Promotion of Large Scale Tasar Sericulture Based Livelihoods in Jharkhand

MKSP project for tasar development in Jharkhand is implemented in 8 districts (Godda, Pakur, Dumka, Saraikela, West Singbhum, East Singbhum, Giridih and Deoghar) with total project outlay of Rs. **27,826** crores shared by MoRD (Rs.**17,954** crores), CSB (Rs. **5,985** crores) and credit & beneficiary (Rs **3,887** crores). The project areas have been carefully chosen to include selected BRGF/ IAP districts of the State of Jharkhand to reach out to a large number of marginalized families who have for generations, suffered from isolation and social exclusion. The project covers a total 11938 beneficiaries including 6,567 direct, 2,142 indirect beneficiaries and 3,229 SHG members who involves 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. **23,309/-** per family and project grant of Rs. **20,053/-** per family of which about Rs. **7,739/-** is invested in equipment, Rs. **2,951/-** towards capacity building and Rs. **5,436/-** towards cost of common assets for participating families.

**Project coverage:** The project covers 110 nursery farmers, 80 Nucleus Seed Rearers, 695 Basic Seed Rearers, 175 Private Graineurs, 5367 commercial rearers, 100 Reelers and 40 Spinners. It is also proposed to establish 4 Basic Seed Production Unit, 6 Rearers’ Collectives and 4 Reelers’ Collectives besides this 2 Cocoon and 1 Tasar yarn bank will be established with the project assistance.

**Project Output:** With this investment, it is proposed to raise 607 ha. of tasar food plants, 3,150 ha. of natural host flora would be regenerated, 2.25 lakhs dfls of basic seed & 21.39 lakhs dfls of commercial seed to be produced which will help in production of 1,161.41 lakhs of reeling cocoons during the project period. Finally an estimated, 92,912 kgs of Tasar Raw silk would be produced under this project. It is also proposed to nurture and promote 161 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 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 will be 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.

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