

## WORKSHOP 8

### Ethical Development Practices for Sustainable Livelihoods – Issues and Concerns

#### Moderators:

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Small Grants Program (SGP) promoted by Global Environment Facility (GEF) and managed through the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) Government of India (GoI) executed by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), started in India in 1997. SGP is being hosted through Centre for Environment Education (CEE) as the National Host Institution (NHI) since September 2000. CEE is a national level institution supported by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India as a Centre of Excellence,

SGP seeks to support initiatives, which demonstrate community-based innovative, gender sensitive, participatory approaches and lessons learned from other development projects that lead to reduce threats to the local and global environment. SGP is sourced with a strong belief in the program that the environment problems can only be addressed effectively if the local communities are involved in three ways, decision-making, sharing roles and responsibilities and sharing costs and have control over the projects. It embodies the very essence of sustainable development.

The GEF/SGP was launched in 1991 by United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to assist developing countries in fulfilling their commitment towards the protection of the global environment. The Programme is sourced with a belief that global environmental problems can only be addressed adequately, if local people are involved in planning, decision-making and sharing roles and responsibilities at all levels. Even with small amounts of funding, communities can undertake activities, which will make a “significant difference” in their livelihoods and environment. UNDP GEF/SGP is currently offered in 123 countries worldwide.

GEF/SGP is currently implementing 96 projects from the total of 317 projects (221 completed) with an outreach to more than 2000 villages, and a million people. SGP has established nearly 5000 women self help groups in projects and reaching out to more than 150,000 women as members. This is augmented nearly Rs 20 lacs as savings and an additional credit access for livelihoods of Rs 50 Lacs over the last 08 years. SGP truly is seen as "the people's GEF".

The purpose of this workshop is to think and as a team of GEF/UNDP SGP, CEE partners on the basic principles and standards of behavior or one's judgment of what is important in life to each one of us and how can these learning's be pooled into developing an “ethical framework for sustainable development”. During the three days we shall focus together in evolving an ethical charter on values determine what is right and what is wrong, and how we are doing what is right or wrong. Ensure ethics to behave in a manner consistent with what is morally right. The same thing works at the level of the community based organizations (CBOs) and the non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Some of the concerns which we need to focus at the institutional, individual levels can be as follows-

- The community members may not be involved in setting goals for their own development. Organizations (govt./non-govt./corporate etc.) may be target and fund spending driven and they may have built actions, practices based on their own 'perceptions of the community needs'.
- The community may not be involved/consulted in the decisions regarding the process of development
- There is no differentiation even among the rural poor based on their assets and their capacities. For e.g., Equal money being collected from everyone in the village for installation of biogas plants irrespective of their ability to pay
- Unequal participation and involvement of people belonging to different castes, income group etc.
- Unequal participation and involvement of women in the development process
- Those in power may use force and suppress needs who debate concerns equity and livelihoods concern.

*A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (including both material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, while not undermining the natural resource base.*

*By Chambers and Conway (1992)*

The focus should be in achieving a form of development practices in which communities can realize their capabilities and all are equitably benefited. It is this *process* of development that is important and it is best that the community be involved in a participative and democratic process. Such a process furthers the value of individuals and groups self-constituting their goals through reflection and deliberation. Goals chosen through such a process by the community will be in better alignment to address their own needs. This process approach will be better accepted by people as the communities will have a better understanding of their resources, skills, knowledge, challenges and opportunities.

A summary of the discussion at the workshops will be posted on the Conference website each day. Each workshop will come up with a final report on day three. The report will include a road map for the future and a set of recommendations for the Rio plus 20 Conference proposed in Brazil 2012, the end of the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) Conference in Japan in 2014, as well as for the next decade of the Earth Charter 2010 - 2020.