

# CENTRAL INDIA INITIATIVE (CInI)

NAVAJ BAI RATAN TATA TRUST (NRTT) - MUMBAI

“Sustainable Agri-based Livelihood Enhancement of Tribal Communities of Charama Block of Kanker District, Chattisgarh”

Annual Progress Report  
(April -2011 to March- 2012)



Implemented by



**GRAMIN VIKAS TRUST**

## **The Programme:**

The overall condition of the area was pathetic both in terms of natural resources and sustainable livelihood options, and GVT had experience of successfully working in similar conditions in other parts of country. GVT planned to intervene in the life of deprived section of community with the approach of sustainable development to help them in re-establishing the recycling capacity of their resources and processes.

The real challenge was not only to eradicate poverty in a small area but to show a way to various other stakeholders in the area. GVT launched with the collaboration of CInI, “**Sustainable Agri-Based Livelihood Enhancement of Tribal Communities**” funded by Navajbai Ratan Tata Trust, (NRTT).

## **The economic benefits of the project are:**

- Increased area under fruits and vegetables upto 20 per cent through productive utilization of wasteland and marginal lands
- Increased area under pulse and oilseed crops upto 25 per cent
- Increased production of Kharif Paddy due to adoption of better agronomic practices upto 50 per cent
- Increased water level in the area upto 1m from the existing level
- Natural resources developed and conserved
- Tree cover and overall ecology improved
- Reduced cost of marketing of agricultural produce
- Availability of self employment opportunities within the village
- Generation of employment opportunities for landless H/Hs
- Increased annual income of the H/H from Rs.20000/- to Rs.65000/-

## **The social benefits anticipated from the project are :**

- Reduction in migration from 30 per cent to 10 per cent
- Improved health conditions of human beings as well as livestock
- Empowered women groups developed in the area (around 60 women SHGs)

- Empowered grass root level institutions developed
- Improved social status

## **Objectives :**

### **The specific objectives of the project are:**

- To check the process of environmental degradation through appropriate soil/water conservation methods.
- To demonstrate advance technologies for increasing production of agricultural crops in the project area.
- To build local institution for implementation of activity and management during and after the project period
- To involve women, landless families in the PMC.
- To generate employment for women headed families and landless labour through collection & production of NTFP
- To strengthen the capacities of staff & Communities under various developmental activities.

## **Progress:**

### **Land & Water Resources Development**

#### **Water Resource Development**

Water is the most important element for living things, without water we can't survive in the earth. Due to the heavy use of water, deforestation activities and changes in seasons due to global warming; annual rainfall has decreased. So, under this project major emphasis have been given on Water Conservation & Water Resources development work like well lining, group well deepening, provision of HDPE & PVC pipelines, water storage tanks & small farm ponds in the farmers field. Through these activities, farmers can save their fruit plants by providing life saving irrigation to fruit plants during summer season as well as drought condition.

Under this activity, many of the sub activities were planned as per the need of the farmers and the area.

#### **Construction of Water Storage Tank:**

For optimum use of water and to save the plants during the hot summer and promote vegetable cultivation, big size (4mtr x 3mtr x 1mtr; 12000 ltr.) brick plastered water tank were constructed in the cluster of 5 acre and more. To get maximum utilization of water pipe line are being installed with

these water tanks and farmers will irrigate their fruit plants time to time. Water from bore well will be stored in this tank and diverted to small tanks of 356 ltr tank to cover an acre of land on average. Construction of 10 such tanks has been completed and rest of the work is in progress.

Big clusters of more than 10 acres where bore well has been dug with NABARD support; 12000 ltr tanks and 356 ltr tanks are provided with pipe line system. Main pipe line from bore well is of 2.5" and sub-main of 2" size, which is connected to 12000 ltr tank. From 12000 ltr tank; 1" pipe provides water to 356 ltr tank. From the small tank PVC garden pipe is provided to cover one acre of land.

### **Small Farm pond:**

Some of the farmers, where live water sources are not available have dug Small Farm Ponds with support from NABARD and own contribution. These ponds are lined with high density polythene sheets of 150 gsm and laid under the guidance of expert engineers. These ponds were dug individually or for two WADI where no other irrigation facilities are provided due to some constraints. These ponds have been filled through tanker from else where, and farmers are using water from these ponds for irrigating plants through Pitcher method. 7 ponds of size 4\*6\*2 feet and 24 ponds of size 2\*1\*1.5 have been completed.



### **Promotion of Improved Agriculture Practices:**

Under this component various improved practices have been provided to the beneficiaries for their livelihood enhancement. The details of the individual activities given are as under-

#### **Promotion of Vegetable Cultivation:**

This activity is more suitable for the small farmers because they have small patches of land near their homestead. Under this sub head of activity, farmers of the project area have been provided with seeds of vegetables. Different seeds provided were Tomato, Brinjal, Chilly, Beans, Cow Pea etc. The farmers contributed 10 percent contribution of total cost and other agricultural practices done by the farmers them selves. Many of the farmers started income from their small piece of land.



#### **Promotion of Oil Seeds and Pulses:**

For getting higher income from the small lands in drought condition or in the water stress condition in the project area improved/certified seeds of oil seeds (Mustard) and pulse (Gram) have been provided to 290 farmers who have sufficient water for cultivation. The cost of



Fertilizer and pesticides has been borne by the farmers themselves.

### **Promotion of Vermicompost Unit :**

In this quarter we have established **15 VC Unit out of 30 Vermicompost** units in 3 villages. Till date we have established total of 30 Units in 8 villages. **30 Vermicompost** units have been established with the convergence from Agriculture Department, the department has agreed to provide Worms free of cost for multiplication.

### **Promotion of Poultry:**

For the Income Generation of the rural tribal poultry unit is a very good option for the women group. 3 poultry units have been established in the project area out of three two are running successfully, but one unit of Tikarapara was destroyed due to fire.



### **Non Timber Forest Produce:**

As tribes are living in the forest region or near by the forest, many of the forest produce helps in the livelihood of the tribes like, Mahua, Karanj, Chirounji, Tendu leaves, gum etc. In our project area, Kusum trees are available in the farmers fields. For sustainability of this activity an exposure visit was organized at nearby project area-Tirkadand. They were trained by well experienced Resource Person under the training organized for the same and 25 farmers attended the training program. Finally 16 farmers were selected for cultivation of LAC on Kusum Trees.

### **Training & Technical Support:**

For strengthening the capacity building of the farmers on various improved technologies many of the training programs were organized at various level from staff to Farmers. For continuous monitoring and review of the project activities quarterly staff meeting were organized in each quarter.

### **Trainings on Vegetables Cultivation:**

Training on Vegetable Cultivation (15 Trainings) were conducted with the farmers of 15 villages. The main objective of the training was to make aware farmers about improved practices of vegetable cultivation. A total of 375 farmers of project villages was benefited through these trainings. Farmers were given training on vegetable Cultivation. They were also given awareness about all the practices and procedure involved in vegetable cultivation like Nursery raising, transplanted, aftercare and management etc. Training was given on cultivation of Tomato, Brinjal, Chilly, perennial clippers and Ladies finger. The objective was to make the farmers aware about improved practices of vegetable cultivation. Good quality of vegetable seeds were provided for vegetable cultivation like Tomato, Chilly, Brinjal, Okra,



Onion and clippers Ridge Guard, sponge guard etc. were provided with complete package of practices.

### **Training of SRI Paddy Promotion:**

Under CInI project, training on SRI Paddy promotion (One Training) was conducted. Farmers from 3 villages benefited from this training.

The objective was to make the farmers aware about improved technologies used in paddy cultivation and, to minimize the inputs and costs involved as compared to traditional method of Paddy cultivation. 25 farmers from 3 Villages Pandharipani, Tuyegahan and Jepra have availed benefits from the training.



### **SRI (System of Rice Intensification) Paddy Cultivation:**

Farmers were given training on SRI method of Paddy Cultivation. They were also aware about the Principle and procedures involved in SRI method of Paddy Cultivation.

Principles of SRI method of Paddy Cultivation -

1. Transplanting of Younger Seedlings at two leaf Stage
2. Transplanting of single seedling per hill
3. Square method of planting e.g. 25X25 cm
4. Field should be moist not flooded with water
5. Use of Cono - weeder for weeding at interval of 15 days (minimum 2-3 times)
6. Maximum use of Bio fertilizers and Bio Pesticides

### **Training on Improved Paddy Cultivation:**

A total of 10 trainings on Improved Paddy Cultivation Practices were conducted with the 250 farmers of project villages. The main objective was to aware the farmers about transplanting and line sowing methods of Paddy cultivation. How this method is better than the traditional method of cultivation, benefits of the method etc. have been described in detailed to the farmers. Farmers were given training on transplanting and line Sowing method of Paddy Cultivation. They were also given awareness about the practices and procedure involved in improved method of Paddy Cultivation.



### **Training on Improved Practices of Oil, Pulses and Maize cultivation:**



A total of 12 trainings were organized in 12 villages of project area where about 300 participants of the project village were benefited through these trainings. Improved package of Practices of oils, Pulses and Maize were described to the farmers. Farmers are well aware about the cultivation practices and benefits of the cultivation practices like how to get maximum yield from these practices of cultivation, use of bio-fertilizers etc.

### **SHG Trainings on Accounting Practices:**

A total of 06 (SIX) trainings were organized on accounting system of SHGs, bank linkages, schemes of banking etc. were described to the members of SHGs of the project area. Under these trainings a total of 150 SHG members were benefited and aware about the accounting system.

### **Exposure of SHG Members :**

Exposure of SHG Members was conducted under CInI project funded by NRTT. Members from four SHG were benefited by this exposure on cultivation of Vermicompost and other agriculture activities at KVK, Dhamtari. The objective was to aware SHG members about different enterprises to be carried out at local level

### **Exposure of Farmers for SRI Paddy Cultivation:**

Exposure of farmers was organized on cultivation practices of SRI Paddy cultivation at best field at village level. A total of 25 farmers were benefited through this exposure.

### **Exposure Visits for Irrigation Group:**

To increase the awareness and efficient use of water an exposure visit have been organized for the beneficiaries of project villages. In this visit we had selected 50 farmers from 5 villages of Charama Block. The name of the villages is as follows :-

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Name of Village</b>	<b>No. of Farmers</b>
1.	Naudabri	10
2.	Kusumpani	16
3.	Umradaha	9
4.	Thanabodi	7
5.	Lilwapahar	7

This visit was for drip irrigation. The visit was scheduled at NETAFIM farm house, Girholi village at Kanker district, (CG). In this visit the farmers saw vegetable cultivation of chilly, cauliflower, cabbage, beans, tomato etc. This visit was very useful for the farmers as they will implement this technique in their wadi areas very soon for better production.



## Exposure Visit to Drip Irrigation of Tomato and Chilli Cultivation

### Exposure of SHG members:

A total of 04 exposure were completed during the quarter. In these exposure a total of 51 members of 4 SHGs learned about different IGA like Vermicompost at Nathiyagaon village (18 members), Flower Pot Making at Dhamtari (11 members), Rural Mart at Charama (12 members) and Mushroom Cultivation at Bhilai (10 members). All the SHG members learned about the end to end system of different activities from initial to marketing and processing.



### Exposure Visit on SRI Paddy Cultivation:

For getting more knowledge on SRI Paddy Cultivation, 3 exposures were organized from the villages of project area to the Haradula village where the farmers have adopted SRI method of Paddy cultivation. Farmers were very happy to see the crop and interacted with the SRI farmers. During the exposure technical expert also shared the package of practices for SRI paddy cultivation and its benefits to the farmers.

### Exposure Visit to Agriculture Market:

Two exposures were organized to learn about the Agriculture Market. Farmers of different project villages visited the Agriculture Market (mandi) at Dhamtari and learned about the procurement procedure of agriculture produce. A total of 50 Farmers visited the agriculture market.





## **Social Mobilization :**

To increase awareness on WADI management & its impact in social sector, some primary & upper primary schools of project villages have been selected for plantation of fruit plants. Through this intervention children's of the participating families who are studying in these schools well trained & aware among the aftercare & management. Under this intervention 03 (primary & upper Primary) schools were selected & plantation work has been completed.



**Community Mobilization at WADI of Pandripani Village**



**Monitoring Visit of Mr. Sujit G Kumar and Mr. C.S. Pathak at Pandharipani Village**

## **Constraints:**

Under the line item Land and Water Resources Development, specific items planned like construction of rain water harvesting structures, desilting of existing water harvesting structures and establishment of small lift irrigation schemes could not be completed as envisaged in the action plan. Moreover, construction of dug out ponds was not promoted due to failure in many sites and insufficient water in the well. As per the suggestion from CInI team, remaining amount from these line items were transferred to new line item deepening of Well / Borewell and construction of tanks with pipeline system to cover 300 Acre of WADIs. All the process like site identification and sample estimate were completed by december and as fund was released in March and taking into consideration the need of providing irrigation support the fund was utilized in the new line item. Hence, the variance in the physical and financial report is high and every step will be taken to incorporate remaining activities in the next year.

Activities planned for the year got deviated as majority of the line item could not be taken up during the end of fourth quarter like promotion of summer paddy. Fund released during March were utilized in Water resource development, vegetable cultivation and need based training and exposure to farmers and groups.