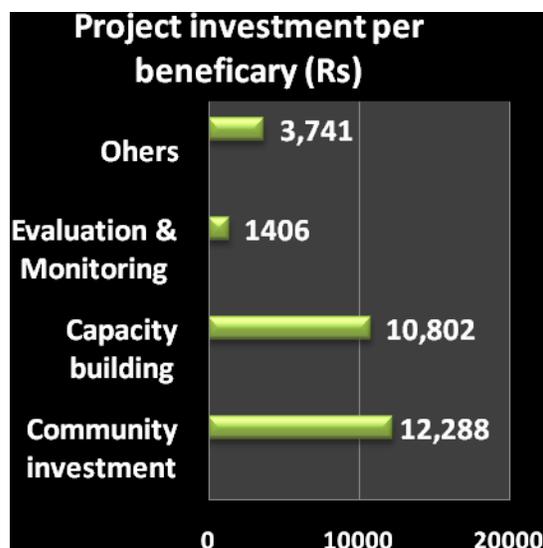
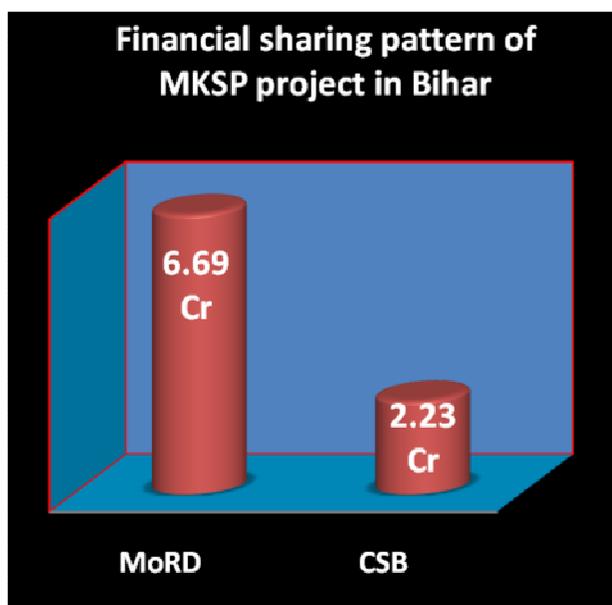


## Promotion of Large Scale Tasar Sericulture Based Livelihoods in Bihar

MKSP project for tasar development in Bihar is being implemented in Katoria, Chandan and Belhar blocks of Banka district at an outlay of **Rs. 8.925 crores** shared by MoRD (Rs. **6.694** crores) and CSB (Rs. **2.231** crores). The project is being implemented by Bihar Rural Livelihood Promotion Society (BRLPS) and at field level by PRADAN with CSB as the Coordinating and technical monitoring agency. The project areas have been carefully chosen reach out to a large number of marginalized families who have for generations, suffered from isolation and social exclusion.

The selected district is situated in south east Bihar with a geographic area of 30600 hectares and is the third least developed district in India. The project cover a total 3161 beneficiaries including 1832 direct, 1329 indirect beneficiaries and 53 community resource persons who will be involved in various activities of tasar culture. Main objective of the project is to augment silkworm seed production in private sector, nurturing Community Resource Persons and yarn conversion on pilot scale. Besides, the project envisages promoting integrated activities like improved Agriculture, vegetable cultivation and other best practices. The project is to facilitate rapid growth in the sub-sector of Tasar Sericulture through capacity building of poor tribal families to facilitate adoption of improved technologies and practices and enabling them to access mainstream markets to sustain the economic gains. The project also focus on design development & product diversification to increase producer's share locally and disease monitoring to ensure higher productivity to achieve desired income levels. The total project investment is worked out at Rs. 28,237/- per participant in which about Rs. 12,288/- is invested community investment support, Rs. 10,802/- towards capacity building and Rs. 1,406/- towards cost of monitoring & evaluation.



**Project coverage:** The project covers 89 nursery farmers, 40 Nucleus Seed Rearers, 100 Basic Seed Rearers, 24 Private Graineurs, 1439 commercial rearers, 100 Reelers and 40 Spinners. It is also proposed to establish 1 Basic Seed Production Unit, 2 common facility centre for cocoon storage and 4 Reelers' common facility centres for yarn conversion.

**Project Output:** With this investment, it is proposed to raise 500 ha. of food plants of tasar silkworms, 508 ha. of natural host flora would be regenerated, 0.5 lakh dfls of basic seed & 2.4 lakh dfls of commercial seed to be produced which will help in production of 222.00 lakh reeling cocoons during the project period. Finally an estimated, 17760 kgs of Tasar Raw silk would be produced under this project. It is also proposed to nurture and promote 53 nos. of Community Resource Persons & 21 para professionals for future expansion programmes. It is also expected that the project area would serve as Resource Blocks for remaining MKSP Projects for nucleus and basic seed supply.

**Project output:**

Block plantation raised (ha.)	Forest plantation regenerated (ha.)	Basic Seed Production (dfls)	Commercial seed production (Lakh dfls)	Cocoon production (lakh)	CRPs promoted (No.)	Raw Silk Prodn* (MT)
500	508	0.5	2.40	222.00	53	17.76

\* During the project period of three years

Tasar sericulture activities under this project will provide an incremental income of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 18,700 to a producer-family (silkworm rearers, Grainage entrepreneurs, yarn producers and weavers) from their slack labor and idle assets. Given the economic profile of households, many a times, this level of income contributes to almost 100% income enhancement of the house hold. Participating Families would be able to invest their earnings from project in debt redemption, recovery of mortgaged lands, buying pump sets, repairing or constructing houses and in educating their children in good schools.

**Project monitoring:** Central Silk Board is the Co-coordinating agency and also responsible for providing technological inputs and training of field staff of the Project Implementing Agency, PRADAN through its Field Units in various sectors viz., seed, pre-cocoon and post-cocoon.

**State Level monitoring committee (SLMC):** The SLMC would closely monitor the implementation of the project by reviewing the overall physical and financial progress every quarter and suggest necessary actions for successful implementation of the Project, as per yearly work plans. The SLMC will be headed by the CEO of SRLM and they will constitute the committee at state level.

**State Level Technical Project Support Group:** As the proposed projects intend to transfer the proven technologies evolved by research institutes in seed, pre-cocoon and post-cocoon sector, to address any technical issues raised during implementation of the projects, a State Level Technical Project Support Group is proposed under the project,

which will be chaired by the Director of Department of sericulture. The Director would constitute the committee at state level.

**Project Review Committee:** A Project Review Committee is constituted at State level with the Secretary (Rural Development) of the state as the Chairman and the CEO of SRLM as Member Convener. The committee will be constituted by RD secretary at state level and they would monitor and periodically review the project.

**Project Management Board (PMB):** The Member Secretary of CSB would be the Chairperson of the Project Management Board (PMB) with the Scientist in-charge of the Projects, Central Silk Board and the Project Coordinator as Member Convener of the PMB. The PMB would take care of linkages amongst the MKSP Projects in Tasar sector in other states besides review and revision of the project after mid-term evaluation, if required. PMB would be convened together for all the MMSP Projects together or for the specific projects as per requirement.

**Progress as on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015:**

On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014 BRLPS issued the sanction letter to PRADAN indicating that the project has been appraised and approved by the PAC at state level and MoU has been signed between BRLPs and PRADAN on the MKSP project. Subsequently the activities under the project were initiated during 2014-15 and MoRD released Rs. 66 lakhs to PIA and incurred an expenditure of Rs. 66.147 lakhs towards raising of tasar host plantation. 331 Mahila Kisans were selected against the target 822 including 170 STs (51.4%), 41 SCs (12.4%) and 120 minorities (36.3%) under this project since inception. The beneficiaries covered in 32 hamlets, 23 villages and 1 block. 6 CRPs were trained and imparted training for 331 beneficiaries and 16 producer groups have been mobilized. 260 Ha of host plantation was raised during the period against the target of 300 ha.

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