Organizing Women for Land and Water Resource Development
by
Professional Assistance for Development Action (PRADAN)
Land Degradation in India

- India is possessing 2.4% of the total land surface of world whereas it is possessing 15% of the world population.
- Land degradation is estimated to be occurring on 48% (147Mha) of India’s area resulting in an annual soil loss of 5.33 billion tons, 64% of which is due to water erosion and 29% of which is lost to sea.
- Land degradation is closely linked to poverty; crop and animal yields decline as degree of degradation increases.
- Undulating and hilly central and eastern India tribal area is one such region subjected to severe land degradation in past 40-50 years due to deforestation, heavy rainfall and sloping terrain.

*The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself: Franklin Roosevelt*
A typical village
Vicious cycle of poverty

1. Low productivity
2. Land degradation
3. Poor husbandry
4. Poverty
5. Traditional agriculture
Building and nurturing institutions of poor WOMEN

Building their Capabilities

Enabling them to rejuvenate land using WATERSHED approach

Enhance WAGES through improved farming

WORKING TOGETHER with other stakeholders for large scale impact in the region
Organizing Women into SHGs
It’s our day
What kind of society you want to present to your daughter?
Capacity Building Programmes....
Women leading the way in creating livelihood options
SHG Member as Trainer
NITI Aayog’s report of June 2018 on water crisis

- India face the worst water crisis in its history
- 21 Indian cities will run out of groundwater by 2020
- 600 million Indians will face extreme water stress
- Groundwater in India depleted at 10-25 mm per year between 2002 and 2016
- Average rainfall declined in Kharif from 1,050 mm in 1970 to less than 1,000 mm in 2015
- Dry days during the monsoons have increased, from 40% to 45% in 2015
Activity Map - Village Masulpani
(Masulpani Gram panchayat)
In medium uplands and medium lowlands, we identify places for constructing small water harvesting structures like 5% model pits and strengthen field bunds where necessary.

Lands at the upper catchments are treated with in-situ soil and moisture conservation measures like 30 x 40 or staggered trench.

These 30 x 40 model patches are covered under plantation for:

1. Better soil & moisture conservation
2. Generating income and sustaining interest of poor people in these patches

The gullies are either plugged or transformed to water harvesting tanks to recycle the seepage water at the valleys. Tanks are constructed in the lowlands.

Dug wells are constructed in homestead or lowland to support cash crops.
The Transformation

-- Water harvesting at every plot
-- Conserving slopes with plantations
-- Productivity enhancement in agriculture

BEFORE

AFTER
Women taking charge of their livelihoods

SHG members in charge

Men also joined

Training on nursery

Life-saving water body

No more ‘unutilized land’

Ready to market
WORKING TOGETHER FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE

IN WB
• 7 CSOs + P& RD dept + BRLF have come together
• Treating 400,000 ha upland and irrigating 300,000 ha of agri-land
• Benefitting 500,000 families in 472 GPs of 55 blocks of 6 districts
• 1,500 micro-watersheds to be treated to rejuvenate rivers like Ajoy, Mayurakshi, Damodar, Kasai, Silabati, Darakeswar and Subarnarekha
• INR 2500 million is to be mobilized under MGNREGS

IN Chhattisgarh
• Partnership between Govt. of Chhattisgarh, BRLF, Axis Bank Foundation and 13 CSOs
• Treatment of 694500ha in 26 blocks of 12 districts
• Improve the cropping intensity in about 350,000 ha of land
• Enhance the income of 100,000 small and marginal farmers
• Rs. 3 billion to be leveraged from the Government of Chhattisgarh
THE JOURNEY IS ON......

THANKS
About us

• A non-government, non-profit organization

• Comprises of university-educated, socially motivated professionals who are trained and placed to interface with community at the grassroots

• 400 professionals in 7,500 remote villages engaged with socially excluded & marginalized communities (600,000 households) in seven states