

## JUNE to OCTOBER HIGHLIGHTS

**Executive Summary:** The last 5 months have seen a lot of changes at Grampari. We spent a good deal of time recruiting and training our new team who will help us carry our vision forward. We've also improved and expanded our infrastructure. In the communities we have made strides with community mobilization in Pachputewadi and Abhepuri. The ladies group from Godavalli and Dandeghar villages is growing and showing really rapid success. In Taighat we have been hard at work guiding the community to restore their watershed. And on campus, ever more students are attending our burgeoning livelihoods programme. Below is a more detailed overview.

### ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES:

#### Staffing:

- We have hired two full time employees. **Swati Kadam** from Satara holds a MSW and has 7 years of rural development experience. She is joining us as our first community coordinator for the CMF programme. **Rennie Thomas** from Pune is a hydrogeologist and will be working with Jared to scale up the watershed programme, specifically well recharge and spring development work.
- We have hired a short term consultant, **Rucha Desai** to take on the post of livelihoods manager. As this is a senior position, we are taking her on for 3 months initially to ensure that it is a mutually beneficial.
- We have three hires from surrounding villages. **Trupti Malusare**, from Godavalli has joined us full time after completing the AP intern programme and works on the livelihoods programme. **Vaishali Wadakar** also from Godavali is our new sewing teacher. **Anil Wadakar** is our new mobile repair teacher.
- **Etienne Gigand** from France joined us as a Grampari Fellow for the next 6 months. He is conducting a water and solid waste audit and providing recommendation for improvement. **Rachel Jacobsen**, a landscape architect, is volunteering with us for 6 months to work on the organic garden and improve the facilities at Grampari. And **Anandi Gandhi** spent 4 weeks here assisting with the organic garden in September.
- We have had 4 interns from the Symbiosis MBA programme join us on a variety of tasks from studying the use of IT in rural development to improve our computer programme to increasing our social media presence.

#### Infrastructure and Facilities:

- Dairy Shed renovation contract has been finalized and work has started to turn it into a training center.
- Organic Garden is underway with this year's lemons already being harvested.
- Septic tank at Grampari has been repaired and redone to show case alternative technologies by a biofiltration basin for effluent.

### Strategic:

- Invited to apply to **USAID's** (United States Agency for International Development) small-organization programme where they will match corporate donations (such as those by TranAsia) dollar for dollar.
- Will be meeting shortly with Siemens as they may be interested in collaborating with us through their CSR programme.

### Other:

- **www.grampari.org** website has been redone and is under a new hosting.
- 9 seater **Bolero** has been purchased. We are working to put TransAsia logo on the side.
- A second hand 125 CC Hero Honda motorcycle was purchased.
- Put out a special edition of *disha* which is devoted to Grampari (see <http://bit.ly/smVNNT>)



### PROGRAMMATIC UPDATES:

#### Livelihoods

- First Batch of **MS-CIT computer class** finished and the second batch is currently underway.
- The **sewing class** has proven so popular that we are running two batches concurrently.
- We have started the **mobile repair classes** and the students have provided very positive feedback.
- Our ladies group had a very successful **Diwali diya sale** season. The ladies are from different religions and castes and have meeting for 6 months to plan for the diya sales. Each of the 35 ladies contributed Rs 50 each/month. Beyond money collection, they also saw films on Panchayati Raj, worked on issues like selfishness and in one of the meetings they decided that ladies from Godavalli and Dandeghar should not sit separately but together. They sold 4,000 diyas and got Rs 1170/- each before Diwali but we still have to sell 3000 diyas at Rs. 25 a pair. From going to Pune to buy the lamps themselves to taking on all of the accounting, this has been a very empowering experience. Sales of other craft items like mats continue. All items are sold in **newspaper bags** made by the ladies themselves.
- Our ladies group members have started **teaching other ladies groups** how to paint diyas and market them.

#### Leadership and Governance

- Continuing to assist sarpanch with facilitating **ladies gram sabhas** in Abhepuri. A lady from our ladies group attended the last gram sabha and was motivated to try to inspire on in her own village.

- **Exposure visit to Hivre Bazaar** where village leaders were able to meet with Popat Rao Pawar.
- Several leadership programmes at Grampari including one requested by villagers themselves on the subject of unity. Others include a **ladies programme** for ashram women from Baramati and orphanage childrens' programmes.
- Attended and facilitated several meetings on massive irrigation lift scheme to try to **encourage transparency** and to support honest village leaders in Abhepuri.
- Our ladies SHG was inspired by Anna Hazare's anti-corruption movement and organized their **own anti-corruption rally** through Panchgani town.

### Health and Environment - Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Start of **latrine project** in Abhepuri. About 30% to 40% of the community there does not have a



latrine and we are working with the community on awareness, mobilization, technical and financial aspects. "It's in Your Hands" tippytap film shown in 2 film festivals - the Lights. Camera. Help Film Festival in Texas and the Media that Matters Film Festival 2011 in NYC (we won the Jury Award at this latter festival which reaches 100,000 people.)

- Our tippytap.org materials are referenced on websites like Practical Action's, our most recent tippytap manual is in Portuguese and we are getting a steadily increasing flow of inputs for the site from around the world. Tippytap.org now has a presence on twitter; we're followed by staff at **Wateraid and The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**.
- Applied for **Innovative Small Grants** program at Child Health Foundation for 5000\$ (will hear back in Nov.)
- **Global Hand Washing Day 2011** was celebrated in Baramati with a 'training of trainers' for 75 teachers to promote hand washing back at their schools followed by a school hand washing programme for 250 children.
- **Water testing** started in Dandeghar
- Completed a survey to document existing solid waste practices to assist Panchgani citizen group



### **Health and Environment - Watershed Program**

- Continued work with community to raise **spring boxes** to prevent monsoon runoff from entering water source in Pachputewadi
- Presented spring box work to groups in Abhepuri and Pachputewadi as well as taught techniques to visiting groups.
- Worked closely with community of Taighat and Forest Department and led **tree planting** activities, installation of watershed practices such as berms, **bank stabilization** demonstrations and started an anti-fire campaign.
- Met with Block Development Officer of Mahableshwar who set up village meeting in Kinger where people expressed interest in a **well recharge demonstration** project – we are gearing up for this soon.
- Rennie Thomas as mentioned above has joined this program; he will be mapping watersheds and innovating new, locally appropriate methods of **groundwater recharge**.
- Laying groundwork for upcoming watershed project in Abhepuri working with marginalized community including **watershed assessment** and meeting with community members.

