

Project for Promotion of Large Scale Tasar Sericulture Based Livelihoods under Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) in Andhra Pradesh

Introduction: The Central Silk Board, Ministry of Textiles, Govt. of India, the Apex organization for promotion of sericulture in the country and PRADAN, which has been promoting Tasar sericulture based livelihoods among marginalized communities for over two decades, have been collaborating to transfer improved technologies, establish linkages and built sustainable people's collectives in Tasar sub-sector to benefit over 15,000 rural households in the past 10 years. These efforts were supported initially through a pilot project under UNDP and subsequently up-scaled through Special SGSY Projects with assistance from MoRD in Jharkhand and Bihar. In recent years, NABARD and the office of the Tribal Welfare Commissioner, Govt. of Jharkhand has also contributed to fuel for the growth of the activities.

The Project: The above initiatives have amply demonstrated the livelihood potential of Tasar sericulture especially for Tribal communities. The demand for accessing Tasar based livelihoods is now clearly perceptible in the rural areas. Building on this current context, the Central Silk Board and PRADAN have come up with the idea of undertaking multi-state ventures to reach out to a large number of rural households and create impact on a significant scale both in terms of livelihood creation at the family level and unleashing sectoral growth in Tasar sericulture. This idea was discussed with the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India during 2011 and followed by series of discussions on the issue. The MoRD has agreed for the proposal of the CSB to formulate projects for considering financial support under the Mahila Kisan Sasatikaran Pariyojana (MKSP) as a logical extension of the early phases of intervention.

Accordingly, CSB formulated six projects under direct co-ordination for tasar development for the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, Chattisgarh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. Of these proposals, Project Approval Committee in its meeting held on 12th July 2012, observed that the SRLMs of AP and Bihar have organizational readiness to handle MKSP projects. It was decided that the AP and Bihar tasar projects would be sanctioned by the respective SRLMs and sent to MoRD as part of their Annual Action Plan (AAP) of livelihoods promotion. Accordingly, Empowered Committee of MoRD has approved tasar component under Annual Action Plan (AAP) for Society of Elimination of Rural Poverty (SERP), Govt. of A.P, the PIA vide letter no. K-11011/91/2012/MKSP/NTEP/AP dt. 01.03.13.

Project Objectives: Major objectives of the projects are –

- 1) to create sustainable livelihoods for marginalized households, in various activities of Tasar sericulture and farm based interventions,
- 2) to expand the scope of livelihoods through Tasar sericulture during and post-project period and
- 3) to mobilize families in new clusters of the project districts through organizing women members in to Self-Help-Groups, building their capacities for self-management and supporting families to build their livelihood vision. This mobilization would act as the base for further expansion of the tasar based livelihood initiatives beyond the project period.

Key Project Activities:

- To strengthen the existing SHGs and clusters and orienting them to livelihood activities,
- To promote functional activity groups across the Tasar silk value chain,

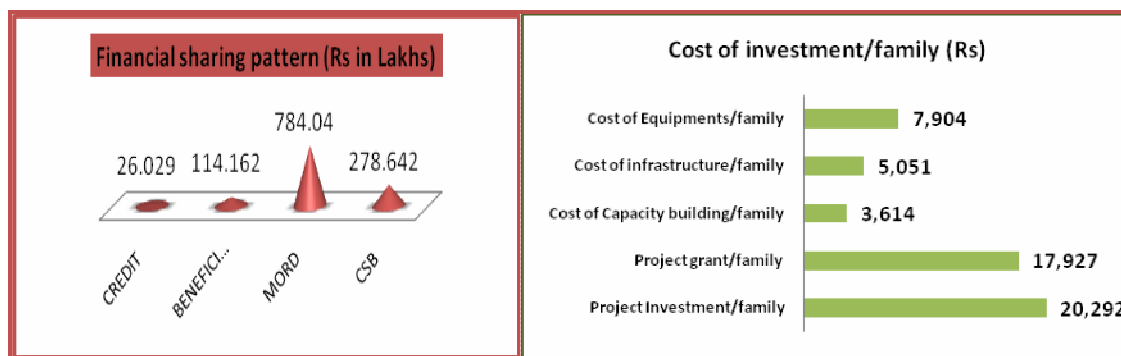
- To promote District / Block level aggregations (formal or informal) of the primary groups, to enable the producers to sustain their initiatives,
- To build capacity of producers, equipping them with inputs/ machines, create assets such as seed production units, host tree plantations, reeling units, sorting-grading storage centres,
- To set up Tasar Cocoon banks that would ensure fair price to the silkworm rearers against their produce and to set up Silk Yarn banks to stabilize yarn prices and create alternative marketing mechanisms,
- To support producers to adopt improved technologies and methods in tasar culture and other alternative livelihoods with focus on women,
- To promote a cadre of community based service providers to provide hand holding assistance and linkages for credit and market for the participating producer families.
- To promote and nurture suitable producer organisations (cooperatives or producer companies as per the new Act) to provide sustainable systems for services to the project participants,
- To undertake activities pertaining to documentation of processes, impacts and for wider dissemination of experience.

Project Area:

Project Districts	Project Implementing Agency	Project Beneficiaries		
		Tasar-Direct	Tasar-Indirect	Grand Total
Khammam, Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and East Godavari	SERP	3407	2521	5928
Districts: 5, Mandals: 18, Villages: 109				

Project outlay and sharing pattern:

MORD	CSB	Project grant (lakh Rs.)	Credit	Beneficiary	Total Cost (lakh Rs.)
784.040	278.642	1062.682	26.029	114.162	1202.873
65.2	23.2		2.16	9.49	100%



MoRD has considered the projects based on the project grant from both MoRD and CSB at 75:25 ratio, in view of the cap on the per participant grant under MKSP. However, the project investments includes beneficiary share in form of labour and locally available material and credit

from formal and informal sources towards working capital for private graineurs and yarn converters.

Investment on Equipment, training and common assets per family:

Investment/ Family (Rs.)			Total investment/ family	Total project grant/ beneficiary
Equipment	Training	Common assets		
7,904	3,614	5,051	20,292	17,927
25.34	17.26	16.19		

Project output:

Block plantation raised (ha.)	Forest plantation regenerated (ha.)	Basic Seed Production (dfis)	Commercial seed production (Lakh dfis)	Cocoon production (lakh)	CRPs promoted (No.)	Raw Silk Prodn* (MT)
250	1750	0.5	6.750	217.86	83	46.264

** during the project period of three years*

Project Outcome:

- Building backward & forward linkages and self sustaining institutions across the value chain,
- Creation of large pool of technical & entrepreneurial capacity for the sub-sector,
- Many `passive` rearers would become `active` due to better linkages and market support leading to attracting youth to the sub-sector,
- Production and availability of Basic and commercial seed locally,
- Conservation of host plants across the landscape.

Fund Flow Mechanism:

1. The SRLM & the PIA, SERP would receive funds from the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India.
2. CSB & SERP will enter into an MoU and CSB will release its share annually based on annual physical targets on approval of AMC and submission of utilization certificate as per CDP guidelines for XII Plan.
3. The PIA will implement the project with help of the Field Implementing Agency- Kovel Foundation. The PIA- SERP will in turn release both MoRD and CSB share to the FIA.
4. The FIA would transfer the funds to the respective district level team and the team will maintain separate books of accounts for this fund.
5. Each activity group would have a bank account through which they will receive the fund required and make expenditure on the basis of physical and financial plan, every month.
6. The PIA would transfer the funds after thorough assessment of the indent received from activity groups and would ensure to maintain cash book, stock book and ledger book at village level.

Project Management: A **Review Committee** constituted at State level with Secretary (RD) of the state as Chairman and the Mission Director, SRLM as convener with participation from CSB and DOS of the concerned state and other line departments would monitor and periodically review the project.

State Level Technical Project Support Group (STPSG) headed by the Commissioner of Sericulture of the State with Project Officer nominated from CSB as convener would recommend the activities to be implemented from time to time for necessary release of funds by SRLM to the Project Implementing Agency. This Group would also constitute sub-groups for beneficiary selection, joint field visits, establishing functional linkages wrt to key inputs etc. DOSs shall nominate an officer to coordinate the issues related to this project with CSB.

A **State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC)** headed by CEO or State Mission Director, SRLM of the concerned state will review project level physical and financial progress with participation from DOS, CSB, other Line Departments and stakeholders.

On the lines of Special SGSY Projects, a Project Management Board (PMB) will be proposed to be constituted to be chaired by the Member Secretary, CSB at the project level to discuss the progress and also decide on mid-course corrections, if required.

Project implementation structure:

- Project would be implemented in the existing social mobilization area,
- Additional SHGs would be formed to cover all the target families,
- Intensive training would be given to SHG members on agriculture to ensuring food and nutritional security,
- Different type of technical and organization training would be provided
- The project would be anchored at the village node through forming an activity group.
- The Group would be supported by CRP to assist in the implementation.
- The group would plan, implement & monitor the progress
- All the financial transaction would takes place through group's account
- These hamlet level organizations would be aggregated to form producers' collectives at the block level or geographical spread.
- The SHGs would be aggregated to clusters and federations
- PIA's role would be more towards capacity building, planning, implementation and management, and building systems and processes to implement and monitor the program smoothly.

Roles & Responsibilities:

Central Silk Board (CSB): Being the Coordinating Agency, shall coordinate with MORD in fund release, monitoring, mid-term review and mid-course corrections, if required. CSB also ensures timely fund release of its share to PIA besides extending required technical support in training personnel involved in project implementation (Trainers Training Programme), identification of the Consultants/ Resource persons/ Trainers for the various training programmes, finalizing the

training material/modules, supply of entire nucleus seed and basic seed. It shall also coordinate with State Sericulture Department and disease monitoring besides overall management at project level. Project Management Board (PMB), chaired by the Member Secretary, CSB and convened by the Project Coordinator, will decide on overall project management aspects including revisions, if required. CSB would also finalize the composition and ToR for the PMB. CSB also facilitate dovetailing the CDP scheme in coordination with DOS to bridge the gaps, if any. The Project Coordinator will coordinate all project related issues with the Ministry of Rural Development, Central Silk Board & its nested units and PIA/FIA besides other line departments. PMB will also suggest on the innovative components to be incorporated under the project within 5% of the project grant by proposing to SLMC or utilizing the savings, as the case may be. Project Officer has been nominated from the field office of CTR&TI i.e., REC, Bhadrachalam in the state, would coordinate the required technological inputs in pre-cocoon sector (from field office of CTR&TI, Ranchi or the main institute), seed sector (in consultation with BTSSO, Bilaspur) and in post-cocoon sector (from field/ Zonal office of CSTRI, Bangalore or the main institute). The Project Officer will provide technologies for adoption under the projects in consultation with the institutes concerned besides assist in programming, implementing and supervision of the and report specific feedback to the SLMC, STPSG and PMB, for reviewing and planning future strategies for implementation, in coordination with the Regional Office of CSB, SRLM and the Department of Sericulture. CSB will also take disease containment measures in association with DOS, PIA and other stakeholders. It would also plan and train various categories of project participants under ISDS directly or involving PIA concerned.

Department of Sericulture (DOS): State Level Technical Project Support Group (STPSG) would be chaired by the Commissioner of Sericulture of the Project State, which would advise FIA/PIA on the additional requirements, dovetailing of schemes, up scaling etc. The Group would also discuss on dovetailing/ converging other schemes to upscale and also to improve income augmenting efforts besides suggesting revisions if any to PMB. DOS shall help in front loading the project by making available the infrastructure and resources for nucleus and basic seed rearing, cocoon storage and cocoon conversion to the community besides nominating an officer to coordinate in implementation of the project directly and also by involving its District Officers in the project districts. Besides, DOS shall actively involved in beneficiary identification/ base line survey wherever necessary, Purchase Committee, training of stake holders, extension support, joint verification, marketing, wherever possible.

State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM): State Level Monitoring Committee (SLMC) will be headed by CEO/Mission Director, SRLM involving CSB, DOS, PIA/FIA, Dept. of Tribal Welfare, Forests, Agriculture and others, as the case may be. CEO, SRLM would also facilitate constitution of Project Review Committee headed by the Secretary-RD and will be the Member Convener of the same. Both CSB and the PIA will keep CEO, SRLM updated on the releases to PIA and also on physical and financial progress to be furnished to MoRD. SRLM would help PIA in SHG formation, as it is mandatory under MKSP. It would also facilitate convergence with other development schemes like MGNREGS, RKVY etc., to leverage the effect of the project grant available under the project.

Project Implementing Agency (PIA): PIA will enter into MoU with the CSB and implementation of the project components as per the project document/ revisions if any, will be the sole responsibility of PIA. PIA will place the indent to both MoRD and CSB as per the stipulated guidelines and terms, receive funds for project implementation or in turn release it to FIA/ District level units of PIA (team) for field level implementation. It will be the responsibility of PIA to ensure proper utilisation of funds at project level. As much as possible, the programme funds will be released to the group/ cluster level accounts by PIA. It will also ensure submission of the physical and

financial progress reports in the prescribed formats to both MoRD and CSB besides uploading required information and data in the project website. It will also coordinate with the DOS/SRLM for utilising the existing infrastructure and also to dovetail with available schemes so as to upscale the project coverage. Proper care to complement efforts of the DOS in covering all the stakeholders in the project cluster will be taken by PIA so that all the stakeholders in the clusters will be involved to get a visible impact. At the same time, PIA shall arrange for engaging the required number of person power at grass root and cluster level, in view of the number of families to be covered, terrain and coverage of the project area, issues pertaining to land procurement, pre-requisites to take up soil treatments/ plantation and creation of infrastructure activities under the Project, so that envisaged project objectives and output can be achieved. PIA will also engage with other CSO's to make demonstration in the field of Tasar Sericulture. PIA will identify reputed CSO's in the state and will promote a part of MKSP Tasar based livelihood programme with them in pilot basis maintaining all the non negotiable of MKSP to broaden it areas.

Other Line Departments: Department of Rural Development, Forests, Agriculture, Tribal Welfare etc., would play an equally crucial role to augment efforts of CSB, SRLM, DOS and PIA, wherever possible, which would be facilitated by DOS/ SRLM or CSB. While Department of Rural Development would help in convergence with MGNREGS and also CFT (Cluster Facilitation Team) in applicable blocks for augmentation of Tasar host plants, Dept. of Forests will help to address the issues related to access to food plants in the fringe forest area, supply of seedlings of host plants for plantation, census of Tasar host plants, including Tasar host plants under their afforestation programmes etc. Tribal Welfare Dept., through its agencies like ITDA would facilitate convergence with their existing schemes so as to scale up the coverage.

Institution architecture:

All the beneficiaries selected under the project would be either from existing SHGs in the proposed area or in places where there is no SHGs, groups will be formed in association with SRLM. These beneficiaries will be organized in to activity groups at the hamlet levels that would be federated to producers' collective at block / district.

Large-scale development of sub-sectors would require strong institutions, which would spearhead and sustain initiatives for the development of the sub-sector in the long run. Appropriate policy formulation, raising financial resources for investments, vigorous promotion of products, protecting the entitlements of the producers and widening stakeholder base are some of the important areas in Tasar Sericulture, which would require strong initiatives. Creation of appropriate organizations, designed to enhance the stake and control of the producers, would be a major challenge in the context of Tasar as majority of the producers come from the tribal and backward communities and are financially very poor. PIA would envisage creating relevant institutions with the involvement of the producers and enabling them to exert their control in the long run. This is also relevant in the context of the present plan; as the success of the plan would depend upon the efficiency of technology extension, establishing linkages between different producer groups and facilitating their access to carry out Tasar rearing in the forestlands. Given the time bound nature of the proposed expansion plan, and necessity of large scale mobilization of investment, PIA proposes to create different organizations as described below:

Primary level organization: The producers would be organized in to informal groups at village level. The village level organization will comprise of common rearer's and grainage owners who already exist in the village / hamlet. The primary level organization will comprise of 15-40 number of producers, depending on the size of the village / hamlet. Keeping such a small group will help

members of the organization to interact with each other effectively. Primary level organization's main concern will be selection of rearer's, selection of proper rearing site, maintenance of host plants, promotion of new plantations, monitoring of quality standard of DFLs and helping rearer's to access services for rearing and marketing of cocoons.

Secondary Level Organization: The secondary level organization will be formed at district/block level as an aggregation of village level organization and will be organized into a "Tasar Rearer's' Collective". Here, all the members of village level organization will be an independent member of producers' collective. The district level collective will either be registered or will be linked with relevant state model in the respective state. The major role of the collective would be as following:

- i. Quality and price regulation for DFLs,
- ii. Seed cocoon preservation and basic seed production,
- iii. Promoting improved Silkworm rearing practices,
- iv. Surplus and deficit management of DFLs,
- v. Accessing distant markets for cocoon sales,
- vi. Establishing linkages with resource & research institutions for facilitating innovations,
- vii. Mobilizing finance from financial institutions,
- viii. Collaborating with Forest Department to improve the Tasar host stock.

It is proposed that the formation, grooming and nurturing of Producers' collective, who will be formed for every 500-1000 families based on the geographical spread. The Board Member and CEO of the Institution would get various training in all the relevant fields and exposure on the institution building in a well established Producers' Institution outside the project area, with the help of an expert resource person. Membership building of the institution is also an important part for its effective functioning on long run. The process would continue till the end of the project so that the institution would function on a sustainable basis even after the project period without any financial support.
