

Children Welfare and Protection Initiative

The Children Care and Protection Programme operates a 24-hour child helpline throughout the year to extend assistance to every child requiring care and protection. The service is designed to respond to emergency calls and advocate for children facing situations where services are either inaccessible or non-existent.

Since the inception of the project, a total of 5439 child cases have been successfully intervened in various vulnerable categories, including medical assistance, shelter provision, restoration, rescue from abuse, sponsorship, cases of lost or missing children, emotional support and guidance, child labour, child marriage, conflicts with laws, and information and referral to services.



Formation and Promotion of FPOs

CUTS undertook the Farmers Producer Organisation (FPO) project with support from the Small Farmers Agribusiness Consortium (SFAC), National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD), and National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) to form and promote 36 FPOs (comprising over 15000 small and marginal farmers) in Pratapgarh, Bharatpur, Bhilwara Chittorgarh and Banswara districts of Rajasthan.



The project aims to facilitate sustainable, income-oriented farming development, increase productivity, realise higher returns, establish market linkages, effectively build capacity to develop agriculture entrepreneurship skills and create self-sustaining outcomes.

Market Survey on Hallmarked Jewellery

With support from Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the Government of India conducted a market survey in Chittorgarh covering 25 registered and 20 non-registered jewellers along with 100 consumers. The objective was to assess the impact of mandatory hallmarking on consumer protection and confidence in purchasing gold jewellery.

The survey aimed to generate widespread awareness among consumers about hallmarking and evaluate their existing knowledge on the subject. In total, interactions took place with 145 individuals, including both consumers and shopkeepers.



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Training Sessions and Demonstrations for Farmers

Training events were conducted in Pratapgarh FPOs to raise awareness among farmers about the use of bio-fertilisers from October 18-20, 2023. The focus of these sessions was to provide hands-on training on the application of bio-fertilisers. The necessity for such training stems from the adverse effects of prolonged use of chemical fertilisers, which lead to soil degradation and reduced crop yields.



Bio-fertilisers play a crucial role in restoring soil fertility, enhancing water-holding capacity, and adding essential nutrients. A total of 255 farmers actively participated in these informative sessions.

Empowerment Initiative for Vulnerable Children's Education



In Bhilwara, CUTS Centre for Human Development (CUTS CHD) identified 400 vulnerable children from 10 locations who had dropped out or were irregular in schools. To address this issue, the Centre established 10 Asha Kiran Centres, offering a nine-month bridge course to equip these children with essential skills. Following the completion of the programme, they were successfully enrolled in government, private, and government-aided schools, aiming to integrate them into the mainstream of education.

The ongoing efforts include follow-up visits, engaging with teachers, children, and parents to assess the performance of the enrolled children. Through discussions with parents and community leaders, the organisation strive to motivate parents to ensure regular school attendance, emphasising the importance of continuous education for a better future.

Established Organic Gardens and Community Seeds Banks

Across five districts, the Centre implemented initiatives such as organic gardens, community seed cells, children clubs, and vermicompost beds to promote organic production and consumption. The goal is to foster sustainable development and advocate for the significance of transitioning from chemical-based farming to natural and organic practices.

The organisation, through its programmes, have successfully generated community interest, increasing the demand for organic products. As a result, hundreds of farmers have embraced organic farming, recognising its benefits for health, the environment, and financial gain.



Postcard Campaign for Food Labelling



This initiative is designed to assist consumers in making healthier food choices at the point of purchase by providing simplified and easily understandable nutritional information. Focusing on junk food, the campaign aims to enable consumers to differentiate between healthy and unhealthy food and beverage options. A total of 140 postcards representing various consumer categories from five districts have been sent to the Prime Minister's Office in New Delhi.

Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation

In collaboration with the Disabled People Organisation (DPO) and the District Administration of Chittorgarh, a campaign was launched under the theme 'Greater Participation for a Stronger Democracy,' aligning with the flagship programme of the Election Commission of India.



This initiative focuses on voter education, awareness, and literacy, with the goal of fostering a truly participative democracy. The programme specifically encourages all eligible citizens, especially those with disabilities, to vote and make informed decisions during elections. A total of 300 members from DPO attended the campaign.

Observance of National Consumer Rights Day

National Consumer Rights Day was observed to raise awareness about consumer rights and responsibilities on December 24, 2023. The theme for the day centred on 'Consumer Protection in the E-Commerce and Digital Business Era'. Commemorating the day when the Consumer Protection Act 1986 received presidential assent, the programme aimed to safeguard consumers from defective goods, negligent services, and unfair trade practices.



Resource persons highlighted the six fundamental rights of the Consumer Protection Act, including the Right to Safety, Right to Choose, Right to be Informed, Right to be Heard, Right to Seek Redressal, and Right to Consumer Education. Mahender Dudi, District Development Manager (DDM), National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD), Sushil Mehta, Former Additional District Election Officer, District Supply Office and around 50 consumers participated in the event.

Consumer Outreach Programme on Telecom Sector



With support from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, CUTS CHD organised a Consumer Outreach Programme on Telecom issues in Bhilwara on December 13, 2023. The programme aimed to educate consumers on TRAI's consumer-friendly regulations and the support available for grievance redressal.

Sachin Jhanvar, Manager Reliance Jio; Nitin, Vodafone- Idea; Ashish Vaishnav, Junior Telecom Officer, BSNL and Sikandar from Airtel attended as telecom service providers. Around 120 telecom consumers participated, and raised their concerns and providing suggestions for enhancing services in telecom sector.

REPRESENTATIONS

- Gauhar Mahmood and Madan Giri visited FPOs offices in Banswara and Ghatol blocks, engaging with DDM NABARD, CEOs, BoDs. Discussions revolved around input, output business for farmers, as well as strategies for mobilising farmers and incorporating value addition through agricultural schemes.
- Rajesh Bishnoi, Suresh Mishra, and Gourav Chaturvedi participated in a meeting on e-tractors with Shakti Sustainable Foundation in Jaipur on October 18, 2023.
- Madan Lal Keer attended an NGO capacity-building programme organised by NABARD and Baroda Swarojgar Sansthan on December 22, 2023.
- Gauhar Mahmood, Madan Keer, Madan Giri, and Suresh Mishra conducted a one-day training session for CEOs and Accountants on business promotion and farmers' mobilisation in Banswara on October 10, 2023.
- Rajender Mahurey participated in an Agriculture meeting with the Joint Director for Wheat Seed Distribution in the Rabi season on November 08, 2023, and another meeting in Bharatpur on November 16, 2023.

NETWORKING AND VISITORS

- Gaurav Agarwal, District Collector; Dhaygude Snehal Nana, Chief Executive Officer; and Rajesh Purohit, Additional CEO, District Council on Election Campaign and FPOs, Chittorgarh
- Mahendra Dudi and Vasundhara Vishram Meena, District Development Managers, NABARD, Chittorgarh, Bhilwara and Banswara
- Rajender Solanki, Scientist, Yogender Kanojiya, Scientist and Deepa Indoria, Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Pratapgarh and Chittorgarh
- Rajender Jaga, Joint Director and OP Sharma, Deputy Director, Agriculture Extension
- Rajaram Sukhwai Deputy Director, and Mukesh Dhakad Horticulture, Chittorgarh
- Kuldeep Singh, Director Agriculture Technology Management Agency (ATMA) Chittorgarh
- Shanker Lal Jat, Deputy Director, Horticulture, Chittorgarh
- Dharamraj Pratihari, Deputy Director, Social Justice and Empowerment, Bhilwara
- Bhawani Singh Palawat, Chief Executive Officer, District Council, Banswara
- R Verma, Assistant Director, Agriculture, Banswara
- Mohit Kothari, Director, Rural Self-Employment Training Institute, Chittorgarh

MEDIA

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