

Progress Report

On

**Promotion of Sustainable Tribal Livelihood in Gariaband
District of Chhattisgarh**

Period Covered By this Report – 01-06-2014 to 31-12-2014

Submitted by –

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About the Project

This project is located in 20 villages spread over 10 Gram Panchayat of Gariaband district of Chattisgarh State. Out of 20 villages, 4 villages are demarcated as forest villages and the rest 16 villages are located in the periphery of reserve forest areas. The area is predominantly inhabited by Gond tribe, Kamar (primitive tribe) Sidar, Bhuinjia and Halba. About 60% households fall below poverty line whose annual income is less than 18,000 rupees. The project is located 25 to 75 k.m away from Gariaband block and newly formed district head quarters in old Raipur district of Chhattisgarh State.

Objective of the Phase-II of the Project

The project was planned in two phases. The 1st phases of the project was of 6 months between 1st Nov 2013 to 30th Apr'14. During the first phase tribal families in 20 villages have improved their knowledge and skills on latest agriculture practices including crops, livestock and lac cultivation. Based on the outcomes of the 1st phase, the project has been extended to the 2nd phase.

The major objectives of the project are:

1. To facilitate the tribal families in 20 villages of Gariaband district of Chattisgarh state to attain 12 months of household level food security through ecological practices.
2. To Increase in farmers' income through ecological practices, crop diversification, allied agricultural activities, marketing of agricultural and Non Timber Forest Produce.

Activity wise Progress Report of the Project

1. Training program for farmers groups members (50% women participants) on objectives of farmer groups, roles and responsibilities of members at the village level in 20 villages.

For creation of a conducive environment for the successful implementation of the project it was very crucial to generate awareness amongst the beneficiaries at the village level about the objective and context of the project and also to orient them about their role and responsibilities. In this regard farmer group meetings were held in two stages. The 1st round of the meetings were held in Nov'14 and the 2nd round of the meetings were held in the month of Dec'14 in all 20 villages. The topics being covered were various problems of the village in context of agriculture & basic objective of the project. Also the farmers were selected who shall be doing SRI and line sowing in their respective plots and those plots shall serve as demonstration plots. Women farmers attended the meeting in large numbers.

2. Training to 20 village cadres on their role and responsibilities and record keeping.

For the effective implementation of the project, a cadre was recruited in each village of the project area and thus 20 village cadres were appointed. In the recruitment process, equal opportunity was given to women and around 40 % of total cadres selected were women. An orientation training for the cadres

was held in gram panchayat bhawan of Khamharipara village in presense of Mr.R.G.Sinha,director-Prerak on 2nd June 2014.Mr.Sinha had imparted training on importance of organic farming and adverse impact of chemical fertilizers. He also shared the role and responsibilities of cadres in the implementation plan of project.

Table-1.List of Cadres in 20 villages of the Project area.

Sl No	Name	Name of Father/Husband	Age	Caste	Qualification	Village
1	Rameswar Kapil	Swami Singh	24	Gond	M.A	Kamepur
2	Sitabai	Chhabiram	22	Kamar	10 th	Bhainsamuda
3	Banita Yadav	Khamsingh	18	Yadav	12 th	Paragaon
4	Devkumar	Khachmar Singh	20	Gond	12 th	Timanpur
5	Gendlal	Suman singh	25	Gond	12 th	Baigarpala
6	Sukribai	Keshba	20	Gond	10 th	Tupenga
7	Punitram	Man Singh	49	Yadav	8 th	Achhachhidka
8	Suresh Dhruv	Chaitram	26	Gond	12 th	Kurrabahra
9	Bula Singh	Lachhiram	22	Gond	8 th	Ladabahara
10	Girdhari	Harlal	23	Gond	10th	Chindabantha
11	Biraj Singh Netam	Arjun Singh	32	Gond	8 th	Patoradadar
12	Kumari Bai Netam	Parmeswar	35	Gond	8th	Bhainsatara
13	Chhabiram Patel	Basantram	26	Marar	8 th	Sandabri
14	Hirobai Patel	Chhabairam Patel	24	Marar	8 th	Sandabri
15	Balram yadav	Dharam Singh	33	Yadav	8 th	Pariabahara
16	Puranik Nagesh	Tailor Singh	22	Gond	B.A	Dahi Bahara
17	Bhawana Thakur	Ahan Singh	22	Gond	10 th	Kasabay
18	Makardhwaj Patel	Bhadsiro Patel	27	Marar	8 th	Mahadula
19	Sukdev Netam	Lalsingh Netam	25	Kamar	8 th	Satadhar
20	Ganesh Nishad	Patiram Nishad	27	Gond	8th	Chikhli

Further another training programme was organised for the project staff at Saksham centre of Prerak, Rajim on 2nd and 3rd July 2014 in which the staff were trained on their role and responsibilities in the project. Mr. Promod Pradhan and Mr. Dharmendr Gogu of Swissaid were present in the training. In the opening session, staffs were being explained about the project and also about different sources of livelihood. Mr. Pramod explained that the main objective of the project was to ensure food security for the beneficiaries of the project throughout the year. Thus it is required to work together to strengthen the different sources of livelihood to ensure that. He also emphasised on keeping record at various stages of the project like SRI calendar, agreement with the farmer for demo plot, farmer visit and also in case of any discrepancy in the farming practices, also has to be recorded.



3. Training to 20 village cadres on ecological farming practices.

A cadre training was held on ecological farming practices at Vasundhra agricultural training centre on 15-16 July 2014 for all the 20 cadres in which the cadres were provided training on ecological farming. It was being explained to the cadres that in order to increase the production, farmers were adopting the chemical fertilizers and leaving the traditional method of agriculture. Gradually they were getting addicted to the same as if any people get addicted to liquor. Thus it is needed to revive the age old ecological practices of farming and create awareness on it among the farmers.



4. Training to 20 village cadres on SRI and line sowing of paddy.

A cadre training was held on ecological farming practices at Vasundhra agricultural training centre on 20-21st July 2014 for all the 20 cadres in which the cadres were provided training on SRI and line sowing of paddy. The cadres were explained about SRI practices and different components related to same. They were told in detail about different stages of SRI method and how and when to use the weedier. Along with this they were also made aware about the method of preparing jivamrut and panchaparni.

5. On farm training of 120 farmers (50% women participants) on SRI and line sowing of Paddy in 3 stages 1 day each (Stage 1 for land preparation, seed selection, seed treatment, nursery development, Stage 2 for transplantation, Stage 3 for weeding, nutrient management, pest management)

1st Stage: Farmer training programs on land preparation, seed selection, seed treatment and nursery development were organized in the project area as shown in table-2.

Table-2

SI No	Date	Place	Total no of farmers Present	
			Male	Female
1	08/07/2014	Baigarpala	28	02
2	12/07/2014	Paragaon	21	11
3	14/07/2014	Sandabri	19	10
4	26/07/2014	Kasabaya	22	08

In the 4 training programs, the farmers were trained by the resource person, Mr. Balram Nishad on selection of good quality seed. In this context it was being told that the seed is good when it is clean and has more than 80% chance of sprouting. Before sowing, the seed should be properly treated in the mixture of one bucket of water and salt. Also the seed should be treated in cow urine and should be dried in shade before sowing. Regarding nursery development, it was being told that land should be prepared at a height of 2-3 inches in rows separately for 2 kg seeds each. For SRI method, the land should be selected which is flat and water should not be coming on surface. The land should be ploughed properly and prepared with compost of cow dung.

2nd Stage: In the 2nd stage, the training programs were organized on SRI and line sowing as per the below schedule.

Table-3

SI No	Date	Place	Total no of farmers Present	
			Male	Female
1	22/07/2014	Baigarpala	28	02
2	24/07/2014	Paragaon	30	14
3	25/07/2014	Sandabri	26	06
4	28/07/2014	Kasabaya	16	10

In the four training programs the farmers were trained on SRI technique and line sowing. They were explained that through these techniques they can get better yield at lower investment. Further to help them understand it better the comparison was made between SRI method and normal method of agriculture and the cost involved in it.

3rd Stage: In the third and final stage, training programs were organized for farmers on weeding, nutrient management and pest management as per the below schedule.

Table-4

Sl No	Date	Place	Total no of farmers Present	
			Male	Female
1	12/08/2014	Baigarpala	33	0
2	06/08/2014	Paragaon	29	04
3	14/08/2014	Satdhar	22	06
4	16/08/2014	Sandabri	20	10

In the above training programs, the resource person Mr. Balram Nishad imparted training on what is a weedier, the method of using it, the benefit of using a weedier and the frequency of using a weedier. In the context of organic fertilizer, he trained the farmers about the method of preparing fertilizer from nadep tank, use of compost made from cow dung and also the ingredients required for preparing Jibamrut and Panchagavya, the method of preparing it and its application in the field. Regarding preparation of organic pesticide, he explained about method of making panchaparni, saptaparni and Dasparni using different herb and also explained the method of preparing pesticides using tobacco.





Training of farmers on use of weedier and demonstration of panchaparni preparation.

6. Training of 120 farmers (50% women participants) on ecological farming practices.

To create the awareness amongst the farmers about the adverse effect of contemporary farming practices and to revive the beneficial ecological farming, training programs were organized in different villages of Dhawalpur and Nawapara cluster.

Table-5

SI No	Date	Place	Total no of farmers Present	
			Male	Female
1	19 th -20 th Aug 2014	Kasabaya	40	0
2	22 nd -23 rd Aug 2014	Sandabri	26	05
3	24 th -25 th Aug 2014	Baigarpala	28	07
4	27 th -28 th Aug 2014	Paragaon	22	08

During the above training programs the resource person Mr. Balram Nishad discussed with farmers, the traditional method of agriculture which was being practiced by our ancestors. During that time not much of fertilizers or pesticides were used. People used to rely more on the natural process which constitute the essence of ecological farming. Thus to have better yield without affecting the natural productivity of the land we should adopt ecological farming. In this context he explained that to understand ecological farming one should understand the friendly insects and the harmful insects and the different contributing factors of nature to agriculture. He further discussed about the adverse impact of chemical fertilizers and pesticides which is widely being used in contemporary farming and by adapting to ecological farming, we can save our land and environment from it. He further discussed about organic compost and pesticides and the method of its preparation.

7.Developing 10 agricultural demo plots to demonstrate SRI, Line sowing of paddy and ecological practices, 1acre each.

There is a famous saying in English “Seeing is Believing “. This holds true in this project also. To make the farmers realize and effectively internalize the virtue of SRI and line sowing, it was quite important to demonstrate the same to the farmers .In this context 5 plots were selected for demonstration in each sector of Dhawalpur and Nawagarh in a manner as 1 plot between two villages. .For developing the demonstration plots, discussions were done with Kishan Samiti and with the consent of the interested farmers, the plots were selected. The detail of demo plots is as under –

Table-6

Name of the Village	Name of the Farmer	Size of the Demo Plot
Sandabri	Mishoram Patel	1 Acre
Kasabaya	Shyamlal Netam & Ghanshyam	1 Acre
Bhainsatara	Jagesh & Jagdish	1 Acre
Pariabahara	Chunnuram Yadav	1 Acre
Mahadula	Siyaram & Gangaram	1 Acre
Kamepur	Uderam	1 Acre
Baigarpala	Shivprasad	1 Acre
Achhachhidka	Balram	1 Acre
Paragaon	Mehtar	1 Acre
		1 Acre

In the month of August 2014, the demonstration plots were monitored and it was observed that the weeding work post sowing has been done in most of the plots. Also the financial aid is provided to the farmers by PRERAK and weedier were provided to the farmers.



8.Exposure visit for 40 farmers for SRI, line sowing and ecological farming.

As an important aspect of enlightening the farmers about SRI, Line sowing and ecological farming and to gain better knowledge and exposure on these practices, 21 farmers from 20 villages of the project area including 8 women were being taken on exposure visit to Ganiyari in Bilaspur district between 19th-20th Oct'14. With the help of Jan Swasthya Sahyog (JSS), an organization based at Ganiyari of Bilaspur district, the farmers were taken for visit to 4 villages of its project area where they saw the SRI and line sowing techniques in the field and learnt about the various other farming practices through interaction with the farmers.



9. Promotion of kitchen garden for 300 families (Rs. 100 for seeds per family).

To ensure round the year food security which is the most important objective of this project, farmers are made aware of kitchen garden concept and encouraged to prepare kitchen garden in their houses. In this context, 8 varieties of vegetable seed had been distributed to 300 families in 20 villages of the project area in the month of August. The detail of different varieties and quantity distributed are as under –

Table No-7

Variety of Seed	Quantity
Brinjal	10gram
Green Chilly	10 Gram
Tomato	10 Gram
Ladies Finger	15 Gram
Gourd	16 Gram
Raddish	20 Gram
Methi	30 Gram
Corriander	30 Gram



Following distribution of seeds, the farmers actively stated the sowing the seeds and developing the kitchen garden in their respective backyards of their homes. Throughout the period, the cadres and the supervisors monitored the progress of the kitchen garden and assisted the farmers on related aspects. The vegetable plants have shown a good growth especially at places where there are reliable source of water for irrigation. At some plots, the production also has started coming.



10. Organising livestock vaccination camp in 20 villages.

Livestock has been an integral part of livelihood since time immemorial of tribal. But due to lack of knowledge and awareness about health related issues and vaccination of livestock, they often loose these resources. Thus to create the awareness among the farmers as well as to protect the livestock from deadly diseases, a vaccination camps were organized in different villages of the project area with the help of the veitenary department. Around 5000 livestock of around 300 farmers in 15 villages attended the camp. They were vaccinated for different diseases. The detail of the camps is provided as under-

Table-8

Sl No	Date	Name of the Village
1	27/09/2014	Satdhar
2	28/09/2014	Paragaon

3	06/11/2014	Kasabaya
4	08/11/2014	Pariabahara
5	09/11/2014	Dahibahara
6	10/11/2014	Patoradadar



11. Nursery raising and distribution of semilata saplings for lac cultivation to 100 farmers.

Lac is one of the important forest produces that fetch a good market price and add to the income of the tribal. Lac is both collected as well as cultivated by the tribal. Along with the indigenous Babool and Kusum trees, in recent times, Semialata has also emerged as a fast growing and reliable plant in which Lac can be cultivated. To make the tribal aware about and also promote the Lac cultivation in Semilallata plants, a semilata nursery was raised in each sector having 3000 saplings.



12. Training program for Farmer group members on gender.

A 1 day training program for the village farmer group members was organized in Saksham centre of Rajim, on 28th Nov'14. The objective of the program was to help the farmers understand the prevailing gender discrimination in the society and to work together towards removing the same. Total 28 farmers including 13 women participated in the training and Mr. Nitesh imparted the training as resource person.

Through audio-visual medium, the farmers were told about the sexual discrimination, division of labour and role of both genders in the society. Further they were told that women were not less than men in any manner, rather they perform more work than their counterpart. Thus they should be respected, treated equally and be protected from any form of violence or discrimination.



13. Training program for cadres on gender.

A two days training program for the village cadres was organized in Saksham centre of Rajim, between 4th-5th Dec'14. The objective of the program was to help the cadres understand the prevailing gender discrimination in the society and to work together towards removing the same. Total cadres including participated in the training and Mr. Nitesh imparted the training as resource person. Through audio-visual medium, the cadres were told about the sexual discrimination, division of labor and role of both genders in the society. Further they were told that women were not less than men in any manner, rather they perform more work than their counterpart. Thus they should be respected, treated equally and be protected from any form of violence or discrimination.



14. Crop cutting

As a last and one of the most important stage of the SRI demonstration, the crop of the demo plots were harvested in the month of November and December As per the technical

specifications 4 samples from SRI demo plots and another 4 samples from normal plots were randomly selected and cut. Then the samples were numbered and kept together. Further the same was harvested and the total yield was measured and divided by 4. Thus the average yield was determined. The similar process was followed with the normal crop. Finally both were compared and it was found that the yield in SRI plot was greater than the normal one.



15. Training of best practices on Lac farming.

The training on best practices of Lac farming was held on 15th and 16th December 2014 at Kasabaya and Paragaon villages respectively. The trainer/resource person Mr. Milan Viswakarma imparted training to the traditional as well as the newly interested farmers. Total 143 farmers including women participated in the training program. The major topics being covered in the training program were selection of trees for lac farming, varieties of lac, and major activities in lac cultivation, type of pest and its management and harvesting.

Table-9

Sl No	Date	Village	No of Farmers Present		Total
			Male	Female	
1	15/12/2014	Kasabaya	33	28	61
2	16/12/2014	Paragaon	26	56	82

