Case Study

Complete ERP Solution for Gujarat State Forest Department Corporation Ltd.

Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation Limited (GSFDC)

ERP Solution

Dhanvantari Unit

Minor Forest Produce (MFP)

Vanil Udhyog

Charcoal Trading

Plantation Project

Case Study

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The Client

The Client is the Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation Limited (GSFDC) and is affiliated with the National Agriculture Commission (NAC). The Client organization was founded in 1976 to accelerate progress and development of the forestry sector. One of its main objectives is to eliminate the private trade used by forest dwellers to derive profit from the collection of Minor Forest Produce and to protect the economic interest of tribal cultures and other constituents. One of its major objectives is to protect and support the interests of the tribal and indigenous communities by providing local employment and protecting natural resources.

The Objective

The Client wished to automate the complete process of procurement, manufacturing, selling, inventory management and distribution of goods within different units of the corporation. Corporate units include: Charcoal Trading, Plantation Project, Dhanvantari Unit, Minor Forest Produce (MFP) and Vanil Udhyog. The Client also needed a process by which it could generate and track bills, receipts and invoices automatically through a system, and the ability to easily report on the information in the system, thereby improving data literacy and empowering the organization with accurate, timely information.

The Solution

Elegant MicroWeb worked closely with the Client to define requirements and design, develop and implement solutions for a seamless rollout of new features and functionality.

The Elegant MicroWeb team established its project and support approach to:

- Collaborate with stakeholders for System Requirement Study
- Collaborate with key users to understand existing workflow and suggest improvements
- Work with the client team to automate all processes and restructure report output
- Define and implement QA, User Acceptance Testing and support processes to accommodate upgrades and ongoing maintenance
- Develop and deploy an appropriate training program for users

Case Study

Complete ERP Solution for Gujarat State Forest Department Corporation Ltd.

The scope of this project included:

- Requirements gathering and assessment
- Systems Requirement Study - SRS and Technical Documentation
- Restructuring existing workflow and processes
- Design and development of ERP system (see activities and modules below)
- User Acceptance Testing
- Support and Maintenance
- Training

Core Activities and Units Covered in the Solution

Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Background and Highlights

The core activities of this organization are to collect, process and market certain forest products, e.g., Timru leaves, Mahuda flowers and Mahuda seeds (Doli). The core objectives include protecting the economic interests of the Scheduled Tribes, the Scheduled Castes and other sectors of society who, through engagement in MFP collection activity and employment within their community to help sustain and improve lifestyle and financial security.

Core functions of MFP activities are:

- Collection of Minor Forest Produce at remunerative prices ensuring economic improvement for MFP collecting communities
- Processing and marketing of MFP to make available genuine forest products for industries and consumers
- Imparting training to primary collectors of MFP to improve qualitative and quantitative yield of MFP, thereby supporting tribal interests
- Preventing exploitation of tribal interests by eliminating intermediaries and payment of better wages
- Holding seminars, organizing exhibitions and undertaking research and development programs to create awareness about MFP among primary collectors, traders, consumers, industries and the public at large

The core features in the application address the needs and activities noted above.

- Collection Rates of MFP
- Collection Targets of MFP
- Appointment of Agents/Renewal of Agency
- Collection of Timru leaves
- Collection of MFP (other than Timru leaves)
- Transportation and Storage of collected Timru leaves

Case Study

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- Transportation and Storage of MFP (other than Timru leaves)
- Sale of Timru leaves by sale of units
- Sale of collected Timru leaves
- Sale of Timru leaves, by delivery of Green leaves method
- Medicinal Plants Nursery activity
- Teak seeds/Teak stumps Nursery activity
- Reports

Dhanvantari Background and Highlights

Minor Forest Produce collected by GSFDC include Amla, Baheda, Harda, Brahmi etc. which form the basic raw material for manufacture of herbal medicines. In 1991, GSFDC established a plant (Dhavantari) to process herbal medicines.

The core functions of Dhavantari unit include:

- Manufacture of Ayurvedic medicines in different forms
- Processing, filtration and bottling of wild honey
- Distribution of pure ayurvedic medicines and honey through retail sale counters to consumers
- Holding seminars and organizing exhibitions to create public awareness
- Organizing health check-ups and medical camps under supervision of qualified medical practitioners in semi-urban and rural areas

The core features in the application address the needs and activities noted above.

- Procurement of Raw Materials (MFP) and bulk sale
- Purchase of Raw Materials (other than MFP)
- Purchase and Inventory of packing materials
- Packing and dispatch of MFP for retail sale
- Production of Churna and Powder
- Production of Tablets
- Production of Oils
- Packing and Dispatch of Dhanvantari Products
- Procurement and Issue of Raw Honey
- Honey heating and filtration process
- Packing and dispatch of Honey
- Distribution of honey, Dhanvantari Products and MFP by mobile van
- Sale of honey, Dhanvantari Products and MFP by retail sale and division offices
- Machinery maintenance and calibration
- Reports

Case Study

Complete ERP Solution for Gujarat State Forest Department Corporation Ltd.

Vanil Udyog Background and Highlights

The original GSFDC core activities involved collection, processing and marketing of MFP. This activity was largely for trade and dependent upon the vagaries of nature. Vanil Udyog was established in 1982, to support tribal business initiatives during MFP lean years.

The core functions of Vanil Udyog are:

- Procurement of round timber, sawn sizes and consumable stores items.
- Manufacture of door-window frames and shutters and furniture items
- Sale of wooden items and genuine high-quality products and services.
- Service to society by providing employment to tribal communities and ensuring environmental protection and safety
- Manufacture and supply of school benches to primary schools using steel and wood
- Execution of renovation and furnishing projects for Government offices, Education institutes, Courts etc.

The core features in the application address the needs and activities noted above.

- Planning and inquiry processing
- Purchase of consumable items and maintenance of stores
- Purchase and issue of round timber
- Sawing operations
- Wood preservation treatment and seasoning processes
- Cut timber storage
- Wood working operations
- Assembly operations
- Furniture manufacturing
- Dispatch functions
- Sales and excise functions
- General campus maintenance and estate management
- Machinery and equipment maintenance and calibration
- Supply of school-benches
- Undertaking furnishing projects

Plantation Project Background and Highlights

In 1988, GSFDC established a Plantation project at Panchmahal. The objective of this initiative was to provide assistance to tribal communities and farmers.

Case Study

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The core functions of the Plantation project include:

- Undertaking intensive development of Panam Division by raising trees in both Irrigated and non-Irrigated areas of the Division
- Raising clonal nurseries
- Raising Medicinal plants nurseries to meet the requirements of farmers and the public
- Creating awareness about medicinal plants among farmers and the public through seminars and training programs

The core features in the application address the needs and activities noted above.

- Purchasing
- Clonal Nursery Activity
- Plantation Activity
- Sale of Plantations
- Uprooting and Sale of Stumps
- Monitoring and Managing Medicinal Plants Nursery Activity

Charcoal Activities Background and Highlights

In 1987, the Client launched Charcoal activities to create employment opportunities for local people and prevent illegal trade in charcoal, and to make charcoal available to the local communities at a reasonable rate.

The core features in the application address the needs and activities noted above.

- Announcement of procurement price
- Register of Distribution of Transport Permit books
- Application for Supply of Charcoal
- Acknowledgement Letter
- Register of Suppliers
- Transport Permit in Form-A
- Weigh Slip in Form-11
- Depot Stock Register
- Reports

The Technology

- Front-end: Dotnet MVC Framework
- Database: MSSQL

Case Study

Complete ERP Solution for Gujarat State Forest Department Corporation Ltd.

Elegant MicroWeb Role

The Elegant MicroWeb team provided support, knowledge and skill in the following areas and activities:

- Requirement understanding and roadmap planning in close consultation with all stakeholders with a focus on the core objectives of the GSFDC to support tribal and indigenous communities and provide gainful local employment
- Complex logics, calculations, workflow brainstorming and finalization process
- Technical feasibility
- Graphics, Layout and User Experience Design
- Architecture, Development, Maintenance and Support
- Continuous enhancement, upgrade and roll out
- Implementation, Integration and support
- Training and Support to IT team and business users to improve data literacy

Conclusion

The Gujarat State Forest Development Corporation Limited (GSFDC) in India is affiliated with the National Agriculture Commission (NAC) and works to eliminate the private trade used by forest dwellers in India to derive profit from the collection of Minor Forest Produce and to protect the economic interest of tribal cultures and other constituents.

The Client engaged Elegant MicroWeb to automate the complete process of procurement, manufacturing, selling, inventory management and distribution of goods within different units of the corporation, generate and track bills, receipts and invoices automatically through a system, and easily report on the information in the system. The resulting solution provides an ERP framework with a centralized view of all core activities and units and an advanced reporting system that is easy enough for all users to adopt. The solution includes features and functionality to address the various tasks and activities involved in the Client core business, including its Minor Forest Produce (MFP), Dhanvantari, Vanil Udyog, Plantation Project and Charcoal Activities and units to monitor, manage, plan and improve performance, and to support the technical, ethical and community goals and objectives across all locations and functions of the Client business.

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