



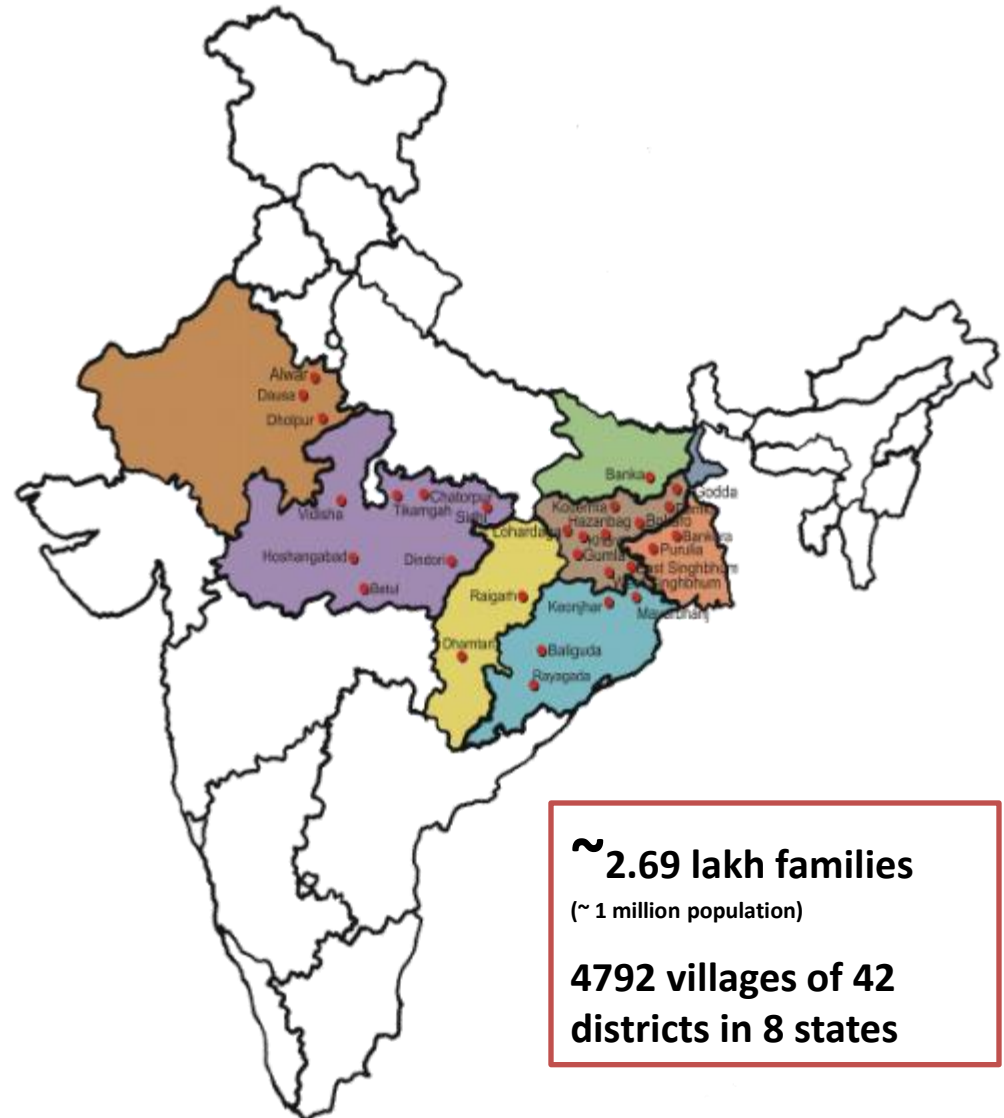
Convergence for rural livelihood - PRADAN's Experience

Strengthening
Panchayats for
Livelihoods

21 Nov 2012
New Delhi

Organizational Overview

- Established in 1983, registered as a Society
- Working with nearly 16,555 women's Self Help Groups with a membership of 2,25,400+ rural poor families; SC and ST 71%
- Concentration in Central and Eastern Plateau region – major poverty belts
- Worked last year with over 1,38,500 families on farm based livelihoods and about 15000 families on non-farm livelihoods
- Focus on grassroots mobilisation, livelihoods and building human capabilities



The Context- Area

District Dhamtari is situated in the plains of Chhattisgarh.

Four blocks , 333 *GPs* and 629 villages.

Total population of the district is about eight lakh among which 81% live in rural areas.

It shares about 2.5% area of the state and 3.13% population of the state.

Mahanadi and its tributaries constitute the major river system.



The Context

People

A Contiguous patch comprising of 34% of total GPs and 36% of rural household is primarily tribal (about 62%).

“Gond” is the major tribe residing in the district. “Kamar” a PVTG comprise about 1% of the population.

Traditional rain-fed farming resulting in a poor yield and consequently insufficient food and capital for investment, is a major reason of poverty in the district

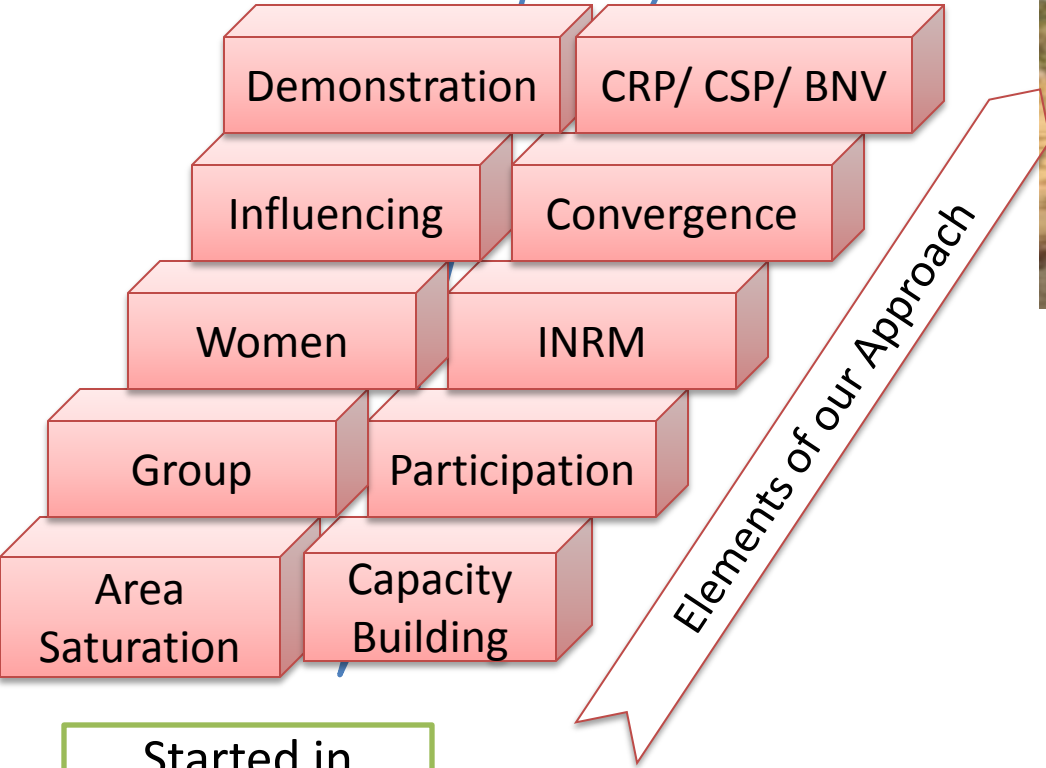
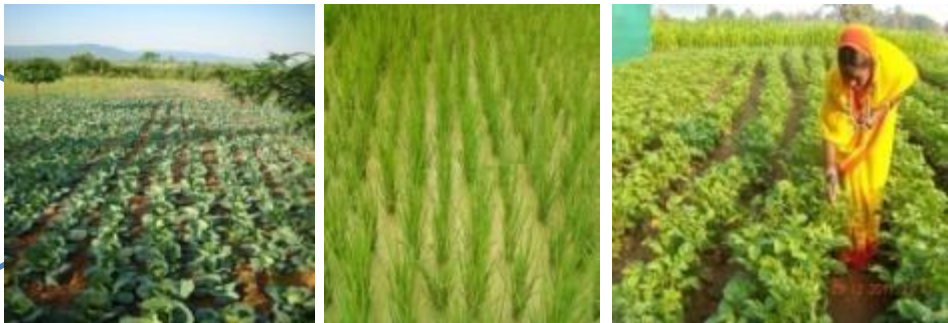
About 82% households in tribal areas are struggling to fulfill the basic necessities of life.

Gram Panchayat

- Three- tier Panchayat system is in operation.
- Apart from people representative, GP Sachiv and Rojgar sahayak are the only regular staff at GP level.
- Only 50% Gram sabha have required quorum to conduct the meeting.
- Planning largely by Sarpanch and Sachiv as per instruction from higher authority.
- Low participation leads to no or little ownership of villager in the work planned and implemented.

PRADAN@Dhamtari

Working with 4847 families organized into 376 SHGs spread over 90 villages



Started in 2007 with SHG



The Intervention- Convergence for livelihood of rural poor

Background

- Organised Community
- Orchard plantation demonstrated
- Linkage with field level officials of agriculture & horticulture dpt.
- Land & water resource development activities demonstrated

Demonstrated at one village- helped in developing system processes & formats

Further replication by PRADAN as well as by district

Central theme of intervention

- To enhance productivity of resources (land and water) following NRM approach.
- Collaboration and convergence as a basic approach towards creating significant impact on livelihoods at the household level.
- Active participation of the community (SHG and *Gram Sabha*) in planning and implementation.

Process Followed

Hamlet or Village is taken as the basic unit of planning

Exposure visits for SHGs and PRI members

Village:

PRADAN- where about 60-70% of households are mobilized and organised into SHGs.

District- Gram Panchayat where Panchayat representative is proactive

Hamlet level meetings after exposure visits - whether they are interested in such work and whether they can pursue their plan

Active participation of SHGs and PRIs member based at the hamlet is ensured

Plan for only one year is prepared at a time- helpful for government as well as the community

Planning

A three days event


Plan is prepared and the task is divided amongst the PRADAN team, CSP and SHGs

Officials from Agriculture and allied department to help community in mapping plan with schemes


Present status and use of resources, potential of using it alternatively, present status of existing schemes in the village etc. are discussed in detail.



- Exposure Visit



- Social Mapping / Wealth Ranking



- Resource Mapping/ Selection of Patch




- Transect Visit



- Activity Planning & Mapping

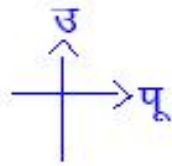


- Documentation



- Presentation & Approval from Gram Sabha

ग्राम छिंदभर्री का प्राकृतिक संसाधन मानचित्र



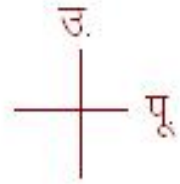
संकेत

आवादी
 टिकरा
 भर्री
 धारी
 जंगल
 तालाब
 कुआं
 रास्ता
 बाडी
 स्कूल
 श्मसान घाट
 पानी का
 बहाव



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ग्राम छिंदमरी का गतिविधि मानचित्र

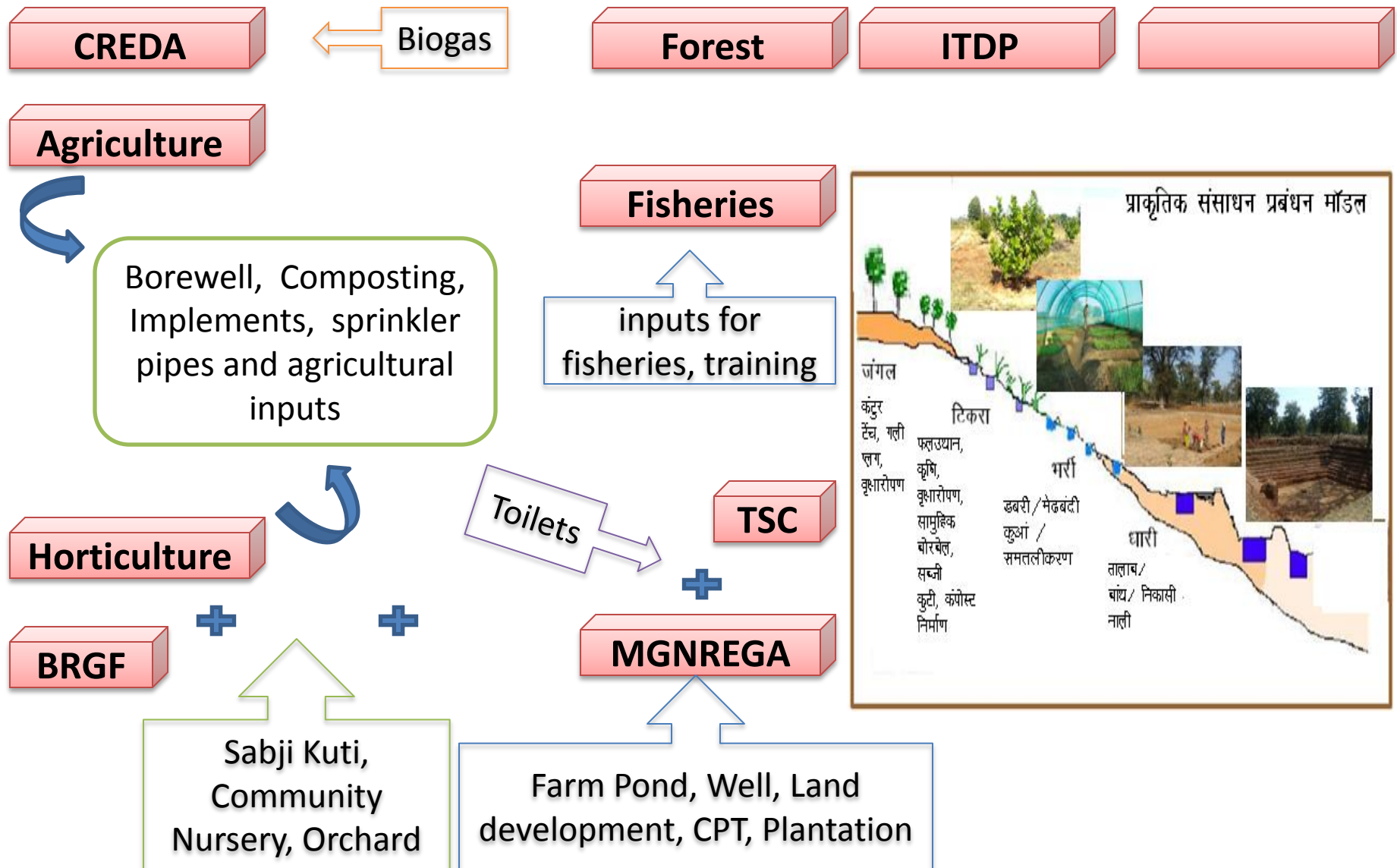


संकेत

डबरी व मेढबंदी
कुआं
समतलीकरण
सब्जी कुटी



Work Planned



Implementation

Work planned under MGNREGA

- By GP / departments
- *PRADAN* conducts training of *Mates*, *Rojgar Sahayak* and Technical assistants of block before initiation of work.
- The Community monitors the work for quality and to check irregularities.
- Cluster- Roaster System for work initiation and payment.

Work planned with other department

- By concerned department with support from SHG and CSP.
- SHG as forum for explaining the scheme/ programme.
- CSP help the department as well as households in documentation etc.

Monitoring

At hamlet or village level through regular meeting using monitoring sheets to help ascertain the status of each part of the plan

Follow up at Gram Sabha

Action plan is prepared in the meeting for following up with the relevant departments.

Roles and tasks are assigned amongst the member.

5184 टकराव

Replication

151 villages
of 90 GP



The village plan is
accepted as a
base for planning
by other
departments

Facilitation

Community, Govt departments
(Formats, System & Processes)

Trainings

Staff at GP & Block level,
People from community

Awareness

Meeting, Workshop

SHG- pioneer in
spreading the
message



Orientation of PRI and officials on NRM



Experience Sharing by SHG Member



Orientation Workshop for Sarpanch and Panch



SHG Member explaining the plan to Sarpanch

What the combined effort generated

Boosted the Self image and confidence of community especially the women.

Brought the departments together.

Brought the community together for natural resource management.

Produced a proper working plan



Demonstrated Convergence- Different departments focusing on a single family.

Different departments strengthening one activities like sabji kuti, community nursery, Backyard Poultry etc

Intervention replicated to 151 villages

Support from other department like agriculture, horticultural , CREDA etc mobilized as per plan to facilitate utilization of the assets created



Village Chhindbharri – a case

The Context

Demography:

Households: 75
Total Population: 415
Percentage of ST: 95%
BPL Households: 85%

Food Sufficiency from own cultivation:

6 Month and less: 50%
> 6 months to 1 year: 38%

Resources and Livelihoods:

Land Holdings

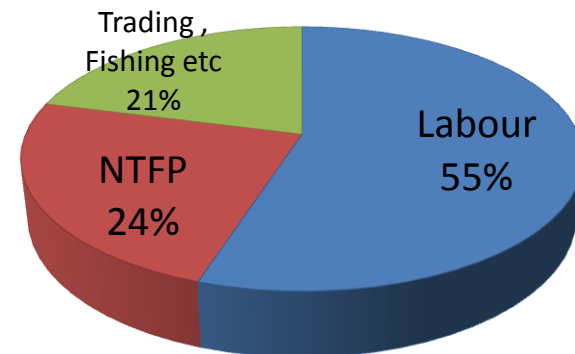
Average Holding : 5 Acres
Marginal Farmer: 32%
Small Farmer: 33%

Land Type:

Upland: 52% land
Medium land: 29% land
Lowland: 19% land

Sources of Income -

Av. Annual Income RS 38392

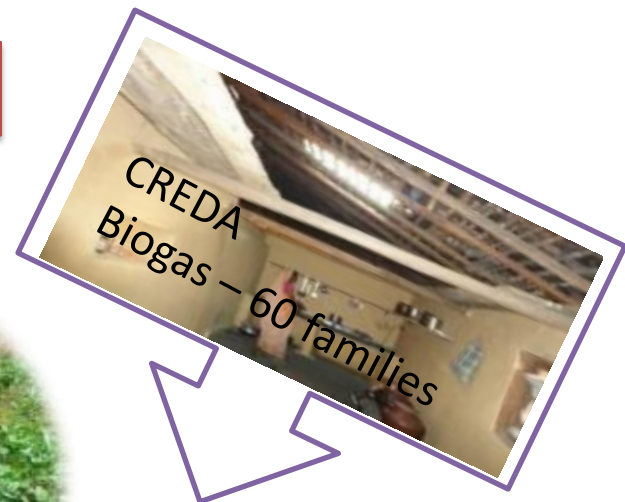


Village Chhindbharri – a case

The Intervention



143.29 lakh mobilised over last two year



Per family Investment- 1.91 lakh



**Drinking Water-
Self Contribution**



Agriculture & Horticulture
Composting Unit- 50
Bore Well -29
Irrigation Pipe, Implement,
Seed etc

MGNREGS- 32 families

Land leveling: 8.2 acres
Small Farm Pond: 93No.
Pond: 2 No.
Dug Well: 5 No.
Sabji Kuti: 20 No.
Community Nursery: 1

How it affected

- The individual Households

- 114 acres of land developed and made suitable for cultivation.
- Protective irrigation of Paddy ensured in about 71 acres of land
- 100% and more increase in production of paddy due to timely operation and availability of moisture at the critical stage.
- More than 60% of families earned about Rs 30000 and above from vegetable cultivation.
- Life style of people has improved.(More asset at household level- Colour TV, Motorcycle, Mobile)
- No distress migration- more work for themselves as well as other in their own farm

How it affected

- The village

- Improved recharging of well. The well earlier taking two days to refill, now get refilled within twelve hours.
- Additional 225 acres area under irrigation from bore well.
- Diversification in farming started. (*More area, More crops*)
- No loan from grain bank of village since last two years and the fund (about Rs 70000-80000) used for development of community asset in the village.
- The work helped in getting the village organised around developmental issues.
 - *Gaon ka sangathan bana he*
 - *Pahle kebal Samajik Vivad ko hal karne ke liye Gaon ke Bujurg baithak karte the. Ab har mahine mahila aur purush sabhi baithak kar gaon ki samasyaon par charcha karte he our yojna banate he*

How it affected

- The Gram Panchayat

- Volume of developmental work done in the panchayat has increased many folds. Under MGNREGA Changaon Panchayat utilized only 1.7 lakh during 2009-10 whereas it was 27.1 lakh in 2010-11 and 26.9 lakh in 2011-12
- Load on representative of Gram Panchayat (Sarpanch and Panch) has reduced as earlier planning to implementation was done by them only without any support from community. Now community support in planning for work, follow up at different level and implementation also.
- All the gram sabha are happening as per schedule.
- Gram sabha at Chhindbharri has decided to pay tax to Gram Panchayat to financially strengthen the Gram Panchayat

Learning

A mobilized and organized community is critical

Presence of a facilitating agency (like PRADAN) is required for continuous coordinating with community and various departments

The administration, *GP* and the community are the three major stakeholders. Eventually all three need to be involved. One could begin with collaborating with any favorable one out of these.

Support from higher officials at district level is always helpful and fastens the process as no one can deny the genuine demand by an organized community.

Exposure visits and capacity building activities for the community and various other stakeholders are critical.

Government officials, especially those working at field level, struggle a lot to achieve their target. Appreciating them for whatever little they do goes a long way and can help in orienting and influencing them.

PRI members (especially in tribal area) are mostly perceived wrong by both community as well as the officials. They need support from people to serve them better.

Engagement with the *GP* and departments (like MGNREGA Cell, Horticulture etc) is required for technical support and to build a system and process that is favorable to the community.



THANKS