

## Project Brief: Where the Rainfalls (WtRF)

CARE India with financial support from AXA has been implementing Where the Rain Falls (WtRF) project since 2010-11. While the first phase was dedicated to research, the second phase is devoted to Community Based Adaptation (CBA), under which the project aims to increase the resilience of 3000 tribal women and their households, in 40 villages of the Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh (India), to shocks and stresses around water and improve their access, control and management of natural resources. To scale up the impact of CBA component of WtRF in the country, CARE India has initiated phase III (2017 – 2019) of WtRF from January 2017 where the focus is on informing, influencing, and supporting community institutions and key development actors to adopt those CBA measures and technologies. This phase of WtRF will continue to operate in the existing 40 villages of Jashpur district, Chhattisgarh for deepening of CBA activities and testing a few new models. Ten villages has already been selected in Jalgaon Jamod block of Buldhana district in Maharashtra, to test and develop the CBA model contextualized to the new State.

### Goal

To enhance the resilience of marginalized population from Central India to climate risks and climate change by building their adaptive capacities.

### Objectives

- To support communities to move towards more climate-resilient livelihoods.
- To contribute to the integration of climate risks & climate change in policies & practices of other stakeholders

### CARE's Solution:

Through the strategically adopted approaches, WtRF project aims to increase the resilience of 3000 tribal women and their households to shocks and stresses around water and improve their access, control and management of natural resources. So far, the project has been able to reach 4192 women participants (from 3055 HHs in Chhattisgarh and 1137 HHs in Maharashtra).

WtRF's interventions have focused around Climate Change Adaptation through a combination of approaches including promotion of Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA); improved Water Resource Management (WRM); and local Institutional Strengthening (IS) for improved governance of natural resources. The CRA component involves promotion of climate resilient crops and alternative cropping patterns, supported by the convergence and integration of traditional knowledge and practice systems; improving productivity of rainfed agriculture through WRM efforts include demonstration and support for adoption of soil and water conservation measures, promotion of 5% water harvesting and percolation structures, piloting water audits to ensure optimum utilization of water in homes and on fields, and rehabilitation of existing water structures through government support.

## Key Project Result:

### 1.Promoting Climate Literacy

- Developed climate literacy modules and 18 project staff and animators underwent training of trainers to facilitate training at community level.
- Facilitated climate change discussions at hamlet level in 40 project villages where 3379 villagers including 1957 women participated.
- Developed flip book on climate change and its effects, and on adaptation measures through collectives which aids generating awareness among Adivasi women and their households on it.

### 2.Climate Smart Agriculture

- To strength the access of tribal women smallholders climate information, two mini Agro-Met Observatories were set up in two blocks of Jashpur, under the support and guidance of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD), Raipur. The Agro-Met observatories are supporting communities to use local specific climate forecast for decision making. At the same time, it also builds capacities of communities to undertake planning, appropriate cropping decisions and implementation of adaptive responses to climate change resilience. Agro-Met trained women representatives have started collecting information on parameters like: wind speed(km/hr), daily rain fall(mm), minimum and maximum temperature(0c), morning and evening humidity (%), evaporation(mm) etc. The weather information are collected in a decentralised way and shared with IMD, Raipur on daily basis. IMD intern convert these information into Agrometeorological Advisory Services (AAS) messages and disseminate the same through SMSs to mobile phones on weekly basis. AAS messages are accessed by all project farmers located within the reach range of Agro-Met Observatory.
- Formed 80 Farmer Field Schools (FFS) in 40 villages of Jashpur district. Their major role is knowledge sharing and conducting field demonstrations to promote agro-ecological techniques. Trained more than 5024 farmers through different FFS sessions.
- Trained 623 farmers on System of Rice Intensification (SRI), 1127 farmers trained and assisted to pilot mixed/inter cropping methods, under relay cropping methods 151 cultivated masoor (red lentil) and 96 farmers cultivated mustard further the project under collective farming activities supported 430 farmers to grow potato and 10 farmers on chick peas cultivation.
- 507 farmers of 14 villages of Pathalgaon block linked with National Food Security Mission (NFSM)- Rice and 200 farmers of 20 villages of the block linked with NFSM-Pulses with the support of Department of Agriculture through inputs and technical support for SRI paddy and pulses respectively.

- 60 farmers of one project village linked for black gram with KVK Jashpur under National Mission on Oilseed and Oil Palm (NMOOP) through inputs and technical support.
- 60 women farmers of one project village linked with KVK Jashpur under NMOOP for horse gram cultivation in 70 acres of land through inputs and technical support.
- Organised seven block level seed fairs to promote indigenous/disappearing variety and exchange of these seeds to cope with climate change involving farmers and other different stakeholders, 41 varieties of seeds exchanged between 197 farmers and over 1400 farmers participated in the seed fairs.
- Conducted soil test in 598 locations in 40 project villages with approximately 15 tests per village to guide in soil treatment and selecting crop type. Out of these soil test in 200 locations conducted in convergence with KVK Jashpur.
- Linked 1200 farmers with mobile based agro-meteorological advisory services besides establishing weather update facility in 40 villages.
- Developed a module on scientific harvesting and management of trees and forest resources, and trained 974 Adivasi women and other forest collectors on it.
- Developed 12 community agro-forestry models in 12 project villages; and developed one scientific harvesting garden in another project village. 50 farmers have been supported with agro-forestry on mango, guava, black berry, jack fruit. lichi and lemon plants.

### 3. Community-led Soil and Water Conservation

- Developed training module on participatory water audit and sustainable multiple-use water management and 17 field staff and 18 volunteers trained on participatory water audit to facilitate it at village level. Facilitated participatory water audit and sustainable multiple-use water management among 232 households of 5 project villages to address water insecurity.
- IEC campaigns have been undertaken in 40 project villages (in Chhattisgarh) to promote Sustainable Water Use and Management systems through wall writings and discussions in SHG and VDC meetings.
- Guided soil and land development works for groundwater recharge and contingency water storage through 566 number of 5% model pits, 131 number of percolation tanks, 5 number of check dams, one masonry check dam and 3 number of pond renovations. Mapped water structures in 40 villages, and identified water structures for rehabilitation. With the participation of the target community, rehabilitation of 142 water structures has been done in 40 project villages of Chhattisgarh. Apart from this 10-community water structure have been rehabilitated in 10 project villages through convergence with agriculture and water resources department.
- Water Resource Management Committees are formed in 40 project villages in Chhattisgarh. During the period, 80 meetings of WRMC were conducted comprising of 2 meetings per WRMCs in each project villages.

- One masonry check dam was rehabilitated through Water User Association.
- One community pond renovated through convergence.
- Financial assistance provided to implement 74 activities in 40 villages based on CAP priority related to improved water management and benefit 4500 households.

#### 4. Collectivisation and Financial Inclusion

- Organised 40 Village Development Committees (VDCs), one in each project village, to enhance ownership of and impart sustainability to adaptation efforts.
- Revived 152 SHGs and formed 20 new SHGs with 1694 women to mobilise them as key stakeholders in the program and to increase both social and financial capital of the resource-poor households.
- Conducted value chain study to identify and recommend potential alternate livelihood options for local communities to diversify their household income.
- 219 women trained and facilitated with undertaking alternative livelihood options (mushroom cultivation, fishery, microenterprise, goat rearing and piggery).
- Developed training and learning material, and trained 18 animators, 2 Block Coordinators and 69 VDC members on village and community development, schematic linkages, and collective decision making.
- 22 SHGs provided with Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) of Rs 25,000 for undertaking Income Generation Activities (IGAs) like collective farming on paddy, goat rearing, grocery shop business, mushroom cultivation, and procure and sale of Mahua (*Maduca latifolia*).
- Trained 800 SHG members on basic processes and bookkeeping.
- Developed training manual on SHG visioning, training of trainers organised for field staff and project staff on SHG visioning, and 236 SHG leaders and animators trained on SHG visioning.
- Trained 155 SHG leaders and animators on best practices of SHG management, leadership and inclusive social action.
- Conducted need assessment of 10 Joint Forest Management Committee (JFMCS) in Bagicha block, developed training and resource materials on joint forest management and organised training of trainers for 14 persons on it.
- Established two Block Level Motivation Teams (BMTs) in Bagicha and Pathalgaon blocks to select, recognise and facilitate adoption of good practices by the impact population on community water management, climate smart agriculture and strengthening of SHG. The BMTs have recognised and felicitated 16 members SHGs, SHGs members, VDC, 5% model beneficiary, SRI-line sowing farmer, vermi-compost farmer, pitcher irrigation technique farmer and animators for their performance. Role model toolkit guidelines developed to identify and promote role models.
- Developed a cadre of 20 grassroots animators, drawn from within the community to support the community in adaptation planning and implementation. Capacitated them on climate smart agriculture

(CSA); SRI-line sowing; mixed/inter cropping; pitcher irrigation technique; vegetable cultivation; vermi-compost; bio-pesticide; soil and water conservation techniques; scientific harvesting and management of trees and forest resources; and strengthening of collectives to promote collectives and facilitate/handhold on various interventions of the project.

## 5.Promoting Inclusive Governance

- Developed Community Action Plan (CAP) in 40 project villages to guide development interventions within the purview of climate change situation.
- Undertook capacity needs assessment (CNA) of 73 Panchayat Raj Institutions representatives; developed one PRI training module; trained 13 animators and 82 PRI representatives of both blocks on the roles and responsibilities of the later for promoting climate resilient livelihoods.
- Trained 54 PRI representatives of Bagicha and Pathalgaon blocks on Panchayat Raj system and the legislation on it; importance of Gram Sabha; rights and responsibilities of citizens; functions of Gram Panchayat; roles and responsibilities of Member, Panch and Sarpanch; and development schemes and programs, and their implementation.
- The project team made presentation of its activities with State Rural Livelihood Mission (SRLM) at Raipur and explored opportunities for leveraging government sponsored schemes for supporting WtRF project participants.
- Two project villages (Mudapara and /Jabla) selected as model villages by Jashpur district administration for focussed interventions by departments like Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Watershed, Fishery, Revenue and Electricity to diversify income source and double the household income in next one year.

## 6.Gender Integration in Community Based Adaptation

- Conducted gender analysis in 40 project villages among 951 men and women (including 614 women) to understand gender relationship and gender analysis report prepared.
- Organised gender sensitisation workshops where 1258 men and women (including 594 women) in 40 project villages to support equitable participation of Adivasi women in agriculture, markets, and decision-making related to governance of productive resources and assets.
- Developed REFLECT manual, 15 REFLECT Circle facilitators who facilitate REFLECT circle process in 10 villages for triggering social change process.
- Trained 825 Adivasi women on legal literacy programs that focused on improving community understanding on their rights and entitlements over natural resources and building awareness on various schemes and welfare measure available from various service providers.

- Developed training modules for increasing awareness of Adivasi women and girls and also of government functionaries, on the former's rights over resources (forest, land, and water) and trained 17 field staff on it.