Sustainable Livelihood Support for Tribal Families

NABARD has been closely associated with tribal development and sustainable livelihoods through orchard-based farming systems. As an integral component of NABARD’s Natural Resource Management (NRM) policy of providing sustainable livelihoods, NABARD laid special emphasis on providing support for holistic development of tribal communities with orchard establishment as the core element. The implementation of comprehensive Adivasi Development Programmes (ADPs) in Gujarat since 1995 and in Maharashtra since 2000 had provided several insights for NABARD in framing strategies for holistic development of tribal regions. The Adivasi Development Programmes were externally supported by German government-owned development bank, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) who have chosen NABARD as Indian partner. The programme implementation at ground level has been taken up by BAIF, one of the renowned non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in natural resource management sector. The central focus of ADPs is “wadi model of tribal development has been acclaimed worldwide as a sustainable and replicable model for poverty alleviation. The model was presented as a successful replicable model for poverty alleviation in the developing countries at the UNDP Forum of Ministers for Poverty and Environment in New York, USA in 1999 as well as at the Global Dialogue in Hanover, Germany. The model was also exhibited in the “Basic Needs Pavilion” at the Expo-2000, GmbH, Hanover.” (small orchard) together with suitable soil conservation, water resource development and other measures for improving the quality of tribal life such as community health & sanitation, women development, institutional development, etc. The wadi

Tribal development Programme under TDF based on the successful experience of Adivasi Development Programmes, NABARD embarked upon an ambitious program of replicating the wadi model across the country. In this direction, NABARD created a Tribal Development Fund (TDF) with a corpus of Rs. 50 crore, out of its profits for 2003-04. The corpus was augmented from time to time. All projects under TDF are implemented by partnering with State Governments, Government of India, NGOs and Corporates.

Adivasi Development Programme Gujarat and Maharashtra – KfW Programme Area

The “Wadi” programme sponsored by Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau(KfW), Germany is under implementation in in two states: Gujarat since 1995: Valsad (Dharampur & Kaprada blocks) and Dangs Maharashtra since 2000: Nasik (Peint, Triambak & Surgana blocks) and Thane (Mokhada block). Since 2007 another Wadi Programme has been launched in Dangs and Valsad districts of Gujarat named as ADPG - Phase 2 with the financial assistance from KFW Germany.

Programme Partners

Under the bilateral cooperation between Government of Germany and Government of India, MoEA, GoI acts as a regulatory and linkage body between donor and receiver countries. The development partners in wadi programme and their respective role are described as below:

i. Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau(KfW), a Development Bank of Germany is providing grant support of Euro 36.00 million (Rs.173 crore) for a period of 10 years for each programme in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

ii. NABARD is responsible for channelizing funds, coordination, monitoring and evaluation.
iii. Dharampur Utthan Vahini (DHRUVA) for Gujarat / Maharashtra Institute of Technology Transfer for Rural Areas (MITTRA) for Maharashtra - the principal implementing agencies supported by BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune. Village Ayojana Samitis (VAS - People’s Organisations) are executing the programme at village level.

Programme Funding:

The programme is supported by a grant assistance of Rs. 130.00 crore by a German development bank viz., Kreditanstalt fur Wiederaufbau (KfW). The core wadi and other components are supported with grant assistance. A unique feature of the funding mechanism is blending of grant with credit not only to ensure participants’ stake and involvement in the programme, but also for self-reliance of the participants. As the programme progressed with “Wadi” establishment and income generating activities, loan assistance is given to the tribal participants to support income generating activities, micro enterprises, water resources development and other emergent needs under Alternative Credit Delivery System in far flung unbanked areas. This innovative credit programme is being implemented through NGO, peoples’ organisations and SHGs.

Programme Achievements: In these two states, over 33,400 tribal families have been brought under the programme and an area of around 30,800 acre, spread over 356 villages has been brought under ‘wadis’ of cashew and mango (and also amla in Maharashtra) along with boundary plantation of fuel wood and fodder species. Production has already started in the Gujarat programme with around 300 MT of cashew and 500 MT of mango, which has been instrumental in establishing 10 village level processing units providing perennial employment to 180 landless tribal people, mostly of which are women. Ten tribal co-operative societies have also been registered to facilitate the continuation of the programme once the external support is withdrawn. A shift in cropping pattern towards commercial crops has resulted in generating regular income. This has helped in developing saving habits through SHGs and has led to reduced dependence on moneylenders.

<table>
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<th>Sr. No.</th>
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<th>Maharashtra Phase 2</th>
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<td>Valsad &amp; Dang</td>
<td>Nasik &amp; Thane</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Area brought under wadi</td>
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The programme has completed 18 years in Gujarat and 13 years in Maharashtra. In this short span, it has made significant socio-economic and ecological impact. The programme has been recognized by national and international agencies for the change it has brought about in the
lives of tribal families. Arresting migration and soil & water erosion are the major benefits derived so far.

Other major achievements are;

“Wadis” spread over 30816 acre on the private land of 33433 families have been established (as on March 2014). These lands considered as wastelands and non-productive assets, have become productive and sustainable assets as a result of orchard based activities.

- The availability of protective irrigation through water resources development has increased cropping intensity. A shift in cropping pattern towards commercial cash crops such as vegetables and pulses has resulted in generating regular/sustainable income.
- The production of vermicomposting and NADEP compost and emphasis on bio-pesticides in the programme have opened up avenues for production of organically grown produce.
- Seasonal migration has been reduced to a great extent as “Wadi” provides year round employment opportunities to tribal families. This has also resulted in increased enrolment in schools in project areas.
- The increase in production of cashew and mango due to modern horticultural practices has opened up avenues for processing activities through activity based producers groups (POs).
- There is a substantial rise in employment opportunities for landless in procuring and marketing of farm produce and processing of cashew and mango as well as other income generating activities in non-farm sector.
- The health programme has reduced the incidences of infectious diseases in the area and has improved health and sanitation in the project villages.
- The successful functioning of community organisations like VASs and SHGs has developed confidence among the participants in asset and fund management.
- SHG movement has provided voice to tribal women and brought out their entrepreneurial skills which is demonstrated by the micro enterprises and income generating activities such as nursery management, vermicomposting etc. undertaken by them.
- Initiation of informal credit delivery system (credit through VASs and SHGs) has increased access of tribals to credit for income generation activities. It has inculcated saving and repayment habits amongst the beneficiaries.
- Non-participant families have started adopting the “Wadi” model in the programme area by the “seeing is believing” principle.

Wadi Model of Development

The “Wadi” model of tribal development is holistic in approach addressing production, processing and marketing of the produce and also other livelihood needs. The core of the programme is “Wadi” and other development interventions are built around “Wadi”. The “Wadi” in Gujarati means a ‘small orchard’ established in one or two acres of land. The “Wadi” as an effective tool for tribal development evolved gradually out of two decades of concerted efforts made by BAIF in Vansda (Gujarat). The “Wadi” may be of mango or cashew or amla or any fruit crop suitable to the project area or a combination of these fruit crops, with forestry species on the periphery of the land.
holdings. Two or more fruit crops are selected in the “Wadi” model to minimize the climatic, biological and marketing risks. Tribal families having less than 5 acre land is given 1 acre wadi each for raising 60 fruit plants suitable to local conditions and 600 forestry plants on the boundary (number of plants per wadi changes as per the plant species selected).

Other development interventions in the areas of environment, gender and health viz., soil conservation in the wadis, water resource development, agriculture development, women development, health are woven around the wadi.

**Water resources development:** Even though the programme area receives an annual rainfall of 2500 mm, because of steep slopes and rocky terrain, water retention is poor resulting in severe soil erosion and nutrient loss. As existing water resources are not sufficient to irrigate “Wadi” plots, run off water is harvested through construction of temporary check bunds across river streams and development of perennial springs. The spring water is used for drinking as well as irrigation purposes. Pot drip irrigation is provided for the fruit plants in the initial 3 years of plantation as protective irrigation.

**Soil conservation measures** viz., bunding, tree platforms, the combination of these two and trench-cum-bund based on field level requirements have been introduced from the first year. The participants are paid for the soil conservation and plantation work done by them in their fields.

**Health Programme:** Some of the basic problems faced by the tribal families are related to malnutrition, illness and inaccessibility to health care. Community health programme focuses on mother and child health care (MCH) as well as primary and preventive health care. The participants are educated on sanitation and hygiene. The local youth, especially women, called Village Health Guides (VHG) are trained in diagnosis and treatment of common illness and serious cases are referred to appropriate facilities.

**Women Development:** There has been an increased emphasis on women’s participation in the programme. The major activities taken up are promotion of SHGs, income generation activities, drudgery reduction along with awareness generation about reproductive health and development aspects. The income generating activities included fruit and forest plant nurseries, vegetable cultivation, produce collection, papad making, vermi composting etc. In order to reduce drudgery of women, three major activities are taken up in the field. They are smokeless stoves, use of bearings in the traditional grinding stones and pedal thresher for paddy.

**Support to Landless:** Besides the land holding families, the programme has supported landless by providing micro-enterprises in farm and non-farm sectors and employment opportunities in processing units.

**Processing and Marketing:** The programme has been designed to ensure assured market and remunerative prices for the wadi related produce. Decentralised processing facilities for cashew and mango are established under the cooperative fold with two levels viz., village and cooperative (central). This has facilitated creation of employment opportunities for landless tribal families in the project area and also ensured appropriate price for the farm produce, by providing captive market for the raw material and better returns through value addition.