

ACTIVITY REPORT 2014

Rain Drop Organization



Photo credit – Jérémie Lusseau - <http://jeremie-lusseau.net>

SUMMARY

We aim to improve living conditions through the sustainable management of natural resources.

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Introducing Rain Drop



Legal Information on Rain Drop

Name: Rain Drop

Title: Association loi 1901 (Registered in France)

Objective: To improve living conditions and the sustainable management of natural resources

Registration

Registered on the 2nd March 2010 in Paris

Changed headquarters on the 23rd December 2010 to Grasse

Board :

President : Benjamin Gratton

Secretary : Cyrielle Diaz

Treasurer: Malek Ouahes

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Message from the President

We have concluded the fourth year of our projects in India. The Spring of Life Project was extended to 10 villages, thereby benefiting 200 new families. 2014 was an educational year for the Rain Drop team in India. For the first time, during most of the year, they handled the fieldwork on their own, without my presence. They learned to carry out the activities and manage the problems. As a result, their involvement and their commitment to Rain Drop led them to found Rain Drop India, an independent organization under Indian law.



It is a huge satisfaction that our team in India is gaining so much independence. My goal has always been to create an autonomous local team capable of managing their own projects. This goal is now being accomplished.

The available time generated by this increased autonomy has allowed Rain Drop to consider new projects. We explored the possibility of a project in Togo as well as the Philippines. More details on these projects will come in the following months.

A few numbers for 2014

5 years of existence
58 members
6 employees
8 volunteers
4 employees in India
21 partner villages in India

Partners, Sponsors and supporters

Public



Private



OUR PROJECTS



INDIA

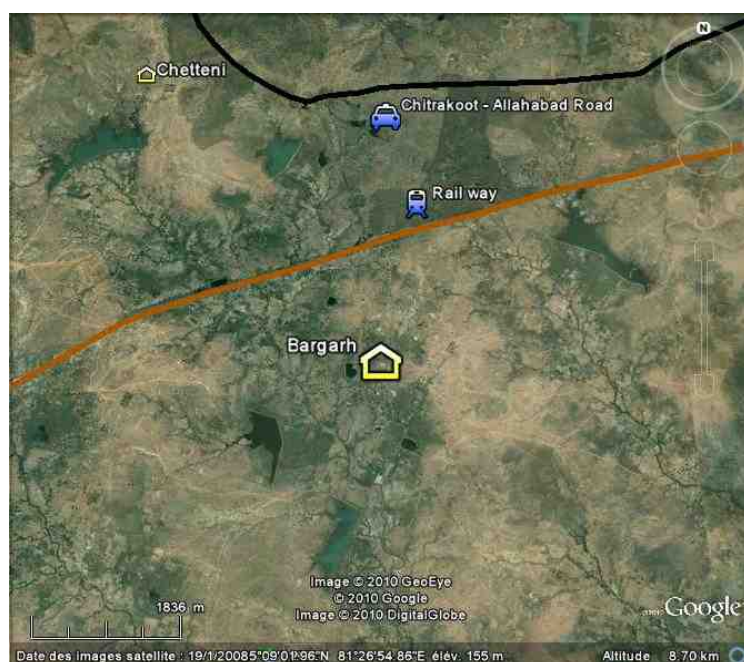
Regional Context

Location

Mau is located in the Bundelkhand region of India (in red on the map). The town straddles two states: Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The Bundelkhand is known for its lack of infrastructure in education, sanitation, health and transport. Practices of good governance are rare and economic development remains extremely low, making this region one of the poorest in India.



Bundelkhand region, India
Source : Wikipedia



Positioned southeast of Uttar Pradesh, between the cities Chitrakoot (50 km) and Allahabad (60 km), Mau (Bargarh on the map) is surrounded by 42 small villages. It is with these small communities that we work.

As shown in this satellite picture, the vegetation cover has entirely disappeared. Our work focuses on areas where deforestation has led to soil degradation, leaving an arid and barren environment.

Environment

Forty years ago, Mau was a lush forest rich in biodiversity. Unfortunately, high population growth and inadequate government policies have accelerated deforestation, transforming the region into a barren landscape.

Mau now suffers from desertification. Soil erosion has left the land dry and rocky, making farming increasingly difficult. Trees have disappeared, while the levels of organic matter and soil porosity have decreased. It is difficult for rainwater to seep into the ground, resulting in soil erosion and large amounts of runoff during heavy rains.

Rain Drop's projects were initiated at the request of villagers who have suffered regular droughts in the last 10 years. Mau has entered a vicious cycle of environmental degradation, exacerbated by the only alternative form of income in the region: mining.

Economy

The main activity in the region of Mau is agriculture, as 92% of the villagers depend solely on subsistence farming. However, soil erosion and the lack of water resources are major obstacles in the lives of farmers. Those who cannot survive off their land are forced towards other forms of labor such as breaking stones for up to 8 hours per day. Others work in silica mines, which cause both joint and respiratory problems. Many local youths leave their families to find work in the city. The lack of diversification of economic activities leaves few alternatives for development.



Last testimony of the dense forest of Mau which is now a semi-arid landscape

Social

Eighty six percent of the population of Mau consists of indigenous populations and farmers from the lower castes. Most of these people previously worked in debt bondage on upper castes' land. After the declaration of independence and following the Gandhian movements of the 50's and 60's, these people were given land to settle down. Although they have obtained physical freedom, the condition of servitude still remains deeply rooted in attitudes and in daily life. They have no exposure to entrepreneurship, nor the means to ensure the effectiveness of their rights.



Landless villagers or those who cannot use their land are forced to work in open mines.

A woman and her daughter break stones by hand to make silica sand.

Actions in India

Following the successful outcome of the pilot phase from September to December 2013, the Rain Drop team was able to extend the Spring of Life Project to 200 new families in 2014.

Selecting families & mobilizing beneficiaries

During the pilot phase, meetings were organized in the 10 chosen villages to introduce the team and the project with its various facets. Thanks to these meetings and through word-of-mouth, we were able to establish a first list of 200 beneficiaries, based on the following criteria

- Their needs
- Their resources (plots of land, personal initiative)
- Their ability to implement and follow up the activities
- Their motivation



Information meeting in the village of Kitahai

From January to March 2014 the team met with each family to collect information about the household, the size of their land, their financial resources, their agricultural habits and other essential information to better appraise their situation and target the options best suited to them.

We then organized meetings for the villages and also for specific activities. Together, we discussed conditions, planning and implementation of the different project activities as well as the beneficiaries' contributions. As months passed, changes occurred in the list of participants due to certain families' withdrawal and inclusion of others.

In the end, we worked directly with 185 families out of the 284 initially selected in ten villages: Kitahai, Lasahi, Kechuat, Chetteni, Chuhuda, Dorya Purwa, Adjadpurva, Panihai, Kolahai and Ghurwa.

Improving water management

1. Implementing innovative irrigation systems

Follow up to the pilot phase

The main objective of the innovative irrigation systems is to reduce water usage for agriculture in order to promote off season harvests. In case of food shortages, off seasons harvests provides the families dietary diversity and allows them to sell surplus production on the market at higher than average prices.



*Drip irrigation sysetm in
Mankamana*

Despite some difficulties in mastering drip irrigation techniques, the results of these new methods proved very positive, increasing revenues in comparison to the previous year.

Here is a chart representing a detailed summary of crop harvesting during the dry season between April and June 2014:

| Irrigation technique | Quantity | Family names | Village | Irrigated surface (m ²) | Cultivated surface (m ²) | Generated income |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Drip system connected to a bore well | 2 | Ramniwaj | Guruha | 3600 | 0 | 0 |
| | | Mankamana | Guruha | 4125 | 1600 | 0 |
| Drip system connected to a motor | 1 | Biharilal | Lasahi | 6600 | 0 | 0 |
| Drip system connected to a tank | 3 | Nanku Prasad | Panihaï | 3445 | 300 | 0 |
| | | Badaï | Chetteni | 1856 | 0 | 0 |
| | | Shankarlal | Kechuhat | 2520 | 675 | 1600 |
| Sprinkler connected to a motor | 4 | Hari Prasad | Dolia Purwa | 1395 | 968 | 1000 |
| | | Ram Pratap | Kechuhat | 1156 | 1580 | 9000 |
| | | Chotkau | Kechuhat | 1754 | 784 | 2200 |
| | | Ajis Kumar | Panihaï | 7905 | 4500 | 16000 |
| Total | 10 | 10 | 8 | 28926 | 10407 | 29800 |



Drip irrigation pipe

Thanks to the drip system, farmers produced more and better crops with less water.

Mankamana planted gombos (*Abelmoschus esculentus*), sponge gourds (*Luffa aegyptiaca*) and pumpkins (*Cucurbita pepo*).

Shankarlal planted white radish (*Raphanus sativus*), papaya trees (*Carica papaya*), spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*), pumpkins (*Cucurbita pepo*), calabash (*Cucurbita lagenaria* L) and Sponge gourds (*Luffa aegyptiaca*).

Biharilal and Ramnjiwa will start planting next year.



Papaya trees being irrigated by the drip method in Shankar Lal's field



Ajis Kumar's tomatoes, irrigated by sprinklers

Sprinklers also generated good results. Hari Prasad planted gombos (*Abelmoschus esculentus*), pumpkins (*Cucurbita pepo*), sponge gourds (*Luffa aegyptiaca*) and cucumbers (*Cucumis sativus*). He and his large family ate most of the production and sold what was left. Last year he had only cultivated 300 m². The sprinklers enabled him to triple the area of production.

Ram Pratap and Chotkau used the sprinklers until June 1st for their gombos (*Abelmoschus esculentus*). Ajis Kumar, used them to plant tomatoes (*Solanum lycopersicum*), cucumbers (*Cucumis sativus*) and sponge gourds (*Luffa aegyptiaca*). They are all very satisfied with their first off season farming experience.

Analysis and observations

The farmers were more comfortable with sprinklers, a technology that is more familiar to them. Drip irrigation, an unknown technique, inevitably requires an adjustment period. The buried pipes make them less manageable than sprinklers.

Field visit

On July 15th 2014, we organized a field visit in order to introduce these technologies to other farmers.

With the 29 farmers who attended, we discussed topics such as drought, the importance of water preservation, irrigation techniques, and the possibility of growing vegetables off season.

We then visited Kolahai's farm and the drip system installation.

20 additional installations

We received many request for innovative irrigation systems after this visit. We picked 20 farmers who organized a group: the « Lalbhadur Shastri Farmer Development Committee » (Lalbhadur Shastri was the 2nd prime minister, and is renowned for his strong support of small farmers).



New sprinklers in Panihai

At first, the farmers decided to create a common account in which each member of the group would deposit 5% of the total cost of an irrigation system. However, with their involvement becoming stronger, they decided to reimburse 100% of the apparatus instead of the 5% previously agreed on. The money in the account will be used for repairs or new purchases.

On October 25, a distribution ceremony was organized. Village chiefs and government officials were invited, 20 sprinklers were handed out.



*Sprinkler distribution ceremony
Attended by village chiefs and beneficiaries*

Since November, the sprinklers have been used for the cultivation of wheat. Considering the uncertainties of the monsoon rains and the lack of rainfall this year, they were of great help to the farmers, enabling them to water larger areas of their plots.

2. Construction of water harvesting ponds

The week of the 23rd to the 30th of March, Alexia Michels, Cécile Faragoni and Prashant Arora, volunteers from Aquassistance, came to visit our project area in Mau. They came to help us determine the ideal size and location of water harvesting ponds.

We constructed 5 ponds (*see below for details*)



Visit of the Aquassistance team in Chetteni



Puja (=ceremony) of good omen on the construction site

Before the start of the construction, we signed a contract with the land owner stipulating that he had to share the water from the pond with his neighbors (below is a list of the beneficiaries) and that he would contribute 5% of the cost in work time and the purchase of stones.

Bulldozers initiated the excavation. On average, the ponds measured 20 x 20m and are 3m deep. As the digging progressed, water was discovered in some of the ponds. Happily surprised, the families invited us to celebrate.

The owner and his family then completed the ponds by hand.

They built sediment traps to avoid eroded soil from filling the basin. The more motivated farmers, such as Ram Balak, reinforced the edges of the ponds with stones in order to slow erosion of the walls (as shown on the picture on the right).

Small embankments (*mehrabundi*) were constructed with the extracted soil around nearby agricultural lands. This allows each plot to better retain rainwater, reducing the need for irrigation.



Reinforcement of the edges of Ram Balak's pond

These ponds were built in areas where no other irrigation options are possible. Not only do these ponds replenish groundwater and wells, they also enable the exploitation of previously unproductive land.

It is the case of Indrapal, from Kechuat. He explains that due to lack of water and harsh farming conditions, he and his family were considering leaving the village to find work in the city. When offered, he seized the opportunity to have a pond. He had to convince the other villagers to help him dig the hole. It was located on such rocky ground that even bulldozers couldn't excavate it. Thanks to this common effort, a water harvesting pond was constructed. Despite a weak monsoon, it guaranteed the harvest of 35 people.



Indrapal's pond in Kechuat




Sediment trap in Adjadpurva




Construction of small dikes retaining rainwater on cultivated land






A photograph showing a group of people working on a construction site, likely building a dike or embankment. The ground is dry and dusty, and there are some trees in the background.

Ajadpurva



A photograph showing a wide, flat, green field, possibly a cultivated area or a dike. The field is surrounded by trees and there is a small structure in the distance.

small dikes on cultivated



A photograph showing a person standing in a field, possibly a dike or embankment. The field is green and there are trees in the background.

| | Village | Land owner | Access to water beneficiaries | Dike beneficiaries | Size of pond |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Ajadpurva | Rambalak | Rambalak | Rambalak | 639,8 m3 |
| | | | Shivprabhakar | Bhaiyalal | |
| | | | Rangdas | Nanku | |
| | | | Gayadin | Ram milan | |
| | Lasahi | Babbu Prasad | Babbu Prasad | Babbu Prasad | 1016,4 m3 |
| | | | Nanhau | Nanhau | |
| | | | Ram Ashre | Ram Ashre | |
| | | | Raja | Raja | |
| | | | Prem Kumar Shahu | | |
| | | | Dikumar | | |
| | Lasahi | Ramesh | Ramesh | Ramesh | 627 m3 |
| | | | Lallu Prasad | Lallu Prasad | |
| | | | Jhabbu | Ram Ji | |
| | | | Bal Mukund | | |
| | | | Ramji | | |
| | Kechuat | Shivnaresh | Shivnaresh | Shivnaresh | 1306,8 m3 |
| | | | Virendra | Virendra | |
| | | | Jayalal | Jayalal | |
| | | | Bhanu Pal | | |
| | | | Ranu Pal | | |
| | | | Jaykaran Pal | | |
| | | | Manu Pal | | |
| | | | Munnialal | | |
| | Kechuat | Indrapal | Indrapal | Indrapal | 1219,7 m3 |
| | | | Suraj Pal | Suraj Pal | |
| | | | Ram Baran | | |
| | | | Shambhu | | |
| | | | Sanhaiya | | |
| | | | | | |
| Total | 5 | 5 | 27 | 16 | 4809,7 m3 |

3. Training in water management techniques, hygiene and sanitation

The technical activities of water management, irrigation and the construction of water harvesting ponds are accompanied by capacity building trainings. Most trainings are carried out by the Rain Drop team in India but sometimes experts are called on to address specific issues of concern to the villagers.



From December 11th to the 14th, M. Praveen Singh, an expert from the NGO AFPRO *Action for Food Production*, was invited to share his knowledge with 60 farmers of the Spring of Life Project. He spoke to the participants about the use and waste of water in the villages as well as ways to preserve it. The next topic of discussion was agriculture, the most water consuming activity. M. Singh explained that in such an arid region as Mau, farmers should produce rice only for their personal consumption. On the rest of their plots, it would be wiser to produce less water consuming crops such as millet. Water preservation generates greater savings than the money earned by the sale of rice. He encouraged farmers to adapt their harvests to rainfall levels and the climate rather than systematically plant rice especially when the monsoon is weak. He also spoke of the importance of dikes and gabions (little mound of rocks on a stream, holding back water) as well as the advantages of planting fruit trees around the plots to preserve soil moisture and create alternative sources of revenue.

Dr. Baliga discusses hygiene and sanitation



Women working on the village layout

In July and in September, we welcomed Dr. Baliga for a training on hygiene and sanitation. These two 3 day meetings attracted 66 women. During the first session, from July 28 to July 30, the topics covered were the diseases that develop in water, like malaria, the dangers of defecating outdoors, and the importance of hygiene, an issue of concern in the villages. The courses were combined with group games, discussions and activities like the elaboration of the layout of a village.

At the request of the women, we organized the second set of courses on sexual health issues. The women have no access to medical care and many concerns remain unanswered. So, we asked Dr. Baliga, an expert on women's health to return a second time from September 8 to September 10.

4. Tree Planting

In order to best satisfy their expectation, we pinpointed with each family, the tree varieties that they wanted to receive which would best suit their needs. However, the monsoon was late. The rains arrived in September instead of mid June. Many farmers decided not to plant trees this year, as the chances of survival were too low.



In open spaces, the tree are surrounded by stones to protect them from the livestock

| Common name | scientific name | number planted |
|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Mango tree | Mangifera indica | 131 |
| Guava tree | Psidium guajava | 1122 |
| Amla tree | Phyllanthus emblica | 119 |
| Jack tree | Artocarpus heterophyllus | 57 |
| Lemon tree | Citrus limon | 134 |
| Carissa tree | Carissa carandas | 614 |
| Pomogranate tree | Punica granatum | 55 |
| Bullock's heart tree | Annona reticulata | 76 |
| Papaya tree | Carica papaya | 116 |
| Bael tree | Aegle marmelos | 24 |
| Total | | 2448 |

In conjunction with tree planting, we welcomed Christophe Joveneaux and Marc Delrue, agronomists from « Espaces Naturelles Lille Métropole ». They came as volunteers to teach the nursery owner Suresh Chandra how to reproduce plants through grafting.



Christophe Joveneaux explains grafting of mango trees

They also suggested techniques on agriculture and soil restoration, specific to the region. Their teachings were highly instructive. They will help Suresh develop his nursery and grow into a viable and sustainable business.

Community mobilization

5. Support to women's groups (Self Help Groups)

We worked with Ram Sakhi, a woman from Mau to mobilize the villages' women. She traveled to every village to meet existing SHG (Self Help Groups) to understand how they had evolved and to identify their needs.

Many groups were dissolved or non-functional. Attracted by the possibility of obtaining government loans, the women were encouraged to form SHGs. But, as the funds never arrived, many of these initiatives subsided. Women lost confidence and it took the Rain Drop team much effort to persuade them of the usefulness of SHGs. The primary benefit is moral support, the women assemble once a week to discuss their preoccupations and together try to find solutions. The second benefit is the contribution women pay every week. It allows them to borrow, from the group, a small sum at low interest rates to develop small business ventures.



Women's meeting in Kitahai

Having better grasped their usefulness, the women have re-formed SHGs. Five of these groups are now structured enough to undertake significant projects:

| Names of the Villages | Names of the Groups | Number of women | Planned economic activity |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Ajadpurwa | Ganga swayam sahayata samuh | 12 | Transformation of fruit |
| Panihai | Shanti janhit swayam sahayata samuh | 12 | Transformation of fruit & namkeen |
| Kechuhat | Jyoti janhit swayam sahayata samuh | 12 | Transformation of fruit & spice bags |
| Doriha purva | Kavita janhit swayam sahayata samuh | 10 | Transformation of fruit |
| Chuhuda | Khushabu self help group | 12 | Transformation of fruit |
| Lasahi | Adarsh mahila swayam sahayata samuh | 13 | Transformation of fruit & spice bags |

The intended projects are fruit processing (pickles & murabba), the production of namkeen (salted snack) and bags of spices.

6. Awareness raising campaigns in the villages

During the summer, we sensitized 9 new Mau villages to water management. With the inhabitants, we identified the problems being faced and reflected on feasible solutions to undertake. The irregularity of the monsoon and the pollution of drinking water were among the issues of concern. The village chiefs were also present. We urged them to use the program for rural employment (NREGA) to build water harvesting ponds and to clean rivers and streams.



Projection of a documentary on water saving in Ghuruha



Shramdan in Satyanarain Nagar

In November, Vincent Abalain, a biology teacher at the French International School in New Delhi arrived in Mau. He will be staying with us 4 months, acquainting the villages' youths with natural resource management. Since his arrival, he has taught every week in the schools of Kechuat, Kitahai, Lasahi, Chetteni and at Bargarh's middle school.

As a result, a *shramdan* (volunteer community work) was organized to clean the Satyanarain Nagar river. In order to continue this initiative, the village chief submitted an application to the government to benefit from the NREGA program.



Vincent with Panihai's students



Class on the human body

Equipped with his teaching material (posters, puzzles, telescopes, human anatomical models and more), and his infallible enthusiasm and communicative good humor, the children always receive him with great excitement. They had never seen that educational material. Vincent explains the water cycle, soil composition, biodiversity and ecosystem functioning with its different elements, forests, animals, and humans!

In addition to these instructions, Vincent goes to the schools in other villages to teach english and play educational games with the children.

Diversifying sources of income

7. Instructions on farming and breeding techniques and implementation

Poultry farming training

On May 9th to 11th, we gave instructions on the upkeep of chicken coops to 59 farmers. The instructor, Ram Sewak, has owned a chicken coop here in Mau for the past 10 years. This gives him the legitimacy and specific knowledge for our project area. He dealt with various topics such as: how to build a hen house, how to care for chickens and chicks, what the existing diseases are and how to treat them. During a tour of his chicken coop, he encouraged 28 participants to start their own poultry farms.

On September 5th and 6th, we invited Dr. Govind Verma, an expert in the reproduction of farm animals. He explained the implications of raising chickens. He spoke of cost efficiency, gave details on the upkeep and care of the chicken coop and the chickens and ended his intervention with the best methods for building a home for the chickens.

Following Dr Verma's visit, the participants were eager to get started.

They each built a chicken coop. Following Dr. Govind Verma's advise, they are waiting for the weather to get warmer in February/March 2015, to buy their first chicks.



Chicken coop in Ajadpurva

Update on the 2 chicken coops built in 2013



Devkumari with her chickens

Kamta Prasad and Rajarams' chicks have grown.

Rajaram's chickens laid 669 eggs; he sold 583 of them and consumed 86. He also sold 10 male and 2 female chickens. He made Rs.9498, or 120€ in just few months, which is more than 3 times India's minimum wage.

Kamta Prasad obtained 311 eggs, he and his family ate 153 and sold 158. He sold 14 chickens and ate 4. He made Rs. 8228, or 100€.

Agricultural training

System of Wheat Intensification (SWI)

In January, 39 farmers received wheat grains. They planted a total of 3900 m² with 150 kg of grain.



SRI training in Ghuruwa

In the village of Ghuruha, Ramniwaj collected 750 kg of wheat on his 1800 m² of land, when he usually harvests 400-500 kg. He was able to feed his family of 6 during the long months of drought.

Besides wheat, each farmer planted 150 kg of chickpeas and 50 kg of peas.

System of Rice Intensification (SRI)

On June 26, expected monsoon date, we organized a training with Rakesh and Sudama of the Pradan association for 26 farmers from Dolia Purwa, Panihai and Kechuat. They spoke about SRI (System of Rice Intensification). Due to the late monsoon, they also talked about DSR (Direct Sowing of Rice) in which grains are planted directly in the soil.

The Rain Drop team then spread the information to other villages:

- Gुरुहा, चुहुडा – 4/7/14 – 16 farmers
- लासाहि & किताहाई – 14/7/14 - 11 farmers
- पानिहाई – 19/7/14 - 14 farmers
- कोलाहाई – 20/7/14 - 9 farmers
- चेट्टेनी – 17/7/14 - 9 farmers



Chote Lal from Chetteni learns to separate the good seeds from the bad



Rice planted following the SRI technique

The SRI and SWI methods can be applied to other vegetables.

We distributed a total of 249 kg seeds to 30 farmers. They planted chick peas (*Cicer arietinum*), mustard (*Brassica juncea*), peas (*Pisum sativum* L), coriander (*Coriandrum sativum*), spinach (*Spinacia oleracea*), hot peppers (*Capsicum annuum*) egg plant (*Solanum melongena* L), etc.

The distribution of seeds allows for a diversified production, and in turn a varied diet for the families.

On September 20, we organized a training for 60 farmers on plot management. Dr. Vinay Kumar Singh, from Tulsi Agriculture Sciences Center of Chitrakoot, explained to the farmers how to cultivate at minimum cost by reducing pesticides and by creating their own compost. In his talk, he mainly focused on vegetables and tree planting. He advised them on the choice of crops, for instance radish and coriander, which require little water, few additives and little time but are more profitable. Finally, he spoke of disease and disease control.



Babulal from Guruha's hot peppers



Ajay Kumar's small business

Following these explanations and the installation of sprinklers on his land in 2013, Ajay Kumar was able to increase and diversify his production of vegetables. He bought a rickshaw and now sells his vegetables door to door. He even buys vegetables from his neighbors when he doesn't have enough. He makes approximately Rs.500 per day (6,25 €), 4 times more than the minimum wage. Motivated by his success, he planted 271 fruit trees.

8. Fruit processing

After the marmalade making endeavor, the women thought it would be more suitable and profitable to concentrate production on local products. "No one in Mau eats marmalade", they said, "but everyone eats spices, pickles and namkeens!"

Delighted to see these women gaining such confidence, when a few months earlier they were veiled and didn't dare speak, we adapted the project. We met with the heads of the Horticultural department of Chitrakoot (regional headquarters of Mau) to ask them to teach the women to make spices, pickles and namkeens.



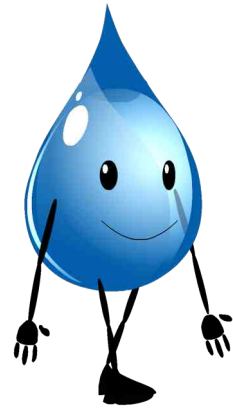
In the months to come, we will deepen the women's knowledge through instruction on processing techniques and the sale of spices and pickles. We will help them organize the sale of their products at the local market.

Activities in France

9. Documentary making

We are in the process of making a documentary with the help of Danda Productions and Manuel Roman. It is intended for elementary, middle school and high school students. It tells the story of a rain drop who arrives in India. Shocked by the deterioration of the environment, she explores the surroundings and discovers the issues of deforestation, the consequences of drought and understands the existing solutions.

The documentary should be ready in March.



Droplette, the movie star

10. Other awareness campaign tools

We have prepared new educational material such as picture shows, quizzes, crossword puzzles, and other activities to be used on our stands. We have also attempted to make edible 'water marbles' (see : <http://inhabitat.com/nyc/diy-video-how-to-make-an-edible-water-bottle/>).

11. Presentations & conferences

We went to 9 elementary, middle and high schools. During these presentations, we discuss environmental issues and cultural diversity. The short film "If you were born in an indian village..." follows the life of two young Indians, Mahiva, aged 9 and Rohit, aged 7, during a typical village day. Through their activities, rising in the morning, eating, going to school and afternoon games, the students discover another world. The film presents the themes of water management, international solidarity and respect for one another.



Presentation in Victor Asso school, at la Trinité, 3rd graders

List of interventions :

| Date | Classes | Number of students | Type of school | Name of school | Location |
|---------|-----------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 3/4/14 | 3rd | 24 | elementary | Victor Asso | La Trinité |
| | 3 rd /4th | 24 | elementary | Victor Asso | La Trinité |
| 18/4/14 | 4th | 24 | elementary | Public school | St Cézaire sur Siagne |
| | 3 rd /4th | 24 | elementary | Public school | St Cézaire sur Siagne |
| 3/6/14 | 4th | 24 | elementary | St Jean | La Roquette |
| 5/6/14 | 9 th /12th | 100 | High school | Tocqueville | Grasse |
| 6/6/14 | 2 nd /3rd | 26 | elementary | Antoine Maure | Magagnosc |
| 10/6/14 | 4th | 25 | elementary | St Jean | La Roquette |
| 12/6/14 | 5th | 120 | Middle school | Fénelon | Grasse |

12. Photo exhibit

We selected the most beautiful pictures taken by Jérémie Lusseau, Naiade Plante and Rain Drop and printed them. We then initiated our travelling photo exhibit. It started in Lyon on June 2, 2014, at the Kotopo association. One month later, it was displayed in the window of the "Maison des solidarités locales et internationales". On August 1, it moved to the "Court-Circuit", a community restaurant in Lyon, then from September 1 to 22, to the "Maison Rhodanienne de l'environnement".

On October 1, 2014, the exhibit traveled to Paris to be exposed in the "Tour Suez Environnement", then in the "CIRSEE".



Exhibition at Kotopo

In the "Maison Rhodanienne de l'environnement" in Lyon, in the "Tour Suez" and the "CIRSEE" in Paris, Alexis Roman, the director of Rain Drop, presented the photo exhibition. He described the Spring of Life project through the photos.

Conclusion

The Spring of Life Project is in its last year.

We will aim at pursuing the spread of the project's activities and to ensure a follow up for each of the beneficiaries, enhancing their knowledge so that they may in turn spread the techniques introduced by Rain Drop.

This coming year marks the beginning the association's implication in the Bohol Dance Project in the Philippines.

Thank you for your continued support !

Without you, these projects wouldn't be possible.



Photo credit : Naiade Plante - <http://www.naiadeplante.com>