

Organization Profile



Mission

To work towards a pollution free world where every individual can have a healthy existence and promotes sustainable development in every sphere. Through its local and national initiatives NEER Foundation links up to global initiatives and believes in creating positive global impacts.

Vision

Local people's participation and empowerment in decision making at all levels and control over resources is the key way out of environmental degradation.

REGISTRATION

Societies Registration Act, 1860

Section 12 A of Income Tax Act

Section 80 G of Income Tax Act

Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act

NGO Partnership System (NITI Aayog, GOI)

NEER Foundation



Natural Environmental Education & Research (NEER) Foundation

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eastkaliriverwaterkeeper.org

eastkaliriver.org

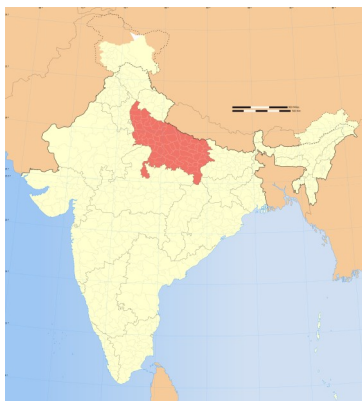


WHO ARE WE

NEER Foundation was founded in 2004 after realizing the urgent need for capacity building of different stakeholders involved in the management and protection of the environment and society. Since its appearance NEER Foundation has worked untiringly towards developing a sustainable environment for all by means of grassroot level activities, policy advocacy, mass awareness, community action, field demonstrations and information dissemination. The efforts of NEER Foundation have borne fruit in the form of improved institutional and local environment and increased community participation in various environmental and human rights issues at the local, national and international levels.

GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD

NEER is working in Western Uttar Pradesh districts namely Meerut, Muzaffarnagar, Saharanpur, Bijnor, Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr, Baghpat, Gautambudhnagar, Hapur, Shamli, Aligarh, Etah, Farukhbad, Kannauj, Kasganj and Moradabad. But through its various programs and campaigns, it has spread its influence in neighboring states as well.



MEET THE TEAM



Raman Kant
Director

Post Graduate from C.C.S. University, Meerut

Shubham Kaushik
Field Coordinator

Graduate from C.C.S. University, Meerut



Sonal Bhushan
Administration & Documentation

Gold medalist in Masters in Social Work , C.C.S. University, Meerut

Lalit Tyagi
Central Coordinator

A Masters Degree holder



Anubhav Rathi
Project assistant

Graduate in Journalism

Rajeev Tyagi
Coordinator GAON-100

Graduate



Mayank Malik
Technical support

Masters in Environment Science

Sudheer Tomer
Graduate

PARTNERS / SUPPORTERS



Ministry of Environment and Forests
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



WATERKEEPER® ALLIANCE



WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL
CONSEIL MONDIAL DE L'ÉNERGIE
For sustainable energy.



inspiration in action



2030 Water Resources Group



IFOAM ORGANICS INTERNATIONAL

ISRN

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Earth Sciences

WSSCC
WATER SUPPLY & SANITATION COLLABORATIVE COUNCIL



India Sanitation Coalition



Water Environment Federation
the water quality people™

INDIA-UK Water Centre
भारत-यूके जल केन्द्र

FICCI

Global Water Partnership South Asia

India Water Partnership



IWA
the international water association

igsss



FENSA

Certified Company 36027

OneWorld South Asia

Connecting Communities, Empowering People



OUR ADVISORS

Sh. Sompal Shashtri
Former Agriculture Minister, GOI



Dr. Prabhat Kumar, IAS
Agriculture Production Commissioner, GoUP



Padamshri Mr Anil Joshi
Director, HESCO



Mr. Prabhjot Sodhi
Head (Circular Economy)
United Nations Development Programme



Dr. Pallavi Bharadwaj
Global Development Program Manager, New York



Mr. Anil Bansal
Delhi Bureau Chief (Jansatta)



Mr. Rakesh Prashad
Founder Gnovations DataScience, BallotboxIndia.com



Sh. Krishnaveer Chaudhary
Chairman, Bhartiya Krishak Samaj



Sh. Paritosh Tyagi
Former Chairman, CPCB



Sh. K.K. Roy
Advocate, Allahabad



PRESENTATIONS @

- Invited by the **5th World Water Forum in Istanbul (Turkey)** to deliver a presentation for the Water Experts on March, 2009.
- Invited by the **Thamasat University (7th South East Asia Water Symposium) in Bangkok (Thailand)** to address the students participating from different countries, through a presentation, on October 2009.
- Invited by the **Nepal Engineering College, Kathmandu (Nepal)** to deliver a presentation for the Water Experts on May, 2010.
- Invited by the **Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh (India)** to deliver a presentation for the Water Experts on June 5, 2010.
- Invited at the **India International Centre, New Delhi** to deliver a presentation on Kali River Pollution and efforts of the foundation to save the river on Feb 8, 2012.
- Invited by **Zila Panchayat, Meerut** to deliver a presentation on Kali River Pollution and efforts of the foundation to save the river on March 24, 2012.
- Invited by Biotechnology Department, Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Agricultural University, Meerut, to deliver a lecture on rural water technology, on March 21, 2015.
- Invited by Toxics Link, New Delhi in **Inception meeting on Persistent Organic Pollutant** on **5 February, 2018**.
- Invited by the **Central Ground Water Board, GoI** to deliver a presentation for the Water Experts on January 29, 2019.



AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- **“Oasis Award”** for its participation in World Water Monitoring Day at the hand pump near Tajmahal on August 22, 2010. The Oasis Award is awarded by WEF and IWA to the group that conducted water quality monitoring in the highest air temperature.
- Prestigious **“World Water Champion Award 2009, 2010 and 2011”** by WEF and IWA, for its outstanding contribution in the sector of Water.
- **“Water Digest Award 2010-11 and 2012-13”** - It has been selected as the Best Water NGO, for the Water Education category amongst the organizations working on the issue of water conservation.
- International **“Green Apple Award 2012”** for its outstanding contribution towards environment conservation programs by the UK based The Green Organization.
- Awarded with **“National Status Award for Intellectual Development - 2012”**.
- **“Green Hero Award 2013”** for its outstanding contribution towards environment conservation programs by the UK based The Green Organization.
- **“National Environment Jewel Award 2013”** by Vishwamitr organization, New Delhi.
- **“Best Water Award 2016”** by Ground Water Department, Uttar Pradesh Government.
- **“Vardan Karamveer Chakra Gold 2014 & 2016”** for its contribution towards environment conservation and youth role.
- Our work for the **East Kali River has got place in the 10 best efforts** of the world in **Waterkeeper Alliance Conference, Buffalo NY USA on 9th June, 2018.**
- The organization has been awarded with the **Environment Thinker, 2018** by the **NELSON, Hapur.**
- The organization has been awarded with the **Water Award, 2019** by **CGWB, Gol Lucknow.**



OUR WORK

RIVERS

HINDON

KALI (EAST)

OTHER RIVERS & TRIBUTARIES

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RESEARCH

SAFE DRINKING WATER

RAINWATER HARVESTING

PONDS REVIVAL

FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

RESEARCH

AWARENESS

PLANTATION

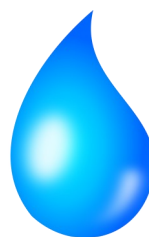
WILDLIFE PROTECTION

AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

SEED TO MARKET

CHEMICAL FREE FARMING



RIVERS

HINDON

Due to flowing polluted waters of Hindon and its tributaries, underground waters of villages established on banks of these rivers has also turned poisonous. Several villages are witnessing water borne diseases. Many deaths have been reported caused by deadly diseases caused straight to polluted water consumption. Even some farmers still use these polluted waters for irrigating their crops due to unavailability of alternate water source, which has caused presence of banned Persistent Organic Pollutants in the field soil and crops.



We have an initiative **My Hindon – My Initiative** under **Nirmal Hindon Initiative**, where along with volunteers and activists, programs are run for betterment of the waters of the Hindon.

Hindon River was supposed to be originating from forests of PurkaTanda village in Saharanpur village but according to British Gazetteer and Satellite mapping, it points the origination from the Kaluwala village at Shivalik mountain range in Muzaffarabad block of Saharanpur district. Upon this information, NEER team along with other My Hindon – My Initiative volunteers, started a journey to find out true origination of the river and its condition, in year 2017. It was found that infact the information was correct. It passes from districts Saharanpur, Muzafarnagar, Meerut, Baghpat and Ghaziabad travelling for 355 kms before finally meeting the Yamuna River at forests of Momnathal village situated about 500 m from Tilwada village in Gautambudhnagar district. There are about 865 villages situated near Hindon and its tributary rivers.



According to Uttar Pradesh Water Dept, **1215.43 MLD** of sewage is produced from Saharanpur, Muzafarnagar, Budhana, Baghpat, Meerut, Ghaziabad and Noida city which is transported through 68 drains. About **450 MLD** of this sewage is being filtered in different city systems but rest **765.43 MLD** is unfiltered due to unavailability of sewage treatment system. All of it is disposed in Hindon River and its tributaries.

Recently, a cleanliness drive was conducted of about 15 kms stretch of the river, which involved hundreds of community volunteers, activists and officials of the local departments. The volunteers cleared the river manually and paved way for the standing waters to flow and come back to life. The campaign went about for 50 days for the successful implication under **Nirmal Hindon Initiative**.



KALI (EAST)

The Kali River East, a tributary of the Ganges originating in Antwada village in Muzaffarnagar District flows through eight Districts of Uttar Pradesh before its confluence with Ganga River near Kannauj. The river has over 1,200 villages situated on its bank and the highly populated and predominantly rural catchment is entirely dependent on the Kali River as a water resource for domestic, agricultural and industrial use while the untreated groundwater is the primary source of drinking water.

Along with WWF India, a project was undertaken to study the quality of the Kali River throughout its catchment, comparing the deterioration of the river water quality and groundwater quality, within the span of twelve months. And to also study extent an movement of pollutants in aquifer due to intense contamination of surface water, placing the water quality analysis data on the GIS platform.



EAST KALI RIVER WATERKEEPER®



Mr. Raman Kant (NEER Foundation) has also taken up responsibilities as **East Kali River Waterkeeper** to safeguard the river body. Waterkeeper Alliance, which is based out of Manhattan, U.S.A., unites all Waterkeeper organizations, coordinating and covering issues affecting Waterkeepers that work to protect rivers, lakes and other water bodies around the world. He attended the Annual conference of WKA in years 2017 & 2018 held in U.S.A where East Kali River Waterkeeper also won the top best efforts category.

Ongoing efforts of East Kali River Waterkeeper have made it possible for the River body to be included in “Namami Gange” of the Central Government, speeding up its revival process.



OTHER RIVERS & TRIBUTARIES

NEER strives to bring back rivers of Western Uttar Pradesh, back to their lives which were earlier the lifelines of the region. This is being achieved through awareness creation among the community living on the banks, implementing pollution control measures and advocating with the government bodies responsible for the safeguard. The organization has also taken the lead to prepare the first policy draft of river polity for Uttar Pradesh, for the government to formulate a policy based on the points.

It has made potential contribution for putting focus on highly polluted Kali River (E), Ganga River, Kali River (W), Hindon, Krishni, Naagdev & Budhi Ganga. A mass campaign had been launched wherein 'Raksha Samitis' and 'Nadi Rakshaks' have been appointed in the villages located on the banks of the rivers. A documentary has been produced on the extent and causes of the pollution of the pollution and the foundation is in the process of documenting the historical importance, present situation & future of these rivers in the form of a book which would be published soon.



Hindon & Its Tributaries

S.no	River Name	Origination	Meet point	Length
1	Hindon River	Shivalik mountain range (Village Kaluwala Rai, Dist Saharanpur, U.P.)	Village Tilwada/ Momthal, Dist Gautambudhnagar, U.P.	355
2	Krishni River	Darari village, Saharanpur district, U.P.	Village Barnawa, Baghpat dist, U.P.	153
3	Kali River west	Gangali village, dist Saharanpur, U.P.	Village Atali/Pithlokar, dist Muzafarnagar/ Meerut, U.P.	145
4	Sheela River	Village Bhagwanpur, Dist-Haridwar, U.K.	Village Matauli, Dist. Saharanpur, U.P.	61
5	Dhamola River	Sansarpur village, Saharanpur dist, U.P.	Village Sharakthal/ Sadoli Hariya, dist. Saharanpur, U.P.	52
6	Pavdhoi River	Village Shanklapuri, dist Saharanpur, U.P.	Saharanpur city, U.P.	7
7	Naagdev Rau	Village Kothri, Shivalik mountain range, Saharanpur dist, U.P.	Village Ghorki, Saharanpur dist, U.P.	45
8	Chacha Rau	Village Kaluwala, Saharanpur dist, U.P.	Village Kamaalpur, Saharanpur dist, U.P.	18



WATER

RESEARCH

NEER Foundation collaborated with **Council on Energy, Environment and Water**, New Delhi (CEEW), for a program in which GIS mapping of all the ponds in Meerut district along with water sample testing was undertaken by the team. A detailed study report “*Talabo ki Stithi*” has been compiled by the NEER team which includes all the data on number of ponds of the district.

Along with **WWF India**, a project was undertaken to study the quality of the Kali River throughout its catchment, comparing the deterioration of the river water quality and groundwater quality, within the span of twelve months. Total 16 samples of surface and underground waters were collected and tested at a laboratory. These samples were taken each from eight districts where the river passes. The objective was also to study extent and movement of pollutants in aquifer due to intense contamination of surface water, placing the water quality analysis data on the GIS platform.



Villages situated on the banks of polluted rivers of the region face drinking water crisis as the underground water table is witnessing contamination. This has badly shown upon the health in form of low fertility, hindered development and life taking diseases among the residents of high number of villages. To collect actual data of the impact of contaminated drinking resources, detailed village studies were conducted by NEER team. The villages include **Dabal, Morkuka, Atali** among others.



AWARENESS

NEER has undertaken considerable grassroots level work towards water conservation and management in both rural and urban scenario. Mass awareness is being spread by the organization on water conservation and management with the active involvement of the farmers, schools, colleges, universities, government and civil society organizations and the community.

Especially Rural community is being made aware to save the natural water resources as these affect them directly and early. *Jal Samitis* are conducted in villages to bring awareness on depleting safe waters among residents. At the same time, the water bodies which have been encroached are saved through raising awareness amongst the local community.

India's first ever rural rain centre has been opened at Poothi village, district Meerut. The rain centre showcases several models of water systems, irrigation techniques which require less water usage, data on government farmer policies and most importantly a rainwater harvesting structure which can store up to 1,25,000 liters of rain water.

It has made potential contribution for saving the highly polluted Kali River (E), Ganga River, Kali River (W), Hindon, Krishna & Budhi Ganga. A mass campaign has been launched wherein 'Raksha Samitis' and 'Nadi Rakshaks' have been appointed in the villages located on the banks of the rivers.

River documentaries have been produced putting light on the extent and causes of the pollution. The foundation is in the process of documenting the historical importance, present scenario & future prospects of these rivers in form of a book which would be published soon.

Save Ganga Campaign was initiated few years ago with the help of similar organizations, social activists and authorities. Ganga is our holy river which is getting polluted drastically and it is all citizens' responsibility to reclaim the holy river before it goes extinct at our hands. On every *Ganga Mela* held in the region witnesses the NF team along with other volunteers at the ghats, keeping them clean and urging visiting followers to maintain the sanctity of the holy ghats.



SAFE DRINKING WATER

It is a basic right to have safe drinking water for everyone on this earth. But we and our government, mutually, had been ignoring this necessity. Now we are at the verge of limited waters for ourselves, after polluting the natural resources.

Many villages have access to only highly polluted drinking waters as their underground water tables has been contaminated by the polluted rivers, agricultural chemical run off and dumping of wastes in water resources. These have given birth to water borne diseases in the villages also hindering proper development in next generations. Detailed village studies conducted by the organization have put these results forward.

To provide access to safe drinking waters for the village residents, we have been approaching local authorities, but it's taken too long pursuing them. Therefore, in partnership with *Water Collective, U.S.A.*, individual water filters have been installed in two villages, namely **Dabal** and **Morkuka** of the Meerut district. The filters have also been replaced after few months of regular usage. By conducting *sabhas* in the villages, a member of each household was educated on importance of clean drinking waters and its impact on human health.

In few other villages, overhead water tanks are being constructed by local authorities and *gram panchayats*, to store and filter ground water for supply to every household for drinking purposes.



RAINWATER HARVESTING

Rainwater is the purest form of water and abundantly available resource during monsoon. It is also the future for us. Storing rainwater for future consumption is smart and sustainable, and future calls for it. It acts as a private source of safe water.

To encourage rainwater harvesting among society, we have developed a model to help one understand how it really works. We provide technical assistance to institutions, government buildings, private house owners and farmers, on how they can install the harvesting systems and construct an underground water tank to store all the collected rainwater. Until now more than 50 structures have been developed for rainwater harvesting.



PONDS REVIVAL

In year 2004, we prepared a detailed Ponds Census of the Meerut district, with partner support of Centre for Science & Environment, New Delhi. It was named *Talabo ki Stithi* and helped coming projects of government to depend on it. Meerut district is spread across 2564 km² of area consisting of 663 villages, towns and cities, including **3062** ponds/johads (according to state records). But during the study, only **1944** can be found in actual. The other **1118** ponds are nowhere to be seen as either they have been turned into agro fields or concrete buildings.

Painstaking is actually finding that **1543** ponds out of **1944** are under encroachment by people leaving only a small number of **401** ponds. If all of the ponds had been alive today with water, then the Meerut district would have not faced falling water tables. The detailed study of *Talabo ki Stithi* was submitted to Planning commission of India and also World Bank, which received praise for undertaking a project on such scale providing crucial numbers on natural water bodies.





Talab bachao – Talab banao Abhiyan : This campaign was initiated after the study in the Meerut district to reclaim the encroached ponds and work on their revival with the help of resident farmers, local panchayat and authorities. Numerous ponds were successfully revived in villages Rasoolpur, Poothi, Kalyanpur, Khajuri, Sikhaura, Chota Mawana, Khatki, Rajpur and Naarangpur.

Under this campaign, NEER creates **Jal Doots** who are volunteers dedicated to cause of water conservation, bringing the local communities together to aware them about the importance of water, ponds and natural resources. In hundred of villages such **Jal Doots** have been appointed.



A progressive farmer **Satish Kumar** has been so inspired by water conservation that he himself has created 3 new ponds in his own 25 bighas of land. He is a **Jal Doot** himself along with being village head. He wishes to inspire other farmers of his village and around, to take on water conservation seriously.



Revival: According to study reports of **Talabo ki Stithi** , it was found that hundreds of ponds are under encroachment or either dried or filled with garbage. So along with Jal Doots and local residents, some ponds were cleaned manually, their beds were prepared and fresh water was released to make the pond alive again. In villages namely Poothi, Kalyanpur, Alamgirpur, Parikshitgarh, Bhoomi, Khandavli, Bhatipura, Salawa and others, more than 38 ponds have been revived until now. The work is often supported by village panchayats and partnering organizations.



Ponds Development Authority: There was no such entity present until demand of an authority for regulation and protection of ponds of the district was raised by NEER. After reaching out to different Ministers and authorities of the state with a draft of the **Uttar Pradesh Ponds Development Bill**, it is coming finally into existence. Numerous meetings with different sectors have been organized to involve and put interest in the public about the importance of ponds to avoid water crisis.

Forest, Environment & Climate CHANGE

RESEARCH & AWARENESS

To contribute to the process of adapting and mitigation of climate change, NEER explores and demonstrates successful, replicable models to sensitizing the community for both adjusting to the changing climate and mitigating the emissions individually as well as collectively. NEER also has the distinction of LR Compost being successfully adopted by the farmers of Western U.P. which is composting method using sugarcane leaves that are otherwise burnt.



To fill the LR compost pit for one year, biomass is required from one acre of land. From burning of one kilogram of sugarcane leaves/paddy waste/other biomass, 1.5 kg of CO₂ is released in the environment. Therefore, biomass of one acre of land in **one** year period when burnt releases 45,000 kg CO₂. **One puts an end to releasing 45,000 kilos of CO₂ in the environment every year, by using our innovative LR Composting technique, to aid in stopping Climate Change.**

Forest Conservation: NF inspires an ethic of caring and commitment to a healthy and sustainable forest by motivate people to take positive action in the Hastinapur Sanctuary region. It runs training programs to create a deep understanding of the watershed and forestry, develops possible strategies and plans for watershed conservation at Hastinapur sanctuary through dialogues and educates farmers about the possible livelihood options through forestry. Steps are also being taken to save the aquatic biodiversity of river Ganga, flowing through the region.

Tree plantation is undertaken with the community to save the environment. Van Mahotsav is celebrated every year along with community, forest department and activists. Wildlife is an integral part of our habitation and through the Van Mahotsav, its importance is highlighted among the students and community.





Biodiversity Conservation: We are putting continuous efforts to conserve, restore and sustainably use the biological diversity of Western Uttar Pradesh. Documentation of the rich bio-treasure, sensitization of the community and community managed biodiversity conservation programs are being implemented. Communities have been organized as Biodiversity Communities (*Jaivik Panchayats*) for the conservation of biodiversity, rejuvenation of indigenous knowledge, and vitalization of *gram sabhas* and *panchayats*.

Project Heat: In collaboration with ISAC and Delhi University project “Heal the Earth’s Atmosphere Tomorrow (HEAT)” was implemented at Meerut district. The organization has made efforts to establish a centre of HEAT program at Meerut which has given positive results. Students from various countries associated with ISAC under Heat Project visits Meerut time to time to educate school students about environmental education.

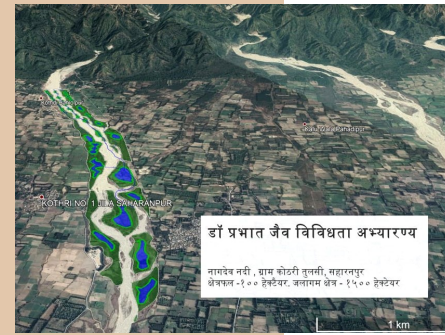


PLANTATION

Plant a Tree: With an aim to promote Green Cover in Meerut district, NEER takes tree plantation in the district time to time. It is ensured that each tree planted is sustained by the community. Along with different stake-holders of society namely students, activists, farmers, government officials, activists, organization heads, institutions and others, plantation drives are frequently conducted in the city and villages.



Prabhat Bio Diversity Park: At the origination point of Hindon River in Shivalik mountain forest range, to restore the original bio diversity of the region, a bio diversity park is being developed under our Nirmal Hindon Campaign. About 100 hectares of the land will be devoted to conserving and growing diverse range of flora and fauna of the region. On the suggestion of the gram panchayats, the park has been named upon Dr. Prabhat Kumar, agriculture production officer of the state. **The foundation was inaugurated by Padamshree Anil P. Joshi, awarded environmentalist, on 21st December 2018.**



WILDLIFE PROTECTION

Enrolment in Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) Volunteers, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, GoI: With a view to encourage the participation of wildlife enthusiasts in the country in wildlife protection & conservation, WCCB has initiated 'WCCB Volunteers Scheme' and enrolls selected volunteers to assist in collection of information on wildlife crime, capacity building, awareness generation, etc. The director/ Manager of NEER Mr. Raman Kant acts as a registered volunteer of the WCCB since last few years and has aided the bureau through providing vital information about smugglers citing in the Hastinapur forest region. Also training of the wildlife inspectors and officials was organized with the support of Forest Office in Hastinapur and NEER Foundation, in year 2016.

U.P. Wildlife Board: In year 2018, the board came into existence by the Forest Department and state government which invited few select members of the region for membership. NEER Foundation representative Mr. Raman is now an active member of the U.P. Wildlife Board. The meeting was chaired by the **State Chief Minister Shri Yoginath ji.**



AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH & INNOVATION

NEER is primarily involved in research work on various aspects. It is the prime objective to find out facts and numbers to aide in development process and awareness of the society.

The main goal of the project is to provide a cleaner and efficient way for energy production to the Jaggery producing units so as to prevent them from producing such huge environmental pollution & to replace the existing Kolhus with an improved green technology with improvised manufacturing process. The project is supported by MoEF (Govt. of India). NEER has collaborated with Inventa, Mumbai to construct the model jaggery unit in village Poothi, Meerut District. The model is now complete and runs efficiently to provide organic jaggery and some by products without causing pollution around.

Kolhu Project

Clean Technology for “Kolhus” (Jaggery units)



LR Compost Pit

In western Uttar Pradesh, nearly 22 districts mainly grow sugarcane and rice, which results in lot of agricultural wastage comprising of sugarcane leaves and paddy waste. It leaves no choice to farmer than to burn it to clear the fields for new crops. This burning practice harms the soil and rips it off its natural organic and also releases harmful greenhouse gases.

NEER team invented an innovative composting technique called LR compost pit which utilizes this waste along with water and field soil to produce rich solid and liquid manure, by a simple method. Till date, 58 such pits have been established with support of NEER in Meerut district. This has motivated the farmer to use organic manure instead of chemicals for the crops.

To fill the LR compost pit for one year, biomass is required from one care of land (4,000 sqm), hence one can get 75 quintals of good quality solid manure and 24,000 liquid manure from the pit in one year. Alongside, one puts an end to releasing 45,000 kilos of CO₂ in the environment every year. Previously with many farmers, NADEP, Cow Pat Pit (CPP) and vermin pits were established to promote organic farming. These practices provide high quality organic manure and replace the use of chemicals on crops.

Hence, partnering with IGSSS and UNDP CEE, NEER has been successful in establishing **58 Lalit-Raman Compost pits till date**. All pits are established in different fields of different farmers of various villages. Solid as well as liquid manure is being extracted and used in their crops by the farmers and they have appreciated the use of this rich nutrient manure instead of chemicals.



AWARENESS

It is more important to increase knowledge about harm caused by chemicals used on crops and to what extent their damages run, among the farmer community which plays a hands-on role in this process. They collectively take new decisions about practicing anything new introduced to them. NEER team reaches out to numerous village *panchayats* to conduct farmer meetings extensively to put lights on the harm caused by chemical farmings to human health and soil health as well. Even the water table absorbs these chemicals.

These panchayats are undertaken under *Jaivic Panchayat* program which is running from more than a decade and has reached more than hundred villages of the Meerut district. Many farmers started practicing organic ways from a small part of their fields, and having upon witnessed positive change in their soil fertility, reduction of chemical, better crop, they have turned to full time organic farmer. It is explained that turning to organic from chemical, takes time as the soil needs time to recover and revive, but afterwards it gives a healthy boost to crop production.

Awareness is a key to reach out to anyone on a larger base. As a group, people tend to take decisions more effectively. Most of the NEER team has its roots in the rural villages; it proves as an asset to reach out to our rural participants more effectively.



SEED TO MARKET

To promote organic ways of farming, a program “Seed to Market” has been employed under which farmers are assisted in sourcing better organic seeds, make composts and manures



through *Jaivic* patio, LR compost pits and boosters and sale of organic produce at higher rates in market. The consumers also benefit from receiving organic and safe crops. Organic farming requires less water for irrigation and therefore water is saved. Use of polluted river’s water is banned completely to safeguard the crop produce.

Since, the area witness a great threat to the soil fertility owing to excessive use of chemicals and pesticides used by the farmers hence, with the scientific way of organic farming, the land degraded could be restored. The micronutrients essential for soil fertility would return and would give direct benefits to organic farming.

Currently for these limited organic produce, retail is available at NEER’s outlet only. The consumers in Meerut do not have access to organic products; hence now have an opportunity to purchase organic certified wheat, flour, porridge, mustard oil, spices, etc.

The project aims at two important sustainable development goals – no poverty and responsible consumption and production.

CHEMICAL FREE FARMING

Studies conducted by NEER Foundation have revealed a strong presence of pesticides in the agricultural soil and drinking water of this area along with presence of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) which are deadly and have been banned in India. Six POPs including DDT, Eldrin, Dieldrin and others have been detected by a study conducted by the organization.



NEER Foundation is working to strengthen Farmers’ developing comprehensive business plans and growth opportunities to ensure their sustainability. Farmer producer organization (FPO) exists to provide organic farmers better access to new better techniques & technologies and well-coordinated value chains.

The primary strategy is to mobilize farmers into member-owned producer organizations, or FPO, is to enhance production, productivity and profitability of organic producer farmers, especially small farmers in the target area.





Waterkeeper Alliance Annual Conference 2017 & 18





MEDIA LINKS

- <https://www.facebook.com/neerfoundation2004/>
- <https://thelogicalindian.com/exclusive/hindon-river-neer-foundation/>
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