

Project: Empowering Smallholder Farmers through strengthening agri & allied clusters (SAAC)**Project Location: Chhota Udepur District, Gujarat****About CARE**

Founded in 1945, **CARE** is a leading humanitarian organisation fighting global poverty and providing lifesaving assistance in emergencies. In 100 countries and territories around the world, CARE places special focus on working alongside poor girls and women because, equipped with the proper resources, they have the power to help lift whole families and entire communities out of poverty. To learn more, visit www.care-international.org.

CARE India Solutions for Sustainable Development (CISSD) is a not-for-profit organization working in India for over 70 years, focusing on alleviating poverty and social injustice. We do this through well planned and comprehensive projects in health, education, livelihoods and disaster preparedness and response. Our overall goal is the empowerment of women and girls from poor and marginalized communities leading to improvement in their lives and livelihoods.

During FY 2019-20 - CARE India reached out to 50.4 million people directly through 53 projects across 19 states, covering more than 90+ districts.

Vision: A world of hope, which is inclusive and just, where all people live in dignity and security

Mission: Save lives, enable social protection, and defeat poverty

Participants: Poor, socially and/or geographically marginalized communities

Focus: Women and girls

Goal: CARE India and its partners impact 100 million people from the poor and marginalized communities to overcome poverty and achieve social protection.

Project Background: The key highlights of the district and proposed project blocks which strengthens the scope for intervention are as follows:

Presence of small and marginal farmers: 71.7% (81,316) of the total landholding (1,13,377) in Chhota Udepur district belongs to small and marginal farmers with landholding size of less than 2 hectare. Thus, the district has significant number of smallholder farmers who are facing several challenges with respect to agriculture and allied activities.

Goal- *To empower 8,000 smallholder farmers through promoting sustainable agriculture & allied production clusters and promotion of enterprises resulting in enhanced income for the smallholder farmers.*

Social capital: There are approximately 9,141 SHGs in Chhota Udepur district covering 98,941 SHG members. Thus, compared to other districts, presence of social capital in Chhota Udepur district is low. Block-wise presence of SHGs in the district is as follows: Kawant: 1786, Chhota Udepur: 1,657, Jetpur Pavi: 1,655, Nasvadi: 1623, Bodeli: 1360 and Sankheda: 1,060 respectively.

Food processing in the district: While the district is surrounded by many other districts which are both production and processing clusters. But Chhota Udepur district is not recognized as a potential production

cluster. Nearby districts with production clusters are Vadodara for Papaya. The district is predominately growing Maize, Cotton, Pulses, Drilled Paddy, Hill millets.

Rainfed region: The district is mainly dependent upon rainfed crops. Approx. 165.430 ('000) hectare area is under rainfed cultivation while only 58.816 ('000) hectare is irrigated in the district.

Widespread indigenous livestock population: The district has primarily indigenous cattle population i.e., 2,74,483 which constitutes 84% of total cattle population in the district. Buffalo population of the district is only 2.09 lakh as per 2015-16 livestock census.

Objective:

1. *Strengthening Community Based Organizations by building their capabilities.*
2. *Natural Resource Management through promotion of soil and water conservation*
3. *Promotion of sustainable agriculture practices within smallholder farmers*
4. *Enterprise promotion and support*
5. *Enabling environment creation for enterprise and smallholder farmers*

Low area under horticulture crop as compared with State:

Chhota Udepur district falls short in terms of area for many of the crops. Major field crops cultivated in the area are also limited i.e. Cotton, Maize, Pigeon Pea, Paddy, Black gram, Soybean, Castor, and Wheat. Low yield of agriculture crops: Yield of major agriculture crops in the district is low i.e. Paddy (1,870 Kg/Ha.), Maize: 1,863 (Kg/Ha.), Tur 1,085 Kg/Ha.), Udad 790 (Kg/Ha.), Cotton 590 (Kg/Ha.), and Castor 1,862 (Kg/Ha.) during 2014-15.`

Geography:

45 Villages of Chhota Udepur and Pavi Jetpur blocks of Chhota Udepur district - Gujarat.

Intervention Strategy / Framework:

1

Strengthening Community Based Organizations

- Adoption or formation of Self-Help Groups
- Capacity building of Self-Help Groups
- Collectivization
- Financial inclusion
- Digital literacy
- Entrepreneurship

2

Integrated Natural Resource Management through promotion of soil and water conservation

- + Village level micro planning for natural resource management
- + Formation of Water User Groups
- + Training of Water User Groups on Integrated Natural Resource Management
- + Development of village level Soil & Water Conservation structures
- + Promotion of micro irrigation technologies





3

Promotion of sustainable agriculture practices within smallholder farmers

- ✓ Establishment of demonstration plots and technologies
- ✓ Capacity building of smallholder farmers in cluster development approach on Organic production, dairy, horticulture, and poultry / goat rearing





4

Enterprise promotion and support

-  Feasibility studies and business plans development
-  Adoption or formation of federations
-  Establishment of cluster-based enterprises
-  Backward and forward linkage facilitation for enterprises

5

Enabling environment creation for enterprises and smallholder farmers

-  Capacity building on access to entitlements
-  Convergence with social security and other Government schemes
-  Integrating potential partners from public, private or other institutional actors. to leverage support
-  Gender sensitization for ecosystem actors

Strengthening Community Based Organizations

- 200 SHGs trained on collectivization, financial inclusion, digital literacy and entrepreneurship

Integrated Natural Resource Management through promotion of soil and water conservation

- 200 Farmer Field Schools formed and trained on Integrated Natural Resource Management
- 630 acres of unirrigated land covered under irrigation
- 100 acres of agriculture land covered under micro irrigation
- 200 Acres of agriculture land brought under chemical free farming

Promotion of sustainable agriculture practices within smallholder farmers

- 2,00 farmers trained on organic production
- 100 demonstration plots or modern units established
- 1,00 farmers trained on improved dairy management
- 80 farmers trained on horticulture
- 1,000 farmers trained on poultry / goat rearing
- 50 acres of land brought under vegetative cover

Enterprise promotion and support

- Village Organisation representatives trained on enterprise promotion
- Business plan developed for enterprises
- Backward and forward linkages established

Enabling environment creation for enterprises and smallholder farmers

- 200 SHGs trained on access to entitlement
- 200 SHGs trained on gender sensitization

Results to be achieved by the project:**Key Result Areas:**

1. Strengthening Community Based Organizations
2. Integrated Natural Resource Management through promotion of soil and water conservation
3. Promotion of sustainable agriculture practices within smallholder farmers
4. Enterprise promotion and support
5. Enabling environment creation for enterprises and smallholder farmers

Key Outcomes:

- 80% of the community institutions (SHGs, WUGs, Federations, Producer Groups) promoted under the project are sustainable
- 70% of the participants adopted promoted package of practices with respect to collectivization, financial inclusion and digital literacy
- 70% of the participants reported increased access to water for irrigation purpose or livestock management
- 80% of the participants adopted sustainable agriculture practices for agriculture and livestock management
- 70% of the enterprises are sustainable by the end of the project
- 70% of the eligible participants under the project accessed government schemes

Case Study: Sustaining through Improved Dairy Management**Background:**

Chhota Udepur is a tribal district in the eastern part of Gujarat, where most of the people depend on agriculture and its allied activities for their sustenance. Most of the farmers are small landholders, with less than two-hectare land area. They also practice livestock rearing as a part of their agricultural practices. Usually, they have only two to three animals on which they depend for milk and some earning. Their traditional practices of livestock are not scientific. They provide dry and green fodder as well as water as per their whims at any time, without any technical approach. They are not aware about the hygienic practices of cleaning their shed and clean milking practices. Due to this, the probability of the animal catching diseases increases and the production of milk decreases. **Challenge.**

With the financial aid from HDFC Bank Parivartan, CARE India launched an initiative to 'Empower smallholder farmers through strengthening of agri and allied clusters' in 45 villages of Chhota Udepur and Pavi Jetpur blocks of Chhota Udepur district. The team had to first understand the current traditional practices of the community and analyze the problems to suggest improved dairy management practices.

Action:

Bariya Sarjanben Shabbhabhai is one such livestock rearer in the Navapura hamlet of Kadval village in Pavi Jetpur block of Chhota Udepur. She is a divorcee with just a small shed and having two buffalos and three goats. She is living in a kaccha house alone and depends on livestock for her sustenance. She participated in the intervention of CARE India for improved dairy management. She was provided with 25 kg of mustard

seed pellets, 5 kg of mineral mixture, 1 kg of rumen bypass fat powder, a 10-liter milk can for clean milking, a soap for protecting the animals from mites and a cattle feeder. She was also provided with technical training on how much green and dry fodder and pellets to be provided, how much water to be provided and the best milking practices. She was also taught about vaccination and deworming cycles and the best management practices and cleanliness of shed. She implemented the practices suggested by CARE India with proper care.

Positive Outcome: Due to improper livestock practices, one of her buffaloes was not getting pregnant since long time. After implementing the practices suggested by CARE India, the health of all her animals has improved and the above said buffalo is now four months pregnant. She also sold a female buffalo, which had become so healthy that it fetched the amount of Rs 55,000/-. Before the intervention, she was getting an average yield of around 4 to 5 liters daily, which has now increased to 8 to 9 liters per day. Thus, the milk production has increased by 3 liters per day. The fat content in the milk has also increased by around 1 fat unit per liter.

Thus, her average income has increased by around Rs 150 per day.



Key Takeaways:

This intervention taught us about the traditional dairy management practices and how they can be improved. There is a lot of scope for raising awareness about proper dairy management in Chhota Udepur district.

Conclusion:

Thus, the intervention of improved dairy management has brought awareness in the community about various aspects like the proportion of dry-green fodder, cleanliness in shed and about proper vaccination and deworming practices.