

## **CDP Sirpur- Protecting the Mother earth**

Uday Social Development Society Bhopal carries out its objectives through 6 units in 4 districts of Madhya Pradesh. Being one of the units, Community Development Project sirpur, takes up varied activities towards the community development. One of the major activities is caring for the nature. Distributing trees and maintaining them since five years to the SHG members of nine villages in and around Sirpur has bore result in those rural communities. The trees are not purchased instead they are availed freely from the Forest department of Khalwa Block.

This year the CEO of Khalwa Block sanctioned 2000 trees to CDP Sirpur to give to the SHG members and some of the trees were shared with CDP Aulia. The types of are tress are mostly fruit bearing such as guava, mango, almond (badam), Black plum (jamun), Lemon, etc. Some of the women, who had planted them since 5 years, are selling fruits and it has added to their livelihood.

The CEO of Khanlwa Block of Khandwa district invited all the NGOs working in those areas. During the sharing Sr. Anna narrated the works at CDP Sirpur and he was happy to hear the developmental works that are going on in different villages. In one of his sharing, he explained the importance of planting trees for the income generation of the poor people. An incident narrated by the CEO inspired many more people to plant more trees. A girl was born in one of the poor villages of Bihar where they considered the girl children as a burden in the family. The whole locality was very silent as if someone had died. But the parents of the girl said, we should rejoice on this day wit

h nagada (a musical instrument available there) and tell the people that the girl child is no more a burden for the family. We will plant five mango trees in her name and by the time when she becomes 18 years, our family will have enough money to give her in marriage. From that onwards the villagers decided something innovative to carry out when a girl child is born. The entire village is motivated to plant trees and they encourage other neighboring villagers also for the same.

Change takes place with oneself and it spreads out.

In my experience the people of Sirpur Cluster didn't understand the values of planting fruit trees; especially they believed that if they plant Jackfruit trees, someone will die in their family. After creating lot of awareness, a time has come where people request more for the fruit trees. It is a great joy to see when our SHG members bring fruit for us from those trees which we had distributed in five years. Almost 500 plants are yielding fruits and the villagers sell those fruits and thereby their standard of living has been improved.

Care for the earth and the nature will surely take care of us.

Sr. Anna  
Director, CDP Sirpur