

LILA Report

Village: Indpur

State: Himachal Pradesh

Insights:

- 1) The village has abundant water supply in some regions and acute water scarcity in other areas.
- 2) Agriculture is one of the main sources of income.
- 3) Government does not have land resources in the village.
- 4) Land is mostly held by a small number of individuals. (Zamindars)
- 5) Main produce of the villagers are
 - a. Mangoes
 - b. Oranges
 - c. Litchi
 - d. Loquat
 - e. Brinjal
 - f. Pumpkin
 - g. Bitter gourds
 - h. Ridge gourds
 - i. Cucumber
 - j. Guava
 - k. Pearl millet
 - l. Wheat
 - m. Rice
 - n. Maize
- 6) Health and education infrastructure is at basic level.
- 7) Gender equality and respect for women.

Problems detected:

- 1) Dependence on middle men for supply of fertilizers and sale of farm products.
- 2) Caste distinction.
- 3) Lack of co-operation and trust between villagers.
- 4) School dropout.
- 5) Free flow of illicit liquor.
- 6) No employment after the farming season, for rest of the year.
- 7) Human animal conflict.
- 8) Adverse effect on crops by climate variation.
- 9) Welfare plans and infrastructure development manipulated by influential people.

Solutions

- 1) Start a handicraft training and manufacturing unit as an alternate source of income for women, in association with NGOs.
- 2) Encourage the farmers to directly reach out to the market with their products, so that they can have better control over the pricing and profit.
- 3) Envisage plans with government and forest department to contain human animal conflict to prevent loss of life and minimize crop damage.
- 4) Elevate the standard of education and exposure to national and international resources.
- 5) Introduce awareness and encouraging schemes for children to prevent dropouts.
- 6) Conduct campaigns against wide spread alcoholism.
- 7) Develop new farming techniques to fully utilize available resources like water.

Resources

- Soil Health Cards

The Agricultural Department provides free soil testing facilities to the farmers. Department has 11 Soil Testing Laboratories besides four mobile soil testing labs to provide free soil testing facilities to the farmers. Besides this Soil Health Cards are being provided to the farmers. Soil testing service has also being included under H.P. Govt. Public Service Act, 2011 in which the soil health cards are being made available to the farmers through online service within prescribed time limit.

- HIMFED (Himachal Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing And Consumer's Federation Ltd)

The State Govt. has allowed cost subsidy on complex fertilizers NPK 12:32:16, NPK 10:26:26 and NPK 15:15:15 @ Rs.1000/-per MT. Apart from this, cost subsidy @ 25% is also being provided on 100% water soluble complex fertilizers to the farmers (limited to Rs. 2500 per farmer). In order to ensure adequate supply of fertilizers, the Govt. has entrusted this responsibility to HIMFED/Cooperative Societies.

Personal experience and reflection

The Live in Lab program acted as a window to another side of the nation which most of us were new to and mostly unaware of.

Economic and social inequality, were witnessed by me and will act as a decisive factor when I take business decisions in the future, to bridge this gap.

It was a gain, in terms of opening up the opportunity of rural marketing.

At the same time, it was an eye opener to be more responsible citizen.

Unity in diversity, on which our nation is built upon, could not have been better exemplified by students from all over India interacting and imbibing the culture, cuisine, language, traditions from the village.