

**Improve the lives of small farmers through  
reviving traditional seeds**

## **Activity Update**

**October 2018 to 31st March 2019**

**Presented by**

**Uttarakhand Jan Jagriti Sansthan**

**Supported by**

**Himalaya Resources**

**And**

**Wild Gees**

Uttarakhand Jan Jagriti Sansthan has initiated SAMOON venture since four years back to conserve traditional seeds and promote mountain farmers specially women farmer. Himalaya Resources helped UJJS in starting the marketing outlet for selling and exchange of traditional seeds, grains and spices. SAMOON venture is connecting with farmer and motivating them to do organic agriculture and use of traditional seeds. SAMOON venture is connecting with farmer and motivating them to do organic agriculture and use of traditional seeds. SAMOON strived for paying good price to farmers for their crops since its foundation. Local food promotion is a good medium of conservation of traditional seeds and SAMOON doing its efforts for revising the local food and taste.



We were seeing a dream of local food center in SAMOON outlet at Khadi on the national highway. Himalaya resource and Wild Gees understand and realize our dream and feelings. They make a support us to establish a local food center and promotion of seeds and spices. The project "Improve the Lives of Small Farmers through Reviving traditional Seeds and Food" supported by Himalaya Resources and Wild Gees is started since October 2018. There are three major components in the project 1. Food Center 2. Semi-Processing Unit 3. Seed Bank. Here we are updating the process and work up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019.

### **Seed Bank:**

SAMOON initiated this project with Seed bank. In this year with the support of this project SAMOON has get able to buy local seeds, grains, spices and farm-produced of more than the One lakh value. Through this process of buying and exchanging of seeds SAMOON has connected with more than 200 women farmers. Seed buying and exchanging is whole year



**Preparation of farm produces for packing**

process. Farmers bring their farm produces in crop harvesting season and their own convenience. Some old women farmers who are single bring their products for meet-out needs from the good price given by SAMOON.



**Semi processing and packing by Volunteers**

Some of the local mediators are worried and facing difficulties due to farmers receiving good price from SAMOON and they approaching SAMOON volunteers for price hike but they had to be disappointed by our side. This year most of the farmers bring their products to the SAMOON outlet and we had less need to go to the villages for farm produces. Now the challenge is that we should increase our buying capacity when farmers come to us with faith of good price and honest trade.



Packing of SAMOON materials sending to SAMOON / HSS Delhi

SAMOON is continuously working on making market linkages in big market like Delhi. SAMOON Delhi chapter is a good support us to sell products fast and easy in better prices. There are some more friends who are the good consumers for SAMOON products in Delhi and other cities.



SAMOON outlet

### **Semi Processing Unit:**

Establishment of Semi processing unit for value addition in local farm produces is much needed activity of SAMOON. Production of mustard and sesame seeds is one of the general crops in the area. There is no facility to making oil of the seeds and in the area and nearby places. Turmeric and Ginger is the prime crops that are produced by local farmer in the area. There is another machine in processing unit is pulverizer / Grinder for making turmeric and ginger powder.



**Processing Unit Shelter**

Construction of shelter for processing unit is completed. The shelter is 18X18X10 feet room where both machines are installing. We purchased both machines from the one the oldest and prestigious company of the country. Machines are reached at processing unit and installation work is going on. We are making ensure to open processing unit in this month of April.



**Oil Press machine**



**Pulverizer / Grinder**

### **Food Center:**

Making available local traditional food for all is the key dream of SAMOON for conserving traditional seeds and promotion of organic traditional agriculture. Our thought of protecting of extinct traditional organic seeds is possible through making popularize the local foods that are made from that seeds and grains.



**MFC Space**

The food center is the way to connect people with mountain food. SAMOON team decided to keep name of food center is Mountain Food Connect (MFC). Preparation of MFC is continuously is going on. Bamboo structure on the roof top is discussed for making a good, strong and



**SAMOON Products at the out let**

attractive structure. We contacted some Bamboo artist and they are willing to make a good structure for SAMOON' Mountain Food Connect. Making bamboo structure on the roof top is taking little more time. We are initiating MFC with given space of SAMOON. We are endeavoring to open MFC before starting tourist season start.

We made SAMOON's front space for sitting and there are two shops 10X20 feet that will be used for MFC. One shop has space 10X20 feet is being used for kitchen and reception counter and another shop having same space being used for the guest sitting area. Front space is being used for sitting purpose.



Chairs for the MFC



Basic infrastructure for MFC is almost completed like kitchen space, toilets, and sitting area. Furniture for the MFC is being made from local bushes by very special person who is more than 50 percent disabled and working only from his cot. In the start we ordered 20 chairs and making of 15 chairs are completed and rest number of chairs will be completed soon. SAMOON team is working on finalization of MFC's Menu and it would be finished soon in one week.

The person Mr. Kishan Gurung who is making furniture for MFC



### **Challenges that we are facing to implement our dream-**

One big challenge for us to initiate MFC is construction of national highway in front of the SAMOON outlet. In those days lots of destruction happening in the market and mud and dust is seeing everywhere in the market. Our water supply line is totally ruined by road construction and not having water in SAMOON since last fifteen days. We are continuously connected with water supply agency for making ensure the water supply soon in SAMOON but some things are not in control of our and agency's hands.

We are facing the challenge of finding skilled electricity wiring expert who ensure the good electricity system for machines at local level. We are contacting outside friends for electricity wiring in processing unit and will ensure that processing unit will start in this month.



**Mud, dust and destruction surrounding**



**Pipes of destroyed Pipe Line**