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BRICS Business Council

Grant Thornton

BRICS Solutions for SDG Awards 2021

Winners & Runners-up

Zero Hunger

S. No.	Applicant Name	Project Name	Country	Slide ref.
WINNER	SAI Sustainable Agro & Rural Development Products Pvt. Ltd.	SAI's Triple Bottom Up Approach in Agroforestry	India	3
RUNNER UP	RMSI	Sustainable Transformation through ICT-based Agricultural Value Chain GovernancE Platform	India	4
RUNNER UP	Hindustan Zinc Limited	SAMADHAN (Sustainable Agriculture Management And Development by Human Action for Nature)	India	5

Project start date	07-09-2013
Project end date	Present

Project Name	SAI's Triple Bottom Up Approach in Agroforestry

WINNER

Applicant profile

SAI Sustainable Agro is a social enterprise lifting small and marginal farmers at Base of Pyramid (BoP) out of poverty by transformation of their degraded land through agroforestry

Project Location

Odisha

Brief about the proposal

- In places like Odisha, majority (55%) of tribal households are Below Poverty Line, and indigenous farmers are subjected to generations of poverty and exploitation; problem like amenia is widespread due to lack of access to nutritious food
- Most farmers are unable to utilize barren land and are forced to sell land at throwaway prices; with shortage of locally available material further causing problems to agrarian industries, who now are operating at 40-60% capacity, or shutting down
- The proposed model includes high value, climate resilient and drought resistant trees providing sustainable long term livelihood for BoP farmers and BPL families
- To combating malnutrition and provide nutritional security year round for farmers and their families, intercropping with traditional food crops was adopted; including revival of fertility and productivity of ancestral lands through restoration of barren land
- Provision of assured buyback agreements for trees and intercrop, thereby guaranteeing market access and removing all risk from the farmers by eliminating middlemen was ensured with earning in a true, transparent partnership
- Good quality pulpwood is provided to industries locally along with assured supply; resulting in local, resilient supply chains with small carbon footprints
- Incorporation of local wisdom and farmer preferences along with constant community feedback in the crop plantation model; market oriented production with a CRP model has helped in ensuring effective mobilization of youth

Interventions Adopted

- Mobilize, train, and provide quality agritech inputs
- Rural unemployed youth recruited and trained
- Climate resilient and drought resistant trees to provide sustainable livelihood to farmers
- Intercropping with traditional food crops
- Provide pulpwood locally to various industries

Resources

- Cost of 1 Acre Model is INR 17,000; incorporating funding from agri-finance banks and CSR grants
- Board members and Advisors helping in sharpening revenue model and providing outreach
- Mentors and partners with expertise in fundraising, marketing and PR to expand social media presence

Impact

- 1679 farmers incorporated into value chain and trained by SAI
- 971 families are eating at least 2 nutritious meals daily by intercropping
- 3170 acres of barren land brough under cultivation

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	08-01-2018
Project end date	01-01-2020

Project Name

Sustainable Transformation through ICT-based Agricultural Value Chain Governance Platform in Malawi

Applicant profile

RMSI addresses global issues of human habitation, security & safety connected with food, calamities, usage of natural resources, utilities, transportation & infrastructure by interventions

Project Location

Malawi, Africa

Brief about the proposal

- Malawi, a small landlocked country in Africa with an economy driven by agriculture dominated by maize and tobacco has limited access to improved crop varieties and fertilizers, has poorly functioning markets resulting in low yields, high sales cost and inadequate processing capacity
- An ICT-based Value Chain Governance (IVCG) platform was developed to streamline the fragmented agricultural value chain and reduce the risk to smallholder farmers and ensure higher economic returns on farmers' produce
- The digital agriculture market platform helped connect the agricultural value chain players (farmers, financiers, warehouse owners, agro-dealers, agro-input suppliers, financial institutions, off-takers, etc.) on one platform.
- An agro-input network was established with an online registration of farmers to facilitate linking of warehouse receipt system to the platform and keep track of deposit and sale of commodities
- A location specific geo-tagged database is developed for agriculture value chain stakeholders, connecting them and streamlining the processes from crop production to collection, storage and transport
- Limited access to agro-inputs, weather volatility were primary reasons for weak agricultural value chain
- Getting best available seeds and fertilizers through developing a mobile application was uploaded on the platform
- Seed companies formed the agro-input distributor network whose module was incorporated on the IVCG platform
- Smallholder farmers could store the produce under the pre-arranged warehouse specifying the aggregate quantity produced, enabling marketers to envisage the production from different districts thereby easing buying decisions
- Authorized financial institutions also mapped in the platform, along with associated products

Interventions Adopted

- ICT-based Value Chain Governance (IVCG) platform, with a mobile application
- Location specific geo-tagged database developed
- Agro-input distributor network formed by seed companies; pre-arrange warehouse for farmers

Resources

- One time investment to develop ICT platform including MobileApp needed for registration
- Two servers to make platform operational
- Tablets required for on-filed registration
- Roping in mobile operators for sending SMS
- Staff required to help with registration

Impact

- Eliminated the paper vouch system
- Minimize malpractices
- Easy and quick access of 'Market Demand' for different commodities
- Agro-input redemption success rate has been outstanding (>99%)

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	09/01/2016
Project end date	08/31/20121

Project Name	SAMADHAN (Sustainable Agriculture Management And Development by Human Action for Nature)

Applicant profile

Hindustan Zinc Ltd. (HZL) is India's largest and world's second largest zinc-lead miner, built on values of entrepreneurship, excellence and trust it aims to enhance stakeholder value and delight

Project Location

Odisha

Brief about the proposal

- Majority of population in the area around HZL's operations depend on Agriculture and Animal Husbandry for the livelihood, but due to lack of technical knowledge and poor market linkage, poses a major problems for farmer community to increase their income
- SAMADHAN focuses on farm-based development to ensure values of nature through community participation
- Through rural entrepreneurship, vegetable cultivation, livestock development, it ensures engagement of the new generation in management of farms
- Seeking to enhance bio diversity through tree-based farming and improving livestock management practices, various packages and approaches have been identified like Package of Practices, Salinity Package, Vegetable Package, and WADI in which tree-based farming system focuses on family as a unit of development
- Integrated livestock development centres (ILDCs) were established to provide breeding services (artificial insemination AI) and support for fodder seeds, training, exposure visits and preventive health care was also provided
- Community mobilization and contribution along with adoption of new technology and intervention were major challenges; exposure visits to help farmers understand latest technology and high-tech cultivation were carried out
- To make the interventions sustainable, management through institution building has been designed through Farmer Interest Groups aggregation of which forms Farmer producer companies that could buy inputs in bulk
- Community participation in all stages of project implementation and strong relationship with government functionaries has ensured sustainable livelihood through integrated farming system

Interventions Adopted

- Package of Practices (POP), Salinity Package, and Vegetation Package to support farmers
- WADI, the tress-based farming system
- Integrated livestock development centres (ILDCs)
- Partnership with BAIF Development Research Foundation for help in implementation

Resources

- Total expenditure: INR 3.60 Crores
- Employee volunteering for various activities
- Experts from various institutions engaged in training and capacity building initiatives

Impact

- Increase in income by INR 20,000/family through improved agri-horti practices
- INR 20,000/fruit orchard developed
- 262.5 acres covered under WADI
- 3399 female calf born in the project

Good Health & Well-Being

S.No.	Applicant Name	Project Name	Country	Slide ref.
WINNER	Tata Steel Foundation	Maternal and Newborn Survival Initative (MANSI)	India	7
RUNNER UP	Hindustan Unilever Limited	Unilever HYGIENE & HEALTH Innovations & Solutions with Lifebuoy, Domex & Horlicks	India	8
RUNNER UP	R-Pharma Group	Development of olokizumab	Russia	9
RUNNER UP	JSC Russian Railways	The Concept of a healthy lifestyle in JSC "Russian Railways"	Russia	10

Project start date	06/01/2009
Project end date	Present

Project Name	Maternal and Newborn Survival Initiative (MANSI)

WINNER

Applicant profile

Tata Steel Foundation is an Indian non- govt company majorly focusing on community, personal and social services business.

Project Location

Jharkhand & Orissa

Brief about the proposal

- Thousands of women in India lose their lives to complications of pregnancy and childbirth (20-30% of the respective deaths locally. Evidence shows that community health workers, if appropriately trained, supplied, supported and supervised, can contribute to improving maternal health and reducing child mortality.
- MANSI was launched with the motive to provide universal access of public health services and to stop inter-generational transfer of inequity. It intends to address core issues of lack of awareness on maternal health and necessary treatment infrastructure required.

i. Phase 1 of MANSI was operational between FY10-16.Survey revealed a reduction of Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR) by 61%, IMR by 63% and CMR by 54.9% as compared to the baseline of 2011.

ii. Phase 2 of MANSI operational between FY16-21 scaled from 167 villages of 1 block in serikala to 1686 villages spanning 12 blocks of 3 districts in 2 states.

- The project provides quality training and refreshers to the Sahiyyas (govt healthcare workers) of the block along with handholding support to the district health team.
- Primary beneficiaries- women from low income families or from remote areas.
- The project effectively built capacity of the ecosystem of health workers, from the front-line Sahiyyas to their supervisors.
- The remoteness of some villages, difficult terrain, scattered public health services, lack of literacy and awareness have been some of the major challenges of the project.

Interventions Adopted

- Population-based surveys to estimate mortality rates
- Assessment of capacity of Sahiyya and their supervisors.
- Survey of mothers to assess their knowledge and perceptions about HBNCC and MANSI
- Operation Sunshine in June 2018

Resources

- Implemented by Tata Steel Foundation in a PPP model.
- Spend in FY21 (in Lakhs) : 123.35

Impact

- 94% increase in pregnant women receiving medical checkups
- 87% increase in institutional deliveries
- 83% increase in newborns being weighed at birth

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	01/01/2015
Project end date	Present

Project Name	Unilever HYGIENE & HEALTH Innovations & Solutions with Lifebuoy, Domex & Horlicks

Applicant profile

Hindustan Unilever Ltd estb in 1931, is an Indian corporation dealing in consumer goods meeting everyday needs of health, hygiene and personal care.

Project Location

PAN India

Brief about the proposal

- Inadequate water, sanitation and hygiene contributes to 15 percent of the overall neonatal mortality and 11 percent of maternal deaths. Only 35.8% wash hands with soap before a meal.
- 1 out of 3 children in India are stunted, 1 out of 4 children & adolescents are wasted ,and 52% women of reproductive age are anaemic.
- HUL brings together scientific expertise, marketing reach and scale to provide meaningful solutions to drive behavior change program among consumers to promote good health and hygiene.
- Lifebuoy's Social Mission program has helped over 1 billion people develop better handwashing habits, improving hygiene, protecting against illness, and helping to prevent childhood deaths.
- HUL has been driving handwashing behavior change programs in partnership with GAVI, Project Hope, Power of
- Nutrition and various NGO's.
- The nutrition business's purpose is to nourish a Billion Lives by solving India's protein and micronutrient deficiency across all life-stages.
- With a large bottom-of-the-pyramid and rural population- access and awareness are the key challenges.
- HUL aims to create a fundamental change in behavior through education & awareness.

Interventions Adopted

- Low-unit price products ensuring proper access to the bottom of the pyramid.
- Domex launched India's first low-cost toilet cleaning powder, designed for squat & pit toilets.
- Immunity boosting Horlicks with enhanced Zinc during Covid.

Resources

- 1 Month's food ration delivered to over 40,000 students & their families.
- Helped migrants and landless farmers to get job cards.The organization donated over 2 crores soaps & sanitizers and other products to the frontline medical professionals, police staff etc.

Impact

- WASH initiatives - 14.5 CR people
- Domex toilet academy - 400 villages
- Horlicks swasthya abhiyan - 7L people
- Lifebuoy handwashing - 40 CR people

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	05/01/2016
Project end date	Present

Project Name

Development of olokizumab, a novel treatment to manage RA and COVID-19

Applicant profile

R Pharm, estb in 2001, is an international pharmasceutical company headquartered in Russia. It covers areas related to development, research and production of drugs.

Project Location

Russia

Brief about the proposal

- Olokizumab is a humanized monoclonal antibody specific for the inflammatory cytokine. It targets the IL-6 ligand rather than the receptor, and selectively blocks the final assembly of the signaling complex.
- It is the first novel original direct inhibitor of interleukin-6 (IL-6) authorized for commercial use to treat rheumatoid arthritis- a connective tissue disease that affects small joints and may result in early disability if not treated.
- Olokizumab became the first original Russian biotechnological drug, which was included in the recommendations of the Ministry of Health for the treatment of COVID-19 too.
- Being effective both in biologically naïve and in difficult-to-treat patients, olokizumab has been recognized by the medical society as a valuable input. It is also in research to prove its ability to help the most challenging RA sub-groups as well as other illnesses.
- It successfully proved to help patients that do not answer to conventional medicine or to TNF inhibators.

Interventions Adopted

- Partnered with the leading industrial CRO IQVIA to manage the global Phase 3 trials program- CREDO and local CRO managed the sites.
- 96% of patients that completed the double-blind studies CREDO 1-3, decided to continue with the long-term extension program CREDO 4.

Resources

- Investment by R Pharms.
- Local and global CRO's were involved.
- R Pharms resources.

Impact

- Olokizumab in both dosages was effective in population with
- moderately to severely active RA who responded inadequately to MTX and TNF-blocker therapy.

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	01/01/2020
Project end date	12/31/2025

Project Name

The Concept of a healthy lifestyle in JSC "Russian Railways"

Applicant profile

Russian Railways is a fully state owned, vertically integrated railway company. Company offers various transport services like freight, suburban passenger, infrastructure services etc.

Project Location

Russia

Brief about the proposal

- Study covering about 14K employees of the company showed the presence of an unhealthy lifestyle- Lack of physical activity and healthy eating and the presence of high stress levels at work.
- The concept of a healthy lifestyle was adopted by the management too see an improvement in 9 directions of the employee wellbeing- Prevention of tobacco/alcohol, healthy eating, maintaining a good mental health, increase of physical activity, office productive environment, education about the importance of a healthy life etc
- Project focuses on reducing stress levels at work and helping the employees follow a healthy lifestyle. Thus, increasing their efficiency.
- Awarded the ‘Best social project in Russia’

Interventions Adopted

- Reducing promotion of employees who smoke.
- Project ‘Industrial gymnastics at the workplace’ and ‘Fitness tour’ were organized in 2020
- "The Week of a healthy lifestyle in JSC Russian Railways" held from 5 -11th April’21 involving various events like exercise, gymnastics etc

Resources

- Russian Trade Union of Railway Workers and Transport Constructors.
- Charity Found ‘Honor’, RPSO ‘Lokomotiv’
- Russia wide movement of volunteers with financial support from JSC Railways.

Impact

- Organised 9K events attracting 220K employees.
- improved psycho-emotional condition of employees
- decreased morbidity and duration of sick leave of employees.

Quality Education

S. No.	Applicant Name	Project Name	Country	Slide ref.
WINNER	CLT India	e- Patashale	India	12
RUNNER UP	FXB India Suraksha	Suraksha education programme	India	13
RUNNER UP	Shangai Youren Foundation	Full Life span Educational Support project for Students with Visual Impairment in China	China	14
RUNNER UP	Brain Development Ltd	Educational complex on Digital Technologies	Russia	15

Project start date	03-01-2016
Project end date	Present

WINNER

Project Name

CLT e-Patashale

Applicant profile

CLT India (Regd. as Children's Love Castles Trust) is a Not for Profit organization, founded in 1997. It was born out of a passion to keep kids in school, to give education they deserve.

Project Location

India

Brief about the proposal

- Access to quality education is a challenge in under-served communities. While students of privileged private schools have access to good schools, lesser privileged schools were contending with basic problems like teacher shortage and missed learning opportunities.
- Project became the pioneer in setting up digital classrooms in rural India under the banner e- Patashale.
- It focused on a strategy to build a scalable and replicable model where master teachers would design innovative pedagogy for remote practitioners by leveraging technology to deliver.
- It brings best teaching practices to every classroom and addresses the challenge of teacher shortage, lack of subject matter, expertise in STEM and lack of educational resources in the rural schools.
- The digital content is replicated to regional languages and delivered on Plug & Play Android devices and mobile devices to remote schools, where teachers can access the content without the internet.
- Major challenges faced is focused research and curriculum framework, providing last mile connectivity, acquiring subject matter experts in regional languages, acquiring product design specialist for educational content and High speed workstations to improve content outputs

Interventions Adopted

- Designing of in- house STEM pedagogy in regional language and technology driven model
- Content development with 15,000 STEM videos in 4 languages
- Technology enabled android device- a plug and play for television 2 mobile apps on Playstore.

Resources

- Need to upgrade technology, align and upgrade content with more activity based learning.
- Bigger team for scaling up of the program
- Need INR 3CR investment for the next 3 year goals
- Addition of 11th and 12th grade content in 2 languages.

Impact

- 94% retention of knowledge
- 84% scored better in Science
- 83.7% schools reported increase in enrolment
- 88% students confident in writing exams
- 90% academic improvement observed

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	10-01-2006
Project end date	30-09-2020

Project Name

Suraksha education programme as part of Holistic Rural Development Programme

Applicant profile

FXB India Suraksha is a Not for Profit organization. It believes in creating shared investment narratives for community led human development.

Project Location

India: Dahinagaon, Dipila and Kathaniapara, Darrang District, Assam

Brief about the proposal

- Right to Education is a key universal and fundamental right for every child. To ensure the right to be accessible to all the program was initiated to facilitate quality education to most needy children.
- Government schools in villages have limited facilities up to primary section and secondary schools have major dropout rates.
- Project focuses on establishing and conducting 6 community based remedial coaching centers, to build a strong foundation of academic competencies, nurture good health habits and engage parents to build strong support system
- It even facilitated training to teachers from local government schools. It even addresses other development challenges among children through life skill education sessions, session on Sexual Reproductive Health and session on protection and safety against exploitations and abuse.
- The program even does follow-ups with school dropouts and mainstreamed 19 school age children back to schools. had conducted 2 Youth Resource Centre for guiding them on their career and academic options and build computer and digital learning skills.
- Major challenge faced is convincing government teachers on the competency based teaching methodology and making them partners in the process and to conduct several advocacy meetings with the local government department.
- Other challenges include convincing parents for the selection of poor performing student for focused intervention.

Interventions Adopted

- Evidence based participatory method
- Competency based teaching in Math and Science
- Nurtured reading habits and WASH practices
- Tracking of school dropouts and Refurbished facility
- Capacity building sessions
- Establishing Youth centre with internet access

Resources

- Financial resources required include 0.5 million for refurbishing schools, 0.4 million per year for remedial classes, 0.1 million networking, 0.3 million monitoring.
- Non financial resource required are training module and Trainers on improved classroom transaction.

Impact

- 80% children attaining language & Math competencies
- 70% reading 1 book per week
- 35% children improve health
- 14 children brought back to school
- 90% attendance of children and parents

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	01-01-2018
Project end date	Present

Project Name	Full Life span Educational Support project for Students with Visual Impairment in China

Applicant profile

Shangai Youren Foundation is a Not for Profit Organization founded in 2016 as a member organization belonging to the One plus One Disability group.

Project Location

Mainland, China

Brief about the proposal

- Students attending schools for the blind are segregated growing up in boarding schools environment and students attending regular schools receive in school support and effective family support.
- Students with visual impairment face enormous challenges in daily life, educational and career development.
- Project focuses on supporting the visually impaired persons receive quality education throughout the lifespan.
- It will provide systematic capacity training workshops and on-site coaching for regional parent leaders, introduce early childhood therapy and education courses for children with visual impairment from other countries and regions to develop inclusive education course for all parents and conduct inclusive education quality assessment.
- Summer immersion camps are provided for students to build up confidence and abilities to make successful transition to study and live at universities.
- Major challenge faced is the current Pandemic situation which has led to universities and colleges not able to provide access to external visitors for on campus activities. Limited funding has also led the project to reject 2.3rd college student applicants for immersion camps and not more than 15 students.
- Other challenges include limited resources providing one-on-one service throughout a students college timespan is difficult to provide. A student network in being created and provision of distance coaching and occasional in- person visits.

Interventions Adopted

- Three person Education model leading and empowering each students through three stages.
- Accepting one's identity as person with visual impairment.
- Becoming a community person of Visually impaired
- Develop college adaptation skills & career planning.

Resources

- The fundraising target of the project is USD 300,000.
- Non- financial resources includes implementing a wide network of local partners and volunteers, and a network of trainers with visual impairments.

Impact

- By 2020, the project has benefited 52 college students with a network of over 80 volunteers and more than 10 partners.
- 60 educational pieces, parent training workshop for 600 young parents.

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	12-10-2012
Project end date	Present

Project Name	Educational complex on Digital Technologies (Robotics, Neurotechnology, Artifical intelligence, Programming)

Applicant profile

Brain Development Ltd is a Corporation founded in 2012. It is engaged in the development of educational institution through digital technologies.

Project Location

Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan

Brief about the proposal

- Study of digital technologies from kindergarten to university on the acceptance of educational programs with high-quality educational equipment and methodological support.
- It is the opportunity to learn the basics of neurotechnology and robotics from kindergarten and artificial intelligence from elementary school.
- Program is the developer of educational equipment and training tools for 6 digital technologies ROBOTRACK educational robotics, additive technologies, programming, computer vision, artificial intelligence (neural networks), neurotechnology.
- Projects focus is to solve the problem of early career guidance of children in the field of high technologies and offers ready-made solutions - educational equipment, methodological complexes, teacher training, and donations for effective implementation in the education system.
- Major challenge faced is the program is the first to introduce the study of Robotics and neurotechnology in kindergartens, it is a unique program for children of young age.

Interventions Adopted

- ROBOTREK is an official project of the National Technology Initiative, an ASI leadership project, supported by the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation and the Ministry of digital development, and cooperates with leading IT, technical and pedagogical universities

Resources

- Government support required to share the experience with all countries.

Impact

- Children involved- 50,000
- Educational institution- 7,000

Gender Equality

S.No	Applicant Name	Project Name	Country	Slide ref.
WINNER	Oxfam India	Creating Spaces to Take Action on Violence Against Women and Girls	India	17
RUNNER UP	K.C. Mahindra Education Trust/ Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd	Project Nanhi Kali	India	18
RUNNER UP	Petro China	PetroChina Return-to-Work Program for Women	China	19
RUNNER UP	Vedanta Limited Jharsuguda	Project Subhalaxmi Cooperative	India	20

Project start date	11-01-2016
Project end date	Present

Project Name	Creating Spaces to Take Action on Violence Against Women and Girls

WINNER

Applicant profile

Oxfam India, is a movement of people working to end discrimination and create a free and just society; believing in the power of people they work with communities to rebuild lives

Project Location

Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh

Brief about the proposal

- The issue of patriarchal social norms like chastity before marriage, men being decision makers and women being care takers, boys having more value than girls, etc. have exposed women and girls to family violence, at the same time denying them agency and rights over their bodies, sexuality and economic prosperity
- 'Bano Nayi Soch (Be the new thought and weave violence-free relationship) (BNS)' a campaign was embedded in the project with a focused approach to engage with youth in the age bracket 18-29 both in institutions and communities
- The program is built on three inter-connected pillars: Prevention by engagement with community actors; Response by supporting victims of violence, Sustainability by building knowledge and capacity institutions to influence change
- With high incidences of violence against women and girls and Child Early and Forced Marriage, the campaign was conceptualized with an idea of prevention and promotion of gender-equitable positive norms, prioritizing youth engagement
- An ecosystem was created to change by empowering community collectives along with field functionaries of the government system, resulting in systematic changes and modeled behavior
- Participatory implementation approach increased the ownership of initiatives

Interventions Adopted

- Modelling positive gender attitudes and behavior
- Media, entertainment and awareness campaigns
- Knowledge and skill trainings on legal frameworks
- Providing VAWG survivors with quality services
- Collaboration with various universities and NGOs
- Capacity building of youth in schools/colleges

Resources

- Financial resources: USD 16,41,325
- Program team of 24 people delivering actions
- Finance team comprising of 11 members
- Oxfam India's Program and Research Director
- Communications team for social media support
- External human resources for research studies

Impact

- Nearly 89% of influencers engaged show improved knowledge of legal frameworks
- 18 public declarations made to end VAWG in communities by panchayats
- More women reported increased awareness of their rights

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	06-01-1996
Project end date	Present

Project Name	Project Nanhi Kali

Applicant profile

K.C. Mahindra Education Trust/ Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. works with the objective of providing quality education to underprivileged girls in India

Project Location

14 Indian states

Brief about the proposal

- 21 million girls in India are unwanted due to favoring sons over daughters, with girls suffering disproportionately from neglect and inadequate access to education; further skewed sex ratio and poor female literacy rates makes it worse
- Working towards ensuring that girls receive access to quality education and complete their schooling, the project provides girls with daily afterschool academic support through centres, setup within government school premises
- Trained women tutors engage girls in concept-based learning with emphasis on building literacy and numeracy skills
- In partnership with leading EdTech organization, educational initiatives, PNK also provides girls with access to a personalized, adaptive learning software 'Mindspark' preloaded on digital tablets
- A kit comprising of essential school supplies and feminine hygiene material is given to every girl annually, helping girls attend school with dignity; professionally designed sports curriculum also designed to ensure holistic growth
- On ground implementation managed by an all-woman team of 'Community Associates', recruited from local communities and trained to become learning facilitators and mentors to the girls
- But pervasive socio-cultural and access barriers like patriarchal mindsets, entrenched gender discrimination and regressive social norms hinder girls from attending schools regularly; situation very challenging for adolescent girls
- Lack of qualified tutors and barriers of digital divide also create challenges for the project
- The project has overcome these challenges through its unique and innovative implementation model, leveraging technology to enhance project scale, outcomes and impact; helped girls improve their learning levels and complete schooling

Interventions Adopted

- Academic support via digital tablets
- Invested in contextualization and translation of the Mindspark software in 9 languages
- Trained women tutors called Community Associates
- Professionally designed sports curriculum
- School supplies kit provided annually

Resources

- Sponsorship model, annual sponsorship prices covering all expenses are: INR 5,400 (Primary School), INR 6,000 (Secondary School)
- Resource mobilization team creating awareness
- Volunteering programs and training sessions

Impact

- Retained over 91.25% of girls enrolled
- PNK maintains average attendance levels of 75-80% annually
- Empowerment of local women
- Change in mindsets of parents and communities in favor of girls education

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	06-2015
Project end date	Present

Project Name	PetroChina Return-to-Work Program for Women

Applicant profile

Petro China is committed to the policy of steady development, and pushes the strategies of markets, resources, internationalization and innovation to build a world-class international energy company

Project Location

Rural China- Xishui, Guizhou; Hengfeng, Jiangxi; Xinjiang

Brief about the proposal

- Many young and middle-aged couples in rural China suffer from the lack of suitable job opportunities locally, hence go out to work and earn money to support their families; empty-nest elderly and children are left behind in villages
- Women from poor families having low education levels and single labor skills, find it difficult to increase their income
- PetroChina focuses on women in poverty stricken areas and develops their skills through training, providing them with employment opportunities and achieving stable wage income
- Through perfecting system and mechanism, guiding investment in batches, providing consumption assistance and broadening the sales channels, the program enhances the ability of enterprises to deal with risks and increase wages
- With the primary aim of helping women return to the workforce with improved employment skills, PetroChina has established several rural tourism poverty-alleviation programs to support economic development
- Major challenges include breaking out of outdated and conservative ideas in the minority areas of letting women work
- Focusing on skill development, PetroChina has adopted measures to local conditions providing women with employment opportunities through investment and construction of factories
- Consequently, women in the targeted regions now have job opportunities without being far away from their homes and hence can easily balance their work and family

Interventions Adopted

- Extensive employment training to improve the women's employment skills
- Injecting funds into female labor-intensive enterprises and cooperatives
- Creating and supporting professional cooperatives

Resources

- Accumulative investment is more than 30 million RMB

Impact

- Increased women's enthusiasm, desire and self-confidence for employment
- Promoted employment of 36 local women in Taranqi Food Factory
- 40 women returned to hometowns through Return-to-Work program

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	09-23-2008
Project end date	06-30-2021

Project Name: Project Subhalaxmi Cooperative

Applicant profile

Vedanta Limited Jharsuguda has endeavored to promote living standards and cultural development through various social initiatives bringing tangible positive differences in society

Project Location

Odisha

Brief about the proposal

- The community in Jharsuguda, Odisha has had a continuous demand for livelihood during the inception period of Vedanta Ltd., as their lands were being acquired; women SHGs were formed but most of them were defunctional
- People lacked access to finance and credit support, technology and market support for strengthening their livelihood
- Aiming to enhance household income of women in the locality, Subhalaxmi Cooperative has emerged as a model women self-help entrepreneur organization, governed and managed by its members and representatives
- Focusing on four basic components: Capacity Building and Livelihood Promotion, Financial Services, Social Development, and Collaboration and Partnership, the Co-op caters to financial and livelihood needs of women
- Door-step financial services and livelihood services are provided to the cooperative members; 'Udyami Fund' encourages and supports micro-entrepreneurs through machinery in their enterprise
- Along with economic upliftment, it has also addressed the issues of the periphery villagers through its welfare scheme i.e. Subhalaxmi Mahila Kalyan Panthi
- Lack of proper access to credit system for community, no proper platform for training and capacity building of women, and disinterest of women to be a part of the Co-operative were some of the major challenges faced
- Co-operative provides training and develops women skills for their enterprise promotion; the micro finance service also helps women to take loans on a very affordable interest rate ultimately brining a positive change in the society

Interventions Adopted

- Creation of Subhalaxmi Cooperative Society
- Micro-finance initiative and doorstep services
- Linkage to government social and financial schemes
- Training and capacity building programs
- Partnerships with Government Line Departments, Research and Extension Institutions

Resources

- Since inception till FY21, US$ 5,08,594 spent
- Since 2008-14 expenses borne by Vedanta Ltd. Jharsuguda, after which expenses borne by Co-operative
- Employee volunteers participation

Impact

- One of the largest women cooperatives in Odisha with 4100 women in 339 SHGs
- 1361 rural women micro entrepreneurs
- Average household income increased by 50%; cumulative saving generated by Co-op members is US $ 2,29,175.83

Clean Water and Sanitation

BRICS INDIA 2021

S.No.	Applicant Name	Project Name	Country	Slide ref.
WINNER	En+ Group	Project 360	Russia	22
RUNNER UP	Banka BioLoo Limited	Bioloos	India	23
RUNNER UP	Aplysia Environmental Solutions	ReNaturalize: low tech process-based river restoration after a mining dam rupture in Brazil	Brazil	24

Project start date	01-01-2011
Project end date	Present

Project Name	Project 360

WINNER

Applicant profile

En+ Group is a Corporation based in Russia and is a global leader in low-carbon aluminum production.

Project Location

Siberian Region, Russia

Brief about the proposal

- Lake Baikal, is the largest natural reservoir of fresh water on Earth, however, due to various anthropogenic reasons, it has become an unauthorized dumps of household waste.
- Toxic substances like plastic cause harm to the animals living in the surrounding along with polluting the water body.
- The project focuses on an integrated approach to protect the lake and the aquatic ecosystem through construction of environmental trails, installation of information stands and educational activities among others.
- It launched activities such as the Volunteer Environmental Action "360“ in which 100 employees focused on cleaning garbage waste.
- The project also conducted information campaigns, environmental quizzes, press releases, sorting garbage activities, among other as part of the holistic effort to clean the area.
- Garbage collected was recycled, protected areas were landscaped, unauthorized dumps were cleaned, ecological trails were built as well.

Interventions Adopted

- Volunteer Environmental Action ‘360’ launched.
- Popularized volunteerism and responsible tourism through various activities in social media.
- Information campaigns on social network and radio.

Resources

- 1,44,000 people became eco-volunteers.
- Implementation budget for 2019 alone was 7.4 million rubles; source of financing En+ Group.

Impact

- 4,500 tons of garbage were cleaned and disposed.
- 144,000 people became eco-volunteers.
- All garbage was recycled and partially processed.

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	04-01-2014
Project end date	Present

Project Name	Bioloos - Sustainable Solution to India's Sanitation Challenge

Applicant profile

Banka BioLoo Limited is a For Profit Social Enterprise and is a pioneer in WaSH infrastructure, provide human waste management solutions among others.

Project Location

Not mentioned

Brief about the proposal

- Adequate access to toilets continuous to be a major challenge. Before the advent of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, over 600 million people struggling with open defecation.
- This causes a number of issues including health hazards, water borne diseases, environmental concerns among others
- However, even with government schemes/ programs, the need for continuous effort towards better sanitation measures is essential for a healthy life.
- The project focuses on bioloos or toilet structures with a bio digester tank that treats the fecal waste onsite. These act as alternatives to other solutions such as pit latrines, septik tanks among others which poses issues of contamination and leakage into the environment.
- Project would cater to a diverse set of users and clientele across governmental entities, public and private companies, foundations by providing bioloss in trains, communities, institutes, offices and other places as well.
- Some of the major challenges during the implementation of the project include lack of fund, lack of awareness among rural communities along with breaking away from age old traditions of open defecation among others.
- However, through partnerships with philanthropies/ charities the cost was shared, awareness generation workshops with the communities helped overcome some of these challenges.

Interventions Adopted

- An easy-to-install toilet structure (cabin), a bio digester tank with bacterium inoculum.
- Feeback surveys after 6 months of installation on experience of using bioloos, sanitation practices among other.

Resources

- Equity and debt funds.
- Support from companies through CSR initiatives.
- Government entity funding for installation in communities for the public.
- Service fee from Indian Railways.

Impact

- Over 10,000 bioloos installed.
- Over 15,00 bioloos serviced everyday in Indian trains.
- 20 fecal sludge treatment plants for peri-urban households.

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	08-01-2018
Project end date	03-30-2021

Project Name	ReNaturalize: low tech process-based river restoration after a mining dam rupture in Brazil

Applicant profile

Aplysia Environmental Solutions, is a Corporation based in Brazil and specializes in providing environmental solutions for water resources and environmental monitoring.

Project Location

Along the Gualaxo do Norte River (GNR), Brazil.

Brief about the proposal

- The rupture of the Fundão dam, is considered as one of the greatest environmental disasters in Brazil. This led to 39.2 million tons of iron mining waste being launched into the Santarém River. The rupture went on to reach Gualaxo do Norte River (GNR) and the Doce River as well.
- With these challenges and the deposition of the tailing on the riverbed, it changed the hydrogeomorphological characteristics of the GNR. This has led to a depletion in the physical habitat and ecological diversity.
- The ReNaturalize, a low cost process-based river restoration project was implemented. It focuses on the usage of natural building materials (for instance, trunks and branches from dead trees, elephant grass among others).
- The project aimed to accelerate the resilience processes of the aquatic ecosystem affected by the disaster with the help of wood structures installations in the river bed for the overall improvement in the ecological damage.
- Major challenges faced include adaptation of renaturalization techniques to neotropical rivers that present variations in hydrology and in the aquatic communities structure.
- Other challenges include adapting the technique on rivers subjected to major human altercations; reusing dead tree trunks from different species; development of the project during COVID 19 pandemic with regulations, quarantines and other restrictions.

Interventions Adopted

- Trunks (large woody debris), branches, elephant grass (Pennisetum purpureum) from dead tress after plume passage used to make structures.
- Natural physical habitats and backwater created from the installation of 203 wooden structures in the river bed.

Resources

- Collaboration with Renova Foundation for financial resources and co-responsible for project management.
- Local partners in the region of Mariana/MG hired to supply food, accommodation and other necessary things.

Impact

- Increased hydraulic retention by up to 63.5%.
- Increased heterogeneity of the type of substrate by up to 46%.
- Increase in the total fish biomass up to 93% and abundance up to 100%.

Affordable and Clean Energy

S. No.	Applicant Name	Project Name	Country	Slide ref.
WINNER	JSC Russian Railways	Implementing of a cogeneration plant using old-year wooden sleepers as fuel, which are not suitable for re-lying, to provide railway transport infrastructure with heat supply	Russia	26
RUNNER UP	Maclec Technical Project Laboratory Private Limited	Plug & Play Type Surface Hydrokinetic Turbine	India	27
RUNNER UP	Inner Mongolia Shanlu Energy Group Co. Ltd.	Solar Bank Project: Green Cycle Development of Photovoltaic in Wuyuan, Northwest China	China	28

Project start date	01-01-2018
Project end date	12-31-2020

WINNER

Project Name	Implementing of a cogeneration plant using old-year wooden sleepers as fuel, which are not suitable for re-lying, to provide railway transport infrastructure with heat supply

Applicant profile

JSC Russian Railways is a Russian fully state-owned vertically integrated railway company both managing infrastructure and operating freight and passenger train services

Project Location

Russia

Brief about the proposal

- The project involves transportable specialised cogeneration plant using old-year wooden sleepers as fuel.
- The cogeneration plant is based on the technology of fuel gasification, subsequent afterburning of resulting gases.
- The concentration of harmful substances in a sanitary protected area with radius 50 m, which is 6-10 times lower than the established values.
- Disassembly and relocation of the unit is possible in 3 days.
- The equipment assembled at factory in a ready-made design in the form of 4 containers.
- The plant allows to obtain inexpensive and clean heat energy.

Interventions Adopted

- Uniqueness of installation - Using old-year wooden sleepers as fuel.
- Afterburning of resulting gases.
- Eco- friendly technology.

Resources

- The Investment Program of JSC Russian Railways

Impact

- Elimination of stocks of old-year wooden sleepers, unsuitable for re-laying (>35,000 pieces annually).
- Economic effect of installation is more than 16 million rubles ($230 thousand) per year
- Concentration of harmful substances in a sanitary protected area with radius of up to 50m (6-10 times lower than established values).

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	05-15-2013
Project end date	Present

Project Name

Plug & Play Type Surface Hydrokinetic Turbine

Applicant profile

MACLEC is initiated to identify the emerging problems of the society and to develop suitable as well as techno-economically feasible solutions for the same and provide a platform to innovative entrepreneurs.

Project Location

India

Brief about the proposal

- There are more than 1 Billion people around the world still don't have access to reliable electricity source. Most of these people have access to running water bodies such as Rivers, man-made canals, tidal streams, rivulets and such running streams but due to unavailability of any cost effective, simple, reliable technology, the abundance potential of Hydrokinetics is going waste.
- MACLEC has identified a cost effective, modular technology to harness round the clock hydro power using floating turbines from any running water body in environmentally sustainable manner. “Hydrokinetic” Energy is inexhaustible and renewable source of hydro power generation has led to the invention of Indigenous Surface Hydrokinetic Turbine (SHK Turbine).
- SHK Turbine is next generation, robust, Plug and play type, military grade, completely customizable (500 Watts to 500 kW customizable modular capacity), scalable (few kW to several megawatts) Hydrokinetic Turbine Modules which is capable to get installed in any running stream with negligible structure required for just anchoring and mooring of the turbine.
- The ultimate objective of blending is to make it Round the clock and firm in order to meet the requirements of various DISCOMs and/or Commercial and Industrial(C&I) consumers (hereafter collectively referred to as consumers).
- This would resolve the problem of Food security, Water quality and quantity and would also yield high paying jobs and boost tourism in the area.
- The field of hydrokinetic energy is government-oriented business, and all the waterbodies belong to Government. Thus having government on board is crucial for success of the project.

Interventions Adopted

- MACLEC insures involvement of local community through community engagement.
- In Grid Connected Segment, MACLEC is offering 100 kW to Several Mega Watts SHK Turbine Plant
- In Off-Grid/Micro-Grid/Captive Segment, MACLEC is offering as low as 1kW to 2 Mega Watts SHK Turbine Plant

Resources

- Minimum 0.5 meter/second water velocity with 0.4 meter depth and minimum 3 meters width is the minimum parameters to install smallest unit of SHK Any kind of flowing water
- SHK is a floating module thus minimum land requirement

Impact

- Offering SHK Turbines in B2B, B2C and B2G business segments.
- Savings in cost for procurement of electricity
- Emits Zero Grams of GHG and each 1 MW installation of SHK Turbine module reduces 332880 Tones of GHG Emissions

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	15-03-2014
Project end date	-

Project Name: Solar Bank Project

Applicant profile

The group is Hohhot-based miner and processor of coal, silicon, and iron, with its silicon mines located at Baotou, Inner Mongolia.

Project Location

Northwest of China

Brief about the proposal

- The project was initiated when the farmers left the countryside to make a living elsewhere as saline-alkali land restricts the growth of many profitable crops and crop farming is the only source of income for living for local farmers. The company then proposed this project to develop in large scale the clean Photovoltaic power and at the same time to rejuvenate the local economy by integration of new profit crop planting and animal husbandry.
- The company invested 850 million yuan (about 136 million US Dollars) in this project to carries out the following measures for the project:
- The team constructed new photovoltaic housing and infrastructures near the original village for accommodating 457 households of farmers
- By using land of old villages, the team constructs 20,000 acres of agriculture site for planting 40 million green organic crops and forage
- The company constructs PV stations in new villages and agriculture bases to generate electricity with an annual capacity of 85 million kWh
- Issues that needed to address are: （1）How to achieve the coordinated development of the photovoltaic industry together with other fields? （2）How should the local government, the solar power enterprise and farmers cooperate to share the profit from the green cycle development of photovoltaic? （3）How to achieve clean and sustainable energy development?
- In project construction, the company must solve the problem of solar power station construction land.

Interventions Adopted

- The government, the enterprise and farmers work together to achieve a win-win situation and form a unique and innovative development model

Resources

- The total investment of the project is 850 million yuan
- The local solar energy resources are abundant
- The government's support policy for photovoltaic companies

Impact

- **Industrial development:** Structure has changed from single to diversified.
- **Environmental effects:** energy-using structure has changed to clean electricity-based
- **Economic benefits:** Income of farmers increased

INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

S.No.	Applicant Name	Project Name	Country	Slide ref.
WINNER	The TELD Company	Put the Green Wings on the Public Transport- Electric Bus Charging Network Construction Project in Chengdu Province	China	30
RUNNER UP	Sterlite Technologies Limited	Zero Waste to Landfills	India	31
RUNNER UP	Grameen Impact Investments India Pvt Ltd	Innovative Debt Financing of the SDGs	India	32

Project start date	01/07/2017
Project end date	Ongoing

Project Name	Put the Green Wings on the Public Transport- Electric Bus Charging Network Construction Project in Chengdu Province

WINNER

Applicant profile

TELD, founded in 2014 and located in China, is a new energy vehicle charging solution provider.

Project Location

China

Brief about the proposal

- Chengdu is a large city located in southwestern China with the population of more than 20 million. Public transport- specially bus- is an important way to commute. There are 14,000 buses, which transport 5.46 million passengers one day. In order to promote the development of green transportation, Chengdu Public Transport Group started the construction of electric bus charging network infrastructure projects.
- In May 2017, the TELD company was determined as the exclusive contractor to construct the bus charging network system. The TELD company conducted the project through innovative cooperation mode, customized station design, and unique advanced technology application.
- The project seeks to find the solution of- the problem of finances, problem of charging system design and the problem of low charging efficiency.
- The company customized the automatic charging facility specially for bus-the automatic flexible charging bow. Using this technology, the bus drivers do not need to get off the bus to operate, rather, they can charge the bus by pressing a button inside.
- Main Challenges the project faced are- Large-scale investment of preliminary funds and the Traditional charging facilities having problems such as charged plugs, occupied large space, difficulties in grid access etc.
- The company has a clear judgment on the long-term development. They conduct advanced research on cutting-edge technologies in related fields.

Interventions Adopted

- Adopted the BOT cooperation model to achieve a win-win situation
- Innovative classification of stations and adopt customized design for bus charging stations
- Innovative charging technology which creates high-safety and convenient products according to the characteristics of buses

Resources

- The project meets the charging need of more than 8,500 electric buses in Chengdu.
- The cost is about 308 million RMB (including labor cost, operation cost and maintenance cost, etc.)

Impact

- Number of electric buses in Chengdu reached 3,600 in 2019
- 431 charging stations have been built, with a total of 5288 terminal
- daily charging capacity is more than 97,200 kWh.

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	04/01/2018
Project end date	Ongoing

Project Name	Zero Waste to Landfills

Applicant profile

Sterlite Technologies Limited is an Indian technology company specialized in optical fiber and cables, hyper scale network design and development &network software.

Project Location

India

Brief about the proposal

- Waste disposal and management are issues faced by countries across the globe today. Lack of proper waste management adversely affects the environment and is one of the major contributors to climate change – an issue becoming dangerously perceptible.
- STL decided to act proactively and ensure all its business activities are in synergy with the environment it operates in. They proactively re-looked at its entire business practices to create a synergy with the surrounding environment.
- Waste Management is thus one of the top priorities both as a stakeholder concern and as a business priority on STL's Materiality Matrix. It also doesn't just look at diverting physical waste away from landfills, but also liquid and energy savings.
- STL became the world's first integrated optical fibre and cables manufacturer to receive 'Zero Waste to Landfill' certification from Intertek, for its optical fibre and cables manufacturing facilities in India.
- The Company's strategy involves: Reducing waste generation at source, Segregation, classification, and categorization of waste, Priority to reuse and recycle waste over landfills and Ensuring and exceeding legal compliance of waste management rules.
- Major challenge was the disposing optical fiber (OF), cable waste and Low Smoke Zero Halogen – a crucial material used in cables meant for indoor use.
- After tremendous efforts, STL achieved a breakthrough by successfully sending OF, OFC and LSZH waste to cement plants for co-processing where the waste is burnt substituting fuel.

Interventions Adopted

- Co-processing optic fiber and low smoke zero halogen waste for use as a fuel substitute by the cement industry.
- Replacing corrugated cardboard boxes with Sustainable, User- friendly, Reliable and Efficient
- Monitor and optimise water consumption

Resources

- The company has invested in technology, machinery improvements and trainings to ensure adherence to best practices

Impact

- 97% of waste recycled, reused, co-processed
- 97% waste generated at Waluj manufacturing facility diverted away from landfills
- 1,35,413 MT of waste has been diverted away from landfills.

RUNNER-UP

Project start date	11/01/2017
Project end date	Ongoing

Project Name	Grameen Impact Investments India - Innovative Debt Financing of the SDGs

Applicant profile

Grameen Impact Investments India, a Non-Bank Finance Company, launched in 2017, with the objective of lending to small, but high quality social enterprises; bridging the gap between equity & traditional bank finance

Project Location

Unspecified

Brief about the proposal

- Providing a unique financing infrastructure and ecosystem, Grameen Impact has created unique products and platforms for financing the SDGs.
- Grameen Capital India, realized that there is a dearth of debt financing for small, but fast growing, social ventures. Foreign debt was challenging and local debt was inaccessible and if at all available, was very expensive.
- GIII was formed with the sole purpose of helping social enterprises access the crucial debt financing needed for helping them to build scale, and achieve their specific SDG impact.
- GIII offered traditional working capital to these SDG-focused enterprises. Thus, the Micro SDG Impact Bonds seek to catalyze additional private capital for SDG-focused Social Enterprises / NGOs, incentivize them for impact, and reduce their cost of debt financing.
- Challenges faced included- Tackling legal implications around these innovative instruments, build a Marketing & Communication Strategy to promote these instruments and Advocating Policy changes at regulatory and Governmental level.
- GIII is currently involved in Creation a Social Stock Exchange to democratize funding access for SDG Impact Bonds through the India Impact Council and Taking these bonds beyond our borders into other countries.

Interventions Adopted

- GIII carries out a deep due diligence on the credibility of the Social Enterprise and puts its own balance sheet behind the project as debt capital.
- GIII's intervention through its "Pay-for-Success" model becomes extremely relevant in providing timely funding to the Social Enterprise / NGO.

Resources

- Investors like Ratan Tata, Dempos, Sekhsarias and global Investors like Acumen and Grameen Foundation.
- Guarantees from OPIC/DFC & USAID and leveraged debt from IndusInd Bank.

Impact

- 2000 women entrepreneurs have an avg. annual net income of INR 30,000 p.a
- 240 women artisans trained
- 2000 women entrepreneurs trained to become poultry farmers