

Detailed Project Report For

ENHANCING FARM LIVELIHOODS OF

WOMEN SHGS

IN MAHAKAUSHAL REGION OF MADHYA

PRADESH

Under Mahila Kisan Shaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)
(A sub-component of NRLM)

Project Implementing Agency (PIA):
PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT ACTION
(PRADAN)



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Summary of the proposal

A.1	Title of the Project	Enhancing Farm Livelihoods of Women SHGs in Mahakaushal Region of Madhya Pradesh
A.2	Project Duration	Duration: 3 years (2012-15)
A.3	Total Budget (approved)	Rs. 19.97 crores – Total Rs. 9.77 – Govt. of India Rs.3.26 – Govt. of MP Rs.6.94 – Community and Other Sources
A.4	Name of PIA	Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN)
A.5	Coverage of the Project	Women SHG Members from Disadvantaged Communities in Mandla and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh No. of Districts: 2 No. of Blocks: 4 No. of Revenue Villages: 200 No. of SHGs: 800 No. of Families: 8000
A.6	Key Outputs of the project	Enhanced family incomes by Rs.10,000-15000 for 60% of participant women (including money value of enhanced food sufficiency) through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop intensification of paddy, maize, wheat and gram and diversification into pulses and commercial vegetable farming • Protective irrigation from harvested rainwater to 950 ha of cropland during <i>kharif</i> season and 380 ha during <i>rabi</i> • Enhanced production of cereals by 100% with the intervened families • Multi-cropping including long-tenure plantations of fruit trees and timber plants in 300 ha as Agro horticulture and Agro forestry

Chapter 1: Project background, context and rationale

The Mandla and Balaghat districts are one of the poorest in the State of Madhya Pradesh and extensive social mobilization base. The sex ratio in both the districts is positive i.e. above 1000 and the involvement of women in agriculture is of substantial level. The agriculture itself though is of primitive technology and labour intensive with very less mechanization and irrigation coverage. It demands a substantial investment and focus on creation of successful extendable prototypes, particularly for small and marginal farmers. The women farmers who were in knowledge of traditional cultivation practices find themselves less equipped to handle advances of cropping technology. This leads to disempowerment of women participating in decision making process.

The project under Mahila Kisan Shashaktikaran Priyोजना (MKSP) has been formulated with this idea in mind. It seeks to cover 8000 families in four blocks in both the districts. It seeks to empower women with focus on enhancing their efficacy and identity by .increasing their knowledge and skill thereby increasing say and space in economic sphere within the household also in immediate community.

1.1 Demographic Profile of the area

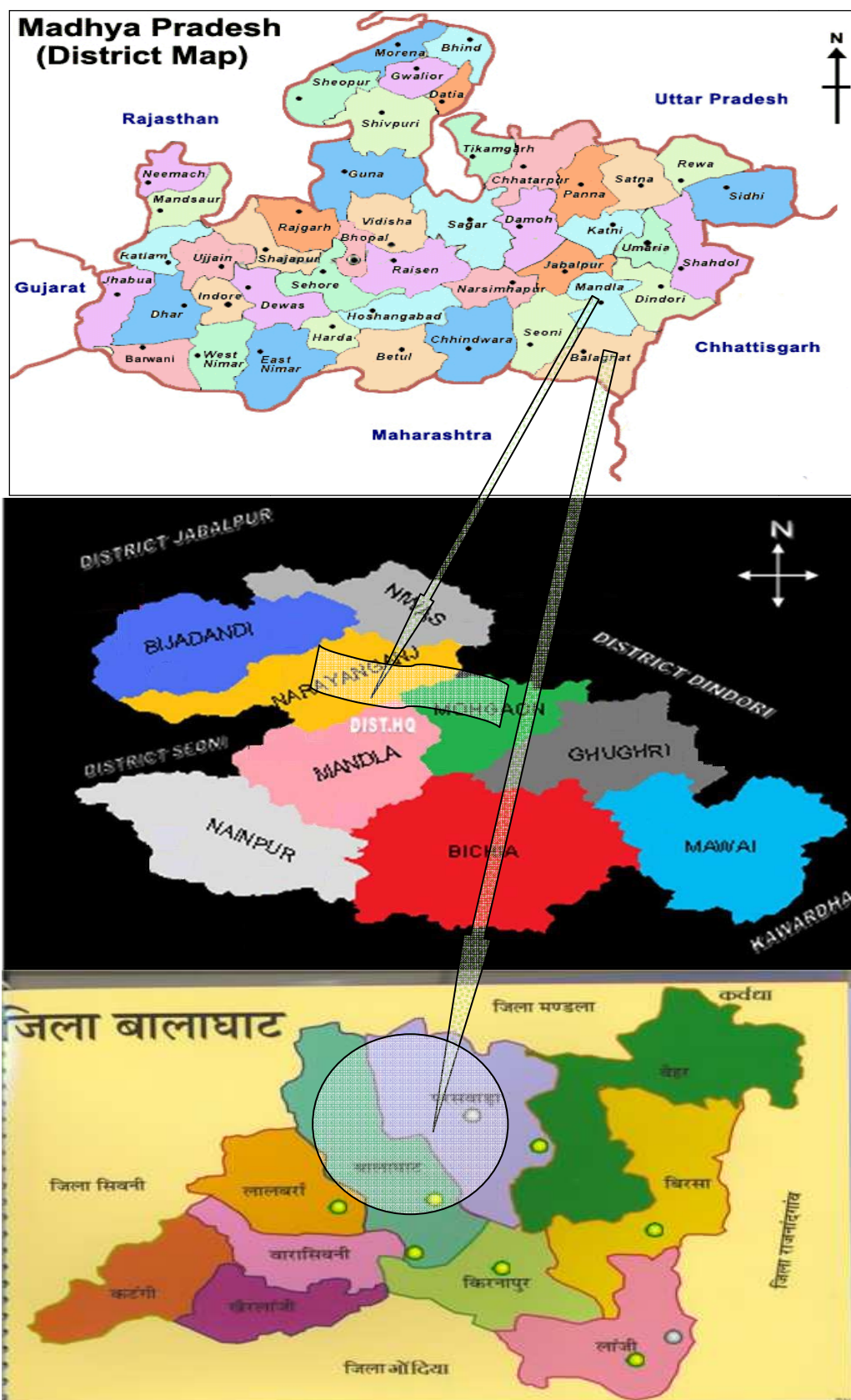
The Project is being implemented in the districts of Balaghat and Mandla of Madhya Pradesh. Even in these districts focus is on four blocks namely Mohgaon and Narayangnaji of Mandla and Paraswada and Balaghat of Balaghat. The demographic profile of the area is shown in the following table:

Demographic Indicators	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla			Balaghat		
		Mohgaon	Narayangnaji	District	Paraswada	Balaghat	District
Rural Population	73.54 (*72.37)	100	100	89.7 (*87.6)	100	75	87.1 (*85.6)
Literacy - %	63.7 (*70.63)	53.6	52.2	59.6 (*68.3)	58	58	68.7 (*78.3)
ST - %	20.3	60.6	70.5	57.23	50.3	18.3	21.8
SC - %	15.2	4.2	2.3	4.62	4.5	8.1	7.75
Sex Ratio	919 (*930)	1024	1003	996 (*1005)	1022	1022	1022 (*1021)
Density of Population	196 (*236)	200	177	*182	138	241	148 (*184)

Source: Census 2001 census and District Statistical Handbook; *2011 census

The area is marked with high tribal population and subsistence farming systems. Literacy levels have increased in the past decades but they do not imply into being employment worthy in non-farm sector. Apart from district towns of Balaghat and Mandla, entire area is rural, agriculture and allied activities being the mainstay of the people's life and livelihoods.

Project Area



1.2 Rural Poverty Context in the area

a. Poverty and Human Development:

Madhya Pradesh has large geographical coverage (2nd highest in the country) and it seems monolithic but owing to the way the States were reorganized in 1956, it never was more than a conglomeration of what was left out of other states (which had somewhat a language homogeneity) combined with few of the native tribal forest areas that in any case had or have never been socio-politically as powerful as other parts of the country. Irrespective of the difference in culture and climatic conditions, one fact remained common across the State – Madhya Pradesh has been a poor State, part of the BIMARU States. With carving out of Chhatisgarh, significant tribal area was lost out but the extent of poverty did not change though significant progress has been made on social mobilization and many other dimensions.

About 38 % of population was living below the official poverty line during 2004-05 and this implied that the State had nearly 11 per cent of India's total poor population. Of these, tribals were the poorest among all social groups, as is the case elsewhere in India. The State is characterized by certain potentially facilitating features like central location, rich natural resources and relatively less conflict ridden socio-economic political environment. There are a few constraining factors like feudal agrarian relations, absence of historical trade links and in tribal areas subsistence agriculture which has received no real investment in last five decades of State's life.

In the districts Mandla and Balaghat, where the project is being implemented, extent of poverty is higher than that of the State. The profile of the life and livelihoods in two districts (areas where project is implemented) is broadly summarized as under:

Socio-cultural and Climatic – These are mainly tribal dominated villages with heavy dependence on poorly productive agriculture and migration to cities for both agriculture and non-farm labour opportunities. The women share almost equal space in the household economic activities, however, there is prevalence of male dominance within socio-political space. The area generally receive significant amount of rainfall (about 1300- 1500 mm) which supports numerous streams, a few of which carry water for round the year. There is huge proportion of forest area and the pressure on forest resources has been increasing and as a result the forest resources have depleted significantly. However, they still contribute significantly to the livelihoods of the people at least in some parts of the project area. The basic service system like transportation and communication facility and also the livelihoods supporting infrastructure are in growing stage and have significantly improved in the last 5 to 6 years. Both the districts are classified as extremist activities affected though Balaghat is more acutely affected.

Livelihood (Agriculture and Others) - Agriculture is a part of lifestyle than being considered as an economic activity which is based on subsistence cropping system with focus on food crops. Except for a few pockets, where particular communities are into commercial vegetable cultivation, vegetables production is for household consumption requirement. There is very low penetration of modern technologies in agriculture sector - seed replacement rate is abysmally low (up to 18% in Food crops and other in single digit), very few farmers apply fertilizers (avg 17 kg/ha in Mandla and

51 kg/ha in Balaghat¹) whose availability is also an issue. Most small and marginal farmers practice mixed cropping to cover for the various risks involved as most of the cultivation is rain-fed. Thus, most households, having access to a variety of land resources, grow a range of crops. A significant proportion (> than 50%) of the land is highly undulating and prone to erosion during rains and only less than 5% of it is covered under assured irrigation. Livestock is of very short build and bullock's mortality is very high and dairy business remains absent. For the skilled, there are few employment opportunities in industry and service sector, as they have weak presence and thus low absorption potential.

Indicators	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	Balaghat
BPL HH %*	37.43	42	53
Children (7-14 yrs) attending school** - %	75.8	75.2	84.3
Worker's participation rate** - %	42.7	51.9	50.3
Persons without full employment** - %	16.4	19.2	21.7

Source: *www.rural.nic.in, **MPHDR 2007

b. Vulnerabilities

• Household level vulnerabilities

Most rural tribal households constitute of husband-wife and their children. Mostly the aged do not stay with married sons and daughters, however, if weak and physically unfit to tend to their piece of land, they join their sons' family as a dependant.

The farming households own some homestead land varying between 0.25 to 1 acres. The homestead, which is the most attended piece of land (fenced and with good manure application) is used to cultivate maize. A farmer has about 0.5 to 1 ha of land, fragmented and distributed over soil variety and its composition is presented in the adjoining table.

Land category	Area (ha)	Crops
Homestead	0.1 – 0.4	Maize
<i>Bharra</i> (upland)	0.2 – 0.5	Minor millets, niger Upland paddy
<i>Sehra</i> (mid-low/upland)	0.1 – 0.2	Paddy, Maize, Arhar
<i>Moto</i> (lowland)	0.1 – 0.2	Wheat, Gram, Mustard, Als, Pea

The interesting feature of land ownership pattern is that almost all households have each type of land, though the poorer households may have most of their land in the upper reaches, with very little valley land. Valley lands and medium lowlands tend to be most fertile and have higher clay content where as medium uplands tend to be sandy and mildly acidic. The uplands can be gravelly,

sandy and with degraded soil cover due to over grazing and erosion. Thus the distribution of ownership across categories of land on one hand gives access to differentially abled land to diversify and mitigate risk in subsistence farming but at the same time limits investments by the family alone as the efficacy of land and water resource development leads to sub optimal utilization due to spread

¹ Source MP Govt Website

across land parcels. There is a direct correlation of the economic wellbeing of farming household is their ownership of lowland or dual crop land.

Traditionally, women have been a significant contributor in farming activities and there is a gender-based division of labour.²

Women are extensively involved in grain and millet production, seed selection, seedling preparation, applying fertilizers and pesticides weeding transplanting, threshing winnowing, harvesting apart from taking care of livestock. Activities like land leveling, sowing, fencing are common for both men and women but ploughing is carried out exclusively by men. Activities like manure application, transplanting, weeding, hoeing, threshing, drying, carrying head loads of wood and water are done by women. Thus, the tasks carried out by the womenfolk are not only more in number but also involve more time and are tedious in nature. For example- weeding and transplanting involves hours of back-breaking labour. Their working time also spans for a longer duration of the agriculture cycle.

Following list gives an illustration of the division of tasks in agriculture operations -

Operation	Responsibility	Frequency	Hardship
Ploughing	Only Men	Low	High
Harrowing	Only Men	Low	High
Grading of Seed	Mostly Women	Medium	Medium
Broadcasting	Only Men	Low	Low
Sowing Behind Plough	Both	Low	Medium
Transplanting	Mostly Women	Low	High
Hoeing	Mostly Women	Medium	High
Weeding	Mostly Women	Medium	High
Harvesting	Both	Low	High
Threshing	Mostly Women	Low	High
Threshing floor	Mostly Women	Low	High
Winnowing	Mostly Women	Low	Medium
De-husking	Mostly Women	High	Medium
Manure application	Mostly Women	Low	Medium
Irrigation	Both	Low	Medium
Repairing the Bund	Both	Medium	High
Bunding	Both	High	High
Storage	Mostly Women	High	Medium
Cattle House Cleaning	Mostly Women	High	Medium
Milking the Cow	Both	Low	Low
Maize de-shelling	Mostly Women	Low	Low
Cleaning homestead after Maize	Mostly Women	Low	High

(Source: PRA exercise with villagers)

² Different tasks allocated on the basis of socially defined roles of men and women, which are determined by cultural, socio-economic and political factors, is known as gendered division of labour.

This shows that there is a high volume of drudgery in farming work for women and that it also affects their physical health. In spite of it, the fact is that in most cases she is not the “owner” of the land and systems fail to recognize her as a ‘farmer’ – as this title often showered on the male of the household which he merrily tends to usurp.

Nutritional status of women shows vulnerability of women in Madhya Pradesh and this is seen from the fact that body mass of women is well below the national average. The all India status for women with low BMI (body mass index) is 35.6% while that of MP is 41.7%. Considering the fact that women population in Mandla and Balaghat is higher and equal to/higher than male and field study showing that engagement to agriculture by women is significant there is scope for giving them ample opportunity to learn and let others learn for better reproductive health system and family health through nutritional intake in family food consumption through more and varied production.

Most children are enrolled at the village *anganwadi* and primary school. However, then onwards education becomes logistically difficult and expensive in terms of opportunity cost and it is the girl child who is more often at the receiving end when it comes to drop out. Health services have not been able to reach in many parts and it is one of the biggest disturbing factors to the cash flow of the family. Though, wherever they are available, the PHC/APHC/CHC is thronged by people for basic ailments they are cheap and effective. The local quacks and traditional healers also have their relevance in such a scenario.

Indicators	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla			Balaghat		
		Mohgaon	Narainganj	District	Paraswada	Balaghat	District
IMR*	67	84	72	71**	104	84	66
MMR*	269	906	749	310**	730	647	310

*Family Welfare Evaluation Survey 2003, **2009

Indicators	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	Balaghat
Total PDS shops**	16910	337	422
Mortality Rate* (under 5)	89	89	78
Malnourished Children* - %	50.09	52.43	51.31
Per capita Pulses production* - kgs	55.3	18.2	8.1
Per capita food grain production* - kgs	253.1	192.2	132.6
Population per Health Centre*	6645	2720	5695
PHC per lakhs rural population*	2.3	5.3	2.3

Source: *MPHDR 2007; **Department of food and civil supplies website

- **District/state level vulnerabilities**

Mandla and Balaghat have been resource rich and investment poor areas when it comes to infrastructure, resource development and thus affects its utilization. In absence of industrial activities, the primary sector continues to be the most significant employer and contributor to the people's livelihoods. The cultivable area is interspersed with forests and rich green cover and the people have huge dependence on these resources. In fact, Kanha national park lies into both the districts and the entire ecology is heavily under pressure from human interferences.

In agriculture, kharif season is hit by severe drought once in every three years; erratic rainfall is an annual phenomena which people take into their stride. In rabi season, frost attack is common recurrence affecting pulses and vegetables. When life becomes extremely difficult, then migration to urban areas increases many folds. The districts are also classified as extremist activity affected areas and being close to other severely naxal affected areas in Chhattisgarh and being hugely forested they provide a safe haven for such elements. With the socio-economic conditions in the villages not being very promising, there is a high tendency of people moving closer to such causes.

1.3 Context of Social Inclusion and Social Mobilization

As said earlier, one of the key constraints for development of the State is its traditional feudal social relations which have long defined what role a person or family would be assigned to in the economic system. However, the tribal communities have largely remained aloof of this vice though they do have their own traditional divisions of people based on what they do. For example - the *gonds* are the farmers, *baiga* the 'learned' and healer, *yadav*, *vishawakarma* and others have remained the service providers to them. Even here, one would find hierarchy but not as stark as in mainstream *hindu* societies.

The Self Help Groups (SHGs), which are formed around savings and credit, have been one of the effective ways to overcome these hindering factors. It is estimated that more than 3.5 lakhs SHGs have been promoted in the State by Govt. and NGOs. The quality of these SHGs may differential. The focus has been on promoting SHGs but little organized effort has been on promoting secondary/tertiary level people's institutions that could have lent strength to SHGs and provide sustenance to the needs of primary groups.

The Govt., through different programs and schemes, has heavy emphasis on the group based activities including governance, livelihoods, decision making and to enhance the collective agency of women and the poor. A policy (SHG expansion strategy-2007) has been prepared by Government of MP in 2007 to utilize human resources across all sectors and make them more profitable from their livelihood engagements and activities. Although women contribute much to the society in all aspects of life, social and political role of women also suffer because of century old traditions and perceptions and in socialization processes that marginalizes women. Women suffer from violence, have limited or no role in decision making process at family, community and governance level. They suffer because they are given less priority in education and stay at home to tend to family needs. Their isolation from local governance process does not address their developmental needs from issues arising out of health needs, village basic necessities like drinking water, sanitation, infrastructure and others. In matters of rights and entitlements they are subjects as "second citizens" and fail to appropriate government schemes and provisions.

Mandla and Balaghat have been covered apart from other programs under Tejaswini Rural Women Empowerment Program, which focuses in promoting women's institutions in the shape of SHGs, VLC (Village Level Committees) and Federations. In the four blocks covered under the project, about 850 SHGs, 150 VLCs (village level committees) and 2 SHG Federations have been promoted.

Government and NGOs are the promoters of SHGs in MP and Government being the major player so far has the many reports indicate a figure of 3.5 lakh SHGs that have been formed in MP. Government promoted SHGs mainly come from programs and departments like SGSY, DWCD and Tejaswini, DPIIP and MPRLP. Besides, also other departments, Missions or projects those promote SHGs are RGWDM, Forest department etc. It is seen that, in these groups, "beneficiary" mentality and approach is yet to be addressed while tackling the larger issue of the poverty reduction and socio-political empowerment.

Indicators	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	Balaghat
No. of SHGs*	229483	10572	8559

Source: *MPHDR 2007

The key challenges facing this mass mobilization program is to create systems and mechanism to sustain them, ensure greater involvement in governance and providing legitimate space at Panchayat level. As it has happened in other states, the financial empowerment may take some time to happen but social empowerment would precede it. Many women SHG members say that earlier they used to sit at homes but now they are involved in various livelihood activities and have begun to participate in *gramsabha*.

1.4 Context of Financial Inclusion

In most tribal areas, absence of banks and other financial institutions have made the poor dependent on the informal sources of credit delivery. These traders and money lenders, no doubt, do provide an important service to the poor but their conditions are so strangling that poor end up becoming poorer and rarely do come out these traps as a significant economic production systems is influenced and controlled by these agents. The widespread practiced subsistence agriculture has limited scope to create surplus and generate savings. Thus, as soon as the first misfortune a family meets; there is no other way than go to the money lender, thus beginning the vicious debt cycle.

The banks have poor reach out due to low bank branch density (also because of low population density) and even provide poorer access to rural poor as they find it easy to entertain few customers with big pockets than mass of poor customers with a little surplus and savings and credit worthiness. The KCCs could not pick up as many families did not have land title and those who had never came back to the PACSs as there was no intention/incentive of repaying the first loan.

Of the 870 women SHGs promoted by the PRADAN in the four blocks, their cumulative savings has been more than 1.22 crores and the credit generated for the members has been close to R.2.3 crores

in the last four years. A little over 30 SHGs have been linked to banks though the disbursement of funds from the banks to the SHGs is an issue.

Insurance services have not reached in the rural areas, particularly with the poorer families with less cash surplus and asset holding. The life, health or non-life insurance products are unheard of in these areas. The Govt. sponsored schemes like *aam aadmi bima yojana* and *janshree bima yojana* are yet to make significant inroads. The health card scheme of the ministry of labour is yet to be initiated though many families did access the facility of the State govt. sponsored *Deendayal upchayar yojana* for treatment.

Indicators	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	Balaghat
No. of Bank branches*	4273	60	87
Households availing banking services**- %	27.9	17.1	18.1

Source: *Department of Institutional Finance, MP website; **MPHDR 2007

Access to institutional credit and marketing are equally critical for addressing the needs of the poor producers. The present set of interventions in terms of (SHGs) along with micro finance is one of the effective ways of handling this. The experience from a large number of SHGs suggests that these institutions need to be made viable by creating federations and linking SHGs through them with institutional finance. It is essential to ensure institutional support and hand holding over a longer period of time as the concerted and collaborative approach among the line departments and other stakeholders is missing. The following table shows the disparities in use of banking facilities and asset holding across different social categories in MP (Source: Census 2001)

a. Proportion of households using banking facilities (Per cent)			
Population	Total	Rural	Urban
All	27.92	21.1	47.75
SC	19.69	15.93	31.99
ST	13.53	12.1	30.95
Others	35.04	26.86	52.19
b. Proportion of HH having none of the specified assets – radio, transistor, TV, Phone, bicycle, 2/4 wheeler (Percent)			
All	42.15	50.46	17.99
SC	47.11	53.38	26.61
ST	65.66	68.09	36.03
Others	32.81	41.38	14.85

1.5 Livelihood Context

The area is surrounded by dense forest and thus many adjoining villages, basically constituting tribal families, from the main stream. Agriculture is the main livelihood source with significant contribution coming from wage labour and forests (in some area esp. in Mandla). Migration is an accepted fact of life in want of better options within the village. MGNREGS has had negligible impact on migration but it certainly has pushed the prevailing wage rates upwards.

As the traditional livelihood base from forests is declining, there has been an increasing shift by tribal communities towards agriculture and allied activities. Moreover, the pressure on the cultivable land has also increased in recent years and is making demands on the carrying capacity of the land leading to migration in search of alternate employment opportunities. Agriculture, marked with lowest levels of productivity, is the mainstay of the communities. For a significant number of the small and marginal farmers, income from the crop productivity from both the seasons taken together would approximate to a little over INR 10000 per annum from their land holding. With only about 40% to 60 % of the cultivable land currently being put to use that too with primitive traditional practices, there is great potential to increase the food sufficiency and as well as cash income opportunities with the right mix of improved agronomic interventions, change in crop pattern and encouraging commercial farming for cash income.

a. Agriculture and allied activities (horticulture etc.)

Contribution of agriculture (including livestock) in GSDP at current prices stood in 2009-10 stood at 26.97%** in MP economy. Significant rural households are engaged to agriculture and their holding pattern is skewed. The irrigation coverage is dismal (< 3%) in the blocks of Mandla district, where the project is being implemented. The table below depicts the status of irrigation and farm mechanization in the districts:

Indicators	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	Balaghat
Net Sown Area/Total Area - %*	49.0	22.6	27.1
Net Irrigated/Net Sown Area*	37.4	7.8	44.6
Average land holding – ha*	2.2	1.8	1.2
Fertilizer application (kg/ha)	81.37**	15.6	37.6
Tractors per 10 villages*	43.4	4.6	9.1
Electric pumps per 100 operational holdings*	8.6	0.3	3.3

Source: *MPHDR 2007, ** Govt. of India Agriculture Ministry website (2009-10)

An interesting data which establishes this skew is that 59% of small and marginal farmers put together have access to 25.8% of total land. In case of Mandla, 61% of the farmers hold only 21% of the total agriculture land in Mandla (source district statistical handbook)

Fragmentation of Landholdings in Madhya Pradesh, 2000-01:

Marginal (1 ha)		Small (1-2 ha)		Others	
% of holding	% of area	% of holding	% of area	% of holding	% of area
38.6	8.5	26.5	17.3	34.9	74.2

Source: Commissioner Land Records and Settlement, GOMP.

In Balaghat too, the number of small and marginal farmers is significantly high compared to MP. These two segments of farming community constitute significant portion of the rural household and can play a major role in boosting rural economy through intervening of land based farming activities.

Balaghat like Mandla is rice growing zone, paddy covering all most 91 percent of the net sown area. Still, so far as the paddy yield is considered, it is much lower than the all India average. The area coverage in Rabi (< 25%), explains the poor situation of irrigation facility in the district. The average land holding in this area is relatively higher at 3 to 4 acres; however, the quality of the land is not always supportive enough for crop production. Of the total land-holding only about two acres would be suitable for cultivation and the substantial portion is it under single crop cultivation. The rest is barely cultivated on rotation every few years or left fallow.

The principal *kharif* crops are maize and short-duration paddy and the *rabi* crops are wheat, rai and niger. In Mandla, as a matter of practice, paddy is followed by wheat as the second crop and maize is followed by *rai*. In Balaghat, there is very little rabi season cultivation and there is an inclination for paddy even as second crop wherever possible.

The landholding can be classified under three categories depending on soil variety: black, yellow & *murram* and their spread over the village gradient defines the soil texture. While the low lands are black and undulating uplands are of red *murram* variety, the medium upland/medium lowland is of yellow soil. These are put to cultivation depending on specific resources situation in the family and vary from season to season, year to year. The low land and an insignificant proportion of the medium upland is put under second crop cultivation.

Agriculture being the mainstay of family economy, cultivating food crops stands above other type of crops and rice is the main crop in the district both during Kharif and Rabi season. Non food crop during Rabi season is higher while during Kharif crop it is negligible.

Irrigation: Madhya Pradesh is a heterogeneous state situated mostly on the upper watersheds of river basins with poor quality soils of low soil depth and high slopes and some black soils of medium to deep soil depth with flat slopes underlain by impervious hard rock. Consequently the natural recharge is low and despite a moderate rainfall most of the state is in a physically water scarce region. Thus the state comprises the uplands of Central India forming a drainage divide between north, west and east flowing rivers. It has a semi arid upstream topography with all the major rivers flowing outward from the state and lesser potential for natural water storage.

In the project area, the average rainfall being 1300-1500 mm per year and the area is known for "paddy" but exclusively during kharif season. However, because of canal irrigation facility from dams, the south-west areas of both Balaghat and Mandla districts are comparatively better off in terms of agriculture both during Kharif and Rabi crop. Blocks like Waraseoni, Lalbarra, Lanji, Kiranpur and Balaghat (in Balaghat) and Mandla and Nainpur (in Mandla) have more land utilization for food and non-food crops while the tribal dominated blocks like Baihar, Birsia and Paraswada (in Balaghat) and Mohgaon, Ghughri, Narayaganj, Bicchiya (in Mandla) are primarily dependent on Kharif crop. Here, due to lack of irrigation facilities the people are unable to grow second crop.

Major crop yield: In this area, in comparison to the State figures and national figures finds a solacing position where paddy output during 2007-08 and 2008-09 is around 10 quintal per hectare, way below the national average. While national average for rice output is nearly 22 quintal from 1 hectare, continuous thrust needs to be given to improve on this. Interventions like SRI have boosted local productivity, where yield has gone up by 4 quintal on an average. The present yield is 30 quintal/hectare with intervened families and assumption to meet this level needs wider and intense dissemination of technology.

Since agricultural growth is at the centre stage of poverty reduction, emphasis on technology and knowledge driven growth in productivity of crops and allied sectors is inevitable.

b. Livestock

Livestock plays a crucial role in rural life. It is the major source of power, fuel, income, nutrition and source of manure. Traditionally, livestock and livestock production in these localities are subservient to agricultural production. The number and type of animals that are to be kept is determined to a large extent by geographical and social factors. Most cattle and buffaloes are used only for 2-3 months in a year for ploughing and the rest of the time they are only maintained which costs more than the income by its use. Ploughing starts before the monsoon at that time cattle and buffalos are in poor condition due to the lack of fodder. As a result, villagers are affected for the land preparation of agricultural activities. During the monsoon season animals are restricted to certain areas for grazing as a result animals lack proper nutrients for its growth and lose their weight considerably. Hay is the main food and fodder for the cattle. Rise in income will reduce animal problems through tending to them properly with feed and medicine. The other livestock include goat rearing and poultry activities. Pig rearing is found at some places having very limited concentration across district and project locations.

An activity like dairy is a commercial enterprise and needs market and market oriented systems and entrepreneurship. The rural areas, traditionally being used for subsistence farming, keep themselves away from risks of dairy business and in absence of quality feed and vet care facilities, it takes only a hyper motivated person with somewhat deep pockets to get into such a activity.

Indicators	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	Balaghat
Milch animals per household	0.1	0.1	0.5
Drought animal per operational land holding	0.4	0.6	0.8
Number of Milk Production Cooperative societies	3495	1	52
Total Milk Produced 2003-04 (in lakhs kgs)	53880	746	943
Number of vet care centers	2307	48	60
Animals per hospital and dispensary	25817	21001	26804

Source: MPHDR 2007

c. Non-Farm/NTFPs

The legally notified forest area in the state is 95221 sq. kms., which is 31% of the total area of the state. In the two districts of Balaghat and Mandla, the forest area is 52% and 61% of the total geographical area respectively. The forest is mixed type and NTFPs found in the locality are *mahua*, *sal* seed, *harra*, gums, *aonla* and *tendu* leaves. Along with NTFP, tasar sericulture has been identified as a potential activity of the area due to the presence of 'saaj' (*terminalia tomentosa*) trees in large number.

The major challenge to forest management however is the pressure on the forests created by the livelihood needs of those residing in or near them, mainly the tribal households. There are 6 lakh head loaders in the state who draw as much as Rs 250 crores worth of fuel-wood every year, apart from the pressure from livestock and agriculture encroachment. The pressure on forests tends to get aggravated because of the stagnancy in agriculture and the allied sector in the forest-based regions. It is therefore imperative to develop forest-linked farming system that generates additional bio-mass for building up of the soil fertility, thereby reducing dependence on external inputs such as chemical fertilizer and irrigation- the point already noted above. The idea is to make agriculture and forests complementary rather than substitutes for each other in providing livelihood support to the tribal communities in the region. The passage of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Rights) Act 2006 has resulted in a new situation with the rights of the forest dwellers strengthened.

Indicators	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla	Balaghat
Forest Area as % of total geographic area	32	61	52

Source: MPHDR 2007,

1.6 Performance of NREGA in the state

MGNREGS has been a big game changer since its advent owing to its scale, achievements and possibilities that it provides. The local wage rates have been changed more than two times and so have been the impact on migratory pattern. Many development investments have been made possible like large-scale land development (leveling, bunding), dug wells, water harvesting structures and other such works like watershed. In Mandla, for example, apart from other activities, at least 6 wells and 61 ha of land bunding per village have been completed till 2010 under MGNREGS significantly impacting the crop productivity and cropping pattern bringing more areas under paddy cultivation.

As a result of social mobilization, SHG members are able to resolve Gram Panchayat level issues like delayed payment for works done under MGNREGS through petitioning. The SHG members have begun to demand jobs under MGNREGS in project villages under Tejaswini Women Empowerment Project. Active participation has led to deepening of local governance.

Indicators	Madhya Pradesh	Mandla			Balaghat		
		Mohgaon	Narainganj	District	Paraswada	Balaghat	District
Job cards-HH	11,828,319	30,179	26,005	274,968	33,687	46,619	396,074
Investment (Cr.)	3398.27	NA	NA	179.49	NA	NA	182.5
Wage days created (10-11)	219,819,000	409,946	568,467	4,925,222	516,997	525,321	5,923,732
Jobs created/ HH (10-11)	50	NA	NA	70	NA	NA	49
HH with 100 days of wages	183	377	310	3612	724	589	8375

Source: MGNREGS website (26.05.2012)

Though MGNREGS has its own set of issues, which need serious attention like timely payment of wages, transparency in wage payment, smooth bank payment etc., it has the potential to alleviate many problems faced by these communities. It is besieged with several problems. The first is that there is a lack of awareness among the people that they have to place a demand for work to be granted work. So most people remain passive and wait for the Sarpanch and Sachiv to arrange for work. Secondly, there is lack of adequate technical and administrative infrastructure required for carrying out the works as per provisions of the Act. Evaluation, documents like muster, MB and pay orders to banks and then to wage earners account is a tedious task and at each level there are inordinate delays. All in all this leads to disaffection and people do not want to work in the NREGS.

1.7 Existing Livelihood Initiatives and social sector initiatives in the selected area (by the State Government , NGOs and externally aided projects)

The Madhya Pradesh Govt. has promoted many special efforts, apart from regular schemes, livelihoods for the rural poor – two of prominent ones being the World Bank supported DPIIP and DFID supported MPRLP. They together cover 25 districts, Mandla being one of them which is covered by latter. The Tejaswini Rural Women Empowerment Project, covering six districts, focuses on social mobilization of 180000 women into 12000 SHGs.

Tejaswini Women Empowerment Project: Tejaswini Women Empowerment Project, supported by IFAD, works in 6 district of MP with a target of 12000 SHGs and approximate 180000 rural women has given emphasis to strengthen capacity of women and for this has initiated village level capacity building through awareness build up and training and has focused its attention to reduce poverty through institutional strength. For this, bank linkages and mobilizing of own funds and its utilization has been the prime focus. Besides, linkages have been created with government schemes. Women strength and capacity has been strengthened and taken to high levels in areas of rights and entitlements. Both districts Mandla and Balaghat are covered under the program.

NGOs have been a significant partner of the Govt. schemes in promoting SHGs and livelihood activities. The SHG members are also into promotion of livelihood activities like SRI, vegetable cultivation, using the SHG platform at the same time enhancing women's capacities. SRI has been

well accepted by the State Agriculture department and more than 10000 ha been planned under the technology in the 2012 kharif, in Mandla and Balaghat district put together.

1.8 PIA's prior experience in developing the prototype for proposed interventions

Most families PRADAN begins working with, start with focus on around stabilization of the main food crop. In most locations food crops taken up are paddy, wheat, maize and some minor millet. As the food insecurity reduces PRADAN helps families diversify into other cash crops. Many families take up vegetables on the homestead in addition to food crops and some pulses as field crops.

Food Crop Stabilization: Details of farmers supported by PRADAN in 2011

Interventions	SHGs involved	Families	Farm land covered (Ha)	Per family coverage in sq. m
Paddy Crop:				
<i>Improved Practices</i>	6,517	42,245	7,368	1,744.11
<i>System for Rice Intensification (SRI)</i>	4,157	18,613	2,765	1,485.67
Wheat (Improved Practice)	2,550	25,515	5,005	1,961.74
Maize (as food crop)	1,576	12,607	1635	1,297.18
Millets (Improved Practice)	580	5,224	1773	3,393.83
Net	8,333	69,768	15,468	2,217.06

Source: PRADAN Annual report 2010-11

Another major area of intervention is around diversification into non-cereal cash crops. The intervention required is around motivating the families to take-up non-cereal crops, which have higher possibility of returns but require greater level of technical skills. Once families agree to take-up the crop, much of PRADAN's efforts go in helping them pickup production skills, understanding basic principles of functioning of fertilizers and pesticides, identifying good quality inputs, etc. Both the SHG member & her spouse participate in these events.

Crop Diversification: Details of the crops supported by PRADAN in 2011

Interventions	SHGs involved	Families	Farm land covered (ha)	Per family coverage in sq metre
<i>Pulses</i>	3,824	22,964	2,992	1302.79
<i>Oilseeds</i>	2,672	23,213	4,880	2102.27
<i>Vegetables</i>				

Kharif (Monsoon)	5,549	34,814	1,760	505.55
Rabi (Winter)	4,097	29,337	1,699	579.18
Summer	1,156	6,614	211	318.95
<i>Other crops</i>	1,149	7,808	180	230.55
Net	7,739	58,482	6892	1178.50

Source: PRADAN Annual report 2010-11

In Balaghat and Mandla, PRADAN has experience of promoting SRI over last three years with exciting results. In Mandla, results achieved by tribal farmers with adoption of SRI over last three years have been as under:

Paddy Productivity (tonnes/ha)	Average	Modal	Traditional
2009 (n=111)	5.7	3.8	2 tonnes per ha
2010 (n=302)	6.7	4.2	
2011 (n=100)	6.5	4.5	

Source: PRADAN Annual report 2010-11

We work with more than 1 lakh families on agriculture interventions and integrated natural resource management. The experience on their areas with similar agro-climatic and social conditions shall be of value in implementing the project in Mandla and Balaghat.

1.9 Basic PIA Information

1	Name of PIA	PRADAN (Professional Assistance for Development Action)
2	Legal Status (<i>NGO / Network NGO / CBO / Producer Co. / Section-25 Co. / Pvt. Co/ Other</i>)	NGO
3	If Network NGO, number of partners being supported?	NA
4	Registration No. & Date of Registration	Society Registration act (1860) XXI S/13434 dated 18.03.83
5	Name of Donors in the past 3 years, if any (give max3)	1. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) 2. Axis Bank Foundation 3. European Union
6	Name with Size (Budget in INR) of relevant projects handled in the past 3 years (give max 3)	a) Developing farm based livelihoods in endemically poor regions of India- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-Rs. 38.77 crores. b) Synthesising Rural Employment Needs and Poverty Reduction in Backward Regions- European Union_ Rs. 6 crores c) Demonstration of Appropriate Technology under ATMA, Govt. MP - Rs. 2.46 crores
7	Annual Revenue of PIA for the most recent audited financial year	Rs 550,393,770 for FY 2010-11
8	List ongoing projects (max 3.) and their Size (INR)	d) Developing farm based livelihoods in endemically poor regions of India- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation-Rs. 38.77 crores. e) Synthesising Rural Employment Needs and Poverty Reduction in Backward Regions- European Union - Rs. 6 crores f) Seeding Robust Livelihoods with Women Farmers in Endemically Poor Tribal Regions of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh; supported by Axis Bank Foundation, for Rs 23.88 crores.
9	Completion of last project (MM/YY)	Watershed Project through MPRLP in Dindori District, MP in 09/10
10	Total value of assets available with the PIA?	Rs 175,894,439 (as on 31/03/2011)
11	Experience of working with (i) Women SHGs/Groups (Y/N)- 1(a) in Appraisal Sheet (ii) Agriculture based livelihoods with existing women groups (Y/N)- 1 (b) in Appraisal Sheet	PRADAN has extensive experience of working with women self help groups and on agriculture based livelihoods with women's groups in some of the poorest pockets in the country – detail is provided in sections below.
12	In the proposed project, what % of the implementation will be undertaken by existing capacities and what % will be leveraged from external community based organizations in the project area? – 1 (d) in Appraisal Sheet	<i>Existing – 73 %</i> <i>External -23 %</i>

13. Human Resource:

Name	Sex (M/F)	Position	Education qualification	Relevant Experience (Years + Sectors)
For Balaghat District				
Dolagobind Panda	M	Team Leader	M. F. Sc	6
Pandit Arjun Jadav	M	Executive Projects	MA - Economics	3
Mohd. Arif	M	Executive Projects	M.Sc.- Agri	3
Vishal	M	Executive Projects	M.Sc - Agri	3
Preeti Upadhyay	F	Executive Projects	B.Sc.- Agri	4
Nidhi	F	Asstt. Fin. and Acc.	M.Com	3
2 no. Additional	-	SMS Agriculture	-	-
2 nos. Additional	-	Asstt Agriculture	-	-
For Mandla District				
Sameer Kumar	M	Team Leader	PGDFM	9
Abhishek Pachori	M	Executive Projects	MBA – RM	4
Sumendera Punia	M	Executive Projects	PGD – RM	2
Abhishek Tiwari	M	Executive Projects	PGD – RM	1
Pankaj Mall	M	Executive Projects	M.Sc - Agri	2
Ajay Singh Bhadoriya	M	SMS – Agriculture	M.Sc - Agri	2.5
Mahendra Rathore	M	SMS – Agriculture	M.Sc - Agri	3
Vivek Chourasia	M	Asstt. Fin. and Acc.	B.Com	7
Umesh Soni	M	Asstt. Agriculture	BA	3
Rajendra Sahoo	M	Asstt. Agriculture	B.A.	3
100 no. additional (for both dist.)	-	CRPs	-	-

14. Please attach following as Annexure -

(i) Last three years audited financial statements

(ii) Description of training resources and infrastructure available with PRADAN

PRADAN has prepared lots of training materials for use in agriculture extension. Among many these are:

- Flip charts on various activities which includes SRI paddy, Chilly, System for wheat Intensification, horticulture watershed, etc.,
- Big charts and Phads
- Films on natural resource management
- PRADAN is working with support of **Digital Green on creating appropriate short community made video films** which are screened back to the community. These are based on various topics like nursery raising, transplanting pest management, storage and marketing etc. Based on the season and demand from the community it is screened in the SHGs for technology dissemination.
- Appropriate simulation games are used for creating excitement and interest in training
- Resource books on various crop cultivation

Chapter 2: Detailed intervention strategy and phasing

2.1 Objectives of the project

Vision of Success

The project aims at creating significant number of skilled, knowledgeable and confident woman farmers in the area who individually use family level resource sustainably, for food security and stable livelihoods. At the same time making they support each other to make area as “development zone”. This means:

- Large number of women farmers produce one or more crops based on sustainable / efficient use of natural resources
- Farmers are well connected to markets through their appropriate organizations like SHGs/clusters/Villages Level committees so that they can buy competitively priced inputs for high production as well as strong output market linkages to ensure good price realization
- Sufficient volumes are produced to create a vibrant agro-economic ecosystem which attracts a complete set of stakeholders from across the agricultural supply chain
- There are significant number of Village resource persons who support women in making the above happen and are guided and controlled by the women farmers
- Suitable agricultural prototypes are developed for replication in the area with lesser drudgery for the women farmers

Goals

The project aims to achieve following goals:

- (i) Enhanced technical knowledge of women as farmer in modern agriculture
- (ii) Productivity enhancement
- (iii) Get secure, sustainable farm based livelihoods
- (iv) Reduced migration from families
- (v) Adopt agriculture as a suitable sustainable effective livelihood.

Objectives

The projects would intervene with 8,000 farmers in the districts of Mandla and Balaghat and seek to achieve enhanced family incomes by Rs.10,000-15000 for 60% of participant women (including money value of enhanced food sufficiency) through

- Crop intensification of paddy, maize, wheat and gram and diversification into pulses and commercial vegetable farming
- Protective irrigation from harvested rainwater to 950 ha of cropland during *kharif* season and 380 ha during *rabi*
- Enhanced production of cereals by 100% with the intervened families
- Multi-cropping including long-tenure plantations of fruit trees and timber plants in 300 ha as Agro horticulture and Agro forestry

Guiding Principles

The key guiding principles at the time of project implementation would be:

- Focus on women farmers along with the male farmers in their family
- Utilize the opportunity created by community institutions – SHGs, VLC and SHG federation
- Make the project a community led initiative and participatory

- Adhere to enabling approach

Values and Non-Negotiables

- Enabling approach
- Do not take any decisions on behalf of the community
- Equity
- Dignity of families to be upheld
- Integrity among staff and project participants
- Transparency in decision making and all transactions

2.2 Project Strategy

The project seeks to:

- Build on the social capital existing in the form of 850 women SHGs, 170 Village level Committees (VLCs); and two SHG Federations formed by PRADAN under the IFAD assisted Tejaswini Programme, in the two districts of Mandla and Balaghat;
- Build, systematize and learn from the initiatives of agricultural interventions carried out in earlier years like SRI, vegetable cultivation, and trials in homestead ponds (*jalkunds*)
- Work with Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) – around 70 panchayats and 100 villages in village level planning and thereby leveraging funds under MGNREGS for land and water infrastructures for supporting improved crop cultivation
- Women's ownership of assets planned under the project – like ponds, equipments, Implement Banks, etc would be created with formal ownership of women

2.3 Community Institutions Architecture

Past experience in forming/nurturing women based groups and experience of promotion of agriculture based livelihood promotion with them: PRADAN's community mobilization approach emphasises on women, to take charge of their lives to attain an enhanced sense of well-being. In alignment with this approach we organize women into small groups (SHGs) which are self-managed. The vision is to create space for multiple institutions to emerge in and outside the village as part of the interventions to carry out various roles as required. Predominantly two kinds of institutions are visualised – SHGs and associated tiers like VLC/cluster associations and SHG federations; and producer collectives around one or a set of commodities and services.

SHGs, their VLC/cluster associations and federations are an essential part of all our social mobilisation initiatives. They form the foundation of community engagement, especially with the women. Generally, SHG are at the hamlet level, and the VLCs are at village level and the apex federation is at Block level. One of the primary functions of the SHGs, who meet once a week, is to provide space for savings and credit. The VLCs are also solidarity forums in the local area. The VLC meetings are held once in a month and they deal with issues like excessive alcoholism, family issues such as second marriage, desertion of wife and so on. They also help them unite against any poor delivery of services from the Panchayat and Block. These groups become the platform for planning and implementation of livelihood activities. Till Mar'2011, 15166 women SHGs have been promoted in about 4500 villages across 7 states. Various farm based and non farm enterprise activities have been taken up with over 150,000 families of which about 90% are members of PRADAN promoted SHGs.

In the district of Mandla and Balaghat, a total of 850 SHGs have been promoted with a total membership of more than 10000 women. These SHGs have been associated in 170 VLCs (village level committees) and in two block level Federations. About 4500 of these SHG members have participated in farm based livelihood activities involving paddy, pulses, wheat and vegetables.

Best practices adopted by women groups promoted by PRADAN: In Mandla and Balaghat districts, the key intervention points have been introduction of SRI in paddy and also other improved practices for better paddy production. Introduction of vegetable cultivation, particularly in kharif, has been another intervention to initiate farmers into commercial farming. In rabi season, pulses are the key crops and those who have irrigation facility grow wheat.

Agriculture technologies introduced and adopted by farmers in the last few years:

Crops	Practices adopted by farmers
Paddy (SRI and Improved)	Seed testing, Seed treatment, Nursery preparation, Line sowing/spacing, early transplanting, fertilizer, Pest Management
Wheat (incl. SWI)	Seed testing, Seed treatment, spacing, fertilizer application
Pulses	Seed testing, Seed treatment, spacing, pest management
Vegetables – kharif	Seed Treatment, Nursery preparation and treatment, spacing, transplanting, Staking (in tomato), fertilizer, pest management
Vegetables – rabi	

The agriculture team consisting of subject matter specialists, community service providers (CSPs) are entrusted with extension responsibility. The CRPs play the role of confidence building, perspective development and also hand holding support. Apart from conventional means of extension like training, exposure visit, we also use ICT for creating appropriate short community made video films which are screened back to the community. These films are on various topics like nursery raising, transplanting pest management, storage and marketing etc. Apart from these, flip charts, *phads*, leaflets etc, are also used for training and planning. Farmers meet are organized on regular basis – both pre and post crop season to plan and reflect on the experiences.

Strategies undertaken in the past in enabling access to credit and markets through the women groups/federations: As a strategy, the SHGs are supported to link with mainstream financial institutions like banks for-term first savings and then credit facilities. This also provides for financing immediate and long-term livelihood investments, apart from meeting their consumption and contingency needs.

In the two districts, the status of SHG bank linkages is as under:

District	Total SHGs (PIA promoted)	SHGs with Bank a/c	SHGs graded under SGSY	SHGs credit linked	Loan Amount	Subsidy Amount
Mandla	425	235	88	32	807992	197500

Balaghat	462	331	2	2	30000	2000
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It must be pointed out that external credit linkage in these districts has been a serious issue. The large scale credit linkages promoted under SGSY have largely been a failure as repayment is very poor also in many cases, the quality of groups that were provided loan, was not very sound and thus banks as well as SHGs have not had positive experiences of credit facility. Banks have become reluctant to support and finance the SHGs and even the SHGs

Community Engagement Process: The initial discussion will take place creating awareness about the project and its components by organizing village level events in audio-visual aids like posters, pamphlets would be used. This event will be attended by both women as well as men from the identified villages for appropriate understanding about the project. As a follow up, the details of the project, its components and planning process shall be shared and discussed in the VLC meeting.

Further, **Family based livelihood plans** will be prepared taking into account the resources and skills available with the family and also technical feasibility. The planning exercise also includes crop choices, knowledge and support requirements and also investments on resource development. This exercise is done by trained women leaders of SHGs (CRPs). The SHGs identify these CRP, who after intensive training, provide training and other support to other SHG members.

The family based plans are then put together to work out the consolidated village plan which indicates the total input requirements, common services and engagement of service providers etc. and discussions on collective procurement of inputs. The SHGs and VLCs take up periodic discussions, facilitated by CRPs, about the progress of the crops, issues being faced and support requirements.

Strategies to ensure project implementation by community processes including use of community resource persons and their capacity enhancement: By design, as the CRPs are identified by SHG members themselves in a group meeting, they become aware of their functions and responsibilities.

The SHGs and VLCs play key role in planning, implementation and also monitoring of the program activities and processes. At the beginning of cropping season, the SHGs and VLCs plan for different activities and then at the end of cropping season, they again sit together to analyze what worked well and what needs to be modified and how. Also, the PEC (Project Execution Committees), a body created by VLC for project implementation, reports to the VLC every month about the progress and income and expenditure. The VLC meetings decide work prioritization, review the progress to understand the best practices and ways to scale it up.

Systems and checks put in place to ensure that the CRPs are accountable to/managed by Women institutions: Another idea seeded at the time of CRP identification is that as their services are directly being utilized by farmers, they themselves should monitor and should also pay for it to the extent possible. Though it takes sometime before it begins to happen in practice and PIA staff supports the farmer's groups in review and setting processes to review the work of CRPs.

Plans to enable women institutions to put in place a transparent self monitoring and review mechanism internally for program improvement: The learning generated and distilled through various discussions as mentioned above and also few of the technical analysis available with PIA will be fed back to the women farmers in the SHG and VLC meetings. The farmers in this area generally plan only for one season and depending on the climate conditions and crop performance they decide for the next season. This gives an opportunity to build a mechanism to incorporate the learning and best practices from one season to the next as a running system. The achievements that are replicable and success stories can be fed back to farmers in SHGs and VLCs for discussion, suitable adaptation and adoption. Also, short video clips and photographs of the best practices will be shot and displayed to the villagers through audio-visual aids/prints/leaflets.

Building federations at different levels for sustaining collective action: The project envisages two kinds of federal institutions – (i) The SHG federations; and (ii) Member-owned Producer collectives. There are already two SHG Federations promoted by PIA one each in Mandla and Balaghat and another such Federation is in the stage of formation. These federations shall play the role of overall monitoring and also create linkages for its member groups and positive synergy with other stakeholders in the project context in local area. The producers collective would come as and when the production volumes of different commodities go up and also the demand for related services emerges – it would also take up the mandate of developing input and output linkages.

Role of Community professional and community resource person: The SHG/VLC members shall identify from their villages one person with certain skills set like basic mathematical ability, writing and communication skills, acceptable to all/most families and one who is willing to extend himself/herself for supporting others in and around the village as community service providers. The CSPs would take up the role in extension and service delivery, capacity building of farmers, logistics for input and output linkages. The experienced SHG members act as Community Resource Persons (CRPs) and play the role for need arousal, motivation, experience sharing and help other SHG members plan and adopt.

Control of CBOs over the fund flow mechanism: The VLC, which is the general body of SHG members in a village, has the key role in project implementation. They would form a small group known as PEC (Project Execution Committee) which shall have representation of all SHG members and other stake holders within the village. The VLC would have a bank account operated by three PEC members to handle part of the project funds earmarked for their village. While the VLC would approve the plans, prioritize works, monitor the progress on monthly basis, the PEC would implement the works on the ground, prepare the necessary documents, make expenditures and present the progress in the VLC meetings. The VLC would approve of all expenditures in the village under the Project. The VLC would send the receipt payment statement and work progress report to PIA every month. The above system would be adopted in few identified villages in year 1 and based on the experience gradually it shall be expanded to other villages with due modifications over the project duration of three years.

Chapter 3 Detailed Program Components

3.1 Detail of Proposed Action

The districts are a paddy growing areas and maize and paddy put together constitute the key staple diet, so any plan aimed at food sufficiency and nutrition has to take into account at these two crops. As mentioned earlier, the farmers have had successful experience of increased production in paddy using SRI and other improved practices. Under the project it is aimed to build on the successful experiences of the farmers in paddy to reach to larger number of farmers and also the include other crops looking at the entire crop basket that would not only lead to food sufficiency but also other households needs on a sustainable basis, making agriculture a profit-making business beyond a means to sustain.

With this perspective, the following crop intensification and diversification activities have been planned:

- Promote SRI and improved paddy practices
- Trials on SRI method of growing local coarse millets and wheat
- Improved practices of pulse/oilseed production:
- Introduce vegetable crop cultivation for surplus generation
- Set up nursery entrepreneurs

This area is situated mostly on the upper watersheds of river Narmada, Wainganga and other tributaries with poor quality soils of low soil depth with high slopes and some black soils of medium to deep soil depth with flat slopes underlain by impervious hard rock. Thus, soil conservation becomes an important agenda for increased productivity and sustainable farming practices need to be adopted by farmers. The following activities have been planned, thus;

- Farm ponds in medium and low lands
- Plantation on farm bunds
- Improved composting
- Pilots on improved biogas units

It has been experienced that heavy input driven agriculture may lead to crisis like situation when the weather becomes adverse and the farmers begin to lose money, also affecting soil adversely because of chemical imbalance. The farmers in this area have mostly been using less fertilizer owing to host of reasons. Thus, few trials have been planned to further this practices in a scientific manner and create demonstrations:

- Trials on sustainable natural farming suitable to local context
- Visits of experts/ experienced persons for evolving suitable practices
- Training and exposure of families

Target population: The project is being implemented in the poorest villages in four poorer blocks of the two districts. In these villages, women farmers belonging to small and marginal farmers will be the project clients of which ST and SC families will be predominant (> 70%). Focus will also be on members of SHGs. A total of 8000 such families have been targeted in the project.

Phasing: The project shall focus on existing crops and introducing new practices in them – food crops, pulses, millets and vegetables to begin with. With success activities would be intensified with resource development activities, introduction of drudgery reduction tools and other equipment. As production increased there shall be demand for product management and market support. Capacity building shall be running activities which would be organized simultaneously for all activities as the need of the activity and demand from the farmers. The detailed activity implementation schedule is shown in the chapter 5.

Scalability: The project will generate enough experience for elements supporting adoptability and adaptability in case of women farmers for improved agriculture as livelihood. The basic idea is to ground prototypes for successful scaling-up. During the project PRADAN will use the intervention areas as “success nuclei” to spread the process with other participating NGOs on Tejaswini. Discussions have been initiated with other NGOs and Govt. agencies to promote SRI to other villages in the district and similarly other successfully experiences shall be taken up for scale up.

Drudgery Reduction: The women farmers are affected quite a lot because of the drudgery involved in the agricultural operations. This also affects their health. The following activities have been planned by which efforts would be made to reduce drudgery for women:

- Simple individual equipments for drudgery reduction – Small hand held devices are to be promoted which can be readily used by women like markers, weeders, *hasiya*, etc...Also these equipments would be such that the women can access it on their own beyond project duration.
- Implement banks in the SHG/Village Level Committees – Few of the larger tools and equipment that cannot be managed efficiently at household level, shall be procured and managed by SHGs/VLCs. Trainings shall be provided to operators for use, repair and maintenance. Appropriate usage mechanism including payment system will be established during the project period

Plans for awareness generation of women's rights and entitlements under different schemes related to her identity as “women farmer”: Agriculture is an occupation of the household which clearly entails involvement of both men and women. However, the mention of ‘the farmer’ i.e the *kisan* evokes the image of a male, toiling away in his field with his bullocks and a woman rarely forms a part of the image. Consequently all the planning, program, schemes and technical support for agriculture is provided to this *kisan* i.e the male. However, in doing so, the development of a major portion of the human resource is completely neglected.

Having recognized this acute disbalance against the women, the project plan and processes would address the inequities in the following manner-

- To ensure almost 100% participation of women in all programs and schemes though males would also be one of the participants in decision making and training events

- Sensitization of stakeholders on the issue of Gender discrimination in SHG, VLC and gramsabha meetings
- Increase role of women in decision making and income through various initiatives
- To bring the agriculture services at the farmers doorstep and technical support at village level to ensure women participation.
- Utilization of homestead for commercial vegetable cultivation
- Introduction of drudgery reduction tools and equipments and with techniques like line sowing that enable the use of weeders
- Technical support and extension services to be provided at the level of Self Help Groups - market information, credit facilities.

Interventions in value chain development: Paddy and Maize the two principal food crops, apart from minor millets are use for consumption. The crops that could be marketed are pulses and oilseeds. The value chain investments shall be made for different crops depending on the production levels achieved. Farmer's collectives are planned to take it on behalf of farmers. Grading, sorting of products shall be made as per market demand. Vegetables are the other range of products that would be taken to the market once volumes begin to produce. Processing of farm produce have not been planned as yet but may be initiated if such opportunity would arise.

The farmer's collective shall comprise of all women and it shall design its systems such that door step village level service is made available which would be suitable to women farmers. Also the women would be in the governance and involved in decision making role.

Incremental Income: It is expected that income would be in the rage of Rs.10000-15000 per anum for at least 60% of the participant families. Though the returns from project activities would differ depending on the activity participation for the 8000 women farmers. The expected incremental income would be as under:

- Food sufficiency up to 12 months implying Rs.4000 to 8000 savings per annum.
- Cash Income of up to Rs.10000 to 15000 cash income for 60% families from vegetables, boundary plantation, pulses and other crops
- Cost saving of up to Rs.2000 for deploying sustainable agronomic practices

The following chart shows the approximate number of families for it possibility of incremental income from the project activities:

Families	Approximate incremental income per unit standard area per farmer (in Rs.)						
	Paddy	Vegetables	Pulses	Maize	Plantation	Others	Total
1000	5000	6000	3000	1000	1000	2000	18000
1500	5000	6000	3000	1000	1000		16000
1500	5000	6000	3000	1000			15000
1500	5000	6000	3000				14000
1500	5000	6000					11000

1000	5000						5000
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Apart from the above, there would be additional returns from resource development and up-gradation of skills and input/output linkages which will accrue over years to come.

Community Contribution: It is planned to raise community contribution in few of the activity components namely – seepage pits, composts and bio-gas, crop intensification and diversification, sustainable farming. Apart from these, the community shall be encouraged to pay for services of CSPs. The contribution would come in different ways:

- Up front cash – The family can deposit the contribution amount as decided in the VLC meeting to the VLC account before the work starts.
- Cash in installment - If the family is not able to pay the amount upfront, then they can pay the amount in different as the work progresses from their own wage payment or other means in that proportion.
- Labour – The families with whom the activity is done, if their family members work in that activity, they would not take the part/full wage payment till the point their share of contribution amount is completed.
- Kind – For agriculture operations, contribution for farm inputs can come from farmers own inputs.

The contribution amount collected shall be deposited with VLC along with its records.

3.2 Convergence with MGNREGA and other line departments:

MGNREGS provides one of the biggest opportunities for resource development for tribal and poor families by developing private lands and also creating irrigation facility, apart from developing common infrastructure. A significant progress has been made by in the last five years- for example in Mandla district land leveling has been completed under MGNEGS of about 1 lakh families.

The convergence from MGNREGS and other such opportunities has been planned for expanding the successful prototypes from the project. For this engagement has to be made at two levels – (a) VLC/Gram Panchayat and (b) Block/district. At the VLC level, once people realize the opportunities provided by the scheme they would demand for it in the gramsabha and include the activities in the shelf of projects. Corresponding effort has to be made at the block and district for getting the technical sanction and administrative and financial approvals for the same once the plan gets approved the gramsabha.

Under the project, the idea is to create prototypes for seepage pits in the low lands and water conservation in homestead land in this area. These structures are very suitable for small and marginal farmers, as irrigation wells have their own limitations being costly and need energy driven water lifting devices with running costs. These can be replicated on large scale under MGNREGS and

the as a first step such structures would be created using MKSP funds in 2-3 patches of a few villages. When other farmers from the same village and also other villages would see their use and benefits, they would also demand for them. The demand then would be facilitated to be channelized from MGNREGS. The technical and administrative staff would also be exposed to the idea so that a favorable climate is developed for scaling it in large numbers in the area. It is expected that an investment to the tune of Rs.100 lakhs can be attracted from MGNREGS and other such opportunities through convergence over the next three years.

3.3 Training and Capacity building of communities

Capacity Building: Capacity building is core to the successful adoption of crop practices and inputs and sustaining the outputs over long period of time beyond project duration. Various types of training and exposures are planned. They are:

- Training and exposure of farmers and CRPs-within district- Training and exposures have been planned for effective adoption of technology. 15000 such events are planned.
- Training and exposure of farmers and CRPs-outside district- Training and exposures have been planned to get exposed to effective suitable technologies which are in use in areas other districts in the state. A total of 1500 such events have been planned.
- Training and exposure of farmers-other state- Some technologies are in use in other states which can be used with some modifications or readily adopted. To tap that knowledge 500 such events have been planned.
- Annual Women get together: Annual gathering of women farmers have been planned to build on learning and experience Annual gatherings of women farmers have been planned where they will get positively exposed to experiences and also set agenda for the coming year where the focus of the all involved need focus. 6 such events have been planned with three in each district.

Apart from the above, various planning and review meetings at the SHG and VLC level also have elements of capacity building for the participant members. The events within district would be mainly around crop technology, skill development and processes. These events would have interactive discussions, lecture by experts using posters, flex, audio-video aids and the on-field skill demonstrations would be organized at farmer's fields. The events outside district and state are mainly for exposure to new ideas and building perspectives. The methodology would be a mix of classroom sessions and video sessions and live demonstration of the activity long with interaction with farmers and experts.

3.4 Training and Capacity building of Community Professionals

Training and Exposures of the CSPs: The CSPs play a critical role in extension services, taking the knowledge and firmly setting it up with the farmers on their context. The CSPs, thus need constant training and exposures in process, communication and crop technology, handling of tools and equipment to enhance their knowledge and skills. A series of trainings and exposures have been planned for CSPs right from the stage of planning, on-going implementation phase and also post seasons review. They are provided training on documentation, yield estimation process.

Chapter 4 Implementation Arrangements

4.1 Implementation Plan

The following steps have been planned for implementation activities:

Inception and Community mobilization for the Project

- Baseline Survey capturing basic details of farmers and status of crop practice and farmers knowledge on sample basis
- Project Inception Workshop at district and block level to create awareness about the project objectives, activities, implementation structure
- Introductory discussion in SHG and VLC meetings and in subsequent meeting discussion on implementation with role clarity of various actors; Family and village level planning steps; PEC (project execution Committee) formation, CRP selection

Planning

- In few of the villages, detailed planning exercise would be organized covering each household and also the commons to reach at a consolidated village development plan. This would cover the areas where convergence may be required. The plan would be considered as final only after approval in the VLC and it would also be presented in the gramsabha for wider influencing.
- At this stage, the plans shall be handed over to the PEC for implementation. The PEC would execute the approved plans and share the progress in the VLC meeting every month.
- In other villages, specific crop based plans would be prepared along with other components like sustainable farming techniques, farm mechanization etc. The plans in these villages would be implemented by PRADAN and the SHGs and VLC would have roles in crop planning, identification of families, review and monitoring.

The detailed implementation plan for those villages, where detailed planning would be conducted, is presented in the next section.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STEPS (Post Village wise Family Level Plan Preparation)			
Steps	Actors	Roles/Responsibility	Output
Approval of the plan at VLC and presentation in Gramsabha	VLC	Discussion of the plan and giving its approval	Assurance from GS for following up of the plan execution and convergence support
	Sarpanch/Sachiv/ward members	Coherence with the Overall village development perspective and plan	
	PIA staff	Ensure further knowledge dissemination and clarity	
Prioritizing of individual plans to be executed under MKSP (for 3 years) at VLC	VLC (VLC rep and other members)	Decide on the plans to be taken; Schedule the plan/work days/	List of families with which to initiate work matching with identified work (as per DPR)
	Sarpanch/Sachiv	Support for the plans through convergence	
	PIA staff	Assist the SHG members in prioritizing through Well Being Ranking results, technical benefit optimization	
Submission of application form by prioritized families	Family	Agreement to plan	Documented interest of concerned family and approvals by VLC and informed to sarpanch
	PEC (CRP members)	Help family in filling up application form	
	VLC and Sarpanch	VLC approves the application and if possible gets it approved by Sarpanch also	
	PIA staff	Assist SHG members in prioritizing- WBR results/technical benefit optimization	
Monthly Work schedule and prepare budget	VLC member	Deliberation and decision; Norm setting	Monthly schedule with clear roles and responsibilities
	PEC Member	Estimation of labour and funds	
	PIA staff	Facilitation and Technical Assistance	
User Group training	PIA staff	Impart training to User Group	Enhanced capacity for prototype implementation, maintenance and use in farmers
	SHG members	Participant	
Indent by VLC to PRADAN	PEC	Prepare indent	Indent prepared and submitted
	VLC	Submit Indent	
	PIA staff	Verify Indent and payment	

Steps	Actors	Roles/Responsibility	Output
Work Initiation	PEC	Get the work initiated, measurement of progress as per design; Maintain muster and other documents	Work Initiated and Completed
	Family	Be an active participant and willing contributor	
	PIA Staff	Technical-Administrative guidance and supervision	
Fund transfer	PIA Staff	Ensuring funds ,Fund Transfer	Fund transfer to VLC
	PIA Accountant	Deposits of cheques in VLC account and inform the same to PEC	
	PEC	Inform the signatories for withdrawal of the fund	
	Signatories of VLC	Withdraw fund with a certification from PIA	
Weekly reviewing	PEC	Discuss on emerging issues; Trouble shooting	Ensure regular and transparent work flow
	PIA staff	Facilitate on issues solution	
Payment	PEC	Document maintenance and transaction management	
	VLC members	Receive and relevant documents to be filled	
	PIA staff	for the first time at least to ensure the stability	
Monthly Progress and report	VLC	Analyse planned Vs. achieved; Plan for next month,	Planning and reviewing
	PEC	Report (UC/MB/muster roll) submission to PIA and VLC/issues faced	
	PIA staff	Facilitate	

PIA - PRADAN

PEC – Project Execution Committee (A 10-12 member representative body of all SHGs in one village)

VLC – Village Level Committee (General Body of all SHG members in one village)

Role of different actors in implementation: It is envisaged that experienced SHG members would play a major role as community resource persons (CRPs) in spreading and expanding the development action. Other people from the community would get involved as CSP in extension and support services. The key role of CRP, CSP and the project staff is mentioned as under:

Role of CRPs: The experienced SHG members shall act as Community Resource Persons, and play the role for need arousal, motivation, experience sharing and help other SHG members plan and adopt.

Role of CSPs: The SHG members shall identify from their villages one person with certain skills set and is willing to extend himself/herself for supporting other in and around the village as service providers. The CSPs would take up the role in extension and service delivery, capacity building of farmers, logistics w.r.t. input and output linkages

Role of Project Staff: Need Arousal, Implementation Support, Motivation, Technical Support, Network/Linkages, Facilitation, Documentation, Advocacy

Geography and Yearly Distribution: The project activities would be implemented in 200 villages of Mandla and Balaghat districts. However, given the scope and range of activities, not all of them shall be initiated in all the villages simultaneously. The table below presents the year wise plan of different activities:

Activity	Unit	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Village level Intensive Planning	Nos.	25	30	10
Seepage Pits in Lowlands	Nos.	360	240	200
Water Conservation in home stead + mid-uplands	Nos.	200	400	400
Appropriate low cost water lifting devices	Nos.	166	34	0
Appropriate low cost water conservation devices	Nos.	230	100	70
Bund Plantations of Tree Crops	Farmers	800	2000	200
Improved Composting Techniques	Nos.	3740	2260	2000
Pilots on Improved Technique of Bio-Gas	Nos.	94	56	50
Large-scale SRI/Improved paddy	Farmers	2000	2000	-
Extension of SRI principles to other crops	Farmers	647	553	300
Crop diversification & multi-tier cropping	Farmers	100	200	200
Vegetable crop cultivation as per local context	Farmers	1250	750	-
Nursery entrepreneurs - poly house, shade net	Nos.	195	155	50
Sustainable Natural Farming	Farmers	172	500	328
Drudgery reducing simple individual equipments	Nos.	900	700	400
Implement Banks at SHGs and/or VLCs level	Nos.	38	42	20

The above year wise plan indicates approximate number of participant families for each of the activities and depending on experiences they may be changes.

Chapter 5 Implementation schedule

The implementation schedule has been broken down into steps and schedule for year 1 i.e. 2012-13 is illustrated on a *gantt* chart below:

Activity	M1 Apr	M2 May	M3 Jun	M4 July	M5 Aug	M6 Sep	M7 Oct	M8 Nov	M9 De c	M10 Jan	M11 Feb	M12 Mar
Staff deployment												
Staff orientation/ training												
Finalization of villages												
Identification of SHG members												
PEC formation, training												
Community exposure												
Family/Village level planning												
Seepage Pits in Lowlands												
Water Conservation in homestead+mid-upland												
Appropriate low cost water lifting devices												
Low cost water conservation devices												
Bund Plantations of Tree Crops												
Improved Composting Techniques												
Pilots on Improved Technique of Bio-Gas												
Large-scale SRI/Improved paddy												
Extension of SRI to other crops												
Crop diversification & multi-tier cropping												
Vegetable crop cultivation												
Nursery entrepreneurs - poly house, shade net												
Sustainable Natural Farming												
Drudgery reducing equipments												
Implement Banks at SHGs and/or VLCs level												

At the end of year 1, based on the experiences the schedule of activities for subsequent years shall be prepared.

Chapter 6 Results Framework - Activities, Output, Outcome

Project: Enhancing Farm Livelihoods of Women SHGs in Mahakaushal Region of Madhya Pradesh

Project Objectives	Enhance family incomes by Rs.10,000-15000 for 60% of participant women with year-long food sufficiency by:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crop intensification of paddy, maize, millets and diversification into pulses and commercial vegetable farming • Protective irrigation from harvested rainwater to 1200 ha of cropland during the kharif season and 800 ha during rabi and summer • Enhanced production of cereals by 100% with the intervened families • Multi-cropping include long-tenure plantations of fruit trees, and timber plants in 300 ha 	
Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
1. Organize exposure visit for project SHG members to villages/farms practicing modern farming methods 2. Explore alternate farming systems and generate family based crop plans 3. Identify and train CRPs to function as community based extension agents. 4. Demonstrate pilots using project support 5. Help families' access working capital from SHGs, banking sector and other sources. 6. Develop supply channels for inputs and services. 7. Introduce modern practices in existing crops and new crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 60% of all families take up improved agriculture, ▪ 1200 ha area covered by intensive farming, ▪ 30% families cultivate a diversify into pulses and vegetables with improved practices ▪ Trained CRP support implementation of the farmer's crop plans ▪ Set up 400 nursery entrepreneurs ▪ 60% families are able to access required working capital ▪ 60% of families able to access required inputs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High adoption rates of new practices promoted the project ▪ 60% project families report over 100% increase in yields of cereal crops ▪ 60% project families achieve year-long food sufficiency from own farmland. ▪ 60% project families have diversified their cropping pattern beyond the main food crop, i.e. paddy to pulses and vegetable cultivation ▪ Expertise and services of a cadre of over 100 trained CRPs being utilized by farmers effectively

Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
8. Exposure to innovative farm systems –like multi-tier crops, sustainable farming, bio-gas, bund plantations, composting 9. Explore for demand by families for such activities in the family level crop plans 10. Pilot these activities with few interested farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30% of farmers' pilot these innovative farming options Additionally trained CRPs in these villages to support the farmers Adoption of Bio gas (200 hh) and Compost technique (8000 hh) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reported increased soil moisture in the farms Increase in cropping intensity Additional source of income created on same farm land Other families in project villages adopt few of the successful pilots
11. Household-level planning in identified patches of few villages to develop farmland and harvest rainwater 12. Demonstrate initially with MKSP support and later mobilize finances to implement the plans, including people's own funds. 13. Identify and train CRPs to help implement the plan and monitor the progress 14. Implement on-farm rainwater harvesting and land development plans - farm ponds, <i>jalkund</i> etc. 15. Introduction of low-cost water lifting and water conservation devices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50 village level patch-wise plans with budgets. Rs. 1 crore mobilized from convergence - MGNREGS and other such opportunities. 50 CRPs trained and deployed to support the implementation. 500 Ha land treated for improved rainwater husbandry. 800 farm ponds and 1000 <i>jalkund</i> structures created 5% small farmers use low cost water lifting, conservation devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant reduction in farming risks in hamlets where land and water development activities have been implemented Intensification of agriculture (<i>in terms of cropping intensity, diversification</i>) Other families in the project villages begin to adopt some of the introduced practices Govt. functionaries and PRI leaders commit to make more investments from other Govt. schemes for similar land and water activities
16. Explore with women SHG members about the areas that increase the farming drudgery 17. Introduce appropriate low cost hand-held tools and other equipments 18. Establish implement banks at SHG/VLC level within the village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2000 women farmers directly benefit from such tools and equipment introduced under the project At least 10% reduction of cost of cultivation (as cost of labour) in crops like paddy, maize etc... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 40% women report less drudgery in farm operations With use of tools, equipment and machines, responsibilities for these tasks are shared by men also

Chapter 7 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

7.1 Web based MIS and real time input-output monitoring at various levels:

PRADAN uses a basic computer based MIS to capture on-line plans and achievements for each staff and team across the organisation. The MIS would generate report about the total farmers supported under each of the activity in a given time period.

Farmer level crop data is collected almost every week in the cropping season. This data is collected from field office at block level about each family and entered at field/district level office wherever the internet facility is available. The analysis and is done at all the levels – block, district, state as well as central level. The analysed data is fed back through a review system, described below, to the appropriate node so that it supports in decision making.

The project specific data would be drawn from manual reports as well as web- based MIS so that progress of project activities can be reviewed and also review reports can be prepared for analysis and decision making.

7.2 Review Mechanism

The Review for the project would be conducted at two levels – within PRADAN and in the community and both have different systems as described below:

Within PRADAN: The monitoring and learning systems in PRADAN have been designed to facilitate learning and feedback to help personnel improve and to ensure quality and quantum of work against plans. Each project team would meet monthly to report performance against plans and make plans for the next month. A State Management Committee (SMC) comprising of all team leaders in the State and the State Programme Director supported by functional heads from head office and sectoral anchors shall review performance once in three months. There is, thus, a great deal of emphasis on interactive review.

Within the Community: Much of the operational review of the project shall be done at the SHG and VLC level, in their weekly and monthly meeting respectively. The gramsabha will be tried to become active stakeholder in review the progress of the activities by inviting/sharing of the progress review. These community institutions will organize themselves, with the facilitative support of the PIA staff, to run the processes for monitoring and review in terms of inputs, processes and outputs and impact. The farmers collective shall also keep track of the business data and present it to its governing board members and also the SHG federation.

The project aims at empowering the community to take charge by way of certifying the utilization of funds as per the plans. The community will certify by passing resolutions to that effect. This is similar to the concept of community social audit system, which has been found to be an effective method to ensure the authenticity and transparency of such a large project.

Chapter 8 Budget

The project plans to invest in crop production, include sustainable agricultural practices, develop a cadre of community based resource persons and help women farmer access markets. The financial investments are proposed around these activities as described below:

Investments at the women farmer household:

- Capital investments required for improving water availability for cropping, support alternative tree based livelihood, support for crop diversification. *These are in the nature of pilots and creation of success nucleus.*
- Investments required to develop suitable scalable improved sustainable agriculture practices
- Investments for farm mechanization which reduces women' drudgery in farming operations and sustainable farming
- Investments towards aggregation & disaggregation building linkages with markets

Investments required for building capabilities of poor people, including costs for developing a cadre of local community persons.

Direct cost of project personnel involved in engagement with community is budgeted as support for mobilisation and community facilitation. This includes staff salaries, their travel and overheads. Details of per person costs are provided in the detailed budget table. Monitoring, documentation and dissemination of learning and building reflection within the project has been provided as per norms under similar projects. About 2 % of the total is budgeted for integration, oversight and audit purposes. These include part cost of central and state office. This is in the line item organizational overheads.

The program investments towards water control and access is proposed under the project as demonstration pilots, 26 % of the proposed investments is planned to be leveraged with MGNREGS. Given the processes unleashed the investments mobilized under MGNREGS would be much more, however under the project only commitments are taken. The Capacity building expenses as a percentage of total is 17 % of the Project Cost.

The MKSP budget component analysis is provided in the accompanying table. The proposed project seeks support of Rs.16,289 per women-farmer under the project out of which

MKSP Component Analysis	of total	Rs./family
Capacity Building Component in MKSP Component	17%	2482
Program Costs	68%	11116
Mobilisation & Community Facilitation	15%	1940
Organisational Overheads	2%	388
Monitoring, Documentation	2%	363
Per Family MKSP Contribution		16289
Contribution in Project Budget	65%	

Rs.388 or 2 % if for the organizational overheads. NABARD's Tribal Development Fund has a budgetary provision of Rs. 30,000 per family. National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) also talks about Rs. 15,000 to 20,000 capital subsidy apart from Rs. 7500 per family towards capacity building. In addition it also talks about providing 5% of the total allocation towards administrative expenses. Similarly the proposed capital subsidy is Rs. 11116 per family much lower than unit costs for similar activities under NRLM, NABARD (for WADI, TDF – Rs.35,000) and Tribal Welfare (Family Oriented – Rs.30,000).

The detailed budget is presented in following page along with quarter-wise plan for year 1.

Table : Detailed Budget for MKSP (Rs. In lakh)														
				Physical						Financial MKSP component				
No	Particulars	Unit	Number	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Unit Cost	Project Total	MKSP	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Other sources	Community
A	Household Investments													
A1	Water Control & Access													
A1.1	Seepage Pits in Lowlands	Nos.	800	200	430	170	27,925	223	112	27.9	60.0	23.7	89	22
A1.2	Water Conservation in Homestead+mid-uplands	Nos.	1000	230	450	320	10000	100	90	20.7	40.5	28.8	0	10
A1.3	Appropriate low cost water lifting devices	Nos.	200	95	90	15	3000	6	6	2.9	2.7	0.5	0	0
A1.4	Appropriate low cost water conservation devices like sprinklers, drip etc	Nos.	400	100	215	85	3000	12	12	3.0	6.5	2.6	0	
	Sub-total							341	220	54.5	109.7	55.5	89	32
A2	Improvement in Soil Health													
A2.1	Bund Plantations of Tree Crops	Per Family	3000	800	2000	200	5850	176	75	20.0	50.0	5.0	0	101
A2.2	Improved Composting Techniques	Per Pit	8000	1500	4000	2500	1200	96	64	12.0	32.0	20.0	0	32
A2.3	Pilots on Improved Technique of Bio-Gas	Per Unit	200	32	100	68	20000	40	38	6.1	19.0	12.9	0	2
	Sub-total							312	177	38.1	101.0	37.9	0	135
A3	Crop Intensification & Diversification													
A3.1	Large-scale SRI/Improved paddy	Per Trial	4000	2000	2000	0	10440	418	80	40.0	40.0	0.0	0	338
A3.2	Trials on extension of SRI principles to other crops like kodo, kutki etc	Per Trial	1500	450	850	200	1500	23	23	6.8	12.8	3.0	0	0
A3.3	Support to for diversification & multi-tier cropping	Per Trial	500	100	200	200	2000	10	5	1.0	2.0	2.0	0	5
A3.4	Trials in different vegetable crop cultivation, according to local context	Per Trial	2000	800	1200	0	2000	40	30	12.0	18.0	0.0	0	10
A3.5	Support for Nursery Entrepreneurs - poly house, shade net etc	Per Person	400	150	200	50	6000	24	22	8.1	10.8	2.7	0	2
	Sub-total							514	159	67.9	83.6	7.7	0	355
B	Pilots in Sustainable Agriculture													
B1	Trials in Sustainable Natural Farming according to local context	Per Trial	1000	100	600	300	5000	50	38	3.8	22.5	11.3	8	5
B2	Visits of Experts to develop appropriate rainfed package for the area	Per day	150	30	85	35	6000	9	9	1.8	5.1	2.1		0

Table : Detailed Budget for MKSP (Rs. In lakh)				Physical						Financial MKSP component				
No	Particulars	Unit	Number	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Unit Cost	Project Total	MKSP	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Other sources	Community
B3	Trainings and Exposures of Participant Families to places where this work is happening	Per Person	300	128	125	47	3000	9	9	3.8	3.8	1.4		0
	sub-total							68	56	9.4	31.4	14.8	8	5
C Farm Mechanisation for Drudgery Reduction														
C1	Simple individual equipments for drudgery reduction and improving farm management	Per Person	2000	900	700	400	500	10	10	4.5	3.5	2.0		0
C2	Implement Banks to be managed by women SHGs and/or VLCs	Per Bank	100	18	60	22	100000	100	100	18.0	60.0	22.0		0
	sub-total							110	110	22.5	63.5	24.0	0	0
D Fund for Promotion of Innovation and Experiments														
D1	Fund for Promotion of Innovation and Experiments	Is	1	0	0.5	0.5	200000	20	20	0.0	10.0	10.0		0
E Capacity Building														
E1	Training & Exposure of Community	per woman	8000	2500	3500	2000	1500	120	120	37.5	52.5	30.0	0	0
E2	Annual Women Farmer Get Together for Sharing Learnings & Solidarity	per event	6	2	2	2	200000	12	12	4.0	4.0	4.00		
E3	Training & Exposure of CRPs	per person	160	45	80	35	8000	13	9	2.5	4.5	1.96	4	
E4	Honararium to Community Resource Person	per person	160	45	80	35	45000	72	58	16.2	28.8	12.6	14	
	Sub-total							217	199	60.2	89.8	48.6	18	0
F Support for Accessing Markets														
F1	Subsidising transportation costs for few lots to new markets	per lot	200	20	120	60	20000	40	40	4.0	24.0	12.0		
F2	Collection, Grading, costs of ensuring marketable lots at village/cluster	per lot	200	20	120	60	20000	40	40	4.0	24.0	12.0		
F3	Collection Infrastructure - Buildings, Weighing balances, etc	per centre	4	1	2	1	125000	50	50	2.0	25.0	23.0		

Table : Detailed Budget for MKSP (Rs. In lakh)				Physical						Financial MKSP component				
No	Particulars	Unit	Number	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Unit Cost	Project Total	MKSP	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Other sources	Community
F4	Setting up Market Information Systems at Cluster level	per cluster	6	2	2	2	300000	18	18	3.0	9.0	6.0		
	Sub-total							148	148	13.0	82.0	53.0	0	0
G Mobilisation & Community Facilitation														
G1	Staff Salaries - 8 personnel @ Rs 25,000 per month with 10% yearly increment	per staff	8	8	8	8	993000	79	59.6	18.0	19.8	21.8	20	
G2	Salaries of 2 Project Coordinators @ Rs 35,000 per month with 10% yearly increment	per staff	2	2	2	2	1390200	28	21	6.3	6.9	7.6	7	
G3	Agri SMS 4 nos. one for each block @15000 each with 10% yearly increment	per staff	4	4	4	4	595800	24	18	5.4	5.9	6.5	6	
G4	Asstt agriculture 4 nos@ 8000/month with 10% yearly increment	per staff	4	4	4	4	317760	13	10	2.9	3.2	3.5	3	
G5	Asstt Accounts and MIS 3 nos. @ 8000/month with 10% yearly increment	per staff	3	3	3	3	317760	10	7	2.2	2.4	2.6	2	
G6	Office & Admin Costs @ 15 % of salaries							23	17	5.2	5.7	6.3	6	
G7	Travel @20% of salary							31	23	6.9	7.6	8.4	8	
	Sub-total							207	155	46.9	51.6	56.7	52	0
H Monitoring, Documentation														
H1	Audio Visual Recording of Project Learnings		10	2	5	3	200000	20	20	4.0	10.0	6.0		
H2	Workshops for dissemination of project learnings		6	1	2	3	50000	3	3	0.5	1.0	1.5		
H3	Systematic yield estimation studies		30	6	12	12	20000	6	6	1.2	2.4	2.4		
	sub-total							29	29	5.7	13.4	9.9	0	0
I Organisational Overheads								31	31	7.8	15.5	7.8		
	Grand Total							1997	1303	325.9	651.4	325.9	167	527

Quarterly Plan for the year 1 (2012-13)

Table : Quarterly plan for year 1			Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Total for the year 1	
	Particulars	Unit	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
A	Household Investments											
A1	Water Control & Access											
A1.1	Seepage Pits in Lowlands	Nos.	10	1.40	-	-	80	11.17	110	15.36	200	27.93
A1.2	Water Conservation in Homestead+mid-uplands	Nos.	-	-	-	-	100	9.00	130	12	230	20.70
A1.3	Appropriate low cost water lifting devices	Nos.	40	1.20	20	0.60	20	0.60	15	0.45	95	2.85
A1.4	Appropriate low cost water conservation devices like sprinklers, drip etc	Nos.	-	-	30	0.90	70	2.10	-	-	100	3.00
	Sub-total		-	2.60	-	1.50	-	22.87	-	27.51		54.48
A2	Improvement in Soil Health											
A2.1	Bund Plantations of Tree Crops	Per Family	750	18.87	50	1.26	-	-	-	-	800	20.12
A2.2	Improved Composting Techniques	Per Pit	290	2.33	200	1.61	1,010	8.12	-	-	1500	12.06
A2.3	Pilots on Improved Technique of Bio-Gas	Per Unit	-	-	-	-	32	6.08	-	-	32	6.08
	Sub-total		-	21.20	-	2.87	-	14.20	-			38.26
A3	Crop Intensification & Diversification											
A3.1	Large-scale SRI/Improved paddy	Per Trial	-	-	2,000	39.67	-	-	-	-	2000	39.67
A3.2	Trials on extension of SRI principles to other crops like kodo, kutki etc	Per Trial	-	-	300	4.50	150	2.25	-	-	450	6.75
A3.3	Support to for diversification & multi-tier cropping	Per Trial	-	-	100	1.00	-	-	-	-	100	1.00
A3.4	Trials in different vegetable crop cultivation, according to local context	Per Trial	-	-	600	9.00	200	3.00	-	-	800	12.00
A3.5	Support for setting up Nursery Entrepreneurs - poly house, shade net etc	Per Person	10	0.55	80	4.37	60	3.28	-	-	150	8.19
	Sub-total		-	0.55	-	58.54	-	8.53	-	-		67.61

Enhancing Farm Livelihoods of Women SHGs In Mahakaushal Region of Madhya Pradesh

Table : Quarterly plan for year 1			Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Total for the year 1	
	Particulars	Unit	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
B	Pilots in Sustainable Agriculture											
B1	Trials in Sustainable Natural Farming according to local context	Per Trial	-	-	72	2.74	28	1.06	-	-	100	3.80
B2	Visits of Experts to develop appropriate rainfed package for the area	Per day	-	-	20	1.20	10	0.60	-	-	30	1.80
B3	Trainings and Exposures of Participant Families to places where this work is happening	Per Person	20	0.60	40	1.20	50	1.50	18	0.54	128	3.84
	Sub-total		-	0.60	-	5.14	-	3.16	-	0.54		9.44
C	Farm Mechanisation for Drudgery Reduction											
C1	Simple individual equipments for drudgery reduction and improving farm management	Per Person	200	1.00	400	2.00	300	1.50	-	-	900	4.50
C2	Implement Banks to be managed by women SHGs and/or VLCs	Per Bank	-	-	12	12.00	6	6.00	-	-	18	18.00
	Sub-total		-	1.00	-	14.00	-	7.50	-	-		22.50
D	Fund for Promotion of Innovation and Experiments											
D1	Fund for Promotion of Innovation and Experiments	ls	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-
											-	
E	Capacity Building											
E1	Training & Exposure of Community	per woman	400	6.00	600	9.00	1,100	16.50	400	6.00	2500	37.50
E2	Annual Women Farmer Get Together for Sharing Learnings & Solidarity	per event	-	-	-	-	1	2.00	1	2.00	2	4.00
E3	Training & Exposure of CRPs	per person	10	0.55	18	0.99	12	0.66	5	0.28	45	2.48
E4	Honararium to Community Resource Person	per person	45	4.05	45	4.05	45	4.05	45	4.05	45	16.40
	Sub-total		-	10.60	-	14.04	-	23.21	-	12.33		60.39

Table : Quarterly plan for year 1			Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Total for the year 1	
	Particulars	Unit	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
F	Support for Accessing Markets											
F1	Subsidising transportation costs for few lots to new markets	per lot	-	-	6	1.20	10	2.00	4	0.80	20	4.00
F2	Collection, Grading, costs of ensuring marketable lots at village/cluster	per lot	-	-	6	1.20	10	2.00	4	0.80	20	4.00
F3	Collection Infrastructure - Buildings, Weighing balances, etc	per centre	-	-	-	-	2	2.00	-	-	1	2.00
F4	Setting up Market Information Systems at Cluster level	per cluster	-	-	-	-	1	1.50	1	1.50	2	3.00
	Sub-total		-	-	-	2.40	-	7.50	-	3.10		13.00
G	Mobilisation & Community Facilitation											
G1	Staff Salaries - 8 personnel @ Rs 25,000 per month with 10% yearly increment	per staff	8	4.50	4	4.50	4	4.50	4	4.50	8	18.0
G2	Salaries of 2 Project Coordinators @ Rs 35,000 per month with 10% yearly increment	per staff	2	1.58	1	1.58	1	1.58	1	1.58	2	6.3
G3	Agri SMS 4 nos. one for each block @15000 each with 10% yearly increment	per staff	4	1.35	2	1.35	2	1.35	2	1.35	4	5.4
G4	Asstt agriculture 4 nos@ 8000/month with 10% yearly increment	per staff	4	0.72	2	0.72	2	0.72	2	0.72	4	2.9
G5	Asstt Accounts and MIS 3 nos. @ 8000/month with 10% yearly increment	per staff	3	0.51	1	0.51	1	0.51	1	0.51	3	2.0
G6	Office & Admin Costs @ 15 % of salaries		-	1.30	-	1.30	-	1.30	-	1.30		5.2
G7	Travel @20% of salary		-	1.74	-	1.74	-	1.74	-	1.74		6.9
	Sub-total		-	11.69	-	11.69	-	11.69	-	11.69		46.76

Table : Quarterly plan for year 1			Quarter 1		Quarter 2		Quarter 3		Quarter 4		Total for the year 1	
	Particulars	Unit	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial	Physical	Financial
H	Monitoring, Documentation											
H1	Audio Visual Recording of Project Learnings		-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4.00	2	4.00
H2	Workshops for dissemination of project learnings		-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0.50	1	0.50
H3	Systematic yield estimation studies		-	-	-	-	6	1.20	2	0.40	6	1.20
	Sub-total		-	-	-	-	-	1.20	-	4.90		5.70
I	Organisational Overheads											
			-	1.94	-	1.94	-	1.94	-	1.94		7.8
	Grand Total		-	50.17	-	112.12	-	101.80	-	62.00		325.90