, Save Our Future"



**January, 2023**

State youth network trainings and observance of National Youth Day.



**May, 2023**

Workshop on Climate Science Literacy Curriculum and Climate Learning Toolbox by Eco Niche and Journeys With Meaning (the two technical Support Agencies).



**November, 2023**

Inauguration of Climate Library, a youth & child friendly knowledge repository.



# Knowledge

## Seeking Solutions

As a first step in knowledge management, the youth team from the 3 southern States sought entrepreneurship solutions that are nature based as well as economically & socially viable. An exposure visit was taken up as a preparatory work for initiating youth start-ups next year.



### Madurai Agribusiness Incubation Forum (MABIF) Agriculture University, Madurai

16 nature-based start-ups functioning in the premises. MABIF provides technical support and financial guidance to agri-based start-up companies. The visit helped to understand the entrepreneurial competencies required for Agri Entrepreneurs.

### Spirulina Cultivation and Marketing by Antenna Foundation

The Spirulina cultivation unit including the lab, solar drying and marketing units of Antenna Foundation, was visited.

The spirulina powder and other value-added products were showcased. The importance of local solutions for addressing larger concerns like malnutrition and food security was emphasized.



### Biodiversity Heritage Site, Arittapatti Village, Madurai district

The village that has recently been declared as a biodiversity heritage site by the Tamil Nadu government was visited. It is Tamil Nadu's first and India's 35th Biodiversity Heritage Site. The visit helped the youth members understand the challenges faced by the community members in protecting the biodiversity of their land through effective collaboration with the government.

### ROSE Farmer Producer Organization

The visit to the Farmer Producer Organization in Pudukkottai, gave an overview on the conservation of traditional seeds and marketing of organic agricultural produce by mobilizing the farmers into shareholders. The value addition process, the high end technology used for processing the food grains & oil was shown.

The collaborations with the Government Department and banks and other agencies for accessing development funds as well as marketing was explained.



# Action

## Turning the Agriculture Field Greener and Better...



Pudhukottai is one of the agriculture dependent districts in Tamil Nadu, South India. The staple crops include a wide variety of rice, lentils, oil seeds and millets. In the month of January, during the harvest festival, the stubble burning practice is common in the region. High levels of air pollution and the loss of microorganisms were observed by the youth members as one of the major environmental damages. The young people campaigned for the “Pollution Free and Smokeless Bogi

Festival” as a part of the National Youth Day observance on 12th Jan, 2023. Nearly 120 farmers in 12 villages were trained to prepare enriched farmyard manure with the stubble and other agricultural harvest remnants resulting in sustainable agricultural waste management. This process ensured that the microorganisms in the land were conserved and the soil nutrients retained. The burning process that added to the global warming threat was reduced as farmers sustainably composted the waste rather burning their 220 acres of land. This composting resulted in gaining 550 tonnes of manure. The farmers were able to save Rs. 15,000 per acre of land which would have otherwise been spent on purchasing chemical fertilizers.

## What led the Sparrow into the Nest?

A brainstorming session on “What are those little things in nature that have become extinct?” brought the House Sparrow right into the action component of Gujarat State Youth Network, eventually leading the sparrows into the nests. Belonging to the agricultural community, the youth team members in Gujarat felt that house sparrows have become a rare sight. The young people missed the tiny bird that was once part of their childhood. Knowledge inputs sessions of the Local to Global project helped them understand that the house sparrows were an integral part of the agricultural system and the biodiversity of the region. The sparrows significantly contributed to the pest control. The youth members started preparing cost effective sparrow nest with cardboard boxes, straw and other degradable materials and mounted them on trees or other high places near their homes. Water and food grains are kept near the nest. A few weeks later, sparrows started nesting in the safe space created by the youth members. What started as a small effort towards the conservation of a native bird in 50 households has now resulted in the installation of 1500 sparrow nests in homes, petty shops, agricultural field and common spaces in the community.





## Securing Food that is Sustainable and Healthier...

Mysuru, a tourist town in Karnataka, has a huge number of children living and working on the streets. The children were rescued and provided with a child-friendly shelter and education in Asha Kirana, a children's rehabilitation home managed by the Rural Literacy and Health Programme. Around 25 boys, both children and senior youth members in the rehabilitation home, transformed a 2 acres land in Asha Kirana into an organic demonstration plot. A fruit farm and vegetable garden established and 50 kgs of vegetables & greens harvested. The "Local to Global" project enabled the children of Asha Kirana to take the food security & nutrition efforts to their school and motivate students to practice healthy eating. With the support of key stakeholders, children and youth members put up organic markets in the schools and villages. Parents, school teachers and the mid-day meal workers were sensitized on the importance of children's right to healthy food. The vegetables and fruits were shared with the mid-day meal workers to prepare meals for 75 children as a mark of solidarity. The rest of the vegetables and greens were sold in the children's organic market.

## Youth Voice Matters..

Ganga Sagar Mela, a spiritual ceremony, attracts huge numbers of tourists to Sagar Island, the second largest island in Indian Sundarbans, West Bengal. Held every year in the month of January, the high influx of tourists and plastic pollutants left behind during the mela is threatening the biodiversity of the island and directly impacting the livelihood of the local community. The youth members in the region, as a part of the National Youth Day Observance, organized an awareness campaign on sustainable waste management. A press conference was held. The members interacted with the representatives of 15 media houses on the importance of responsible tourism. The conservation of marine life and its direct impact on the migratory birds and the need for sensitivity to the livelihood of the local community was discussed with the media personnel. The press meet helped the youth members to get visibility for the Local to Global project initiatives and highlight the importance of responsible tourism in ecologically fragile areas. Apart from the media advocacy, the young people held a week long awareness event among the tourist population by distributing cloth bags, holding plastic ban placards and taking up cleaning drives.



# Action



## Bearing the Torch... Saving the Forest

Champa Majhi and Rupali, members of the youth core committee in Kandhasarli village in Odisha, are the torch bearers of the “Save the Forest” movement in the region. The two young girls are holding the torch and taking up turns patrolling the 30 acres of forest area. Champa and Rupali’s families are one among the 35 tribal families that are residing in proximity to the forest land.

The community members are Adivasi who have been living near the forest area for many generations. The families have been fighting for their land rights while continuing with the agricultural work and collection of Non-timber forest products. The youth members of the village through the trainings on climate justice and environment protection, understood that conservation of the forest is as important as their fight for land rights. Thus, the active youth members under the Local to Global project sensitized their families and other community members to stop the practice of burning of agricultural waste after the harvest.

The young people conducted street plays and campaigns urging the adult population to refrain from indiscriminate burning of agricultural waste which was leading to forest fires which was posing a threat to humans and wildlife. The youth team lent a supportive hand to the police and forest officials in organizing sensitization camps and shared the responsibility of monitoring the forest resources. The youth members formed a team for patrolling in and round the forest region. The patrol group looks out for any signs of potential forest fires, such as smoke or unusual activities. They have a reporting system in place where the members alert the officials if they sense any threat to the forest resources.

The Local to Global project is helping Champa and many such tribal youth members to build a sustainable and dignified livelihood. Most importantly, the project focuses on inclusiveness to ensure that semi-literate youth members are also able to lead the social actions for a clean and healthy environment.



# Campaign and Advocacy



## Working to Mitigate Climate Change Impact

In Salimpur, Bharabanki Taluk, Uttar Pradesh, the 200 agricultural families have been facing the impact of climate change as crops have been destroyed due to extreme weather conditions that have worsened in recent times. 70 families have been migrating to other states in search of livelihood opportunities. The loss of crops has also impacted the 97 families who are landless and depend on labour work during the harvest season.

During one of the monthly meetings under the local to global project, the youth members brought up the issue of lack of employment and migration as one of the social issues in their region. Further brainstorming helped them to understand the impact of climate change. Though they drafted plans for addressing the climate change issue, the youth members took up efforts to resolve the migration and employment concerns immediately. A memorandum of demands was chartered and presented to the local governance to issue job cards and provide employment for landless labourers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) (a social security scheme that ensures 100 days of employment to the rural marginalized population). The voicing of demands by the youth members enabled 55 families to get work under the scheme and get a minimum wage of Rs. 230 per day. As per the request of the youth members, the Panchayat allotted water resources conservation efforts under the MGNREGA work and the pond in the village was deepened and its storage capacity increased. This effort has contributed to the irrigation of the agricultural land and cattle management and to serve the household water needs of the community.



We welcome young people and environmental rights activist to join us in compiling stories and data on clean and healthy environment. You can send your photos and stories in any Indian languages to [local2globalproject@gmail.com](mailto:local2globalproject@gmail.com)

Inviting you to our website:  
[youth4environment.org](http://youth4environment.org)

### IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS



**LGWCDC**  
LAKE GARDENS WOMEN AND CHILDREN DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

