

CAIM subproject in Telhara taluka, Akola by SARG – Brief Note

Background:

The CAIM sub-project proposed in Telhara block of Akola district aims primarily on building resilience among distressed farmers of the selected cluster of 10 villages. The cluster is marked with poor agriculture endowment leading to reduced agriculture incomes and on-farm & off-farm livelihood opportunities. The project proposes systematic end-to-end approach to enhance agriculture and non-agriculture incomes of the cluster community.

Consortium:

The sub-project is proposed by consortium of SARG, Primove and Chaitanya. SARG has been working in Maharashtra from last 7 years promoting 'Bio-dynamic' agriculture largely in 3 divisions of the State, one being Amravati. It leads this consortium. Primove is closely involved in various development initiatives, with NRM as one of the prominent areas. Chaitanya has made marked contribution in the sector of women empowerment and serves as a resource organization.

Sub-Project area:

The project is proposed in a cluster of 10 villages of Telhara block. SARG is working in few of the villages of this cluster for promotion of bio-dynamic agriculture. The villages included are as follows: 1) Akoli Ruprao, 2) Gordha, 3) Warud, 4) Wari Bhairavgad, 5) Ranegaon, 6) Warkhed, 7) Saundala, 8) Talegaon, 9) Bhokar and 10) Pimparkhed. It constitutes of 9 gram panchayats and total households in these 10 villages are 2,916 with total population of 13,668.

Sub-Project features:

BPL households as per secondary data are 1,225 and as per PRA additional 864 households are categorized as poor (total about 72%). Small-marginal farmers are in large numbers in these villages.

Of the 10 villages, Gordha is a very progressive village and has won awards. Four villages in the cluster fall in the saline belt. Two of these are part of A3P cluster and four are linked with MAVIM project. Dairy and fishery is also established in three villages. The cluster is formed around Hiwarked, which is an important market centre in the area.

The area has medium to deep black soils. There are wells, borewells and canal irrigation facility accounting to a total irrigation potential of about 20% and rabi and summer irrigated area is about 1,000 hectares but perennial irrigation is very less. Kharif is the major agriculture season with cotton and soyabean covering about 4,045 hectares, while Tur and hybrid jowar equally sown on about 871 hectares. Rabi cultivation is 947 hectares with wheat-gram pattern with onion on 93 hectares. Summer crop is taken on only about 53 hectares. Cultivable area of about 2000 hectares has scope for in-situ water conservation, mostly in the villages at the foot hills of Satpuda.

Sub-Project Objectives:

- To promote “agro-business model” for economic growth of community in the selected 10 villages from Telhara block of Akola district by establishing Producer Company.
- To build up capacities of about 2089 target families and, 10 VDCs and 100 each of SHGs and JLGs for strengthening process sustainability and ensure optimal economic returns.

- To explore new agro-marketing alternatives through public private partnership options to emphasize “end to end” approach of business model for identified commodities
- To mobilize public sector resources for undertaking in-situ soil and water conservation measures on about 1224 ha and enhance soil productivity
- To introduce and implement Biodynamic / LEISA techniques of crop production and minimize cost of cultivation of proposed crops.

Approach and Methodology:

The overall goal of CAIM project is to “increase the net returns of farmers in distress districts” of Vidarbha. This sub-project attempts both the aspects i.e. production as well as marketing of the agro-produce. The production aspect emphasizes in-situ soil and water conservation practices as well as LEISA technique of crop production. Where as the marketing aspect encourages involvement of private sector for better and assured market prices to the agro-produce. Our approach underlines to provide realistic model of economic development by executing “end to end” project. Capacity building and partnerships amongst various stakeholders is one of the most important aspects of our approach. The sub-project design is summarized as below.

1. Partnership building and capacity development

a) Capacity development -

It is proposed to organise 10 VDCs, 100 SHGs, 100 JLGs and 1 Producer Company. In order to build their capacities Orientation training to village institutions and seed capital to the Producer Company shall be undertaken as well as Community awareness, gender issues, health, hygiene, nutrition and social issues, and organizing annual participatory monitoring, planning and exit mechanism shall be taken up simultaneously. Training to NGO field staff on micro-enterprises & SME, ICS for organic certification, market linkages, agro-processing, development perspective & MDGs, M&E, knowledge management and exposure visits, apart from those to be provided in house or by PMU.

b) SHG & CMRC -

SHGs will be formed and old SHGs will be strengthened in sub project. These SHGs shall be linked with the CMRC established by the RNGO selected for this thematic area as would be approved by PMU. However, ToT of MT for JLG and support to ultra-poor will be done by SARG.

2. Market linkages and Sustainable agriculture

a) Market linkages and value chain -

Partnership negotiations for market arrangements of identified commodities like soybean, pulses, wheat, onion chilly and honey will be taken up. One rural godown is proposed and at the same time godowning facilities available in nearby areas of sub project shall also be availed. At present farmers are not taking full advantage of godown and pledge loan scheme because they were not aware of the benefits of the scheme. We will educate the farmers for the same. As the demand is increasing day by day, organic crops like pulses & cereals on 420 hectare area will be developed. Cluster specific PPPs and value chains for 4 gravity separator & grader units, 2 dal mills, 1 chilli powder and 1 honey processing units are proposed. Vocational training to about 30 male & female village youths will be arranged according to the requirement. New crops namely linseed, ajwain and ashwagandha will be promoted through demonstrations, which have good scope in the project area.

b) Sustainable agriculture

(i) In-situ water conservation & management –

According to the topography and soil type and canal irrigation available in the area Village planning is proposed through graded bunding on 1224 hectares and 5 cement nala bunds. Water use & better management through 25 wells / borewells and micro-irrigation is proposed. It is also proposed to deploy full-time CAIM volunteers in each of the village who shall take care of other project activities in addition to the watershed works.

(ii) FFS for organic / LEISA farming –

Two Master trainers will be appointed (one from the project and other from SARG) who will organize 36 FFS, which will cover training for about 720 farmers and they will also organise 120 demonstrations for organic farming & IPM and support for 500 farmer families for adoption of bio-dynamic techniques.

c) Micro-enterprises –

100 Producer's training will be organized for developing entrepreneurship. Agri-based enterprises will be developed through cash crops like banana cultivation on 25 hectare, chilly & onion using drip irrigation on 50 hectare, seed production on 20 hectare. To increase yield as well as generating additional source of income 100 honey bee keeping units are proposed, and besides these activities 10 organic compost units that shall cater fertilizer need of about 4,000 hectare cultivated area.

3. NGO services –

A field team of 6 personnel comprising of agriculture engineer, agri-business expert, social worker and support staff will be appointed. The team will be guided by core team of the consortium will provide support for all sub-project components.

The approach also lays emphasis on convergence and private / corporate sector in agriculture as it is necessary for successful implementation of the sub-project.

• **Convergence of ongoing programs**

Number of State and Central Government sponsored programs aimed at supporting agriculture productivity of a particular crop are executed by State Agriculture Department, Agriculture Marketing Board, NABARD etc. In some cases, government of India has taken a 'mission approach' focusing at all aspects of activities like post harvest technologies and value addition. NREGA is crucial program for our project.

Convergence of all these programs and co-ordination amongst various implementing agencies, at different decision making levels will achieve the objectives of economic development of rural poor.

• **Private / corporate sector in Agriculture**

The organization has worked out potential market linkages with agro-produce buyers and processors and seed companies. Some buyers like Pure Life, Delhi, Samruddhi Exchange, Nasik, Chhaya Grain Stores, Mumbai and Jian Irrigation Jalgaon have expressed their interest to purchase organic / conventional pulses, cereals, soyabean, chilly and onion, and Malaxmi Banana Group Company for banana from the sub project area.

Present status:

The project concept note and preliminary project report was approved and the consortium has prepared a revised detailed project report. Socio-economic survey and field survey are completed and the team has started promotion of bio-dynamic composting in cluster villages. The existing SHGs that were not so functional are being revived, while some better performing SHGs are linked for income generation activities. Potential activities for in-situ conservation under NREGA are also discussed with the administrative officers and will be initiated as per labour demand.

Proposed sub-project budget:

Based on the revised detail project report, the financial outlay of the project is Rs 366.52 lakhs for a period of three years. The project funds will be sourced through the funding pattern mentioned in DPR, Rs. 117.47 lakhs (32%) from projects funds of IFAD and SRTT, Rs. 33.27 lakhs (9%) from banks, Rs.39.53 lakhs (11%) from beneficiaries & private players and Rs.176.24 lakhs (48%) is planned to be converged from various government schemes and programs. Component-wise cost is Rs. 332.08 lakhs (90.60%) and NGO service cost Rs. 34.44 lakhs (9.40%).

Expected Outcome:

The project aims for promoting sustainable livelihoods for small marginal farmers, women and youth in the project. The major expected outcomes of the sub-project are;

- Household income increased by 30%
- Crop productivity increased by 25% by promotion of Biodynamic technique.
- 50% farmers realized importance of post harvest management practices.
- About 30% families adopted cleaning, grading and packing before selling produce
- About 50% chilly & pulse growers linked for value addition and processing for better returns
- About 30% families linked to proposed storage facilities.
- Honey processing established and income of beneficiary households increased by 25%.
- About 100 SHGs, 100 JLGs, 10 VDCs are formed and strengthened for proper functioning.
- Income generation opportunity for 200 women, 30 youth and other poor house holds.
- The Producer Company providing market linkage, technical support and input support
- Extension of new, innovative and modern agriculture technologies like biodynamic & IPM technique to about 1500 farmer families
- About 1500 ha cultivable area treated with SWC works resulting reduction in soil erosion and increase in ground water level.
- Irrigation potential increased by 20% by providing community irrigation facilities.
- Total 420 ha brought under contract farming of different organic cereal and pulse crops.
- About 75 ha area brought under horticulture crops.
- Vegetable cultivation on about 575 ha area under micro-irrigation systems.

CAIM - Telhara cluster Akola by SARG: Subproject Budget Summary

All amounts in Rs lakhs

Sr. No.	Particular	Sub-project budget											Break-up of CAIM Funds				
				Amount	CAIM Funds				Convergence Funds					Training & handholding			Activity cost
		Unit	Quantity		IFAD	SRTT	IFAD Grant	TOTAL	Govt.	Bank	Beneficiaries	Private	TOTAL	Training exp	Faculty	Logistic support	
Component 1. A : Partnership Building and Capacity Development (PBCD Capacity Development)																	
1	Organizing VDCs	Village	10	0.50	0.50			0.50					0.00	0.30	0.10	0.10	-
2	Organising Producer companies++	Village	1	0.20			0.20	0.20					0.00	0.05	0.05	0.10	-
3	Seed Capital to Producer Company	Company	1	8.00	8.00			8.00					0.00	-	-	-	8.00
4	Orientation training to SHGs	SHG	100	1.00		1.00		1.00					0.00	0.70	0.15	0.15	-
5	Orientation training to JLGs	JLG	100	1.00		1.00		1.00					0.00	0.70	0.15	0.15	-
6	Community Awareness **		131	5.10	5.10			5.10					0.00	3.06	1.02	1.02	
7	NGO staff training for field activities *		12	0.75	0.75			0.75					0.00	0.60	0.10	0.05	
Total Component 1.A				16.55	14.35	2.00	0.20	16.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.41	1.57	1.57	8.00
Component 1.B : SHG & CMRCs Development																	
1	TOTs of MTs for JLGs	Person	3.75	0.06		0.06		0.06					0.00	0.04	0.01	0.01	-
2	Support to Ultrapoor	Hhs	50	2.50	2.50			2.50					0.00	-	-	-	2.50
				2.56	2.50	0.06	0.00	2.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.01	2.50
Component 2.A: Market Linkages and Value chain (PMVC)																	
1	Partnership Negotiation	No	1	0.25	0.25			0.25					0.00	-	-	0.10	0.15
2	Rural Godowns	No	1	3.51	1.23			1.23	0.88	1.08		0.32	2.28				1.00

3	Organic Pulses	ha	210	4.96	1.74		1.74			3.22	3.22	0.03	0.05	0.15			
4	Organic Cereals	ha	210	4.96	1.74		1.74			3.22	3.22	-	-	0.45	1.29		
5	Cluster Specific PPPs, Value chains	No															
a.	Setting up separator & grader unit	No	4	20.00	3.40		3.40	5.00	8.00		3.60	16.60	0.20	0.20	0.60	2.40	
b.	Setting up Dal Mill	No	2	10.00	2.00		2.00	2.50	3.50		2.00	8.00	0.10	0.10	0.30	1.50	
c.	Setting up of Chilli Powder Unit	No	1	6.00	1.50		1.50	1.50	1.80		1.20	4.50	0.15	0.10	0.25	1.00	
d.	Setting up of Honey Processing Unit	No	1	5.00	1.25		1.25	1.75	1.50		0.50	3.75	0.15	0.10	0.20	0.80	
6	Vocational Training	Person	30	3.00	1.50		1.50	3.00				0.00	2.50	-	0.50	-	
7	Introduction-Linseed, Ajwain(Ova)++	ha	4	0.40			0.20	0.20		0.20		0.20	-	0.03	0.05	0.12	
8	Introduction of - Ashvagandha ++	ha	4	0.40			0.20	0.20		0.20		0.20	-	0.03	0.05	0.12	
Total Component 2.A: PMVC				58.48	14.60	0.00	1.90	16.50	11.63	15.88	6.84	7.62	41.97	3.13	0.61	3.09	9.67

Budget continued

Sr. No.	Particular	Sub-project budget											Break-up of CAIM Funds					
		Unit	Quantity	Amount	CAIM Funds				Convergence Funds					Training & handholding			Activity cost	
					IFAD	SRTT	IFAD Grant	TOTAL	Govt.	Bank	Beneficiaries	Private	TOTAL	Training exp	Faculty	Logistic support		
Component 2.B: Sustainable Agriculture (SA)																		
<u>In Situ Water Conservation (& Management)</u>																		
1	Village Planning++	Village	10	0.50			0.50	0.50						0.00	-	-	-	0.50
2	CAIM Volunteers	Village	10	9.00	9.00			9.00						0.00	-	-	-	9.00

3	In Situ Water Conservation	Village											0.00	-	-	-	-
a	Graded Bunding	Ha	1224	79.56				0.00	79.56				79.56	-	-	-	-
b	Cement Nalla Bund	No	6	15.00				0.00	15.00				15.00	-	-	-	-
4	Water harvesting ponds/WHS	No	29	23.20	3.48			3.48	17.40		2.32		19.72	-	-	0.48	3.00
5	Pump sets	No	29	4.93	0.74			0.74		3.70	0.49		4.19	-	-	0.74	-
6	Wells/ borewells and micro-irrigation	No	25	33.75	8.75			8.75	25.00				25.00	-	-	-	8.75
Sub-total:				165.94	21.97	0.00	0.50	22.47	136.96	3.70	2.81	0.00	143.47	-	-	1.22	21.25
FFS for Organic / LEISA Farming																	
1	Masters Trainers	Village	3	4.50		4.50		4.50					0.00	-	-	0.90	3.60
2	Farmers Training	Village	30	0.75		0.75		0.75				0.00	0.00	0.50	0.15	0.10	-
3	Farmer Field School	No	60	9.00	4.00			4.00	5.00			0.00	5.00	2.40	0.80	0.80	-
4	Organic Farming Demonstrations	Village	120	12.00		3.00		3.00	9.00				9.00	-	0.40	0.50	2.10
5	Support for Biodynamic composting	No	1500	4.50				0.00	2.25		2.25		4.50	-	-	-	-
Sub-total:				30.75	4.00	8.25	0.00	12.25	16.25	0.00	2.25	0.00	18.50	2.90	1.35	2.30	5.70
Total Component 2. B				196.69	25.97	8.25	0.50	34.72	153.21	3.70	5.06	0.00	161.97	2.90	1.35	3.52	26.95
Component 2.C : Micro-enterprises and SMEs																	
1	Training of farmer-Producers	No	100	0.50	0.50			0.50					0.00	0.30	0.10	0.10	-
2	Agri-based Enterprises	No						0.00					0.00	-	-	-	-
a	Support for banana cultivation	Unit	25	20.80	1.90			1.90	10.40	6.24	2.26		18.90	0.17	0.15	0.25	1.33
b	Support for setting honey boxes	Unit	25	4.00	1.20			1.20	1.00	0.00	1.80		2.80	0.10	0.15	0.15	0.80
c	Vegetable on drip irrigation	Unit	50	12.50	2.50			2.50		5.75	4.25		10.00	0.25	0.25	0.25	1.75
d	Seed production	Unit	20	10.00	3.30			3.30		0.00	6.70	0.00	6.70	0.20	0.30	0.15	2.65

e	Organic Compost Unit	Unit	10	10.00	3.30			3.30		1.70	2.50	2.50	6.70	-	-	0.10	3.20
Total Component 2.C. :				57.80	12.70	0.00	0.00	12.70	11.40	13.69	17.51	2.50	45.10	1.02	0.95	1.00	9.73
	Sub-Project Component Cost			332.08	70.12	10.31	2.60	83.03	176.24	33.27	29.41	10.12	249.04	12.50	4.49	9.19	56.85
	NGO Service Cost			34.44	34.44			34.44									34.44
	Total Sub-Project Cost			366.52	104.56	10.31	2.60	117.47	176.24	33.27	29.41	10.12	249.04	12.50	4.49	9.19	91.29