



DESI MANTRA Training Centre, Araria. Bihar

Training and capacity building of villagers

Training and capacity building of villagers, including women, is a key element of DESI Power's program for rural development. The model is based on building decentralised renewable energy power plants in villages and supplying electricity for job creation, energy services and farming. The program has moved forward and DESI Power (www.desipower.com) is now running Micro grids, Tiny Grids and energy service projects in 14 villages. The program has directly improved the lives of thousands of villagers, made an indirect impact on many more men and women in these villages and enabled them to be more self-reliant. The program, which has also been supported recently by REPIC, a Swiss government platform for cooperation with developing countries, hopes to extend the program to more and more villages in Araria district which is one of the poorest districts in India.

But as things stand now, 20 years after DESI Power started its program, it is clear that providing electricity alone is not bringing about the desired overall improvement in the lives of the villagers. Nutritional, health and social conditions of very large numbers of villagers, specially women and children, are still at very low levels. The productivity and farming income of small farmers continue to be inadequate for their survival which leads to large scale migration of young men to city slums.

DESI Power Foundation (<http://desipowerfoundation.in>) has therefore, decided to start pilot projects related to energy services, food & nutrition and hygiene. Taking advantage of the availability of electricity, the successful pilot projects will be integrated in the village development program and enable hitherto unserved poorer farmers and landless labourers to improve their living conditions.

DESI MANTRA Training Centre

Training provided by DESI MANTRA Training Centre, Araria (established by DESI Power Foundation) has enabled many men and women in the villages to take on responsibilities at all levels in village power projects and has been a critical input for the success of the program. A large part of full-time and part-time staff of DESI Power are DESI MANTRA trained. Many of the trainees have also found local jobs and several trained women are self-employed.

Apart from finance, the success of such the new pilot projects for the largely poor and un-served villagers and their replication will depend very largely on the training of the participants in understanding the proposed new ways of doing things and integrating their own traditional knowledge and experience in their implementation. DESI MANTRA Training Centre has, therefore, started training courses to enable farmers and landless labourers to learn new skills and enhance their earnings.

All villagers, specially women, involved in village activities need continuous and systematic training and refresher courses. DESI MANTRA Training Centre has been running class room and on-the-job courses ten years for villagers, including women. Course cover general skills such as computer use, accounting, office management, site survey and village level coordination, basics of planning and running micro-enterprises, orientation in renewable energy and other project-related topics. Technical skills are learnt in technology and project specific long term programs tailor-made for various levels of responsibility. As mentioned earlier, a large part of DESI Power staff are DESI MANTRA trained with several women holding senior positions. The scope of training has been expanded to cover

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DESI Power + DESI Power Foundation
Sustainable Rural Development
Electricity, Water, Farming, Enterprises, Clean Cooking, Hygiene and Training



topics related to the pilot projects started recently and a list of training courses run by DESI MANTRA during the last three years is attached.

Training programs carried out by DESI Power Foundation, Araria:

Last three years activity:

Supporting training program and village development activities.

SL. No	Name of Training	Duration	Venue	Village name	Participant
1	A meeting with villagers organised to show demo of energy efficient stove and its benefit explained to villagers	7 th Jan 2013	Village Baharbari	Baharbari	34
2	Energy efficient stove related demo and farming related awareness program	24 th Jan 2013	Village Chakai	Chakai	42
3	Provided training to operators and technicians on biomass and solar PV based power plants	1 June to 30 June 2013	DESI MANTRA Gaiyari	Baharbari, Gaiyari & Bhebhra	7
4	Basic Computer training	9 Sept to 25 Sept 2013	DESI MANTRA Gaiyari	Gaiyari, Bara	3
5	Training on Fishery	6 to 7 March 2014	DESI MANTRA Gaiyari	Bhbhra, Baigna, Baharbari & Chakai	10
6	Training on agro forestry and biomass management system	10 Aug to 15 Aug 2014	DESI MANTRA Gaiyari	Baharbari, Bara, Chakai	8
7	Training on Tiny Grid	2 Feb to 20 Feb 2015	DESI MANTRA Gaiyari	Gaiyari & Bara	5
8	Training on Clean cooking energy system (energy efficient stove, pellet machine etc).	10 Sept to 28 Sept 2015	DESI MANTRA Gaiyari	Bara, Joki Hat, Bhebhra	7
9	A seminar organised on 2 nd October 2015	2 nd October 2015	Samiti Hall, Araria	Araria	50
10	Natural/ Organic farming and Vermi compost	16 Feb to 20 Feb 2016	DESI MANTRA Gaiyari	Bhebhra, Baign & Araria	23
11	Various refresher courses.	2011 to till date	DESI MANTRA Gaiyari	DESI Power Staff	Staffs

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