

# PEACE-India Project



## Eliminating child labour in India cotton production

### Background

Cotton is the basic raw material for the clothes and towels we usually use daily. India has the largest area of cotton cultivation in the world. Where it is produced, thousands of children are forced to work pollinating flowers and picking cotton. According a report by the Indian Committee of the Netherlands, in 2014-2015, approximately 480,000 children were employed in the cottonseed farms in India.

The field survey conducted by ACE in 2007-2009 found that many girls were working without receiving primary education especially in hybrid cottonseed farms in the Telangana state of India. During fertilization and harvesting seasons, they worked long hours and suffered from various health issues due to chemical pesticides and the physical nature of their work.



### Outline of ACE's PEACE-India project: Eliminating child labour in cotton/cottonseed farms with community participation and empowerment

To protect children from hazardous labour and ensure that they are enrolled in school, ACE launched in 2010 the "PEACE-India Project" in partnership with a local Indian NGO, "Society for People's Economic & Educational Development (SPEED)." Overall the project mobilizes local resources and communities, promotes children's rights, and protects children from child labour in the cotton sector.

● Project name: PEACE-India Project (**P**romoting community **E**ngagement for **A**ssisting **C**hange from child labour to **E**ducation in cottonseed production area in India)

● Target area: Mahabubnagar District in Telangana, India

● Project period: approx. 4 years in one community

● Expected Outcomes:

1. Villagers withdraw their own children from hazardous labour
2. All school-aged children are ensured to attend formal school regularly with improved school environments.
3. Adolescent girls feel more independent and empowered to overcome gender issues.
4. Parents invest in their child's education with better financial management and become independent from child labour.



# Tackling Child Labour in the Cotton Sector in India:

## Achievements and Activities of PEACE-India Project:

Target area: Nagardoodi village

Project period: April 2010 to March 2014

To achieve the following project outcomes, various activities are conducted through mobilizing local resources and promoting children's rights in the community. As a result, the project has withdrawn 206 children from child labour and ensured all 530 school-aged children in the village regularly go to school.

To date:

- ✓ Through various awareness campaign and events, villagers are more aware of the importance of education. Villagers formed a "Child Rights Protection Forum (CRPF)" group to monitor child labour in the field and convince parents of child laborers to send their children to school.
- ✓ A Bridge-School was established to provide non-formal education for children who were never-enrolled or dropped-out of schools. Children received a basic education and were mainstreamed into formal school.
- ✓ The school environment is improved through new classrooms and support to teachers in their requests to the local government.
- ✓ Adolescent girls received vocational training to achieve self-reliance.
- ✓ Parents of poor families received trainings in livestock agribusiness and Self-Help Group management for regular saving and micro-credit.
- ✓ Cotton farmers received training on Non Pesticide Management to improve their agricultural skills and income.



## Peace India Cotton Project by Kowa Company, Ltd.

### Purpose

- Realize sustainable Farming in areas that became child labour free after ACE's PEACE India project.
- Enables KOWA to continue control and support for organic farming as part of business.

### Outline of the program

- Gradual introduction of organic farming and aiming for organic certification (Sustainable Farming Textile Program)
- Buy all cotton production above market price
- Provide seeds for free
- Provide organic farming training
- Provide Fertilizer and repellent based on organic standards



### ACE (Action against Child Exploitation)

ACE was established in 1997 and its mission is to eradicate and prevent child labour in the world. Focusing on child labour in agriculture, its projects address the cocoa industry in Ghana and the cotton industry in India. ACE has rescued more than 1,600 children from child labour and succeeded in giving a proper education to the children and supported more than 13,000 children to go to school regularly by improving school environment in each of its project communities. ACE's efforts in Japan include mobilizing citizens to its cause, and through its awareness raising activities, it has reached more than 1.61 million people in Japan.



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