



Green-Ag Eco Club

(A guiding document for preparing State-specific Brochures on Green-Ag Eco Club)

Introduction

The project Green-Ag: Transforming Indian Agriculture for Global Environmental Benefits and the Conservation of Critical Biodiversity and Forest Landscapes is funded by GEF. The project rationale is to catalyze **transformative change** for India’s agricultural sector to support the achievement of **national and global environmental benefits** and **conserve critical biodiversity and forest landscapes**. It is being implemented in five diverse landscapes across India - Chambal Landscape in Madhya Pradesh, Dampa Landscape in Mizoram, Similipal Landscape in Odisha, Desert Landscape in Rajasthan and Corbett - Rajaji Landscape in Uttarakhand.

Green-Ag Project mainstreams biodiversity conservation, climate change, and sustainable land management objectives and practices into Indian agriculture to enhance multiple global environmental benefits (GEBs) without compromising the country’s food security and farmers’ income.

Through a landscape approach, the project is incorporating participatory governance and community-based natural resource management at grassroots levels, for sustainable management of natural resources, land-use systems, and improved livelihood options. The project is implementing innovative tools and approaches from FAO and around the world for mainstreaming environmental concerns into the agriculture sector’s policies, plans and actions. One such approach that the project envisages to engage with the children and the youth is through school-based eco clubs.

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National Executing Agency: Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW), Govt. of India

GEF Operational Focal Point for India: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India

Implementing Agency: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Eco Clubs

Eco club or green club is a voluntary group platform where students and youth come together to learn about their environment, develop skills, build attitudes and lead towards actions to improve their local environment. A green club helps to extend the boundaries and scope of the formal education system by strengthening cognitive learning, encouraging creativity, constructive actions, responsibility, appreciation and value of local biodiversity and environment.

Green-Ag Eco Clubs

The Green-Ag Eco Club is a platform that provides the individual student to translate knowledge, attitude and values into action/behaviors and develop healthy lifestyles. by participating in the eco-club activities, the students emerge as confident and responsible citizens with a sense of ownership and pride for their traditional and indigenous flora and fauna. The project will work with local schools, other educational institutions, and local youth groups within the five landscapes in Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Uttarakhand to promote effective mobilization of the children and youths to promote Green Landscape conservation. The platforms will be developed based on the four pillars of global environmental benefits (GEBs):

- **Biodiversity (BD)**
- **Sustainable Land Management (SLM)**
- **Climate Change Mitigation (CCM)**
- **Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)**

These platforms will provide a pool of activities addressing the local needs and issues aligned with the project objectives, outputs and outcomes. The respective activities will be further designed to cater to different age groups of schoolchildren in the project landscapes.

In some cases, the youth eco-clubs/ eco-volunteers may be supported to undertake ecosystem assessments/ biodiversity monitoring and implement community awareness campaigns. In such circumstances, such youth clubs may be supported with equipment to undertake basic soil tests, for example. However, the focus of the eco-clubs shall be on generating awareness among school children.

Green-Ag Eco Clubs Objective

- Educate the students about their environment and climate change issues, local biodiversity and forest, traditional crop varieties and farming system
- Create a clean and green consciousness among students through various innovative methods
- Create a sense of appreciation and pride for the local diversity and its speciality
- Motivate students on how to imbibe habits and lifestyles for sustainable living.

Pathways for Green-Ag Eco Club

As part of the Green-Ag Eco Club initiative, the project will collaborate with the local Schools for conducting curricular and co-curricular activities to achieve the above objectives. The landscape teams should design location-specific targeted activities in detail for the different age groups of children with



the expected learnings and outcomes for each activity. The project team can plan the activities in different platforms as:

- Bring awareness through rallies, marches, human chains and Public Campaigns such as 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan', Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and 'Fit India movement' in and around the nearby village in the landscape.
- Organize tree plantation, cleanliness, beautification and conservation of the school campus area or any other innovative practice.
- Debates, quiz, essay, painting competitions, music, arts- nukkad natak, sports, reading, and physical activities conducted as part of the Green-Ag eco club initiative to motivate the students to keep their surroundings green and clean
- Biodiversity walks on flora and fauna, such as bird trails
- Knowledge of the local crop varieties and their geographical significance to develop a sense of pride and appreciation
- Identify and prepare an inventory of the seasonal medicinal, herbal and rare plants found in the locality, with additional knowledge on their good harvest practices and usage.
- Tree census and nomenclature of the trees found around the school, neighbourhood, on way to school and in the village.
- Tree calendar on the tree products, time of availability, use, ways of procurement and packing.
- Book reading, Storytelling and moral-sharing, puppet shows, etc. for sensitization on forest management and local climate change issues.
- Promote ethos of conservation of water by optimizing the use of water
- Develop skills of observation, experimentation, survey, recording, analysis, and reasoning needed for conserving the environment through activities
- Field visit to environmentally important sites including polluted and degraded sites, biodiversity parks, wildlife parks, etc.
- Grow kitchen gardens, maintain vermin-composting pits, construct water harvesting structures in school, practice paper recycling etc.
- Prepare inventories of polluting sources and forward them to enforcement agencies.
- Maintenance of public places like parks, and gardens both within and outside the school campus.
- Adopting a village as a model village on the themes of GEBs related to the project objectives.
- Beautify selected areas like the community, and roadside with plants and flowers and put-up campaign boards to generate awareness.
- Preparation and distribution of seed bombs containing seeds of indigenous plants and trees
- Any other innovative programme on global environmental benefits (GEBs)

The above-listed activities are indicative; however, the activity design should follow the rules of skill enhancement leading to actions and learning while implementing activities for BD, SLM, CCM, and SFM. Also, specific activities can be developed around the conservation of the State Tree, Animal or Bird.

Resources for Green-Ag Eco Clubs

The Green-Ag Eco clubs can be organized in collaboration with the schools utilizing the idle school infrastructures like playgrounds, libraries, in-school garden areas, musical instruments, etc. which will help the students to develop hobbies, skills and interests they might have otherwise not explored.

Schoolteachers are the best resource for students to enhance their knowledge and skills. Teachers can utilize this platform to create awareness, and sensitivity, build attitudes and help students take up activities in the real world.

Schedule

An environmental calendar can be prepared for the schools for taking up the Green-Ag eco club activities on state, national and globally important environment days and dates in consultation with the NPMU. Table 1 provides a general list of global and national important environmental days. While preparing the state-targeted list, the state-specific environmental days should be included in it. The State teams can then populate the days with event descriptions and possible activities relevant and specific to the landscape.

Table 1. Calendar for Global and National Environmental days	
Day	Date
International Day of Education	January 24
World Wetlands Day	February 2
National Science Day	February 28
World Wildlife Day	March 3
World Sparrow Day	March 20
International Day of Forests	March 21
World Water Day	March 22
World Heritage Day	April 18
World Fish Migration Day	April 21
Earth Day	April 22
International Day for Biological Diversity	May22
World Turtle Day	May23
World Environment Day	June 5
World Oceans Day	June 8
World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	June 17
International Mangrove Day	July 26
International Tiger Day	July 29
World Lion Day	August 10
World Elephant Day	August12
International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone layer (World Ozone Day)	September 16

World Rhino Day	September 22
World Migratory Bird Day	October12
National Education Day	November11
World Soil Day	December 5
International Mountain Day	December11

Resource References:

1. Glimpses of Eco club 2019. MoEFCC
2. Eco club handbook- National Green Corps. 2014
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4. Green deeds and habits for a sustainable environment. 2020. MoEFCC
5. FAO 2010. A new deal for school gardens
6. FAO 2020. School-based food and nutrition education
7. Journey from Grey to Green. 2014. MoEFCC
8. Handbook on nature camping sites. 2020. MoEFCC