

As part of the rehabilitation strategy for India tsunami response in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, SEEDS initiated few programme aiming towards disaster mitigation and preparedness amongst the community members of the islands. The aim is to spread awareness across all sections of the society through community based disaster management programme. Mentioned below are the highlights of the initiatives taken by SEEDS for the islands during the last one year.



## 1. SWAYAM-Micro Credit Programme, Andaman Islands

---

With the objective of revival of the local economy by helping to regenerate their economic activities, SEEDS, alongwith a French NGO called Cap Solidarités and with support from Microsoft and French Red Cross, has initiated a micro credit programme in the islands.

### Targeted Location

- South Andaman
- Little Andaman

### Beneficiaries

#### Direct

- Small organizations
- Groups and already formed SHG
- Individuals

#### Indirect

- Persons who take up part of project's execution (contracted staff, labour etc.)
- Personnel who take up skill training.
- Population who will benefit from the revival and the development of the economy

### Origin of SWAYAM

The programme preface says, "YOU will be the one to get benefits on **SWAYAM** and YOU are the executors of your own project", which implies the sense of ownership. The name of programme has been chosen to insist on its difference compared to aid available till now. Everywhere aid has been given, but a micro credit programme will require from the beneficiary an effort: "he will have to give back what he received, and built something with what has been lent to him." SWAYAM means « myself » in Hindi to refer to self-accomplishment. It shows that the beneficiary is the real builder of the project. He is the one who will do the activities and get the returns of it. CAP-SEEDS just give him the means to achieve it and will monitor it to keep efficiency, but *he* has to make a proposal, and *he* has to carry out the activities *he* wants to. The interested community is going rebuild their lives through their own efforts and make them independent.

In addition to this financial support, SWAYAM aims to enhance the development of their efficiency through the following components of the loan:

- **Free Managerial training and Skill training**

CAP-SEEDS is providing a short managerial training for selected projects to explain how to work together, and skill training on specific activities whenever it is required.

- **Savings**

SWAYAM will contribute in the payment of the interest and the amount paid by the beneficiary (for the interest) will be considered as his own savings at the end of his repayment period. Those savings will be available to him only after the whole repayment of the loan. Interest are 9% of the loan amount, which are going back to the beneficiary as savings. The beneficiary will be able to use these savings to develop his/her own activity in the future.

- **Insurance of livelihood assets**

The livelihood assets that are bought with the loan money have to be insured. SWAYAM affords the first year premium. The beneficiary will have to support only the insurance service taxes.

- **Community Welfare Fund**

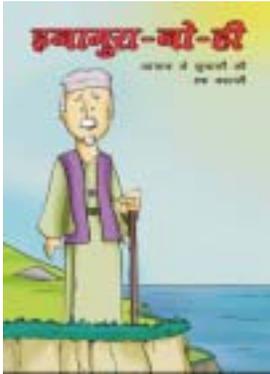
SWAYAM will put 1% of the repayment on a Community Welfare Fund. This fund is for the community to use it in case of disaster, emergency, or for public matters as functions, etc. A small part of loan repayments is going into a Community Welfare Fund. The community will be able to use this money for relief, development or other public matters.

### **Community's Response to SWAYAM**

The community alongwith the local administrative bodies have welcomed the start of SWAYAM programme and they have tied high hopes of revival. The programme was formally launched in October 2005 in South Andaman. The positive response is evident from the large number of applications received and number of loan applications selected. This shows the interest of the beneficiaries who are willing to follow the strict procedure of SWAYAM. Till now 25 projects proposal have been selected and loans have been disbursed to them. We have received proposals from different sectors, such as somebody wants to set up a computer centre, set up a tyre repair shop, tea stall, fish retailing, fish products selling etc.

## 2. Inamura-No-Hi, a Tsunami tale from Japan

---



SEEDS, in partnership with Asian Disaster Response Centre, Asian Disaster Response and Reduction Network and Government of Japan have created storybooks on tsunami. The project was initiated by the direct intervention of the Prime Minister of Japan. Japan has a centuries old, very famous folk-tale “Inamura-No-Hi” which teaches about prevention from tsunami. The Prime Minister wanted to spread this simple concept among the children through distribution of this story in different languages for different countries. SEEDS, was selected to represent India in this joint international effort and was asked to print the storybooks for two sections of children, in Tamil and Hindi. It was a matter of honour for SEEDS to be considered as partner for such a noble cause

The Prime Minister of Japan and Minister for Disaster Management of Japan has highly appreciated the material produced. SEEDS have also been given the responsibility of distributing these books in India.

Two categories of books were created one for primary level and one for secondary level. The books not only present the story but also provide important information about tsunami protection, which is essential for the children to understand. As part of SEEDS school safety programme in the islands, these books will be distributed among the school children of two different levels all over the islands, will be kept at the resource centres and state libraries.

It is a Japanese story “Inamura-no-hi” of a village chief who saved his villagers lives from a big Tsunami disaster. He noticed a precursor of a large tsunami at the earliest stage and led village inhabitants to a high ground by burning harvested rice stacks. This story was based on a true story at the time of Ansei-Nankai Tsunami (1854) and was printed in a textbook of elementary school.

This man noticed that immediately after the earthquake, the tide receded from the shoreline of his village out into the ocean. Remembering stories that had been passed down from his grandfather's generation, he realized that this was certainly an indication that a tsunami was on its way. No time should be wasted. He immediately lit a bundle of reaped sheaves of rice on fire and used it as a signal to gather the villagers and lead them to higher ground. Because of this rapid decision and action, many of the villagers were saved from the tsunami when it struck. After this event, the chief who saved the village used all of his own money to work with his fellow villagers on building a large seawall along the village's coastline. The seawall they built saved many lives when another tsunami struck that same village about 90 years later.

This story teaches us the importance of disaster reduction measures, such as remembering what we know and have been taught about disasters, quickly making decisions and actions, and always making everyday efforts to be prepared for an emergency situation.

### 3. Bamboo Prototype, Hutbay, Little Andaman

---

The tsunami resulted in loss of homes for a large population spread over several islands. These homes would now require to be rebuilt. However, the reconstruction process and the technologies in use would have to be carefully adapted to the local environment.

#### Concerns Regarding the Rehabilitation Package

1. Socio-cultural appropriateness of permanent shelter design.
2. Environmental appropriateness of building material.
3. Ability of local people to expand their shelters with respect to building technology and materials.

#### Bamboo Prototype

SEEDS has constructed a prototype built with bamboo framework and limited quantities of steel and cement. Design of this model was finalized after consultation with the community living in Hutbay. It has been constructed at Hutbay, Little Andaman

#### The Bamboo Technology House

- Design of the shelter is based on the standard space required for comfortable living as per the Indian standard.
- All the facilities have been included in the shelter as required by them this has been finalized after consultation with the community living at the Hutbay.
- Shape of the building is simple rectangular which will help during the time of earthquake for better load transfer from roof to the ground through foundation



#### Value addition inputs at the prototype to built sustainable environment

The value addition inputs proposed for the resource centre is to facilitate a culture of green living through sustainable technologies. The islands have a very fragile ecosystem and recent history has seen an increased environmental degradation at the islands. These inputs will be displayed for the community to understand them and implement them at household level. The list of sustainable technologies that we plan to promote is:

##### 1. Waste Management

- Twin Pit Latrine
- Vermicomposting
- Inorganic Solid Waste

##### 2. Water Management

- Rainwater Harvest
- Grey Water Recycling

##### 3. Sustainable Sites and Energy

- Landscaping, Ventilation, Solar Energy

#### Value-Addition Inputs for Green House

### **1. Rainwater Harvesting**

- Allows for independence from municipal supply during monsoon season
- Water readily available during the monsoon season
- Cost effective

### **2. Solar Energy**

- Renewable energy source
- Reduces dependence on outside sources of power
- Cost effective

### **3. Latrine**

- Twin pits: one pit collecting waste while the other is composting
- Sand bio-filter: cleans the water before it is allowed to rejoin the groundwater, preventing contamination
- Black pipe ventilation: as the sun heats the black pipe, the air inside is heated and rises, establishing circulation that keeps the bathroom well ventilated and odour free

### **4. Waste Management**

- Grey water: using kitchen and shower wastewater to water garden
- Couple with composting for use in kitchen garden
- Solid organic waste: vermi-compost pit used to generate rich topsoil which can be sold or used in the garden
- Solid inorganic waste: metal and glass waste can be sold to a scrap dealer

### **5. Landscaping**

- Trees provide shade
- Kitchen garden provides food and spices
- Aesthetically pleasing, nice place to sit outside

### **6. Ventilation**

- Peak elevated from roof which helps eliminate hot air, effectively cooling the interior of the house.
- Generates interior circulation.

### **7. Sustainable Furniture**

- Cane and bamboo furniture chosen because environmentally friendly (much better than plastic)
- Locally available: supports local economy and reduces cost of shipping

### **8. Earthquake Proof Housing**