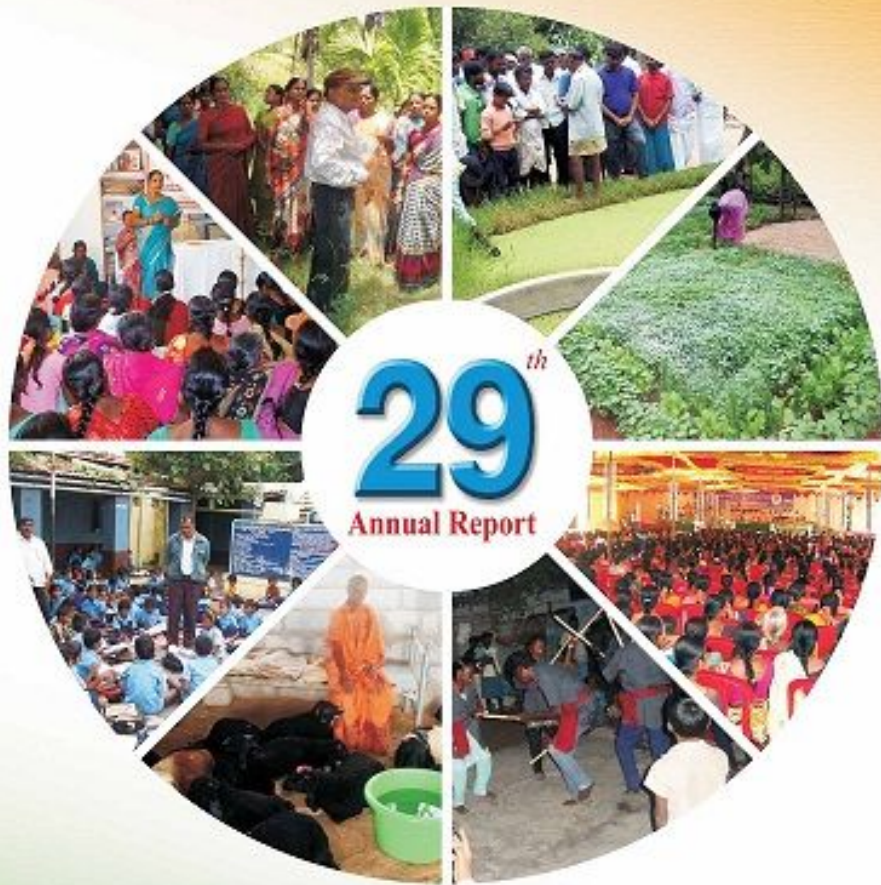




# Development Promotion Group

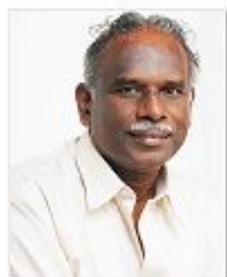
Empowering people to build a better life



## 2014-15

### Annual Report & Accounts

## Chief Executive Officer's Report 2014 - 2015



R. Bhakther Solomon, Chief Executive Officer

“NGOs should become more transparent in their operation and be prepared to be accountable to all their stakeholders.”

### Introduction :

I am pleased to present you the Annual Report for the year ended 2014-2015. The year 2014 - 2015 has been a year of introspection and consolidation of our activities. Our partnership with BfW comes to an end by March / June 2016. Therefore, we have informed all our Implementing Partners in advance about the withdrawal by the end of 2015 or by March 2016. Incidentally, by March 2016 DPG would have completed 30 years of service. Given this planned withdrawal strategy, we tuned all DPG's activities to fulfil the objective of consolidation at the field level.

### Core programme :

- Capacitation programme
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Water & Sanitation
- Support to Individuals from SDOP

DPG with the help of Partner NGOs conducted 34 awareness programmes to 3557 members consisting of staff of NGOs and SHGs / leaders of community based organisations. We provided trainings on subjects like management of their micro-level institutions, network meetings with bank officials & other government welfare departments, empowerment programme for women and children, and skill training to start small enterprises.

Our partners conducted most of the programmes at the village level or clusters of the village. DPG conducted few of the workshops / trainings at the macro level with the support of experienced resource persons.

### Water & Sanitation :

At the beginning of the financial year, only 24568 households had toilet facilities and 15411 households with access to drinking water. During this period, we put in additional efforts to upscale these two facilities at the household levels. Towards these purposes, on a regular basis, our partners conducted a series of training programmes and interface meetings with Government officials.

As a result, at the end of the financial period, we could see an additional construction of 1915 toilets and 952 new drinking water connections at the households. We have motivated the community to use the facility of toilets. At the end of this period, our partners can feel satisfied that 55 percent of families use toilets.





*"I always participate in DPG Partners Meeting. Apart from enjoying the good venue and food, we get various update on schemes pertaining to the welfare of rural poor"*

*Ms. Neelaveni from Uthukottai, MVM*

#### **School Health :**

Our partners provided awareness on health and hygiene to 3768 school children spread over 19 schools covering 47 villages. We spoke to the children about ways to maintain general health, personal hygiene and cleanliness in their surrounding areas. Besides we warned them about the water-borne diseases and advised precaution methods. The staff stressed the benefit of nutritious food and to avoid roadside snacks. Safe drinking water, consuming plenty of water, Hygiene maintenance during the adolescent period formed part of the awareness camp. Besides, we pointed out the disadvantages of open defecation, the importance of toilets, usage of toilets, information and accessibility on available subsidy programme for toilet construction. After awareness camp, the teachers reported that besides regular attendance of students, children looked healthy and active.

#### **Teenage Girls Health :**

The NGO partners educated 242 teenage girls to get various new health tips regarding their age related issues, resulting in the girls becoming conscious of their health.

- 100 percent school enrolment achieved with no child labour in our project villages.

- 796 farmers have been fully supported by trainings and minimal organic inputs to take non-chemical based cultivation.
- 396 families owned houses with government subsidy.
- More than 35 percent eligible persons have financial inclusion under recent Government schemes like Solar Powered Green House Scheme and Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY).



Exposure visit to Visundra Farm house, KDP, Karnataka

#### **Sustainable Agriculture :**

Our partners spent most of their time and grant on enhancing farmers' knowledge on sustainable agriculture. Towards this, our partners organised a series of trainings at the local level and Institutional level. Our partners improved the farmers' knowledge on water harvesting, conservation methods, preparation of various kinds of bio-fertilizers, pesticides, organic manure and fodder for animals. Besides, our partners provided ample inputs on the importance of indigenous seeds, preservative methods, sericulture and methods of sand urea with cow urine. To ensure the farmers adopt organic farming, our partners educated them on Azolla cultivation, cow urine, preparation of fish amino acids, organic certification, marketing and adoption of suitable grains, millets/vegetables cultivation in the project area. During the year, we provided orientation on "Organic Farming" to 1950 farmers on various aspects.

As a result, 796 farmers have adopted organic farming in about 1000 acres of land. 9 Farmers clubs formed with the membership of 129



farmers. The farmers were registered in NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development).

*"Till last year I was doing chemical based agriculture, this year our VDS, NGO, I went of non-chemical based practices. I found it is more rewarding"*

**Muddu Reddy**, Medamakalahalli Village, Karnataka.

There are success stories of farmers adopting a new package of practices. These practices have created a real change from the chemical based agri-operation. Unfortunately, a sizeable number of farmers despite their good efforts could not get proper yield due to the failure of monsoon. Even the early monsoon period for the financial year 2015-2016 has not given any cheer to farmers for the season. DPG helped a few farmers from Chikaballapur district to participate in Sales cum Exhibition organised by Government of Karnataka and University of Agriculture at Gandhi Krushi Vigyan Kendra (GKVK), Bangalore to display the organically produced pulses, millets and vegetables. We helped a few SHG members from Chennai to participate in a Healthy Living Exhibition organised by Trade Centre at Chennai. The exhibition displayed to the public, the Value Added Products produced by them with the help of local entrepreneurs.



Farmers - Value added products at Kurishi Mela, Bangalore

#### **Support to Women :**

Thanks to SDOP, during the year DPG could help 115 members from six locations to have their economic activity. These families could see positive impacts in their lives.

A noteworthy initiative during the year was the help extended to the small groups of school children & their parents establish an Herbal Garden at Medikinekere Village, Karnataka State. We supported a group of 28 students and few of their parents to rent a land and they planted 27 varieties of medicinal plants. At the end of March 2015, 14 varieties of plants survived & local families started visiting the garden. This activity needs to be strengthened more to expose the nearby families to go for herbal gardening.

#### **Finance Management :**

This year in local DPG received ₹ 21.9 million as a grant from two organisations known as BñW (89%) and SDOP (11%). DPG had an opening balance of ₹ 2.4 million. The total expenditure during the year was ₹ 25.5 million. ₹ 17.4 million was given to NGOs as Grant in aid. The Audited Statement of Account is available from Page No. 10 to 15. During the year as a part of further sustainability DPG has raised ₹ 1.3 million towards Micro Finance Assistance, Health & Educational Support and DPG's support. DPG envisages to involve in local fundraising since there will be a reduction in the external funding in future.

#### **News Review :**

What we started as a small News Bulletin in April 2009, continued this year too. We brought out four issues during this period highlighting various ongoing programmes and also information on different Government plans.

#### **Coordination :**

DPG coordinated its direct interventions with the help of 14 staff. Depending upon the need, DPG also hired few persons on a monthly consultancy basis for a limited purpose. The

DPG Staff Details	
Total	14
Male	5
Female	9
Under Graduates	3
Graduates	4
Post-Graduates	7



Partner NGOs have their staff totalling 65 including volunteers. The work of Karnataka based NGOs is coordinated by Ms. B. Anusuya, the State Coordinator and Tamil Nadu NGOs work is organised by Ms. N. Rosi Ramesh, the State Coordinator. Ms. Aparna Chandrashekar provided the Documentation support till October 2014. Since then we are using a few others on assignment basis. DPG provided the necessary backup support like organising Partners Meet, Consultant's visits to field project and DPG CEO's frequent visits to ensure implementation of the programmes as per the envisaged plan of activities. During this period, DPG used four consultants Dr. Julius Karunakaran, Ms. Ramani Mathew, Ms. Ranjini and Mr. Augustine Ponraj to monitor our programmes. Besides them, the partner NGOs have also used some local resource persons as consultants.

#### *Legal Compliance :*

- We held the Annual General Body meeting on 22.08.2015 and the Board unanimously passed the Audited Statement of Accounts.
- We have submitted the Progress reports and statement of accounts to the Donor partners within the stipulated period.
- The management committee met four times during 2014 - 2015.
- We submitted the FC - 6 statement for the year 2014 - 2015 to the Home Ministry on 18.08.2015.
- We submitted Income Tax Returns for the year 2013 - 2014 on 31.10.2014.
- We completed Income Assessment of Account for assessment year till 2012-2013 to the Income Tax Department 16.2.2015.



Partners meet at Madurai 4th to 6th February 2015

#### *Educational & Health Support*

Students hailing from poor families were enabled to pursue their higher studies			During the year DPG provided a total of ₹ 45000/- towards the support of direct health care
Name	Course	In ₹	
Mr. Arun Vishal (Nagercoil)	Polytechnic	5000	Ms. Latha - ₹ 15,000/- Vailankanni Mr. Vijayakumar - ₹ 25,000 /- Uthukottai Mr. Shankar - ₹ 5,000/- Thiruvannamalai
Ms. Samundeeswari (Chennai)	Technical Course (Computer Education)	4250	
Mr. Sunthareswaran (Vailankanni)	Mechanical Engineering	5000	
Ms. Saroja (Karnataka)	PUC - 2nd Year	5000	

**Conclusion :**

DPG together with the partner NGOs, have spent more than 12 years of service to the current target groups. DPG and its partners may have nearly achieved what we set out to make a decade ago. Hence, there is apathy among the partners and among the staff as the work is no more challenging due to various factors. It is time to make an honest attempt to leave the things in the hands of the people. It would be better that the Development initiative started with a partnership mode comes to an end by December 2015 / March / June 2016. DPG now sees the improved socio-economic atmosphere within the country and the reluctant of donors to intervene in state like Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as conducive factors to be on our own. The development process today needs to be a self-reliant initiative devoid of total dependence on foreign funds, but still catering the needs of marginalised people with local resources, especially with CSR support.

**Thanks :**

On behalf of DPG, I would like to thank all DPG office bearers. Special thanks to Mr. Sukathirtha (Chairman), Ms. Theodore (Treasurer) & Ms. Vanitha Thavamony (Secretary), Donor Partners, Partner NGOs / Village leaders, Consultants, Staff Members and the target groups.



A special word of thanks to Mr. Vishwanath Rao, who always read and comment on reports and News Reviews. We also thank the Chairman Mr. Sukhathirtha and Secretary Ms. Vanitha Thavamony for their continued support as office bearers of the society. The Lord has shown abundant grace to continue the operation for the last 29 years. He has enabled DPG to receive sufficient financial support from our donors. His continued grace for the past 29 years has helped DPG to complete nearly the tasks it undertook to the best satisfaction of all. DPG now solicits the support from all our partners to attain vision for the coming years.

Chennai - 600 029.  
22.08.2015

*R. Bhakther Solomon*

**R. Bhakther Solomon**  
Chief Executive Officer



**Development Promotion Group**

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