



# SAFE

साउथ एशियन फोरम फॉर एनवायरन्मेंट  
South Asian Forum for Environment

*SAFE is a registered non-profit civil society organization working at science-society interface towards sustainable environment development and poverty alleviation in the Indian eco-region of South Asia since year 2004. Major stakeholder in UNEA and in Consultative Status with ECOSOC, UNFCCC, Gender-CC*



# AGROFORESTRY

Climate Intervention of SAFE

Area covered	:	More than 3500 Hac
Through Sponsored projects	:	2200 Hac
Through Self-funded	:	1300 Hac

7000 Households (Approx) in whole of Eastern and North Eastern area

[www.safeinch.org](http://www.safeinch.org)

## SAFE's vision for agroforestry in the country

The project beneficiaries and stakeholders envisage that the practice of agroforestry has a tremendous potential in food and livelihood security, enrichment of natural resources and poverty alleviation, in changing climatic regime. However, they also opined that the best outputs of agroforestry could not be accomplished owing to lack of technology cooperation in the marginal communities through capacity building and introduction of innovative practices, as well linking of the program with revenue earning and entrepreneurship development at the village level. They expected more extensive programs in this field in preparing for the



climate challenges. In this milieu and in the context of Net-Zero 2070 vision of the nation, SAFE aims to keep agroforestry at the central tenet of its intervention. *Children in Agroforestry*

*A brief account of the innovative interventions of SAFE in agroforestry is briefly accounted below for kind perusal.*

**Year 2011-2012** : After the devastation of cyclone Aila agroforestry plantation in Gosaba block of North 24 PGS of West Bengal, endeavours in mangrove plantation along with sesbania was initiated in



*Urban Agroforestry in Kolkata*

the country side through community-based program. Alongside this plantation of fruits of like Sapota, Moringa, Custard Apple and Bael etc. were planted. This was supplemented with vetiver plantation for fodder and other ethnobiological usage to augment alternative livelihood. The project was supported by NABARD and later adopted by the department of forest. It spanned over an area of nearly 26 ha. UNEP conjoined the REDD-Plus intervention to it.

**Year 2012-2014** : Agroforestry was introduced in watershed project management in Jhalda and Huda Block of Purulia through support from UNEP and Asia Green foundation, Korea. The plantation included Litchi, Moringa, Guava and Jackfruit in 70 ha of managed watershed. It was sustained with traditional drip irrigation using earthen pots by 370 tribal households.



*Introducing Agroforestry in Community Mangroves...*

**Year 2014-2015** : Introduction of fruiting plants as shade trees in peri urban Ramsar site of East Kolkata Wetlands was yet another innovation of SAFE. This program across 10700 ha of wetland areas was supported by a CSR program of PwC wherein 5000 trees were planted through community partnership. This enabled women entrepreneurship and livelihood.

**Year 2015-2017** : The most innovative seed ball campaign for agro-forestry plantation was introduced



*Float farming in Fringe Villages of Sundarban Tiger Reserve Forest: An Innovation in Agroforestry*

in parts of Purulia district, Jharkhand and parts of North 24 PGS of West Bengal. The seed balls made of moisture retaining coco peat, vermicompost and mud contained seeds of 18 fruit trees and 12 forest trees were disposed in areas of minimal to no forest cover for germination. A germination rate of 7% and seedling stabilisation rate of 12% was accomplished after disposing 75,000 seed balls over an area of 170 km<sup>2</sup>.

**Year 2016-2017** : Agro forestry intervention was initiated in Eastern Bhutan and Western Arunachal Pradesh for forest fire remediation by plantation of bio-fencing plants like Aloe vera, Banana, Papaya and Canna. The project under the aegis of ICI MOD was spread across an area of 2800 ha.

**Year 2017 onwards** : In partnership with Global Development Network, GIZ and Japan Social Development Fund niche-oriented mangrove species were planted and restored in 50 ha of mudflats in the Indian Sundarban. These plantations were done around the fringe villages of Sundarban Tiger Reserve (STR) through community-based approach. The vulnerable earthen embankment which was prone to extreme weather events, were selected for these interventions. Increment of forest cover, social forestry, horticulture and as well blue carbon sequestration were achieved through community participation. The project propounded and innovative climate resilient practice of float farming in salinity ingressed areas within the coastal agro-climatic zone.

Net-Zero 2070: SAFE is undertaking a community based approach in agroforestry to enhance the carbon sink and as well a livelihood-linked food security for the marginal agrarians. In this regard plantations for harvesting NTFP like Lac and honey; mangrove plantation in the post pandemic scenario, is now integrated with adaptive aquafarming and float-farming in inundated lands.