



GOOD  
TEXTILES  
STICHTING

CLEAN AND GREEN VILLAGE

JANUARY 2020

## FUNDING PROJECT

Starting point	3
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## THE CHALLENGE

Plastic waste in the rural regions of India	3
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## TOGETHER INTO A CLEAN FUTURE

1.0 Participation model with vision	5
1.1 Responsibilities	6
1.2 Thinking in terms of cycles	6
1.3 Exemplary	8
1.4 Clean schools	9
1.5 Inside the school garden	9
1.4 Valuable source of water	10
1.5 Highlights	13

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## ACTIVE FOR THE FUTURE

Supporters are more than welcome	14
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## A project to promote an environment worth living in Aalten, January 2020

Dibella has launched the unique pilot project "Clean and Green Village" in India. It is committed to waste recycling concepts and clean nature in the organic cotton growing areas. The initiative carried out via the GoodTextiles Foundation is open to companies wishing to become involved in environmental education in India's rural areas.



### THE CHALLENGE

During the Dibella entrepreneurs' trip in winter of 2018 to the origins of our organic cotton, we noticed huge piles of torn plastic bags, crushed disposable bottles and shredded plastic films. During the rainy season, water collects in all this waste - a breeding ground for insects that can transmit severe diseases such as malaria. In addition, some of the waste is incinerated, producing severe smoke, or washed away by



heavy monsoon rains. Each of these methods is harmful to humankind and the environment, which is why we have launched the 'Clean and Green Village' funding project via the Good Textiles Foundation.

## TOGETHER INTO A CLEAN FUTURE



The villagers are excited about the project and get to work with immense enthusiasm.





## 1.0 PARTICIPATION MODEL WITH VISION

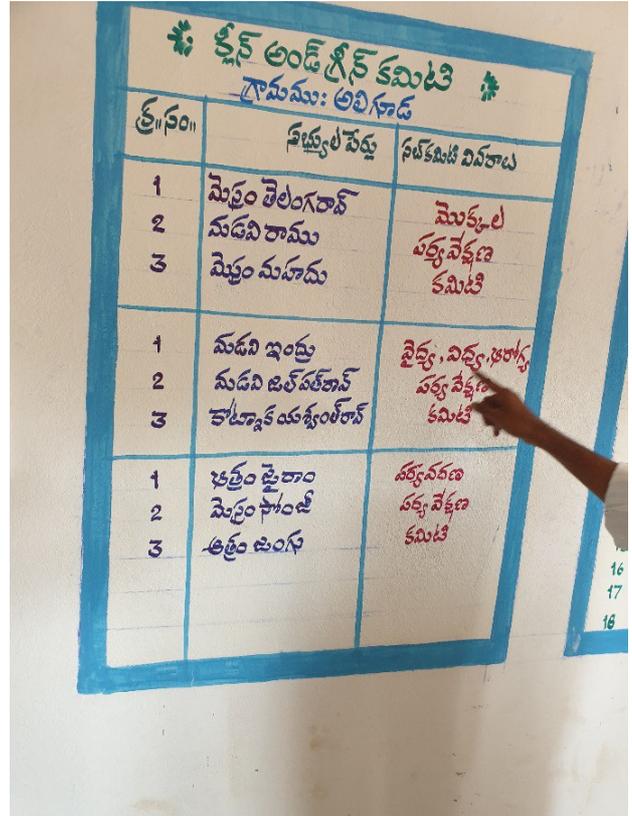
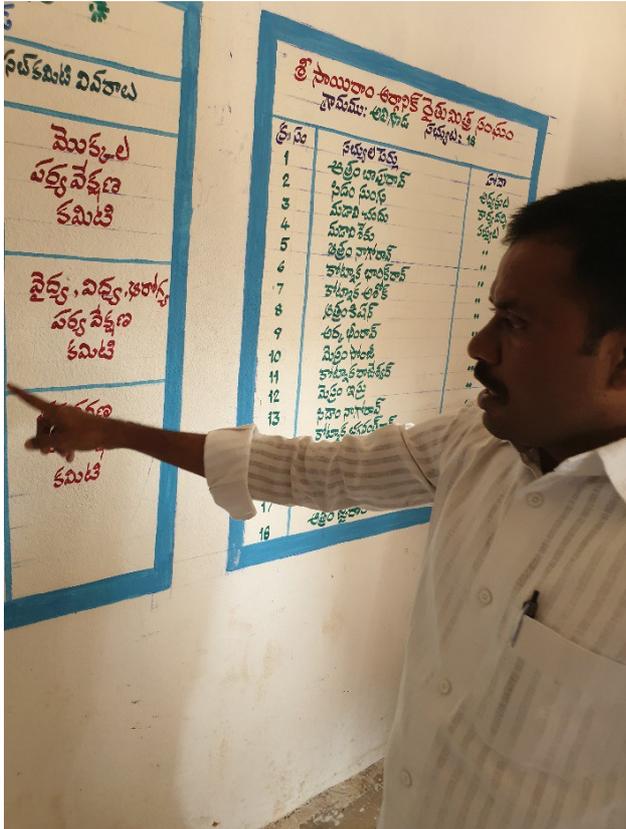
Following the first training sessions by Chetna, children and young people in particular are committed with immense vigour for a clean, liveable environment in their village.



During our trip to the Adilabad region in November 2019, we were able to follow the starting point of the "Clean and Green Village" project live:

## 1.1 RESPONSIBILITIES

In order to implement the project, Chetna experts work with the villagers to define organisational structures. Together, a project timetable is drawn up, the village community discusses concrete tasks and records the names of the responsibilities on the board in the training centre.



## 1.2 THINKING IN TERMS OF CYCLES



Together with the residents, Chetna also develop ways of collecting and recycling raw materials: in addition to reusing undamaged plastic bottles for hygienic storage of drinking water, existing resources are to be reused, collected and recycled in the best way possible. At the same time, the aim of recycling is to create new in-come opportunities, which will benefit the families of organic cotton farmers.

Several collection points made up of brick containers are set up in the villages. Waste is separated into compostable green waste referred to as "Wet Waste" and recyclable plastic waste known as "Dry Waste". The fact that the collection points differ substantially does not surprise us. It rather bears testimony to the fact that the inhabitants currently (have to) work with the materials available and affordable in their village.



One thing applies to all villages, however: The village group responsible for the "Wet Waste" now jointly organises the composting of the precious greens. The villagers are thrilled: In the past, the green waste that was individually swept together by each farmer, sometimes in a makeshift manner, was often blown away by the wind in all directions or washed through the village by heavy rainfall along sandy paths and mixed with plastic lying around in the area. Thanks to the collection containers, this is no longer the case. Now the group of farmers responsible organises the composting. The resulting natural fertilizer, in turn, is then available to all villagers.

Chetna currently organises the collection and recycling of "dry waste", i.e. the plastic material collected. The proceeds go to the villages.

### 1.3 "EXEMPLARY"



We are well aware that our "Clean and Green Village" project is ambitious in nature. The enthusiasm of the village children gives us immense courage and is an incentive for us to carry the project forward. Moreover, our aim is to set up suitable recycling structures in the schools supported by the GTF, such as those shown here. The project is financed by donations and the support of environmental organisations and we hope for further sponsors who would like to support this good cause financially.



## 1.4 CLEAN SCHOOLS

In response to an initiative raised by parents and schoolchildren, the project is supplemented by the aspect of a "dust-free classroom". Whoever has experienced a lesson in an Indian village school knows



that this is an ambitious goal. After all, sand and dust are constantly blown into the rooms (in which the need for glass panes was dispensed with). The pupils want to keep their classrooms clean every day with new dustpans, brooms and small rubbish bins to ensure a good learning environment.

## 1.5 IN THE SCHOOL GARDEN



Following the example of the Rasimetta School in Telangana (Adilabad), there is a general desire to create a vegetable garden in every single school. This is where the pupils learn and experience the basics of organic vegetable cultivation. At the same time, this ensures healthy nutrition for all pupils. After all, most children get their lunch from the school kitchen.



## 1.6 VALUABLE SOURCE OF WATER



In the remote village regions, cool water is a highly valuable commodity indeed. Water for daily consumption, such as for drinking and cooking, is taken from the central village well. As the huts do not have their own shower facilities, the well site is also used for personal hygiene. In the past, the water used to trickle uncontrollably in furrows through the villages. Gradually, catchment basins are being built around the village wells, in which the water slowly seeps into the ground and is returned to the natural water cycle.

The photo on the left shows the exemplary village of Lebed, which has been growing organic Fairtrade cotton since 2007. This picture was taken in December 2018.

In the wake of the funding project, other villages can now follow suit. "Simply and effectively" runs the motto. Here, too, the village communities often have to make do with the most rudimentary means.



The topics of water and hygiene also find their way into school lessons. The water laboriously pumped out of the school well often continues to flow as it cannot be controlled by hand pump in a targeted manner. Water taps are therefore installed wherever it is (financially) already possible. Others are to follow the example below (pictures taken at the Seva Ashram School in Madingpadar, India, in December 2018)





## ACTIVE FOR THE FUTURE

Through a joint commitment, a waste-free landscape is being created in the organic cotton growing areas. Moreover, educational initiatives for farmers in the region will be specifically promoted, thus creating a new long-term awareness of the far-sighted use of resources. The active involvement of farmers is an important basis, with each individual fulfilling his or her task within the scope of the project. Here are a few impressions from the starting phase.





The 'Clean and Green Village' project is funded by donations and the support of environmental organisations. Whoever wishes to support it is welcome to make a donation to the GoodTextiles Foundation:

Donations account of the GoodTextiles Foundation:

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Many thanks for your donation and your support.

Do you have any questions about the project? If so, we look forward to hearing from you.



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