



Suzlon Foundation supports 70 per cent families in Suzlon's neighborhood in Rajasthan

- Over 2,000 families benefited by the Foundation's initiatives
- 50,000 livestock are given around the year healthcare
- 800 acres of land under Natural Resource Management
- 200 families have improved access to drinking water
- 515 families have benefited from solar lightning system
- 1,500 people have access to better medical facilities

Jodhpur/Jaisalmer, 30 July, 2010: Suzlon Foundation that leads the corporate social responsibility initiatives for Suzlon group of companies has been actively working across Suzlon's neighborhoods in India for nearly three years since 2007. The Foundation has partnered with experienced and committed NGOs and Government Departments to implement over 120 projects running in across eight states and two Union Territories; directly benefiting 33,000 vulnerable families in 466 villages. The initiatives have successfully enhanced livelihood options of over 28,000 families, improved access to quality health in over 100 villages, does natural resource conservation on over 4,000 hectares of land, brought light to 1,400 households through solar lightning system and improved health and productivity of over one lakh livestock.

In Rajasthan, Suzlon Energy claims 62 per cent of the wind market with over 650 MW installed across wind farms in Jaisalmer and Jodhpur, producing enough green energy to power more than 1,50,000 homes. The Foundation's objective is to reach out to the areas surrounding their business operations and work towards improving quality of life in the villages around Suzlon's businesses and facilities. Currently their efforts cover up to 70 per cent of their neighborhood, which totals to 34 villages; with 12 active projects in 14 villages of Jaisalmer and, ten each in Ratan Ka Bans and Osian.

The Foundation's participatory development approach is professionally driven and implemented with appropriate technology. It focuses on priority needs identified by the local communities. In Rajasthan, water scarcity, decreasing livestock production and green cover, lack of electricity and health services are being addressed by the Foundation. Suzlon Foundation is unique in its approach, as it aims not just to provide, but to empower. As part of its strategy, the Foundation formed Village Development Committees (VDCs) which enjoys equal participation by both local men and women, and ensures community contribution and ownership of sustainable initiatives. The VDCs are democratic forums within the villages, where the participants are encouraged to make their own decisions and plan their own development agendas.

Mr. Girish Tanti, Executive Director of Suzlon Energy Limited (SEL), who recently traveled to Jodhpur and Jaisalmer to see Suzlon Foundation's impact observed that, "The harsh desert conditions of the region make the communities living here especially vulnerable. Our programmes here, in Rajasthan, are designed to improve the socio-economic conditions for the most disadvantaged, equipping them to combat and improve the challenging environment that they are faced with everyday. We aim at lending

support to the underprivileged - not merely helping, but empowering them to take care of themselves - by the way of providing sustainable livelihoods, making them aware of their rights and showing them the path to obtaining it. We initiate a project, but it is implemented with complete involvement of the villagers; they contribute in monetary terms, in man hours and even by providing direction. These contributions maybe small - and we cover the balance required to complete it - but this empowers them and helps build self reliant and sustainable communities."

The villages in Rajasthan with empowered VDCs have impacted approximately over 1,000 families that directly benefit from the interventions and another 1,000 that experience the benefits indirectly. Of these, about 200 families have better access to drinking water, efforts like de-silting of 'Naadi' and building of water conversation systems such as 'Khadins' and improved agricultural practices has positively impacted more than 100 households. 515 households benefit from solar lighting system and more than 900 families have undertaken the initiative of planting trees. 500 families now have access to veterinary services for over 50,000 livestock as a result of which the mortality rate in the livestock of the region has reduced by 20 to 25 percent. A range of preventive and curative treatments has also resulted in increased fertility rates.

More importantly, land development measures like rain water harvesting and pasture development on 800 acres are reflected in improved productivity of grasses and staple food. Further, through community outreach by the Suzlon clinic and Rural Hospital of GRAVIS - a reputed NGO in Rajasthan - over 1,500 people have better access to better medical facilities.

Says **Ms. Seemantinee Khot, Head - CSR, Suzlon Foundation**, "The Suzlon Group of Companies' main vision has been to conduct its business responsibly and our mandate at Suzlon Foundation is to ensure our projects are aligned with this vision. We started with a five-year plan in place and have partnered with reputed and committed NGO's like CECOEDECON and GRAVIS to develop tailor-made programs for the region. We implement a step wise process; we build awareness, contribute to know-how, develop their competencies and capabilities, and finally to hand over the reins of the projects to the people themselves. We will continue to build our capabilities and extend our reach to support each in need of it in the Suzlon neighborhood".

"GRAVIS operates to empower the rural poor populace to become self-reliant against growing challenges in survival and engages in projects that promote independence and sustainability. Suzlon's objectives are completely aligned with the same; they implement robust initiatives and understand the importance of an individual's dignity", said **Mr. Rajendra Kumar of GRAVIS**.

"At CECOEDECON, we are committed to projects that promote development that is socially and economically viable and focused on the needs of the VDCs. Our partnership with the Suzlon Foundation has positively impacted the communities we serve, they are dedicated and their unique approach to meeting the needs of a region make them a revered partner", said **Mr. Sharad Joshi of CECOEDECON**.

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About Suzlon Foundation

Suzlon Foundation leads Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives for the Suzlon Group of companies working in the Renewable Energy sector. Registered as a Section 25 Company in Dec 2007, Suzlon Foundation has initiated a number of projects aligned with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, in partnership with Civil Society Organizations for sustainable development.

The Foundation aims at delivering comprehensive CSR programs which produce demonstrable impact in the communities that Suzlon does business in, through initiatives that improve the quality of life. These efforts include promotion of sustainable livelihoods, Natural Resource Management (NRM), community health, education, and improved civic amenities and services, to make Suzlon neighborhoods self reliant and sustainable.

Suzlon Foundation has initiated more than a 120 projects across eight states (Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala) and two Union Territories (Puducherry, Daman) in India, reaching out to 371 villages and benefiting more than 2,00,000 people.

About Gramin Vikas Vigyan Samiti (GRAVIS)

Founded in 1983, GRAVIS is a development organization working for the empowerment of the Thar Desert communities. GRAVIS is based on the Gandhian philosophy of self-reliance and works toward the rehabilitation of drought affected and marginalized rural communities, enabling village ownership and control over its environment, institutions, and relations. Till date, GRAVIS has worked with over 50,000 desert families across 850 villages in Rajasthan reaching a population of over 1 million, and has established over 1,100 Community Based Organizations (CBOs).

About CECOEDECON

The Centre for Community Economics and Development Consultants Society (Cecoecon) was founded by a small group of young, committed social workers to provide immediate relief to the victims of devastating floods in Jaipur district in 1982. From a very modest beginning as a relief agency, CECOEDECON has evolved into a civil society organization pursuing integrated participatory development and advocating human rights.

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