MKSP project for tasar development in Chattisgarh is implementing in 3 districts (Raigarh, Bastar and Balrampur) with total project outlay of Rs 9.203 crores including project grant of Rs. 8.027 crores shared by MoRD (Rs. 5.984 crores) and CSB (Rs. 2.043 crores) and beneficiary & credit Rs 1.175 crores. The selected Project districts are part of the North and South Chhattisgarh. North and south Chhattisgarh have similar characteristics in terms of natural endowments and demographic profile. The northern part is characterized by dense forests, hills and water reservoirs and these parts have similar geographical, climatic and cultural conditions. The project areas have been carefully chosen to include selected BRGF/ IAP districts of the State of Chhattisgarh to reach out to a large number of marginalized families who have suffered from isolation and social exclusion for many generations. Many of the indigenous tribes like the Pahari korba and the Pando live in these areas. The project covers a total 4055 beneficiaries including 1893 direct, 586 indirect beneficiaries and 1126 SHG members who 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 create awareness about the importance of conservation of local Raily eco race. 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. 22,695/- per family and project grants of Rs. 19,795/- per family of which about Rs. 5,540/- is invested in equipments, Rs. 3,011/- towards capacity building and Rs. 4,838/- towards cost of common assets for participating families.

Project coverage: The project covers 90 nursery farmers, 40 Nucleus Seed Rearer, 187 Basic Seed Rearer, 47 Private Graineur, 1529 commercial rearer and 30 pagoda camps to conserve eco-race Raily cocoon. It is also envisaged to establish one Basic Seed Production Unit and 4 Rearer’s Collectives under this project.
**Project Output:** With this investment, it is proposed to raise 300 ha. of tasar food plants during the project period, 900 ha. of natural host flora would be regenerated, 0.50 lakh dlfls of basic seed & 4.5 lakh dlfls of commercial seed to be produced which would help in production of 293 lakhs of reeling cocoons during the project period. Finally an estimated 23392 kgs of Tasar Raw silk would be produced under this project. It is also proposed to nurture and promote 56 nos. of Community Resource Persons for future expansion programmes.

Tasar sericulture activities under this project will provide an incremental income of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 18,700 to a producer-family (silkworm rearer’s, Grainage entrepreneur, 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 household. 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-ordinating and fund rooting 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 is chaired by the Director/ Commissioner of Department of sericulture. The Director/ Commissioner 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 is constituted by RD secretary at state level and they would monitor and periodically review the project.

Project Management Board: 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.

*******