

Project Outline:

We want to be a bridge between donors and recipients. The people of Sursardham village in Gujrat are in need of money in order to start their lives and homes anew, after the devastating earthquake of 26th Jan 2001.

They are already on the path of reconstruction and have bought the land.

We will help not only to rebuild their homes but with the help of Prof. Wampler of MIT (Boston USA), their lives as well. This village will not only be earthquake resistant, but will also be a model of self-sustaining micro village.

The following is a quote from Prof. Wampler's article of June 2001 In Tech News published by MIT.

“The key to making the micro village a success lies in its sustainability. It will be constructed of sustainable materials such as locally farmed wood, use wind mills, gobar gas, Ox driven electric generator, or solar energy as power sources, collect rain waters in reservoirs for drinking, and treat sewage for use as fertilizer. In addition the village will provide attractive, permanent living space designed to meet the needs of its Indian homeowners, and will furnish jobs and skill training for some residents so they can sustain their families in the village outside the urban center.

“The urban area has been seen as the Mecca, the place to go to learn. But cities around the world can't support the people moving in” said Professor Wampler, who wants to improve village life so people can earn money without migrating to cities.

“Its clear that when people move to city, a majority of them do not have better life. They might have a little money, but no food or shelter”, he said.

The village will be run as a cooperative, with collective ownership of the community center and individually owned housing units. Families will be required to participate in training courses to learn about cooperative principles, organization functions and member obligations.

Potential owner-members must demonstrate the ability or future ability to pay a mortgage on their unit, and must contribute at least one family member over age 18 to be involved full time in building the village. That involvement may be in the form of Carpentry and construction work, cooking, childcare and other services for workers.

This is only our opinion about project and has to be discussed with the villagers to make it a document. The funds required to complete the work done by Prof. Wampler and his students will be raised by his own sources. Similarly our expenses to stay and travel will not be coming out of project funds.