Promotion of Large Scale Tasar Sericulture Based Livelihoods in Odisha

MKSP project for tasar development in Odisha state is implemented in the district of Keonjhar with a project outlay of Rs. **5.559 crores** shared by MoRD (Rs. **3.585 crores**), CSB (Rs. **1.194 crores**) and credit & beneficiary (Rs. **0.779 crores**). The project covering a total 2654 beneficiaries including 1525 direct, 381 indirect beneficiaries and 748 SHG members who will be involved in various activities of tasar culture. In the north-western part of Odisha, Tasar silkworm rearing is part of traditional cultures of the tribal communities especially in the districts of Kendujhar and Mayurbhanj, Tasar rearing is an important source of livelihoods for a significant number of families. The agro climatic conditions and natural resources are suitable for Tasar Silkworm rearing. Main objective of the project is to augment silkworm seed production in private sector, nurturing Community Resource Persons. 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. **20,949/-** per family and project grant of Rs. **18,001/-** per family of which about Rs. **3,461/-** 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 30 nursery farmers, 40 Nucleus Seed Rearer, 153 Basic Seed Rearer, 38 Private Graineurs and 1264 commercial rearers. It is also proposed to establish one Basic Seed Production Unit and 2 Rearer’s Collectives.

**Project Output:** With this investment, it is proposed to raise 80 ha. of food plants of tasar silkworms, 940 ha. of natural host flora would be regenerated, 0.50 lakh dfls of basic seed & 4.150 lakh dfls of commercial seed to be produced which will help in production of 265 lakhs reeling cocoons during the project period. Finally an estimated 21232 kgs of Tasar Raw silk would be produced under this project. It is also proposed to nurture and promote 37 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 earning 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 is headed by the CEO of SRLM and they 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.

*******